Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) is the nation’s leading organization advocating for the rights of unaccompanied migrant and refugee children.

In 2008, KIND was founded by the Microsoft Corporation and UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie to address the gap in legal services for unaccompanied children. Through strategic partnerships, we provide pro bono legal representation for refugee and migrant children across the country and in locations around the globe.

Over the past decade, we have expanded our services to develop a holistic strategy for addressing the needs of these children and the systemic causes of forced migration. This includes mental health and social services for our clients, advocating for new laws and policy in the U.S. and countries of origin, and educating policymakers and the broader public about these issues.

KIND has been referred more than 20,400 children since 2009, has welcomed over 50,300 legal professionals at trainings on how to represent children alone, and fostered over 650 legal partners.

KIND’s vision is a world in which children’s rights and well-being are protected as they migrate alone in search of safety.

We will achieve our vision by:

- Ensuring that no child appears in immigration court without high quality legal representation;
- Advancing laws, policies, and practices that ensure children’s protection and uphold their right to due process and fundamental fairness; and
- Promoting in countries of origin, transit, and destination durable solutions to child migration that are grounded in the best interests of the child and ensure that no child is forced to involuntarily migrate.

Vision & Mission
As KIND embarks on its second decade, we face serious and daunting challenges that put unaccompanied children crossing the U.S. southern border and those on the move around the world at risk. They are in peril and, in response, KIND is leading a strategic, smart, and robust effort to protect their legal rights and care for their many needs.

In 2019, we expanded our portfolio of work to better address current challenges head-on and provide an increasingly holistic approach. From doubling the number of social services providers located in our offices across the nation to standing up a top-notch impact litigation team—and everything in between—KIND is better positioned today than at any time in our organization’s history.

Against the backdrop of the current Administration’s efforts to needlessly separate families and effectively close U.S. borders to vulnerable refugees, including children, KIND spent 2019 deploying legal staff to the border to help children in harm’s way, directly representing children in U.S. custody, growing our pro bono attorney partnerships, ensuring our clients have access to fair legal proceedings, and actively cultivating community partners to help meet the medical, educational, and social service needs of our clients. We also led efforts to secure government funding to address the root causes of migration and to provide improved conditions and services once children arrive in the United States.

Beyond our laser focus on the plight of unaccompanied children here at home, KIND knows the problems they face are not unique to the United States. Therefore, we worked to export our successful pro bono model to locations around the world that serve as destinations for children fleeing violence and persecution. From those Fleeing Central America to children migrating from the Middle East, kids need legal and social services, as well as advocates to protect their rights and ensure their proper treatment whenever they are in their migration journey. KIND’s expertise on children alone has allowed us to reach these children through innovative partnerships with law firms, corporate legal departments, local nongovernmental organizations, and compassionate supporters united in the belief that children deserve protection regardless of borders.

This next decade will bring new challenges and opportunities for KIND. Thanks to the dynamic and strong foundation we have laid over the past eleven years, we will continue to thrive regardless of what lies ahead. Our unwavering mission is to ensure that children who are alone and on the move have every chance for a safe and productive future.

Reflecting on a Year of Growth & Gravity

At KIND we have seen a lot of growth and progress in our efforts to protect the rights of unaccompanied children. In 2019, we gained 59 new partners, bringing our total to more than 660 law firm, corporate, bar association, and law school partnerships.

As we look back on 2019, it was a year of significant challenges and opportunities. KIND served a total of 1,042 detained children with Know Your Rights information or legal screenings in 2019. This is an increase of 45% compared to last year. KIND served a total of 2,643 detained children who were referred to KIND in 2019, and more than 20,400 have been referred since 2009.

KIND welcomed 9,352 legal professionals at trainings in 2019, and over 50,394 since 2009. KIND received an estimated $90 million in pro bono services in 2019, for a total of over $450 million in services since 2009.

KIND has worked with children from 74 countries and served over 705 clients with social services support in 2019. KIND served a total of 1,042 detained children with Know Your Rights information or legal screenings in 2019. This is an increase of 45% compared to last year. KIND has worked with children from 74 countries.

