KIND
KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE

2015 Annual Report

www.supportkind.org

Vision Statement

KIND serves as the leading organization for the protection of children who enter the U.S. immigration system alone and strives to ensure that no such child appears in immigration court without representation. We achieve fundamental fairness through high-quality legal representation and by advancing the child's best interests, safety, and well-being.

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Letter from Board Chair

Children continue to flee Central America alone in high numbers to find safety from gangs and narco-traffickers who threaten, attack, rape, and kill them. In fact, the migration of tens of thousands of children each year is no longer unprecedented—it's the new normal.

Violence in Central America remains rampant. El Salvador has unseated Honduras as the most murderous country in the world, and Guatemala is not far behind them both. A civil war and refugee crisis is taking shape on our back doorstep.

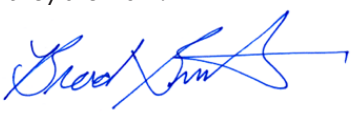
This means that KIND and its comprehensive approach to legal services, on-the-ground programs in the Northern Triangle of Central America, media outreach, and advocacy directed at policymakers is needed now more than ever.

And we have risen to the challenge. KIND has grown significantly to better address this "new normal" and the broadening protection concerns unaccompanied children face. We are working not just to change the lives of individual children; we are also working to change the world in which they live.

In 2015, KIND more than doubled the size of our legal services staff; we added two new offices—in San Francisco and Atlanta—bringing our total to 10 offices nationwide. We placed 34 percent more cases with attorneys in 2015 than in 2014, and reached a total of nearly 11,000 attorneys trained since 2009.

KIND also recognizes that the safety of refugee and immigrant children knows no borders and is not confined to the court room. We have been growing our work in the region to promote and deliver protection. We prepared for the launch in 2016 of a first-of-its-kind project to provide Central American children seeking refugee status through the U.S. Central American Minors refugee resettlement program access to a pro bono attorney. We are working to address the root causes of child migration by engaging in research, particularly to support effective programming that addresses sexual and gender-based violence against migrant children. KIND has been interviewing migrant children from Northern Triangle countries, government officials, and key civil society actors from Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries, and will make recommendations to countries of origin, transit, and destination on how to better protect these children.

Together we are working to create a system that represents a true safety net so that no child will ever have to appear in immigration court alone, and to restore stability to Central America so that children can enjoy their childhood in safety and freedom. The extraordinary growth of KIND and the significant increase in the number of children we can now serve is thanks to all of you and your continued commitment. We look forward to another year of working together to ensure that unaccompanied children are protected as all children deserve to be, wherever they are from.



Brad Smith

President and Chief Legal Officer, Microsoft Corporation

KIND Facts 2015

11,000 Attorneys Trained

KIND had trained more than 11,000 lawyers by the end of 2015.

$124 Million in Pro Bono Legal Services

KIND has received more than 265,456 pro bono hours totaling more than $124 million in services from 2009-2015.

70 Countries

KIND has worked with children from 70 countries.

8,400 Referrals

8,400 children were referred to KIND by the end of 2015.

269 Partners

KIND had partnered with 269 law firms, corporate legal departments, law schools, and bar associations by the end of 2015.

31% more children represented

The number of unaccompanied children with lawyers nationally rose from 30% to 61% between 2014 and 2015; KIND played a significant role in this success.

The New Normal

The number of children coming alone from Central America dropped for a time in 2015, as compared to 2014, due to the increased apprehension and deportation of unaccompanied children by Mexican officials with support from the United States. But starting in late summer 2015, the numbers started rising significantly again and continued to increase to the end of the year, and beyond. Nearly 40,000 unaccompanied children came to the United States in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, as compared to more than 68,000 in FY 2014. The FY 2015 number is still exponentially higher than the historic average of 6,000 - 8,000 pre-2011. More than 150,000 unaccompanied children have come to the U.S. since 2014. It seems that we have entered a new normal, in which tens of thousands of vulnerable children come alone to the United States each year seeking safety.

The rising numbers are not a surprise. Little has been done to address the root causes of the children's flight, namely the growing violence in Central America.

Increasing Violence in Central America

El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala are among the top five most violent countries in the world due to gang and other organized criminal violence. El Salvador unseated Honduras as the most murderous country in the Western Hemisphere.

