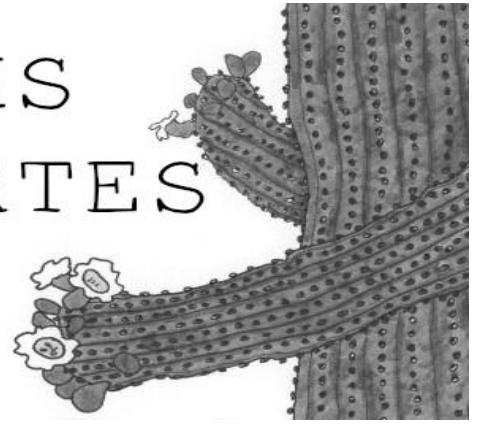


# NO MORE DEATHS NO MÁS MUERTES



Winter 2023



**Dear Friends,**

We write our Winter 2023 newsletter with heavy hearts, faced with the harsh realities of the travelers in the unforgiving borderlands. This year has been a deadly one, with one of the hottest summers on record proving to be lethal for the people traversing the Sonoran Desert in pursuit of a better life.

Beyond the elevated heat, the U.S.-Mexico borderlands remain a battleground where vulnerable men, women, and children face unimaginable challenges. Dehydration, hunger, and exhaustion are their constant companions. They traverse treacherous terrain, facing the ever-present threat of exploitation, violence, and inhumane treatment. Many are detained, families torn apart, their dreams shattered in a place that should symbolize opportunity and freedom.

This winter season sees the release of the fourth installment of No More Death's abuse documentation project, **Disappeared: How the U.S. Border Enforcement Agencies are Fueling a Missing Persons Crisis**. This section of the report is called **Separate & Deadly: Borderlands 911 System Segregation in Pima County, AZ**, and highlights the discriminatory practices of emergency services in the borderlands. Please consider taking the time to visit [www.thedisappearedreport.org](http://www.thedisappearedreport.org) to learn about the crisis of death and disappearance on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Our abuse documentation working group has been hard at work on this crucial project for months, and our other working groups have also been putting in long hours to supply resources to the resilient people

journeying for opportunity, advocate for changes in policy and procedure, and engage our community and those beyond in humanitarian relief efforts. We work in solidarity with an incredible collection of fellow organizations, groups, and individuals striving towards the same goal: to end death and suffering in the borderlands.

**During this End of Year Campaign, we are asking for your generosity to reach our goal of \$400,000 raised.** You can donate online by visiting our website, [www.nomoredeaths.org](http://www.nomoredeaths.org), or by mailing cash or check in the envelope provided. Together, we can be the change-makers, the advocates, and the guardians of hope for those who have nowhere else to turn.



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As we gather for this year's End of Year Fundraising Campaign, we reflect on our gratitude for our community of volunteers, donors, organizers, and believers in the cause. Your contributions are the key that makes all of our work possible -- 90% of our funding in the past year came from individual donors just like you.

With your help, we are able to operate a wide range of programs to advance our mission -- a Missing Migrant Hotline that provides resources and hope to loved ones of folks who have lost touch during their crossing, material and financial assistance for multiple shelters in northern Mexico, and a robust volunteer program that allows us to continuously fulfill water drops and staff a desert aid camp where exhausted, often injured humans receive aid along their harrowing trail.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to No More Deaths. Because of you, our steadfast community, we are able to continue our vital work offering hope and humanity in the borderlands.