Even if you feel overwhelmed by an atmosphere of hate in America, I hope you always remember that there are countless people thinking about you every day, admiring your resilience and hoping for your speedy and successful transition into this country we call home. —Donor, Washington
Leveraging the Law to Protect Children

Protecting Kids in Detention

KIND works to ensure that no child appears in immigration court without high-quality representation and that children on the move know their legal rights so that they can make informed decisions about their future. In 2019, we fulfilled this mission in new ways when we expanded our work to include representation of children held in Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) custody. This effort launched several years ago in our Seattle office but, due to demand and thanks to KIND’s ability to rapidly build legal representation infrastructure throughout the nation, our Houston, San Francisco, and New York City offices also grew to provide legal services to detained children.

Ensuring Legal Assistance for Separated Families

As of the end of 2019, more than 800 separated individuals received legal assistance from KIND. We continue to handle these cases in three ways: directly representing children; mentoring pro bono attorneys who have volunteered to provide representation; and providing expert technical assistance to other partners working on these complex matters. The legal proceedings in family separation cases—which include unaccompanied children whose parents were deported as well as families who have reunified—are well underway, and KIND is strategically helping children and their families pursue asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, or other forms of protection when appropriate.

Leading on Impact Litigation

KIND’s new legal strategy team led the filing of a class-action lawsuit challenging an unlawful policy memo that would sharply limit the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Asylum Office’s jurisdiction over asylum cases brought by unaccompanied children. We obtained a temporary restraining order and then a preliminary injunction through the case, blocking the new policy from going into effect and ensuring that thousands of children would not be harmed by this policy. This is the first time KIND joined as co-counsel to bring impact litigation on behalf of a group of the children we serve. We filed the case with pro bono partners at Goodwin Procter LLP and two other nonprofit organizations, CLINIC and Public Counsel, on behalf of three KIND clients and two other young immigrants who would be adversely affected by the policy.
Responding to the Crisis at the Border

During the summer of 2019, KIND sent experts to the U.S.-Mexico border to help families forced back into Mexico as a result of the Administration’s “Remain in Mexico” policy. Under what it called the Migrant Protection Protocols, the Administration announced in January 2019 that it would require those who cross into the U.S. to seek protection to return to Mexico until their case is called, a wait that can take months or even years. This policy needlessly puts lives at risk as families are forced to take shelter in dangerous border areas where they are easy targets for drug cartels, gangs, and human traffickers. In some instances, children were forced to make a second journey to the border alone after their parents disappeared or their lives were threatened. KIND traveled to Mexico to monitor and report on the dangerous conditions facing waiting families, including many young children.

“A New Report on Family Separations Shows the Depths of Trump’s Negligence”
December 9, 2019

“At the height of the family separation crisis at the southern border, Emily Kephart, an advocate at Kids in Need of Defense, was spending her days trying to locate children in government custody...The week we spoke, Kephart had been searching for a six-year-old Guatemalan girl whose father was being held in Arizona, awaiting deportation, and had no idea where his daughter was.”

Rapper Vic Mensa sold hundreds of t-shirts to benefit KIND and raised awareness about the treatment of refugee and immigrant children in his song, “Camp America.”

Reunited With Her Two Sons

When Laura entered the U.S. in 2017, her young sons were taken from her, and she was quickly deported back to Guatemala, where she faced severe domestic abuse and other threats. The boys were released to other family members. Desperate to be with her sons again, Laura re-entered the U.S. in 2018, was detained for several months, and lost her legal case. In the meantime, a KIND lawyer was able to hold her release from custody, after more than 18 months, Laura was able to hold her two boys again.
In coordination with Mexican officials, KIND provided orientation and assistance to 25 children who presented at a U.S. port of entry last year. KIND tracks these cases and, after children are released from ORR shelters, we either represent the children in their deportation cases or refer them to legal service providers in the areas where they go to live. If a child has significant medical needs or is particularly vulnerable, we coordinate with the U.S. government to ensure the child receives appropriate services upon entering U.S. custody.

For example, KIND helped a 4-year-old child in critical medical condition to reunify with her mother in the United States. Sara* was in a shelter in northern Mexico when she came to KIND’s attention. Sara’s mother had fled her home county in Central America to escape severe violence, leaving Sara behind. Sara’s caregiver neglected her, resulting in chronic malnourishment. When Sara crossed into the U.S., she was so weak that Border Patrol officials took her directly to a hospital for treatment. When it became evident that Sara needed more specialized care, she was released to her mother, and they flew together to Houston, where a KIND attorney met them. The attorney helped get them to Texas Children’s Hospital, where Sara was admitted, received the care she desperately needed, and was eventually released. KIND’s Houston staff continues to work with Sara and her mother to ensure that they receive the assistance they need.

