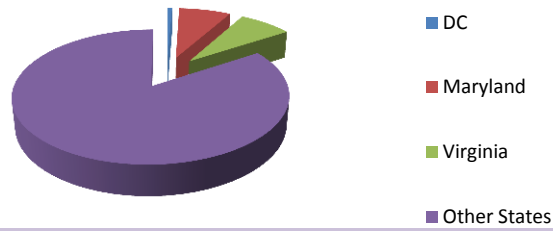


You're Invited, VIRGINIA REGION! Join Local to Global Responses for Central American Children in Crisis



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



Local Arrivals by County/City in VIRGINIA:
Alex. City-205, Arlington-133, Chesterfield-104, Fairfax-1,023, Harrisonburg-65, Henrico-50, Loudoun-210, Manassas City-103, Norfolk City-58, Prince Wm-361, Richmond-112

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!



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.



3. Raise Faith Voices to Protect the Children

FAITH IN ACTION



- 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 Direccor, 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 your local schools by offering a pack with supplies. Also, provide donations to cover school fees. Contact CWS/Richmond at: 804-658-5279 or see casadevirginia.org for additional ways to support children and their care giving families.



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. 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 Health Needs

The children arrive traumatized, both by their frightening journeys and by the violence endured before and during their departure. Call the school superintendent office in your area, or your area Health Department, to see how you can best offer support and Assistance to meet health and other emotional needs.



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!

The small percentage of children who arrive without any relative in the US need caring Foster Parents. For regional information, contact Lutheran Family Svcs. of Virginia at <http://lfsva.org/>, or the Va. Dept. of Soc. Svcs. At www.dss.virginia.gov.

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: 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