

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

We are deeply inspired by the [growing number](#) of leaders and everyday Americans uniting to make their communities welcoming ones for unaccompanied children. The following resources provide background and tools to help you and your community act on your compassion for children in need.

RECORDED WEBINARS

TALKING ABOUT CHILDREN FLEEING VIOLENCE: WHAT WORKS, WHAT DOESN'T

Speakers: [Julie Fisher-Rowe](#) and [Gabriela Domenzain](#).

Resources

- [Presentation Slides](#)
- [Recording](#)

EXTENDING THE WELCOME MAT TO CHILDREN FLEEING VIOLENCE: ACTION YOU CAN TAKE NOW

Speakers: [Adolfo Hernandez](#), Deputy Director of the [Mayor's Office of Public Engagement in Chicago, IL](#); [Uma S. Ahluwalia](#), Director of the [Department of Health and Human Services in Montgomery County, MD](#); and [Cristina Aguilera](#), Organizing Director of the [Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition in Boston, MA](#).

Resources

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UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION

- [What Kind of Welcome? Integration of Central American Unaccompanied Children into Local Communities](#), J.M. Kaplan Fund
- [Unaccompanied Alien Children: A Primer](#), The Bipartisan Policy Center
- [No Childhood Here: Why Central American Children Are Fleeing Their Homes](#), American Immigration Council
- [Q. and A.: Children at the Border](#), *New York Times*
- [Voices of Central American Youth – Why They Are Fleeing Their Countries](#), Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

- [Young Migrants May Request Asylum, but It's Hard to Get](#), NPR

If you are interested in learning more, the Office of Latino and Latin American Studies at the University of Nebraska-Omaha has compiled an [information index](#) on children fleeing violence.

LEARN WHAT OTHER COMMUNITIES ARE DOING

Local leaders across the country are speaking out and taking action to support the unaccompanied children:

- Mayors and County Executives from all over the country have signed our [letter](#) to commit to compassionately supporting and welcoming the children from Central America seeking refuge in the U.S. Read more about this letter on our [blog](#).
- [Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed](#), [Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel](#), and [others](#) released statements in support of welcoming immigrant children.
- Children in Tennessee [wrote letters to the children in detention centers](#).
- Communities across the country passed resolutions calling for compassion and welcome to be shown to the children including city councils in [Los Angeles](#); [Columbia, SC](#); and East Lansing, MI. San Francisco's Board of Education [approved a resolution](#) to assist immigrant children enrolling in the city's school system.
- Girl Scouts in Pennsylvania put together [welcome bags](#) for children arriving in their community.
- In [Pittsburgh](#) and [St. Louis](#) local government partnered with community and faith organizations to develop a humanitarian response.
- The Eychaner Foundation in Iowa launched [1000 Kids for Iowa](#) to find safe temporary homes for children. They are also [building a network](#) of doctors, social workers, translators, and school tutors willing to provide support.
- New York City formed a [task force](#) to identify the best means to support the children. The city is now [posting representatives at immigrant court](#) to assist children through the legal process.
- The [American Library Association's REFORMA project](#) launched a campaign to provide books and backpacks to the children. They also developed a [booklist](#) and [story time resources](#) for libraries with children in their community.
- [In St. Louis](#), local government and community organizations are working together to provide housing for unaccompanied children
- San Francisco's Board of Education [approved a resolution](#) to assist immigrant children enrolling in the city's school system.
- Univision partnered with the philanthropic community on a [major fundraising campaign](#) to bring in new resources for organizations assisting children fleeing violence

You can find more media coverage of communities welcoming the children [here](#). [Let us know what your community is doing to welcome the children.](#)

GET THE WORD OUT THAT AMERICANS CARE ABOUT KIDS

- Talking points from [The Opportunity Agenda](#)
- Write a letter to the editor or op-ed in support of welcoming children. Jesuit Refugee Services/USA, the U.S. Jesuit Conference and Ignatian Solidarity Network have developed a [template to help](#)
- Listen to Welcoming America's webinar [Talking about Children Fleeing Violence: What Works, What Doesn't](#) for expert advice on communicating in your community from [Julie Fisher-Rowe](#) and [Gabriela Domenzain](#). Download the presentation slides [here](#)

PROVIDE SHELTER AND SERVICES

- [Become a House of Welcome](#)
- [Give the gift of family](#)
- [Provide pro bono legal help](#)
- Use your [language skills](#) to assist children through legal proceedings
- Donate supplies to organizations at the border
 - California: [San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium](#)
 - Arizona: [Border Action Network](#), [Catholic Charities](#)
 - New Mexico: [Catholic Diocese Las Cruces Diocese's Project Oak Tree](#)
 - New York: [InterFaith Works](#)
 - Texas: [Annunciation House \(El Paso\)](#), [South Texas Refugee Response \(Rio Grande Valley\)](#), [Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston \(Houston\)](#), [Texas Interfaith Center](#), [Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services](#)
- [Give a child a new book](#)

Have another way? Please [share with us](#).

EXTEND A WELCOME TO CHILDREN

- [Write a letter to a child](#)
- Learn ways to make your community more welcoming through the [Receiving Communities Toolkit](#)
- Ask your city or county to join the [Welcoming Cities and Counties network](#)

ADDRESS ANXIETIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Host a community dialogue with the help of Welcoming America's *Fostering Welcoming Communities Through Dialogue* toolkit