Putting Child Welfare First

Providing Cross-Border Assistance

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Expanding Social Services

KIND expanded its social services team in 2019 and provided services for 705 children. The team, with expert staff in KIND offices throughout the nation, provides a range of mental health, medical, and academic referrals. We also expanded our in-house therapeutic programming across field offices, initiated an organizational shift towards a trauma-informed model of service delivery, and launched new initiatives to complement the social services we provide. For example, we launched our first ever play therapy program in Newark, New Jersey. We are also providing expressive and visual arts, therapeutic music groups for youth, and skill-building workshops at resource fairs.

Nearly two dozen KIND clients from our New York City and Washington, DC offices participated in a series of art and performance workshops offered by Artolution and created murals and performances in each city depicting their experiences as children who came alone to the United States.
KIND continues to implement technology solutions that facilitate and improve our clients’ ability to communicate with their attorneys and to access legal information. We have created a cell phone-based portal for clients to help them easily access information about KIND and how we help children, as well as “know your rights” and other important information. KIND is partnering with AT&T, which is providing phones and other services to our Central Valley Technology Project, as well as to our Atlanta, Houston, Baltimore, and Seattle offices; we plan to expand this partnership to additional KIND locations.

KIND clients in the Central Valley can avoid traveling hundreds of miles to San Francisco to meet their attorneys by accessing secure video calls with their lawyers. They can also work directly with KIND staff in our new remote site in Mendota, which was established in partnership with United Health Centers. Pro bono attorneys can now access data, legal information, and case documentation through a cloud-based portal. We rolled out an artificial intelligence interface developed by Microsoft that systematically calls the Executive Office for Immigration Review to collect routine information about cases.

Harnessing the Power of Technology

“Every child needs to be nurtured and supported in order for them to grow and fulfill their dreams. No one should take that from them.”

Donor, Colorado

Josefina* Fled Guatemala

at 16, and was granted asylum with the help of her KIND attorney but faced many challenges. She only spoke her native language, Ixil. A friend who spoke both Ixil and Spanish offered to help. Josefina slowly became confident speaking Spanish. KIND found a training course for Ixil/Spanish interpreters; Josefina is now a professional interpreter. She hopes to gain Spanish-English interpreter certification soon. Josefina said, “The support I received from KIND has given me the tools I need to have a better future. With my certificate, I have taken a huge step towards getting ahead in life. I am so happy.”

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Josefina* Fled Guatemala

*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals

Harnessing the Power of Technology

“Third-party oversight is crucial to ensuring that the government is living up to the minimum standards it agreed to when holding children,” said Jennifer Podkul, KIND Vice President for Policy and Advocacy.

“Trump administration agrees to independent investigation of health conditions for children at border facilities”

July 12, 2019

“Every child needs to be nurtured and supported in order for them to grow and fulfill their dreams. No one should take that from them.”

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In December 2019, a father was reunited with his family, including a daughter who was taken from him at the U.S. border. The father was deported in 2018 and returned as a result of a court order. The family is being represented by KIND Pro Bono Attorney Linda Dakin-Grimm of Milbank LLP, and Associates Julia Wu and Albert Ji.

Asociación Pop No’j engages teachers and students in GBV prevention programming in Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Preventing Gender-Based Violence

With support from KIND, our partner organizations provided gender-based violence (GBV) prevention programming to over 1,800 children, youth, family members, teachers, and community members in high child migration areas of Guatemala and Honduras. KIND also engaged in research, education, and advocacy to prevent GBV against migrant children and to increase access to protection and support for survivors.

