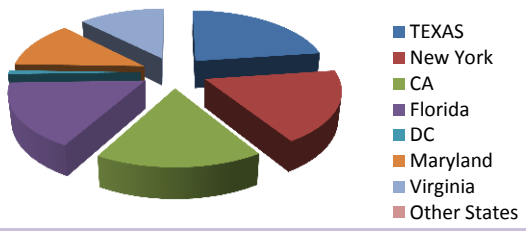


TEXAS Area, Lend a Hand!!

Join Local to Global Responses for Central American Children in Crisis



14% of 37,477 Children Arriving Jan-July, 2014 Stay in Texas Before Seeing a Judge



Largest Arrival Numbers by County:
 Harris 3,231; Dallas 961; Travis 393; Tarrant 221; Bexar 154; Montgomery 131; Galveston 84

Who are the Children?

- 92% of all arrived children are from 3 countries hardest hit by drug related violence: Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.
- Other Counties in the US receiving more than 1,000 children include Suffolk, NY (1,301), Nassau, NY (1,207), Fairfax, VA (1,131), and Prince George's, MD. (1,087)
- 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. (HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement Report; 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 the Children?

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/>

GIVE TO WEEK OF COMPASSION, MARKED "REFUGEE CHILDREN AID" TO HELP DISCIPLES KEEP REACHING OUT !!

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!

2. Engage Kids to Help Kids!

- 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.



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 Reauthorizat on 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 being cared for by relatives who themselves are often poor, help families and support local schools by offering a supplies pack. Contact schools in high arrival counties, and contact our Disciples Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries & Lilies of the Valley at swgsm.org for more ways to help kids & moms.



5. Link with Our Global Ministry Partners!

Our Disciples Global Ministries has personnel in Guatemala and Honduras, and partners in all three of the countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador which most children are fleeing. Take time now to visit globalministries.org to read "Children on the Run" by the Westras, and write and pray for them. Also write the Westras in Honduras. Also pray for Gloria Vicente Canu in Guatemala, and review the "Pastoral Letter to the Country" from church leaders in El Salvador. Then, especially consider contributing to Week of Compassion to support our ecumenical partnership work with "CASM" in Honduras that supports families and the human rights of children struggling under gang violence.

6. Write to Give Hope!



Week of Compassion & CWS have supported religious services at the Artesia Family Center in New Mexico, and expect soon to be at centers in Texas. Now, 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. Again, contact swgsm.org or contribute through Week of Compassion at www.weekofcompassion.org to help them provide medical care in your state to the kids.



8. Join a Holiday Outreach



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

9. Become a Foster Parent

The small percentage of children who arrive without any relative in the US need caring Foster Parents. For excellent foster care information, contact LIRS.org or usccb.org and ask for info. on foster care for Central American unaccompanied minors.

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: sstanley@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