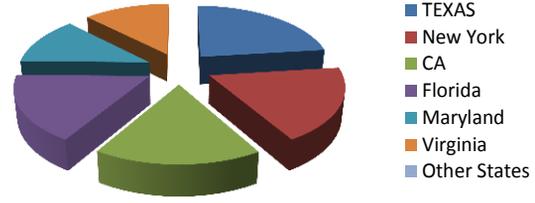


DISCIPLES, Lend a Hand!!

Join Local to Global Responses for Central American Children in Crisis



Top Placement States for 37,477 Children Arriving Jan-July, 2014



US Counties Receiving 1,000+ Children in 2014:
 Harris, TX 3,231; Suffolk, NY 1,301; Nassau, NY 1,207;
 Fairfax, VA 1,131, and Prince George's, MD 1,087
At least 40% of last year's arrival numbers are expected to come in Spring/Summer of 2015 again

Who are the Children?

- **92% of all arrived children are from 3 countries hardest hit by drug related violence: Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.**
 - **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?

Since summer of 2014, 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: www.discipleshomemissions.org/rim-resources
GIVE TO WEEK OF COMPASSION, MARKED "REFUGEE CHILDREN AID" TO HELP DISCIPLES KEEP REACHING OUT !!

Now, What Can We Do 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. Donate to support legal services at: www.weekofcompassion.org. See the "Legal Services for unaccompanied Minors" CWS backgrounder at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/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 from Disciples Children and Family Ministries at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/kids-to-kids. Projects include gathering items for Borderlinks, writing representatives, and sending cards or making videos for children.



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 Reauthorization Act. See: www.interfaithimmigration.org/unaccompanied-children-advocacy-resources, and help stop family detention of immigrants by signing the faith letter at: <http://bit.ly/1G0qCWQ>. Contact Rev. Stanley-Rea, RIM Director, at 202-957-7826, or stanley@dhm.disciples.org for advocacy 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 in districts with high arrival counties by calling to ask how you can help kids staying in a relative's home while they await trial. OR, give a backpack for kids in Dilley Detention Center at: <http://www.raicestexas.org/pages/backpack>



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 www.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.

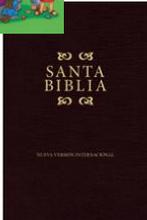
6. Write to Give Hope!

Week of Compassion & CWS have supported religious services at various family detention centers, including now at the largest center in Dilley, Texas. Write the children and mothers there in our "Angel to Angel" project of Cards of Care & Prayer. See instructions at: www.discipleshomemissions.org/refugee-immigration-ministries/rim-resources



7. Give Spanish Bibles to Kids & Moms in Dilley!

The children arrive traumatized, both by their frightening journeys and by the violence endured before and during their departure. Give gifts of Children's Spanish Bibles and Bible Story Books, or Adult Spanish Bibles to encourage the kids and moms at the largest family detention center, in Dilley, Texas. See www.discipleshomemissions.org/Dilley-Spanish-Bibles-and-Books-KidsMoms-4815.pdf



8. 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 give as the holidays approach!



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.

9. Become a Foster Parent

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