Supporting Child Reintegration

While many unaccompanied children have viable claims for U.S. protection, some children choose to return to their country of origin, and others may be required to return after it is determined that they are ineligible for protection. No formal coordination exists for these children to ensure their safety, well-being and care upon return. In response, KIND served an increasingly complex and vulnerable group of separated and unaccompanied migrant children through our Return and Reintegration Program. In 2019, KIND worked with partners in five of the highest-migration areas of Guatemala and Honduras to provide long-term, holistic support services that address the root causes of migration, including gender-based violence, and provide youth with alternatives to forced gang involvement. We have received more than 1,000 referrals and served over 500 children and their families to date. The average age of children we helped in 2019 was under 10 years old.

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In 2019, KIND worked with 90 deported parents who had been forcibly separated from their children at the U.S.-Mexico border. We conducted interviews in Central America with over one-third of the parents to identify their protection needs and potential solutions. Finding separated parents has been a significant challenge as phone numbers for the parents provided by the government are often no longer operational, or no one answers the phone, despite multiple attempts.

KIND also supported litigation to bring back 11 deported parents, who were ultimately ordered returned to the United States by U.S. District Court Judge Dana Sabraw, who found the parents had been unlawfully deported by the U.S. government. Additionally, we led efforts to identify and screen parents from the “expanded class” – those separated from children starting as early as 2017 – who are also seeking to challenge their deportations and reunify with their children in safety in the United States. By December 2019, KIND had identified 16 parents as potential candidates for return; we are working toward seeking their return.
Collaborating Across the United Kingdom

In collaboration with the Islington Law Centre, JustRight Scotland, Coram Children's Legal Centre, and Central England Law Centre, Kids in Need of Defense UK increased its capacity last year to help children living in the United Kingdom who are eligible for British citizenship and protection, but have no way to access it. We laid the foundation to expand our work to a fourth city in the UK, Manchester, partnering with the Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit. Kids in Need of Defense UK is currently working with 13 law firms and Microsoft. It serves children in London, the Midlands, and Scotland.

Reuniting a Mother and her 4-year-old Daughter

A mother in Guatemala came to one of our reintegration partner organizations asking for help with her 4-year-old daughter, Gabi, who was in the United States. Her daughter had been living with her father but was placed in protective services after her dad was taken into custody as a result of a deportation order. Gabi’s mother did not understand what was happening to her daughter, but she wanted her returned to Guatemala and needed KIND’s help. Over the next six months, KIND coordinated with state and local child welfare authorities and attorneys in the United States, our Guatemalan partners, and other officials in Guatemala to ensure that Gabi could be safely reunified with her mother. KIND’s reintegration partners helped Gabi’s family make the 8-hour journey to the capital, where they were finally reunited, and provided counseling to Gabi and her parents. KIND’s reintegration partners will continue to conduct monthly home visits and coordinate services as needed until at least June 2020.

Infusing KIND’s Approach Throughout Europe

We are adapting KIND’s pro bono model to expand legal assistance to help some of the hundreds of thousands of children who are alone and on the move in and around Europe. Most have fled traumatic and turbulent situations in the Middle East, Africa, or Asia. They either do not know their rights or are unable to exercise them. We have established pilot projects in partnership with European Lawyers in Lesvos in Greece, Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l’Homme in France, Immigrant Council of Ireland and Irish Refugee Council in Ireland, and Child Circle in Belgium to address unaccompanied children’s legal needs. Among the issues we help these kids tackle are challenging incorrect age assessments that classify children as adults and deprive them of the special protection available to children, reuniting with family, escaping human trafficking, and accessing basic services to which they are entitled.

“Showing kindness to the most vulnerable in society”

November 20, 2019

“The importance of these children reuniting with family members in safety cannot be underestimated. Family can help them deal with the trauma of their experiences so they can move more easily towards a brighter future.”

Opinion Piece by Wendy Young

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“The only reason my refugee family from El Salvador was able to successfully migrate to the US was because of the kindness of others. Now, I want to do the same.”

Donor, California

“The importance of these children reuniting with family members in safety cannot be underestimated. Family can help them deal with the trauma of their experiences so they can move more easily towards a brighter future.”

Opinion Piece by Wendy Young

KIND 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

ADVANCING GLOBAL PRIORITIES
Championing Change in Challenging Times

KIND worked to preserve crucial legal protections for unaccompanied children in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) and Flores Settlement Agreement amid continued administrative efforts to weaken or dissolve these protections.