260% increase

In Honduras, violent deaths of women increased 260% between 2005 and 2013.

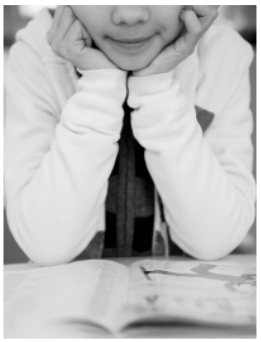
Between 2011 and 2014, San Pedro Sula, Honduras's second largest city, was the most violent city of over 300,000 people in the world. These countries rank first, third, and seventh, respectively, for rates of female homicides globally. In Honduras, violent deaths of women increased 260% between 2005 and 2013. Children are targeted by gangs, narco-traffickers, and other criminal elements that their governments are unable or unwilling to control and are at great risk. Many could qualify for international protection if given the opportunity to share their story.

Due Process: Progress but More Needed

The good news is that the number of unaccompanied children with lawyers nationally rose to 61 percent in 2015 from a low of nearly 30 percent in 2014. KIND played a significant role in this success. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our donors and volunteers, KIND was able to take more children's cases, and to help them in vital ways beyond their legal services needs.

Increasing KIND's Capacity

- Nearly doubled the pro bono contributions from our private sector partners in the legal community
- More than doubled the size of our legal services staff
- Added two new offices—in San Francisco and Atlanta—bringing our total to 10 field offices nationwide
- Received support to add social services coordinators to help children with mental health and other needs



NEW! Social Services

Most of the children referred to KIND have suffered tremendous trauma in their home countries and on their journeys to the United States. They have serious non-legal needs, such as access to medical and mental health care, school enrollment, counseling services, and housing assistance. To help access these critical services, KIND received support to place social service coordinators in three of our offices; our goal is to have one in every office.

Creative Partnerships

Winning a Landmark Case in New Jersey

Matt Boxer, Partner at Lowenstein Sandler LLP in New Jersey represented KIND, American Friends Service Committee, and the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, at the New Jersey State Supreme Court to ensure legal protections are upheld for abused, abandoned, and neglected immigrant and refugee children in New Jersey. On August 25, 2015, the court unanimously supported these protections, and by doing so, reversed a disturbing trend throughout New Jersey denying access to justice to this uniquely vulnerable population of children based on misplaced concerns that New Jersey state courts were making immigration determinations. The decision also sends a message to state courts across the U.S. that the protection of immigrant children's welfare is paramount. Attorneys at Lowenstein Sandler LLP, including Catherine Weiss, partner and chair of the pro bono committee, Natalie Kraner, pro bono counsel, and associates Eric Jesse and Kathryn Pearson, worked tirelessly to ensure the outcome of this decision.

"This case represented an opportunity to help hundreds, if not thousands, of kids who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent to help them have their cases heard by the federal government." – Matt Boxer, Partner, Lowenstein Sandler LLP

"4 by the 4th" Campaign Helps Nearly 50 Children Gain Representation

In the summer of 2015, KIND launched our first ever "4 by the 4th" campaign to encourage law firms and corporations to take on four new children's cases by July 4th. All across the U.S., our partners stepped up and met this challenge. Some far exceeded it. Thanks to Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP, EMC Corporation, Pierce Atwood LLP, Holland & Knight LLP, O'Melveny & Myers LLP, Milbank LLP, Paul Hastings LLP, Wyndham Worldwide, Microsoft Corporation, Perkins Coie LLP, and Troutman Sanders LLP, nearly 50 additional children gained attorneys, and a fair chance to make their case in immigration court.

Protecting Children in Central America and Mexico

KIND continues to expand its child protection work in Central America and Mexico. KIND's Guatemalan Child Return and Reintegration Project (GCRRP) helps children returning to Guatemala from the United States do so safely and assists, through our local nongovernmental organization partners, children with family reunification, skills training, education, medical services, and counseling. In addition to GCRRP, KIND is working to advance sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) programming and improve access to the Central American Minors (CAM) resettlement program. KIND also works to connect civil society in Central America to U.S. policy makers so U.S. officials have a better understanding of conditions in these countries and can make more informed policy decisions.

Guatemalan Child Return and Reintegration Project

With KIND's GCRRP partner El Colectivo Vida Digna, Guatemalan youth came together to learn how they can—and why they should—work to improve Guatemalan government and society.

