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Thrive International explores border realities: a panel discussion on insights and stories from border encounters in partnership with Spokane Public Library

(Spokane, WA) – Immigration has become one of the most politically charged issues and will play a pivotal role in the upcoming election. To gain a deeper understanding of this complex issue, the Thrive International Leadership Team traveled to the El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico border. In a panel discussion on Thursday, August 8th at 10am, they will share their stories and impressions of their experience, and answer questions.

Thrive staff experienced a 3-day Abara Border Encounter to learn more about migrants’ journeys, humanitarian services, and security measures. The tour included viewing and learning about various segments of the “wall” which differed depending on the administration that constructed it. They received briefings from former Border Patrol Agents and social and humanitarian workers. The culminating activity was Thrive staff walking across the Paso del Norte Bridge, the official port of entry.

“Stories leave the strongest impressions,” said Melinda Manning, Director of Development for Thrive International. “On each side of the border, we heard stories of people striving for a better life. These stories helped us gain valuable insight into the immigration experience. Our team is eager to partner with Spokane Public Library, which offers a public space dedicated to being a community of learning, to share our experiences and help educate the Spokane community.”

This is a free event open to the public.

Panel Briefing on Thrive International Border Visit
Thursday, August 8 at 10am
Central Library, nxʷyxʷyetkʷ Hall

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About Spokane Public Library
Spokane Public Library aims to inspire a thriving city through cultural and educational opportunities. An award-winning library that spans six branches and houses nearly half-a-million items, Spokane Public Library circulates nearly two million items and welcomes one million visitors annually. Customers can enjoy traditional library media and can also access digital downloads, databases, historical collections, art exhibits and interesting free programming. For general information about the library, please visit spokanelibrary.org or call 509-444-5300.

About Thrive International
Founded in 2022 and headquartered in Spokane, Thrive International empowers multicultural communities and provides transitional and permanent housing options for refugees. Thrive International houses more than 500 refugees across Washington State, providing temporary housing, education, and
support services programs under one roof. The transitional housing, located at the Thrive Center in downtown Spokane, leverages community resources and offers programming which enables people to go from newly arrived to nearly independent in 6-9 months. Permanent housing includes fifty-five units, which are located in the Spokane Valley and forty-five units in North Spokane. The Seattle location provides emergency housing for asylum seekers and recently helped King Country move families without homes into emergency housing.

About Abara
Located in El Paso, Texas, Abara is positioned to aid and collaborate closely with counterparts in Juarez, Mexico. Their organization leads 3-day tours of religious, business, and political leaders from across the political sector to educate and promote mutual understanding. Through stories and experiences they seek to inspire meaningful action and create a “global beloved community through justice, peace, healing and transformation.”