Protecting the Promise of TVPRA

KIND opposed changes to the TVPRA that were proposed by the Administration that would have allowed the U.S. to return all unaccompanied children quickly to the situations they fled with only a cursory screening to determine whether they are victims of trafficking or potentially eligible for U.S. protection.

Safeguarding the Flores Settlement Agreement

KIND pushed back on the Administration’s attempts to end the Flores Settlement Agreement, which protects children from being held in jail-like settings for indefinite periods of time. The Agreement was created more than two decades ago to end the prolonged detention of children.

KIND engaged with policymakers to elevate the importance of legal protections for this vulnerable population, to oppose barriers that prevent children from fairly accessing humanitarian relief, and to support funding to address the root causes of migration, including gender-based violence, that leave unaccompanied children with no choice but to flee their countries in search of safety.
Securing Standard of Care Improvements

We also successfully advocated for the inclusion of language in appropriations bills to establish standards of care in ORR’s facilities, including emergency influx facilities and the hiring of child welfare professionals to oversee care and screening of children in CBP custody.

Focusing Federal Funds on the Root Causes of Migration

KIND called on Congress to pass appropriations bills that improve conditions in the countries many of these children have fled. Following a robust advocacy effort around this issue, Congress passed and the President signed into law appropriations legislation that provided nearly $20 million to combat gender-based violence in the northern Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, as well as another $45 million to combat corruption and impunity in Central America.

Keeping Families Together

KIND engaged in outreach to the public and policymakers to highlight the needs of children in federal immigration custody as well as the distinctions between detention by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the border and the provision of care by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) until an unaccompanied child can be reunified with a family member.

KIND advocated for strong oversight and standards to ensure the safety and well-being of all children, regardless of where they are being housed. We provided testimony in congressional hearings on family separation and policies that affect children’s eligibility for asylum.

On February 5, 2019, KIND’s Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, Jennifer Podkul, testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on the first oversight hearing on family separation.

David: Safe at Last

David* left El Salvador at 17 after the murder of a family member by gangs. Terrified that he would be next, he fled to the United States. With KIND’s help, he gained asylum and works near Washington, DC as a building engineer, a profession he is deeply passionate about. David said, “KIND has been a blessing. My attorneys made me feel I could trust them and that things would be ok every step of the way. I feel so grateful!”

“Children deserve to feel safe and they should have the right to an advocate if this safety is threatened in any way.”

Donor, Kansas

“Immigration Advocate Weighs in on Trump Administration’s Move To End Flores Agreement”

August 21, 2019

NPR’s Audie Cornish speaks with KIND President Wendy Young about President Trump’s moves to change requirements for the detention of migrant children.

On February 8, 2019, KIND’s Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, Jennifer Podkul, testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on the first oversight hearing on family separation.

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21
Collaborating for Children

Bringing Lawyers Together

KIND co-hosted the second annual Unaccompanied Children’s Conference attended by over 200 practitioners from around the country in Houston. Attendees learned how to better address the legal and social service needs of the children they serve and shared best practices. Playwright and activist Eve Ensler held workshops on the tools and techniques that legal service providers can use to address vicarious trauma and build resilience.

Roberto’s Story

Roberto* was raised by his grandparents and left El Salvador for the United States when he was 14. His grandmother died when he was 12. Soon after, Roberto realized that he was gay. News of Roberto’s sexuality spread. He was publicly beaten and humiliated. Roberto’s grandfather called him an embarrassment. Roberto fled to the United States to reunite with his mother. Roberto was granted asylum. He is now planning for college and his future.

Eve Ensler leading a workshop of the Unaccompanied Children’s Conference in Houston in December 2019.

Singer Shawn Mendes expressed support for KIND on social media and included KIND on the inaugural Shawn Mendes Foundation website.

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Elevating the Voices That Matter Most

KIND worked with 103 immigrant and refugee middle and high school students from two schools in the Washington, DC metro area to teach them how to become advocates using their stories of flight, family separation, life in the United States, and hopes for the future. Students learned about civics and the power of their stories in different mediums, including theater, poetry, art, audio, and video. The theater group Imagination Stage joined KIND to teach students about public speaking. We also invited a representative from Muslim Advocates who shared her experiences advocating on behalf of Muslim families and underscored the importance of stories in advocacy.

Eve Ensler leading a workshop at the Unaccompanied Children’s Conference in Houston in December 2019.