Since the program became operational in 2011, 140 children have participated in the GCRRP, and of these, 80 percent have remained in Guatemala. Of the clients who have returned to Guatemala since January 2015, none have re-migrated.

KIND partners with local nongovernmental organizations that work in the Guatemalan highlands, the source of the majority of child migration from Guatemala, and are culturally competent to work with indigenous children, fluent in the most common indigenous languages spoken in communities with high migration rates, and have experience with youth and migrants. These partners, which include Colectivo Vida Digna and Pop No'J, provide intensive case management, home visits, educational support, employment/career support and development, support accessing the health system, and youth empowerment workshops, and activities.

Returning Girls

Returning girls face unique challenges and have different needs than boys. For example, repatriated girls are more frequently stigmatized than repatriated boys based on the assumption that they were raped or had sex during the migration journey. Girls also face more challenges re-enrolling in school than boys because of gender norms that prioritize marriage over education for girls. KIND's partners on the ground provide services tailored to these needs.

KIND created a gender working group in Guatemala, comprised of our GCRRP partner organizations, the goals of which are to: ❶ further develop the capacity of our partners to identify and respond to the needs of returning girls and child survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; ❷ develop and deliver sexual and gender-based violence prevention programming; and ❸ engage in local advocacy to promote protection.

KIND has used our unique access to information about the entire repatriation process for unaccompanied children and the challenges within it to advocate for needed changes to make the return process more child friendly.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

There is little understanding of the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) among immigrant and refugee girls and its many manifestations, without which effective programming cannot be created. To fill this significant gap, KIND is conducting an assessment on SGBV against migrant children throughout their journeys. KIND has been interviewing children over age 12 from Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala who are in immigration custody in Mexico. We are also interviewing SGBV survivors who have been referred to KIND. To better understand the systems in place to protect migrant children affected by SGBV, as well as the gaps in protection, KIND has also interviewed governmental agencies in Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, and Guatemala, as well as civil society organizations.

Central American Minors Resettlement Program

KIND partnered with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to help ensure that families in the United States were aware of the U.S. government's Central American Minors program (CAM), which was launched in late 2014 to allow children in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala with parents in lawful status in the United States to apply for refugee protection from within their home country. KIND and IRC focused outreach in metropolitan and upstate New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Houston, and Dallas, which included presentations, radio announcements, contacting legal services providers, and outreach to Central American organizations.

Lawyers for children in CAM

In partnership with Arnold & Porter LLP, KIND developed a model to provide pro bono legal services to children with pending CAM claims in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Children applying to CAM have been navigating the system alone since there is no right to counsel in the interviews and no one to support them in the process. Through KIND's model, we are encouraging pro bono legal services in Central America and bringing critical support to children that can significantly affect the outcome of their case. While most of the claims are still pending, eight children in our pilot project have been granted refugee status. KIND's partners in the model include pro bono attorneys at law firms in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala; civil society partners in El Salvador and Honduras; and Microsoft in Latin America.

Trainings and Outreach

KIND participated in initial trainings of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) refugee officers on interviewing Central American children and educating them on the protection risks these children face, which are still not widely understood, as evidenced by low refugee grant rates.

KIND trained Honduran and Guatemalan consular officials located in the U.S., Mexico, and Guatemala on a range of issues including identifying children's protection needs, the U.S. child migration system, due process rights of migrants, and forms of immigration relief for unaccompanied children in the U.S.

KIND's regional team presented at the Regional Conference on Migration in Mexico City; our work was also featured in the best practices forum. We participated in the First Ladies' Forum on child migration and presented the results of the regional study Childhood, Migration, and Human Rights at Mexico's National Autonomous University, and presented at or attended a host of other forums in the region.

2015 Gala
Coming Together for Children Alone

"For all of your efforts in standing with children who need you in these courts, for all of your efforts in advocating and helping us not make a grievous mistake in turning our back on these children and doing it under the color of a law that was named after a great abolitionist and fighter against human trafficking, I wanted to be here tonight to say thank you." —Senator Tim Kaine

More than 300 KIND supporters attended our 2015 Gala Benefit Dinner, "Coming Together for Children Alone" on April 22, 2015– the law firms, corporations, policymakers, and key individuals who have ensured that thousands of children have representation in their deportation proceedings and a fair chance to access U.S. protection. We honored outstanding law firm, corporate, media, and government leaders at the Gala, which also included a special performance by composer Nico Muhly, a protégé of Philip Glass.

