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**Veronica** greeted us with a shy smile and bright eyes. Though she was trying her best to be cheerful, sadness surrounded her like a grey cloud. She'd had another night of poor sleep, waking as she often did to dreams about her children.

Veronica has been away from her husband and her two children, all U.S. citizens, for over two years now. One of her children is in the second grade; the other is a toddler. The youngest one doesn't understand why her mother isn't living at home. Veronica tells us that when she makes a video call from NORCOR her youngest says, "That's Mama's house." I felt sadness welling up inside me. This small child cannot visit her mother while she is detained at NORCOR. Immigrant detainees at other facilities are allowed family visits. Immigrant detainees at NORCOR are not. Veronica wants nothing more than to be reunited with her children.

Though the summer heat blazed outside, Veronica told me she is often cold. She wraps a blanket around herself for warmth and protection from the intense air conditioning inside. She doesn't have a sweatshirt like she did at the facility she was at before she came to NORCOR. Detainees must wear short-sleeved smocks and light pants. No sweatshirts are available. When Veronica was transferred to NORCOR, she wasn't allowed to take any personal belongings with her. She asked us if we could get her some colored paper to make origami animals to mail to her children. Unfortunately, current policy at NORCOR won't allow for the simple gift of paper to a detainee.

Veronica does not have any legal representation. Her family cannot afford to retain an attorney. She doesn't have much hope for her case. She fears that her children will grow up without her if she is deported. She used to send money to her mother in Guatemala before she was taken into ICE custody. Veronica worries about her.

Veronica's face beamed when we showed her photographs of people standing in daily vigil outside NORCOR. She knows she and the other detainees are not forgotten.

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*This story is one in a series of stories from immigrants who have been detained at NORCOR, a four-county public jail in The Dalles, OR. NORCOR has a contract to rent out beds to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) - in violation of Oregon's 30-year-old sanctuary law. The stories in this series have been written by either clergy or attorneys - the only people who are currently allowed to visit immigrants detained at NORCOR. Veronica's story is a composite of multiple stories that shares the truth of the experiences of those detained and protects their identities.*