

**Knock and Drop Iowa  
(and additional Immigration Justice partners)**

<https://latinxknockanddrop.org/>

**Mission**

Knock and Drop is an organization for positive community action that implements programs beneficial to our Latinx Community



**About Knock and Drop**

During the pandemic's early stages, Zuli Garcia organized Knock and Drop to bring food to members of the Latinx community isolating in motel rooms due to COVID-19. Knock and Drop quickly learned that food insecurity was rampant in the Des Moines Latinx community and food donations were distributed multiple times a week to needy families. Roughly a year after its inception, Knock and Drop has provided food to more than 5,000 families. A message Zuli received during the pandemic from a young girl motivates Zuli: "Before we met you, there were nights we didn't eat," the note said. "There were nights we would go to bed with empty stomachs. But ever since we met you, there is always food on our table."

**Partnership with First UU**

First UU partnered with Knock and Drop when they first formed last year. Knock and Drop aligns with UU values by upholding the inherent worth and dignity of every person and working towards a more equitable and just world through providing families in need with healthy food, a basic human right. When our church was locked down, Knock and Drop asked to use our parking lot to give away food. The first time they used the lot they gave away more than 33,000lbs of food to 950 families! Knock and Drop has since moved to a permanent location at Franklin Jr. High. We can continue to honor this partnership by helping the fledgling organization stabilize through growing via financial and volunteer support. On-going support will lead to deeper relationships and connections with our Latinx neighbors.

Use of Funds

If selected as an FIA partnering organization, monetary donations will support rent and buying food and toiletries.

Volunteer Opportunities

*In-Person*

Volunteer opportunities include driving a UHaul truck on Wednesdays to pick up food donations and food distribution on Fridays and Tuesdays. Physical distancing can be facilitated during distribution.

Partnering with Knock and Drop will also deepen relationships the church has been developing with Iowa MMJ (newly formed group merging JFON, AFSC, and AI Exito). Additional volunteering opportunities with these organizations will also be part of the Knock and Drop partnership.

*Virtual*

Co-champions will seek out virtual events with our partnering organizations if needed.