Brad Smith presents the 2015 Vision Award to Kamala Harris, Attorney General of California.

We presented our 2015 Allegiance Awards to KIND partners Goodwin Procter, Greenberg Traurig, and Perkins Coie for their exemplary work on behalf of their child clients, most of who came to the U.S. to flee increasing violence in their home countries in Central America.

KIND Board Chair Brad Smith said that these firms "demonstrate the caring, commitment, and compassion that have changed the course of so many children's lives." He added that, collectively, these three firms have provided over 10,000 hours of pro bono services in almost 100 KIND cases. Goodwin Procter Chairman David Hashmall; Greenberg Traurig Shareholder and Co-President Brian Duffy; and Perkins Coie Chairman John Devaney accepted the awards on their firms' behalf.

Paul Hastings received KIND's 2015 Founders Award for its support of KIND even before KIND officially opened its doors in January 2009. Paul Hastings Global Vice-Chairman Kurt Hansson accepted the award.

Smith presented ExxonMobil Corporation with KIND's 2015 Innovation Award and ExxonMobil Counsel Susan Sanchez and Robert Johnson, Assistant General Counsel of Legal Services, accepted the award on the company's behalf.

Univision Communications Inc and its President and CEO Randy Falco received KIND's 2015 Champion Award for leadership throughout the child migration crisis last summer by providing comprehensive news coverage, public service announcements, social media outreach, and support for legal representation for these children.

California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris received KIND's 2015 Vision Award for making the state of California a groundbreaking leader in a compassionate and effective response to the significant legal representation needs of the many unaccompanied children in the state.

Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia spoke about his concern for unaccompanied children.

Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia, and current Vice Presidential candidate, made a surprise appearance and discussed his concern for unaccompanied children. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee focusing on Latin America who has great expertise in the region, the plight of these children resonates deeply with him, he said, as does the need to address the root causes of their flight.

In closing the evening, Smith said, "We don't know what will come this year, but we do know that with our continued collaboration and your extraordinary support, we will not just meet new challenges, but rise above and continue to break new ground in the protection of unaccompanied children. As a result, thousands more will reclaim their childhood and gain a future of hope and safety."

Celebrating Washington State's Protection of Children Alone

Washington State's extraordinary response to last year's unaccompanied child emergency was featured at an event at the Seattle Art Museum where over 150 supporters gathered to hear Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson and Microsoft President and Chief Legal Officer, Brad Smith, who is also KIND's co-founder and board chair, speak about these efforts to protect vulnerable children. Attorney General Ferguson talked about how, in the midst of unprecedented numbers of children coming to Washington State in 2014 to seek safety, he supported children's access to counsel in their deportation proceedings, and joined with KIND to launch a Task Force on Unaccompanied Children in Washington State.

The evening also featured a clip from the documentary film *La Prenda (The Pawn)* which documents the breakdown in the rule of law in Guatemala and the violence that has resulted, particularly as it affects young women. One of the young women featured in the film, Astrid, fled to safety in the US and was matched by KIND with a pro bono attorney who helped her win asylum. The director of the film, Jean-Cosme Delaloye, shared his experiences in making the film. The audience voiced their appreciation of Astrid's strength and willingness to tell her story.

Brad Smith welcoming guests to the event.

Director, Jean-Cosme Delaloye and Astrid speaking before the film starts.

The KIND Experience

"The most humbling and profound lesson learned has been how little effort it takes to make an enormous impact on unaccompanied children. In my very first meeting with my very first client, I explained who I was, the role of the lawyer, confidentiality, tried to joke about how he could fire me at any time, the process of a Special Immigrant Juvenile Status case, where he was in that process, next steps, what legal permanent residency could mean for his future, and immigration policy. At the end, he looked up at me and said, "you mean, you will walk in first, in front of me, when we have to go to court? You will tell me where to stand?" Those two questions sat me back in my chair. That was it. If I was nothing more than a band leader, a marshal of facts, if I was nothing more than a microphone, it was going to make a world of difference to him. **While we all strive for perfection and legal brilliance all that mattered to him was that I was there.** This moment continues to drive me to take on as many cases as possible and to encourage others to do the same."

