

2018 marked ten years of KIND protecting unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children who came to the United States in search of safe futures. In a year of chaos, cruelty and threats to this vulnerable population, KIND was at the forefront - helping traumatized children, reunifying families, and preserving access to justice.

## BY THE NUMBERS



**Over 5,700**

open cases - a 9% increase from 2017



**98%**

success rate in achieving legal relief for clients



**Nearly 400**

separated children receiving legal representation



**5,566**

pro bono attorneys trained to represent children in immigration court



**585**

pro bono partnerships with major law firms, corporations, law schools, and bar associations



### EMANUEL'S STORY

Emanuel\*, an 8-year-old boy from Honduras, was separated from his father as they crossed the border this summer. He spent over 5 months in custody with limited communication with his family, even though all clearances were complete for his release to a sponsor. When a KIND attorney intervened, Emanuel's release was approved and he was reunited with his aunt and uncle in California where he loves riding his new bike and playing soccer.



### JULIE'S STORY

Julie\* left her home in Haiti at age 16 to escape her father, who beat her and her mother regularly. Terrified of her father, Julie struggled to sleep knowing he was nearby. Now safely living in Massachusetts, Julie is at the top of her class. This summer, she volunteered as a teaching assistant at a camp for children run through her high school.

*\*Names and photos have been changed to protect identities*

## FAMILY SEPARATION

**“ YOU CAN'T SEND US BACK! THEY WILL KILL MY DAD IF WE GO BACK. ”**

- 8-year-old boy from Honduras, separated from his father



Beginning in the spring, over 2,600 immigrant and refugee children were cruelly separated from their parents at the border under the Administration's 'Zero Tolerance' policy. As the family separation crisis unfolded, KIND was at the forefront of legal representation and reunification efforts. We deployed teams to the border to provide legal advice to over 200 parents, took on nearly 400 separated children cases across the country, and worked with partners to reunify families. Our new Family Separation Response Team provided mentorship and training to pro bono attorneys and worked with KIND's Regional team in Central America to locate and support parents who were deported without their children. In recognition of the devastating effects of detention and separation on children, we increased our capacity to provide trauma-informed care and facilitate critical services for our clients and their families.

## LEGAL SERVICES

### THE FIRST STEP IN PROTECTION

“LEGAL STATUS BECOMES A SOURCE OF STABILITY IN A CHILD’S LIFE. AND WHAT WE DO SEE IS THESE CHILDREN GO ON AND CAN DO SOME AMAZING THINGS.”  
– Wendy Young, KIND President

We continued to build a robust network of pro bono attorneys who have been trained and mentored by KIND to provide free legal representation to unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children.

Despite an increasingly complex landscape for children’s immigration law, we had a **98% success rate** in achieving a positive legal outcome for our clients. KIND’s ten offices received 2,171 child referrals for legal representation in 2018.

Each child with legal representation means a child protected and on the path to safety – a child who has legal representation is 5 times more likely to be granted protection in the United States. As we enter our second decade of providing free legal representation to vulnerable children, we celebrate our child clients – past and current – who fled violence and abuse and now are living safely in the United States. They are attending college, accepting job offers, and have hopeful futures.



## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

### PROTECTING MIGRANT CHILDREN

“I SAW A SIGN THAT SAID: “WELCOME TO EL SALVADOR”...I GOT EXCITED, STARTED CRYING AND THOUGHT: “I AM FINALLY GOING TO SEE THEM AGAIN!””  
– 17-year-old girl who was reunified with her mom and sister in El Salvador

In Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, KIND provided family reunification services, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention programs, and legal and social services assistance.

Working with three partner organizations in Guatemala, our **Gender and Migration Initiative** implemented SGBV prevention workshops for 450 boys and girls in secondary school, a leadership and economic empowerment program for 85 adolescent girls, and training for 18 primary school teachers on how they can prevent sexual violence and support survivors.

The **Child Migrant Return and Reintegration Program**, which helps children returning to Guatemala or Honduras due to deportation or voluntary departure, received over 100 referrals in 2018; the majority were children rendered unaccompanied under the family separation policy and whose parents had been deported. We located separated children, facilitated contact between children who were still in the U.S. and their deported parents, advocated for reunification when appropriate, and provided psycho-social assistance and reintegration support to families after they were reunited.

### Our Offices

Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Houston, Los Angeles, Newark, New York City, San Francisco (Fresno satellite), Seattle, Washington DC (Northern VA satellite)

## POLICY & ADVOCACY

### CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

“LAW AND ORDER CAN GO HAND IN HAND WITH HUMANITY... WHAT WE SHOULD NEVER ABIDE IS TREATING CHILDREN LIKE TRASH, NO MATTER WHERE THEY COME FROM.”  
– Sonia Nazario, Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author and KIND Board Member

KIND fought back legislative threats to longstanding safeguards for unaccompanied children and advocated for continued funding for legal services for this vulnerable population. We published **Death by a Thousand Cuts**, explaining the Administration’s ongoing assault on their protections.

In **robust advocacy efforts**, we participated in press conferences with Senators and Representatives, gave briefings and presentations to Hill staff, and brought clients to meet with House Democratic leadership and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to discuss the importance of counsel for unaccompanied children. In response to the family separation crisis, we fielded over 400 press calls, issued 22 statements, hosted 4 press teleconferences, and were quoted dozens of times in newspapers and media outlets.

Through the **Voices That Matter Most** project, we worked with immigrant students to empower them to share their stories of fear, flight, resilience, and hope. We expanded the project to Mexico and Central America, where 59 children affected by migration and displacement documented their migration stories and offered recommendations for protection for children on the move.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

### SERVING THE WHOLE CHILD

“MY DAUGHTER HAS A HEART CONDITION AND NEEDS SURGERY OR SHE WILL DIE. I HAD TO COME SO THAT SHE COULD GET THE SURGERY AND LIVE. WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO, STAY IN HONDURAS AND WATCH MY DAUGHTER DIE? I CAME SO THAT MY DAUGHTER COULD LIVE.”  
– Separated mother from Honduras

The majority of KIND clients have endured trauma during their journey to safety. KIND’s 10 Social Services Coordinators (SSCs) addressed the myriad of issues that our children face - health and mental health problems, housing, transportation and education challenges. They connected thousands of children with essential services, as well as crisis intervention to ensure their well-being and safety. This support keeps children on track with their legal cases, safely within the system and able to benefit from local resources.

KIND’s SSC in California’s Central Valley organized resource fairs to introduce children and families to local service providers and provide Know Your Rights presentations. Our Boston SSC led trauma sensitivity trainings for the Chelsea Public Schools District, and New York’s SSC enabled female clients to attend a conference to explore various career paths.



### Stay In Touch

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