“I have been working to help unaccompanied children for 30 years and I never thought I would be discussing with my team how to handle our growing caseload of babies and toddlers. We recently had a 6-month-old client who was separated from his mother at 4 months old.”

Opinion Piece by Wendy Young

We held similar workshops for KIND clients in our Washington, DC, Los Angeles, and Boston offices on multimedia story sharing and advocacy. A digital animator taught clients about stop-motion video as a way to tell their stories. Clients learned how to use audio and podcasts to share stories in a workshop with ZUMIX, an East Boston-based organization.

Clients met with a staffer from the House of Representatives Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship and learned about her work and the role of the committee. Clients explained the importance of having a pro bono lawyer to help them with their immigration cases. Clients in Boston and Los Angeles met with staff from Representative Ayanna Pressley’s and Senator Kamala Harris’s district offices to share their stories and learn about advocacy.

Donor, Minnesota

“Because our world is a better place when we care and help those who suffer.”

Donor, Minnesota

“Unaccompanied children too young to stand on their own need lawyers to stand before a judge”

December 12, 2019

“I have been working to help unaccompanied children for 30 years and I never thought I would be discussing with my team how to handle our growing caseload of babies and toddlers. We recently had a 6-month-old client who was separated from his mother at 4 months old.”

Opinion Piece by Wendy Young

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“I like coming here and working with the KIND people on my art and stories. I want to help other kids like me.”

“These workshops have been great and we are so grateful to KIND for teaching us about the power sharing your story can have on changing hearts and minds.”

Voices DC clients went to Capitol Hill to learn more about advocacy and the power of engaging with lawmakers in December 2019.

13-year-old Voices That Matter Most participant’s drawing of her home.

Voices Los Angeles clients participated in a workshop during which they learned about Stop Motion technology as a medium to share their stories.

Voices Boston clients met to discuss the power of sharing stories for advocacy with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley’s staffers.
Cultivating Pro Bono Representation

KIND added 59 new pro bono partners in 2019, bringing our total to 660 law firms, corporate legal departments, bar associations, and law schools joining with KIND to create a powerful network to provide vital legal services to unaccompanied and separated children.

In several cases, corporate in-house attorneys joined with their law firm peers to ensure that no child stands alone in immigration court. KIND collaborated with law firms to protect the rights of immigrant children through litigation, comments on regulations, and amicus briefs. KIND’s pro bono attorneys faced the challenges of the family separation crisis and the constantly changing immigration landscape head on. They forcefully advocated for their clients before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, in immigration and state courts, and on appeals across the country. KIND offered in-depth guidance and tailored trainings for pro bono attorneys at all levels of experience.

Why Pro Bono?

The challenges facing KIND clients in these times is unprecedented. Our pro bono partners, who volunteer their time, talent, and other valuable resources, are without question changing children’s lives and giving them a chance at a safe, productive, and hopeful futures — when none had existed before. As one of the few, and in some cases, only trusted adults in the child’s life, pro bono attorneys provide a safe and caring presence to children who have felt very little of this in their young lives. Pro bono attorneys show by example what it means to selflessly help others. Without our law firm, corporate legal department, law school, and bar association pro bono partners, we would not be able to provide protection to children who are facing increasingly high barriers to the legal protection they need and are eligible for under U.S. law. KIND’s pro bono attorneys exemplify the best of America: compassion, hard work, selflessness, and an unyielding belief in justice for all.

We’re so thankful to Boies White Turner LLP and Microsoft for supporting KIND’s Seattle office’s Volunteer Appreciation Reception. Over 70 attendees congratulated the 8 awardees and enjoyed remarks from former Immigration Judge Paul DeFonzo and musical performances from two of our clients.

The Lawyer Moms Foundation hosted its second annual Kids Take A Stand Campaign in which families in 30+ cities hosted lemonade stands, collectively raising over $31,500 for KIND.

“We every single kid deserves a life filled with love, and having to fight for themselves in court is unthinkable.”

Donor, Pennsylvania
Coming Together for Children Alone

KIND’s 2019 Gala “Coming Together for Children Alone” was our largest and most successful yet, with a wide-ranging and lively conversation between KIND Board Chair Brad Smith and The Daily Show’s Trevor Noah, including Noah’s perspectives on immigration as a South African living in the United States. The night also included multimedia performances and awards to our outstanding partners of the year. About 470 people attended the event at the Mandarin Oriental in New York City on April 17.