– Alexandra Hess
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP

"For me it was the draw of doing pro bono work at large but also this human rights issue. **They have nowhere to go and they are forced to leave their homeland alone and to come here – without someone to represent them they could very easily be sent back."**

– Mary Bortscheller
Associate, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll

"What resonates most for me is the fact that without KIND and the pro bono assistance it secures from volunteer attorneys, more children would be forced to face our legal system alone and without representation. **This should be, and for many of us *is*, simply unacceptable in our society today. We all have a responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves."**

– Kurt Hansson
Global Vice Chairman, Litigation, Paul Hastings, and KIND Board Member

KIND pro bono attorneys work directly with child clients to help them build their cases, gain valuable courtroom experience, learn new skills, develop expertise in a unique area of law, and can change the course of a child's life.

KIND Expands Online Engagement

KIND launched our first #KINDShoes social media campaign for World Refugee Day 2015. Among the highlights: Thirty 6th grade students participated by sharing photos of their shoes and discussing for two hours the journey Central American children are making to find safety. They then took a group photo in the shape of a heart to show their compassion and concern for these vulnerable refugee children.

Twitter followers increased by more than 50% and Facebook Likes increased by 55%. KIND also launched an Instagram account in the summer of 2015.

ASK ME ANYTHING

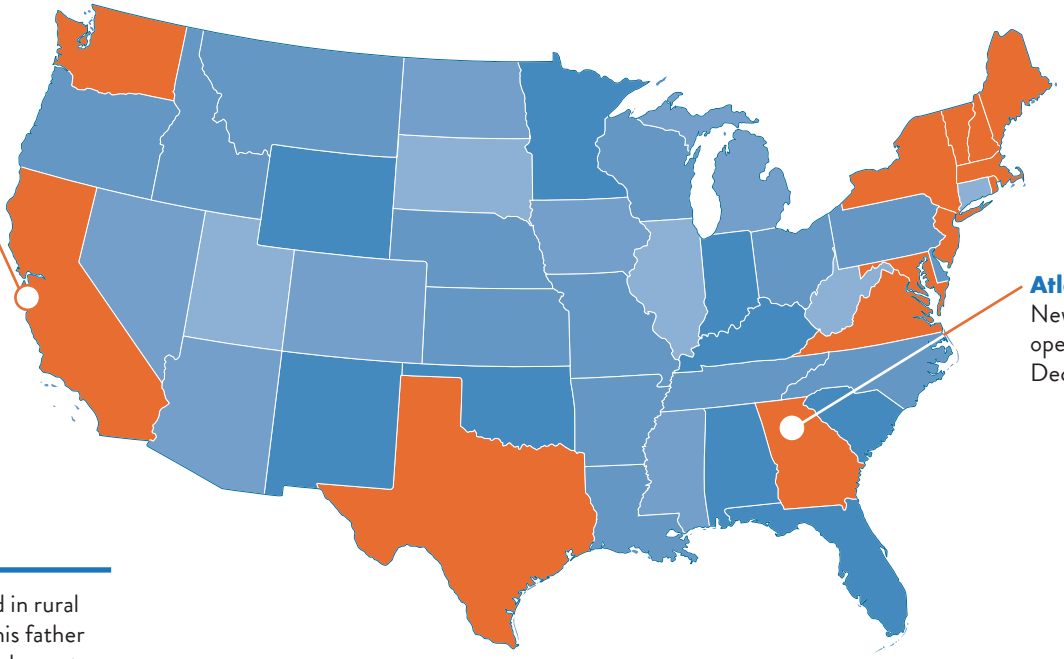
KIND President Wendy Young participated in an online Reddit AMA where she fielded over 30 questions, 68 comments, and received 148 views.

"I didn't feel safe because everyone lived with the same fear...of being killed one day."

—Lilian

Click Here to Watch Lilian's Story Now

Snapshot: Stories from around the Country



San Francisco, CA
New office opened in February 2016.

Atlanta, GA
New office opened in December 2015.

Seattle

Roberto, 15, lived in rural Guatemala with his father and paternal grandparents; his mother died when he was very young. Roberto's father was severely physically abusive, and Roberto had no one to protect him. Roberto sought safety in the U.S., received protection for children who are severely abused, and became a lawful permanent resident in 2015.