**In Solidarity,**

**The No More Deaths Team**

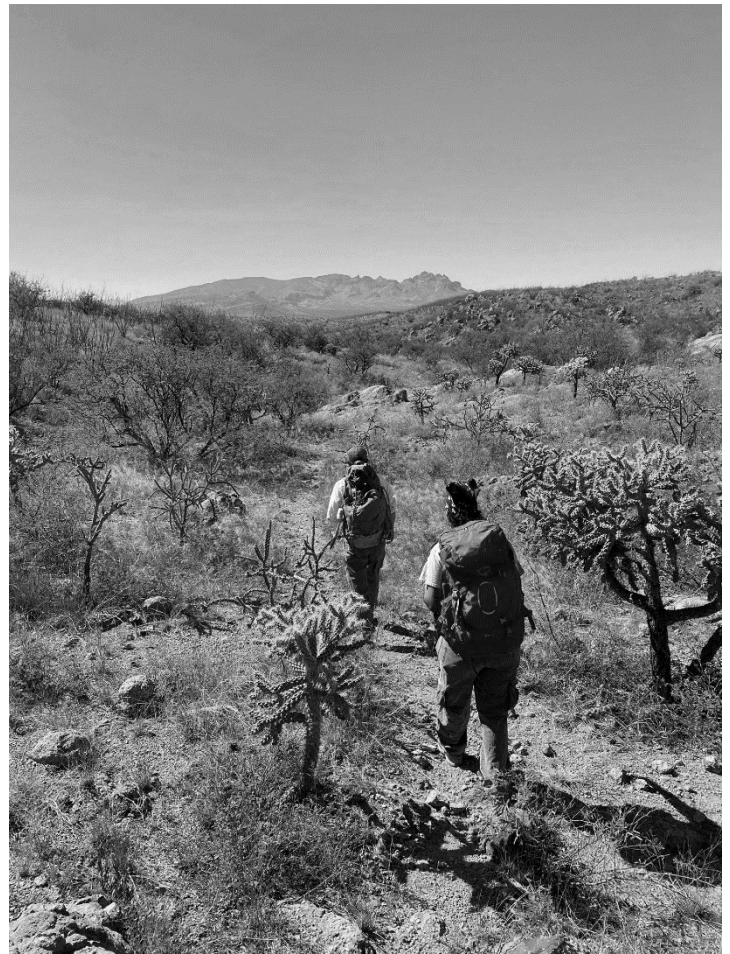


## **A Record-Breaking Summer**

*by Ary, NMD volunteer*

Summer in southern Arizona is always hot, and that is felt most by people migrating through the desert. This July we saw not only record temperature highs but also a record number of migrant deaths. In July alone, we know of 43 people who died in Arizona on their journey north. We know that countless others continue to remain undiscovered. The actual number is anywhere from 2-8 times as many.

Even without extreme heat waves, crossing the desert has always been deadly. Last year, the militarization and weaponization of the Arizona desert claimed the lives of more than 890 people. Studies from the Undocumented Migration Project show that as global temperatures rise and desert conditions grow more extreme, more migrants are likely to die. Exposure and dehydration are the main causes of death for people crossing the borderlands.



Surveillance and border walls force people to cross through extremely remote areas of the borderlands, making it hard to access care, find help or turn themselves into Border Patrol. Even when migrants are able to call emergency services to ask for rescue, statistics show that they are less likely to receive a response. In the coming months, No More Deaths will release "Separate but Deadly," a report detailing how 911 calls in Pima County are segregated based on the perceived citizenship status of the caller.

Death in the desert is constant, and the desert will experience more intense heat waves like the one we experienced this summer. Humanitarian aid efforts alone cannot halt this crisis of death and disappearance in the borderlands. But we will continue our efforts to mitigate harm where we can.





## Memories of my first month at Byrd Camp

*By L, NMD volunteer*

In early 2021, I participated in a No More Deaths' month-long volunteer program. Along with two other new volunteers, I traveled to Tucson to spend the month immersed in humanitarian aid work. We spent most of the program working at No More Deaths' humanitarian aid camp ("Byrd Camp"). After the month ended, I decided to stay in Tucson in order to continue volunteering. Byrd Camp has remained a very special place to me.

It sits on a small piece of land in a remote area about halfway between Tucson and the U.S.-Mexico border. It is surrounded by rolling hills, striking mountains, and a maze of canyons and dry washes. Deer, javelinas, and cattle are often spotted nearby. Byrd Camp's permanent residents include an orange cat named Tajin and a family of cardinals.

Byrd Camp's open-air kitchen was our anchor as new volunteers. Referring often to a sign posted next to the stove to calculate portions, we prepared three meals a day for the guests who were resting and receiving care. It was challenging and we grumbled to each other in embarrassment when we burned a large pot of rice or realized, after having already served the meal, that we forgot to salt the beans. I remember the thrill of realizing that we had the ingredients for French toast, a simple but special treat.

When we gathered in the evenings to chat with the experienced volunteers who were guiding us through the month, I learned that they too were still learning how to cook for groups. Before COVID-19, guests could wander into the kitchen to cook whenever they wanted. Guests and

volunteers would also prepare meals together, and would occasionally have the good fortune of working alongside someone who was trained as a cook or had a gift for creating tasty dishes from the simplest ingredients. The volunteers told us that they missed this space of collaboration and community that was lost when concern about hygiene during COVID-19 required them to close the kitchen to the guests and implement a meal schedule.

Over the course of the month, I slowly learned how camp operated. In between meals we cleaned the compost bathrooms, swept out sleeping spaces and sorted clothes. We assisted with medical intake questionnaires and COVID-19 screening. We also learned how to help people make international calls on a cell phone provided by the Red Cross. It was the first time in many days that they were able to speak with their loved ones. Their brief conversations were usually full of reassurances: "Don't worry, my love, I'm doing well. It'll be over soon, God willing." What else can be said – their families had no way to make this journey across the borderlands any less dangerous.



The love and concern expressed on these phone calls and among people at Byrd Camp is one of the reasons I return there again and again. Not only is it a place where people can receive potentially life-saving humanitarian aid, it is a place where people can try to feel whole. The migration journey is a traumatic experience that forces people into a state of hypervigilance, uncertainty, and anxiety. Even during the more stressful times at Byrd Camp – when the well runs dry, or when someone is very sick, or when a Border Patrol helicopter circles overhead – we try to help each other feel grounded, breathe deeply, and sit for a while to try to spot the cardinals.