A more vibrant and accessible resource that features our expanding work to help children as they migrate in search of safety.

Helping the Most Vulnerable

A child from El Salvador with an intellectual disability and language disorder who is unable to speak gained asylum thanks to pro bono attorneys at K&L Gates LLP in Boston. He came to the U.S. to escape gangs who were targeting him.

Innovations in Pro Bono: Davis Wright Tremaine and Amazon

October 19, 2019

Quote from Joanna Boisen, pro bono counsel at Davis Wright Tremaine, “One of the proudest moments came when the project was first launched—knowing that it was the biggest single corporate/law firm partnership in geographic scope and number of clients for KIND, as well as for Amazon and DWT.”

2019 Award Winners

KIND’s Allegiance Award: Morgan Lewis LLP and Fish & Richardson P.C., which together have provided 14,000 pro bono hours since 2016, and nearly 5,000 in just 2018 alone.

Amazon received KIND’s Innovation Award for its efforts to extend corporate citizenship to the pro bono legal representation for unaccompanied children.

We bestowed the second annual Juan Osuna Memorial Award, in honor of KIND President Wendy Young’s late husband who was a champion of due process, to the managing attorney of our Boston office, Alex Peredo Carroll, in recognition of her exemplary performance, resilience, and dedication during the family separation crisis.

At KIND’s Gala, Voices That Matter

Most participant Mwamini read her poem, “I am a Refugee,” accompanied by violinist and composer Tim Fain. A KIND client from El Salvador rapped in a video her story of surviving sexual violence, also accompanied by Tim Fain. The performance closed with a solo by Tim Fain and a slide show by photographer Lori Barra of migrant children waiting in shelters along the U.S.-Mexico border.
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Revenue

- Donated Legal Services: 5%
- Government: 6%
- Corporate & Foundation Grants: 1%
- Events/Other: 4%
- Total Revenue: 78%

Expenses

- Legal Services: 94%
- General/Administrative: 1%
- Public Education & Outreach: 1%
- Regional: 4%
- Total Expenses: 95%

2019 Financials

Fordham University School of Law
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Georgetown University Law Center
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- American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
- American Bar Association
- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Association of Corporate Counsel
- Baltimore City Bar Association
- Boston Bar Association
- Brooklyn Bar Association
- Eastern Bar Association of Los Angeles
- Federal Bar Association
- New Jersey Chapter
- Hispanic National Bar Association
- Houston Northwest Bar Association
- Houston Young Lawyers Association
- King County Bar Association
- Maryland State Bar Association
- Mexican American Bar Association
- Minority Corporate Counsel Association
- Montgomery County Bar Association
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
- National Association of Women Lawyers
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- Texas State Bar Association
- Washington State Bar Association
- Westchester County Bar Association

860,000 pro bono hours

From 2009-2019

$450 million

$ equivalent

2019 numbers are unaudited
Thank you to Lori Barra and Brett Gundlock for some of the photos of children at the border used throughout the report.

*All children’s names throughout the report have been changed to protect their identity.

KIND’s Newark office was honored at our partner Centro Comunitario CEUS’ 25th Anniversary Gala in New Jersey!

Perkins Coie LLP collected donations with Together & Free for a separated family that Perkins is representing.

KIND’s Atlanta office held their first pro bono appreciation event.

KIND’s Fresno office held their second wellness fair for clients and their families. It was a chance for community partners to come together and provide vital resources and information on services available for clients.

In March 2019, 4th grade students from Jenkins Elementary School in Massachusetts drew these beautiful welcome cards for our child clients in Boston.

KIND’s Virginia office held an art workshop for child clients to come and draw with staff.

KIND’s Los Angeles office held a soccer day with our clients and their families. The event had delicious food and every client also got to take home a pair of cleats, shoes, jerseys, shorts, socks and plenty of smiles!
Give safety and freedom.

Your support means the difference between a child being sent back to a life of danger and fear in her or his home country, and the chance to live a life of safety and freedom in the United States.

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@Supportkind #GivingKINDness

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