Baltimore

Two young siblings, Jamie and Marie, from El Salvador, were granted asylum, and are now safe from the gang that murdered their older brother who owned his own business but refused to pay "renta" to the gang. The gang then began targeting Jamie for recruitment; when he refused, he and his family began receiving death threats. Jamie and Marie fled to the US and are now living safely with their grandmother and aunt.

Boston

KIND helped win asylum for a boy from Ecuador with physical and mental disabilities including facial deformities, impaired speech, learning disabilities, and cognitive delays. He was physically and emotionally abused by caretakers, bullied at school, and did not have parents in his home country.

Houston

Pro bono attorneys from Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP won asylum for their 12-year-old client who had been sexually abused for years by her step-father. This is a particularly important win, as the Houston Asylum Office has a very low grant rate.

Los Angeles

A pro bono attorney from Munger Tolles & Olson LLP's Los Angeles office won asylum for a family of five children — a mix of siblings and cousins who lived together — from El Salvador. Their family had been targeted by gangs, in part because they are devout Evangelical Christians who attend church six days a week.

Newark

Nancy, 14, was living in Honduras with her mother when the leader of a violent gang kidnapped and raped her older sister on several occasions. The gang leader stalked Nancy's sister, and threatened to rape Nancy because her sister tried to avoid his attacks. Gang members began to follow Nancy. Nancy and her sister fled to the U.S. together. Nancy was granted asylum.

New York City

Pro bono attorneys from Jenner & Block LLP helped a Honduran boy who had endured years of beatings, food deprivation, and other maltreatment by relatives who raised him in his parents' absence. He fled to the U.S. to seek safety, was reunited with his mother, and gained asylum.

Washington, DC

When Sandra was 15, she witnessed her father's murder by a family who were believed to be gang members and who had already killed eight members of her family. The police ignored Sandra's family's pleas for protection. Sandra fled to the U.S. when threats to rape and kill her intensified, and won asylum.

"I can't imagine anyone going through this process without attorneys."

— Stan Perry, Partner, Reed Smith

"I have a 5-year-old, and there are children this young in the process. How do they even understand what's going on?"

— Robin Minturn, Senior Counsel, Chevron,
Houstonia Magazine, "Not All Lawyers!"
September 1, 2015.

KIND President Wendy Young with KIND Co-Founder and Board Chair Brad Smith

Leadership

Founders

Angelina Jolie
Co-Founder and Patron
UNHCR Special Envoy

Brad Smith
Co-Founder and Board Chair
President and Chief Legal Officer,
Microsoft Corporation

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Microsoft Corporation

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Partner, A.T. Kearney

Aurora Cassirer
Partner, Troutman Sanders LLP

John Bul Dau
Author, Human Rights Activist

Carole Geithner
Clinical Social Worker, Author

Kurt Hansson
Global Vice-Chairman, Litigation
Department, Paul Hastings LLP

Sonia Nazario
Author, Enrique's Journey

Kathleen Newland
Director, Migrants, Migration,
and Development and Refugee
Protection Programs,
Migration Policy Institute

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Catherine Burnett
South Texas Law School

*Board members who joined KIND in 2016

Paul Hastings LLP honorees, Brian Moran and Kurt Hansson, with KIND New York staff Sarah Burrows and Megan Jordi, and two clients Paul Hastings helped gain relief, at the KIND 2015 Gala.

Leadership (continued)

Lucrecia Davis
Fragomen Worldwide

Irma Diaz
Employment and Training Centers

Joy Dowdle
Paul Hastings LLP

Charles Foster
FosterQuan LLP

Karen Lukin
Marathon Oil Company

Emma Mata
Seyfarth Shaw LLP

David Moyer
Chevron

Charles Munnell
Immigration Lawyer (ret)

Stan Perry
Reed Smith LLP

Susan Sanchez
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Sal Mungia
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Stokes Lawrence

Courtney Seim
Riddell Williams

Marty Shively
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Amazon

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Citibank
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Edison Electric Institute
EMC
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Exelon-Constellation Energy
Exxon Mobil
Fandango
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FTI Consulting Firm
GE
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West Gulf Maritime Association
Wyndham Worldwide Corporate Legal Department
Zeo Gas

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Foley Hoag LLP

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Foster Pepper
Foster Quan LLP
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Baltimore City Bar Association
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Boston

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Houston

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Los Angeles

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Joe Lee, Adam Lawton and **Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP.**

Newark

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Lowenstein Sandler LLP for providing office space, and for presenting at KIND briefings to Congressional staff on the importance of Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), as well as at a KIND-sponsored CLE on SIJS.

