



In response to the ongoing child migration crisis which has brought over **100,000 unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children to the US in the last two years**, KIND has achieved extraordinary growth as an organization and in the number of children we have been able to serve. Building upon the tremendous generosity of our donors and volunteers throughout the unprecedented rise in the number of unaccompanied children seeking protection, we have been able to reach more vulnerable children and help them in important new ways.

The need remains great, and is in fact increasing once again. The number of children coming alone to the US to find safety is rising significantly compared to the same time last year, after a drop from the historic levels of summer 2014.

Why? The root causes of their flight remain largely unchanged. **El Salvador is experiencing violence not seen since the civil war in the 1980s and is on track to unseat Honduras as the murder capital of the world.**

Children continue to be targeted in Honduras, and Guatemala remains close behind both countries as among the most violent countries in the world.

**Many could qualify for international protection if given the opportunity to share their story.**

### KIND'S CAPACITY

KIND has diversified our funding and significantly increased our capacity across the country. We have:

- Become **the largest** implementing partner to the Department of Health and Human Services in delivering pro bono services to children
- **More than doubled** the size of our legal services staff
- Added **two** new offices—in San Francisco and Atlanta—(by the end of the year) bringing our total to **10** offices nationwide
- Gained **18** new law firm and **five** new corporate partners in 2015

### KIND'S WORK

In the first ten months of 2015, we increased the number of children we have matched with pro bono counsel by **54 percent**.

Since 2009:



**8,400**

Children referred to KIND by the end of 2015



**296**

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



**11,000**

Private sector lawyers trained to represent children in immigration court



**90%**

Of KIND's children's cases are successful



**\$84 million**

Leveraged in pro bono legal services from 2009-2014



## Reaching Out

We have remained vigilant to prevent Congress from weakening existing protections for unaccompanied children and to ensure that they have a fair chance to make their case in immigration court. KIND continues to work with our coalition partners to educate lawmakers about the critical importance of laws and policies that protect these children, and to offer pragmatic solutions to the crisis that could help achieve orderly migration while respecting children's rights.

### 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 and have serious non-legal needs, such as access to medical and mental health care, school enrollment, counseling services, and housing assistance. We are thrilled to be adding social services coordinators to a number of our offices to help them access these critical services.

### Protecting Children in Central America and Mexico

Our Guatemalan Child Return and Reintegration Project (GCRRP), which entered its sixth year, is expanding to include the many children being returned from Mexico who also need assistance in reunifying with family and rebuilding their lives.

We commenced a sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) assessment that will measure the prevalence of this abuse among migrant children, and staff met with government and civil society officials in Mexico and El Salvador to discuss this violence and the protections and services available to child survivors. We are also working on a desk study on gender, SGBV, and child migration.

KIND launched an initiative to help strengthen the US government's Central American Minor (CAM) program which is designed to allow children in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala who are seeking protection from violence apply for refugee status from their home country. In Central America, we are working with partners to help children with their applications. In the US, we are educating parents who have children in Central America about this alternative way to access protection for their children.

### KIND in the Media

## The New York Times

"If a child is fleeing danger in his or her home country, and that child knocks on our door pleading for help, we should open the door."

- KIND Board Member Sonia Nazario, "The Refugees at Our Door," *The New York Times*, Opinion, October 10, 2015.

"The situation last summer was characterized as part of the overall immigration system being broken, and it's taken us down the wrong policy path. This is not an immigration crisis; it's a refugee crisis."

-Wendy Young, *The New York Times*, "Immigration Crisis Shifts from Border to Courts," August 23, 2015.

### Success Stories

Sandra\* fled Honduras when she was 16 years old. For as long as she can remember, her family was in conflict with another local family, believed to be members of a cartel. Over the years, they killed eight members of Sandra's family, and harmed others. The family sought protection from the police many times, but were ignored. When Sandra was 15, she witnessed the murder of her father. As a result, threats to rape and kill Sandra intensified. Finally, Sandra fled to the US; KIND helped her gain asylum.

Mario\*, a young boy from El Salvador, contracted a rare bone disease, was unable to walk for almost a year, and missed school. When he returned to school with crutches, gang members harassed and teased him. Once he was able to walk again, they began to threaten him and his family if he did not join them. They insinuated that they would harm his 12-year-old sister. When he refused a final time, they took his sister, raped her, and impregnated her. They also beat his step-father and blamed this on Mario not having joined the gang. Mario fled in fear for his life and in hopes that in his absence, the gangs would leave his family alone. With KIND's help, Mario applied for asylum; his case is still pending.

\*Children's names have been changed to protect their identity

Check out KIND's redesigned website at [www.supportkind.org](http://www.supportkind.org)  
And watch our videos here <https://www.youtube.com/user/SupportKIND>

