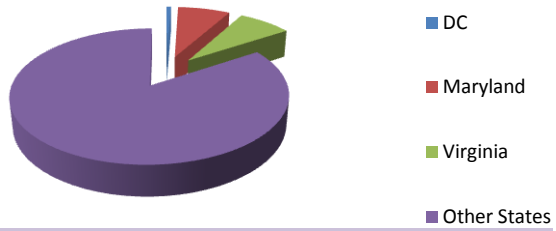


CCCA Region, Top 10 Ways to Help!! Join Local to Global Responses for Central American Children in Crisis



15% of 37,477 Children Arriving Jan-July, 2014
Were Placed in DC, Maryland, and Virginia



Local Arrivals by County/City:

Fairfax-1,023 Prince George's-960 Montgomery-816
 Prince Wm-361 Baltimore City-264 Loudoun-210
 Baltimore-206 Alexandria-205 DC-200

Who are the Children?

- 92% of all arrived children are from 3 countries hardest hit by drug related violence: Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.
- Fairfax County, VA., and Prince George's and Montgomery counties in Md., received more than all but five other localities across the nation--largely due to the greater DC area having the nation's 2nd largest population of Central Americans.
- Over 85% of children are cared for by an existing relative in the US.
- ALL children must soon appear before an immigration judge. While the UN estimates at least 58% would be eligible for international protection, lack of legal assistance could mean nearly all will be deported.
- Already, 5 children deported back to Honduras have been murdered. (WaPo, "Md., Va. Suburbs Receive Surge of Border Kids from Central America," August 27, 2014; UNHCR "Children on the Run Report", 2014; LA Times, "Five Children Murdered After They Were Deported Back To Honduras," Aug. 19, 2014.)

How Have Disciples Already Been Helping Them?

Throughout the summer, our Refugee & Immigration Ministries office, Week of Compassion, the Family & Children's Ministries office, and our Global Ministries office have been working in partnership with our General Minister & President, Women's Ministries, Hispanic Ministries, Regional Ministers, and local churches to advocate for, educate about, and respond to the children in crisis! Please see important background and resource materials posted at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/refugee-immigration-ministries/rim-resources/>

Now, What Can We Do In Our Region to Make a Difference?

1. Support Legal Help for Children

- Give to Week of Compassion, marked "Refugee Children Legal Aid" to support desperately needed care! Funds will be channeled to prepare children for immigration hearings & through CWS partnerships. Go to: www.weekofcompassion.org to donate, see the "Legal Services for Unaccompanied Minors" CWS backgrounder at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/refugee-immigration-ministries/rim-resources/>, and volunteer to offer pro-bono services if qualified!



- View a full project Kids to Kids guide at: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/family-and-childrens-ministries/kids-to-kids/>. Projects include gathering items, for Borderlinks, writing representatives, and sending cards or making videos for children.



2. Engage Kids to Help Kids!

FAITH IN ACTION



3. Raise Faith Voices to Protect the Children

- Join with Disciples Women to Break the Violence of Human Trafficking Link by Link, by asking legislators to NOT roll back protections for the children under the Trafficking Victims Protections Reauthoraton Act. See: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/2014/06/16/unaccompanied-children-advocacy-resources/>, & contact Rev. Stanley-Rea, RIM Director, 202-957-7826, or sstanley@dhm.disciples.org for action updates.

4. Gather Basic Supplies to Meet Daily Needs



Since most children are cared for by relatives often also poor, help families and support local schools by offering a pack with supplies, plus donations to cover student fees. Contact schools or casademaryland.org & casadevirginia.org to help!



5. Link with Our Global Ministry Partners!

Our Disciples Global Ministries has personnel in Guatemala and Honduras, and partners there and in Honduras. Visit globalministries.org to pray for and write our missionaries. Read "Children on the Run" by the Westras, and the "Pastoral Letter to the Country" from church leaders in El Salvador. Give to Week of Compassion to support our ecumenical partnership work with "CASM" in Honduras that supports the poorest families there struggling under gang violence.

6. Write to Give Hope!



WoC & CWS have supported religious services at the Artesia Family Center in New Mexico. Now, you're invited to write the children and mothers there in our "Angel to Angel" project of Cards of Care & Prayer. See instructions posted on the RIM link at:

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/refugee-immigration-ministries/rim-resources/>

7. Support Critical Medical Needs

The children arrive traumatized, both by their frightening journeys and by the violence endured before and during their departure. Mary's Center in DC is one local center that has helped over 500 arriving Central American children in recent weeks. Help them provide medical care to the kids. Go to: www.maryscenter.org for how you can support.



8. Sponsor a Welcome Resolution



Help your community welcome & understand the kids by passing a Welcome Resolution. See our guide at:

<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/resources/august-recess-actions/>. Search at "Local Actions," and select "Pastor's Letter" for samples and help.

9. Join a Holiday Outreach



Remember the children this holiday season! Contact RIM & Sharon at 202-957-7826 or stanley@dhm.disciples.org for ways to gather, and deliver your gifts!

10. Become a Foster Parent

Some children need caring Foster Parents. For great regional information, contact Lutheran Soc. Svcs. of the Capital Area at <http://lsnca.org/>, or view resources thru Md. DHS at: www.dhr.md.us/. See "Children Seeking Refuge Program.



PLEASE, STAY IN TOUCH WITH OUR OFFICE, AND LET US KNOW HOW YOU DECIDE TO ASSIST SO WE'LL KNOW HOW DISCIPLES ARE RESPONDING, AND HOW WE MIGHT LINK TOGETHER IN SERVICE!

Call Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Refugee & Immigration Ministries, 202-957-7826, or email: stanley@dhm.disciples.org. Also, visit our website to obtain constantly updated information regarding refugee & immigration issues at: www.discipleshomemissions.org. Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RefugeeAndImmigrationMinistriesChristianChurchDoc>;

and follow us on Twitter: @StanleyRea