## By the Numbers, 2022-2023

*In the past year, No More Deaths:*

- Placed **9,720** gallons of water on migrant trails.
- Purchased **\$75,460** worth of food for those seeking assistance at our remote humanitarian aid station.
- Invested **\$8,743.14** to improve the infrastructure at our remote humanitarian aid station.
- Received **5,729** phone calls to our Missing Migrant Hotline. **791** calls were emergency cases in which callers provided us with a location.
- Helped people recover **\$194,231** from their jail accounts after being deported with a check or debit card that was unusable in Mexico.
- Helped **360** people recover their personal effects after they were arrested by Customs and Border Protection.
- Provided **156** bus tickets for people traveling from Nogales to their home in Central America or Mexico or to a different part of the US–Mexico border for a court proceeding.
- Delivered **\$51,670** worth of humanitarian aid supplies and **\$34,020** in personnel funding for migrant shelters in northern Mexico towns of Altar, Caborca, Sasabe, and Sonoyta.
- Contributed **\$8,400** to allied organizations whose volunteers leave water in the desert, conduct search and rescue operations, and provide other types of humanitarian aid.

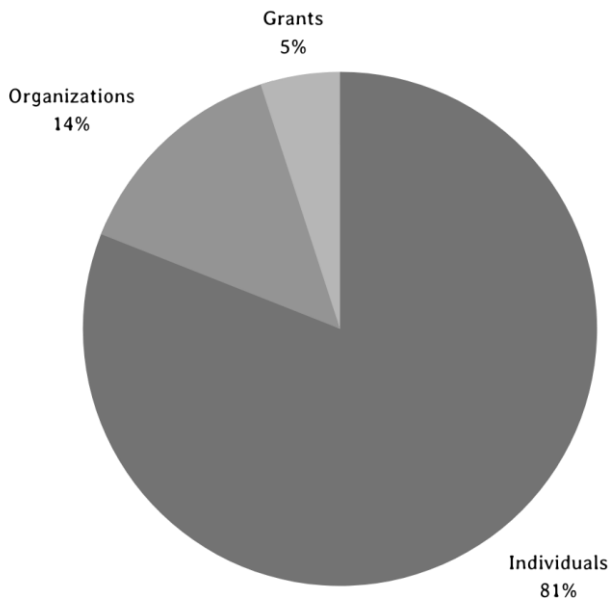
*These statistics are just a snapshot of No More Deaths' work. To learn more, visit [nomoredeaths.org](https://nomoredeaths.org) or contact us directly via email at [fundraising@nomoredeaths.org](mailto:fundraising@nomoredeaths.org). Please note that as of July 1, 2022, Keep Tucson Together (KTT) is no longer part of No More Deaths and we do not accept donations on their behalf.*



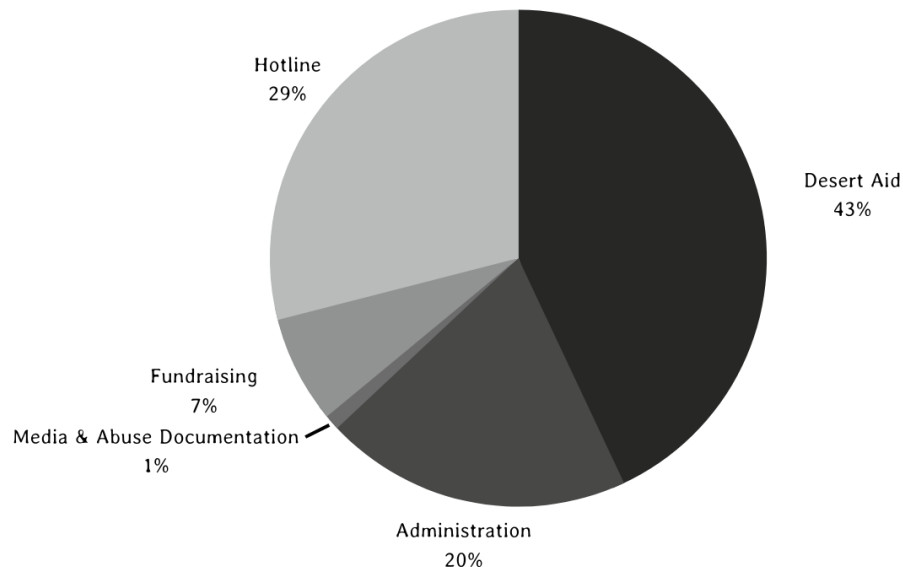
## No More Deaths' Financial Review, 2022-2023

*grassroots funded & direct-aid focused*

### INCOME



### EXPENSES



Our Desert Aid group has monthly opportunities for folks from Southern Arizona and across the states to engage in border solidarity efforts. Applications for Desert Aid **volunteer programs** are posted every month. Email the Desert Aid volunteer coordinator at [volunteer@nomoredeaths.org](mailto:volunteer@nomoredeaths.org) for more information.

If you're interested in volunteering with the Missing Migrant Hotline, contact our Hotline volunteer coordinator at 520-420-4139.