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ExxonMobil for hosting KIND trainings.

Gibbons PC for hosting KIND trainings.

Greenberg Traurig LLP for hosting KIND trainings.

McCarter & English, LLP for hosting KIND trainings.

Merck for hosting KIND trainings.

Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius LLP for hosting KIND trainings.

Proskauer Rose LLP for hosting KIND trainings.

New York

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San Francisco

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Paul Hastings LLP for hosting KIND presentations.

Reed Smith LLP for hosting KIND presentations.

Fish & Richardson LLP for hosting KIND presentations.

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP for hosting KIND presentations.

Seattle

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Washington, DC

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Microsoft Corporation for supporting KIND's Equal Justice Fellow

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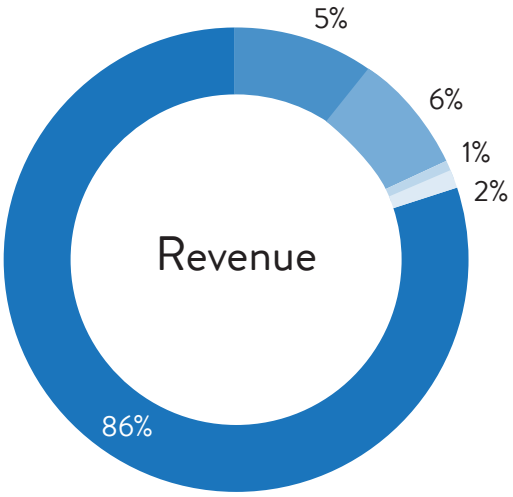

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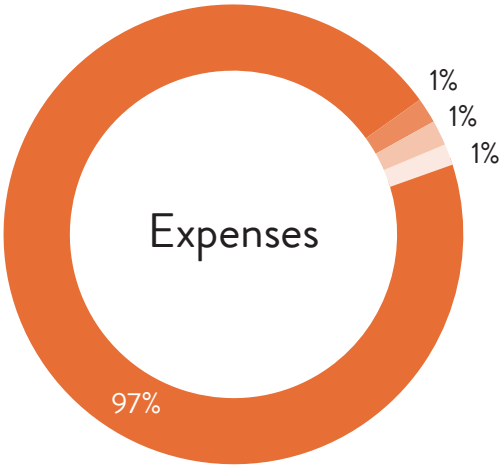

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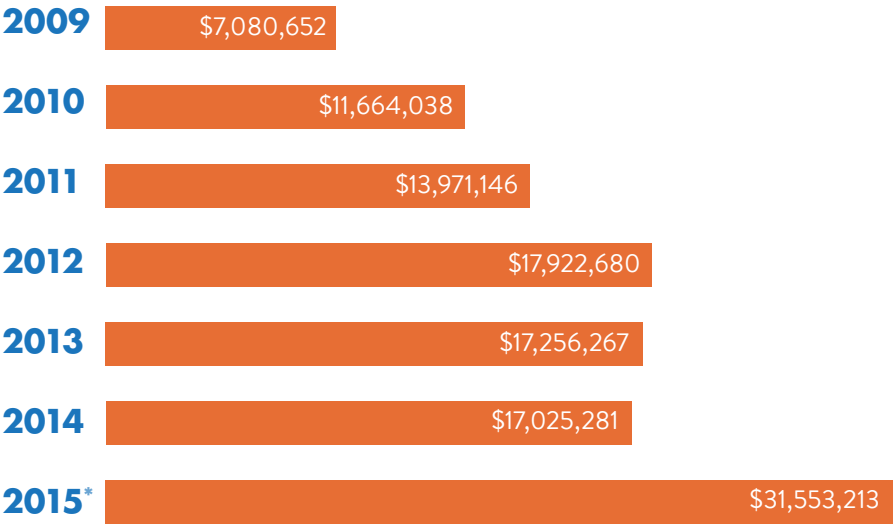

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265,457
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$124,098,370
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