



## HOW WE'RE CARING FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE CHILDREN IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**KIND's Seattle** office serves all of the children in the Office of Refugee Resettlement-Department of Children Services custody in Washington State. The office continues to be a member of Seattle/King County's Expanded Legal Defense Network, allowing **KIND** to serve more released children in the area. In addition to legal aid, the **Seattle** office welcomed a second social services coordinator this year, enabling the office to increase its expertise serving children with high therapeutic needs.

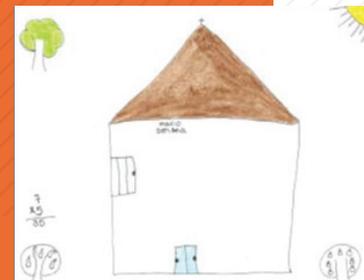
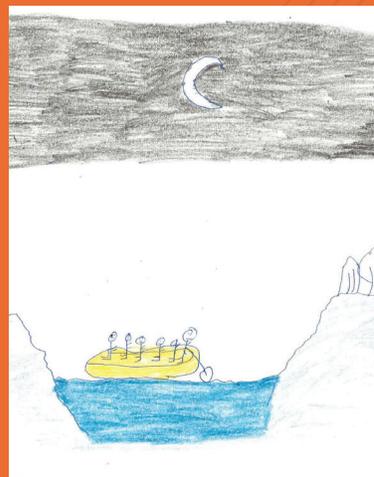
- **KIND's Seattle** office developed a partnership with ArtCorps to provide virtual art classes for child clients.
- The office played an instrumental role in assisting the City of **Seattle** to implement a disaster relief program for immigrants who were not eligible to receive federal COVID-19 relief funds.

- Since going remote in March, staff have regularly made remote contact with clients to assess areas where they need support and then connect them to resources like food access and medical care.
- **KIND's Seattle** office successfully advocated to move eligible 18-20 year olds into Extended Foster Care, allowing those children to receive monetary and social services case management support.



## MEET Alejandro and Adolfo\*

*Twin brothers, Alejandro and Adolfo, arrived in the U.S. when they were 12. Orphaned four years earlier, the twins experienced poverty and were moved around between different adult siblings, one of whom abused them. With no adult to protect them, the twins began to receive death threats from gangs; fearing for their lives, they fled to the U.S. Thanks to the help of pro bono counsel mentored by **KIND** staff, the twins received asylum and are now safe. They are enjoying high school where they are both on the wrestling and soccer teams. One twin has expressed interest in becoming a fire fighter or police officer so he can help keep others safe. The other dreams of becoming a professional soccer player and is also investing his energies in becoming a PE teacher.*



\* Names changed to protect identities

# FAMILY SEPARATION'S NEW FACE

In 2018, the Trump Administration tore children from their moms' and dads' arms at the U.S. border with no plan to ensure their reunification. **KIND** currently assists over **400 individuals** who were senselessly separated – providing direct representation or mentoring pro bono attorneys who've taken on a case.

In May, under the guise of the pandemic, ICE imposed a “binary choice” policy that forced parents to choose to remain in prison-like facilities with their children and risk exposure to COVID, or to separate from their children without any assurance of reunification. Parents now face the prospect that ICE could revive that policy at any point. **KIND** released a report in the summer on the continuance of family separations as part of our ongoing efforts to end family detention and separation once and for all.

## KIND'S WORK ACROSS THE COUNTRY

**KIND** is the leading organization working to ensure that no refugee or immigrant child faces immigration court alone. 2020 made a profound impact on **KIND's** work nationwide. We've pivoted to a virtual environment, meeting with child clients via teleconference to ensure their immigration case remains on track and checking in on their overall wellbeing. We continue to fight the Trump Administration against the ongoing attacks on children's safeguards, including family separations now occurring under the guise of COVID. Despite these challenges, **KIND** served **5,375 child clients** in 2020 with the support of 670 pro bono partners. **94% of cases** closed so far this year resulted in positive legal relief.

In a year like no other, despite the harsh environment that refugee and immigrant children face in this country, we've still been able to make great strides in protecting this vulnerable population, both across the country and in **Washington State**. As we've done every day for the past 12 years since we opened our doors, **KIND** continues to provide hope and the promise of a safe future for immigrant and refugee children throughout the U.S.

### STAY IN TOUCH!



[infoseattle@supportkind.org](mailto:infoseattle@supportkind.org)

[www.supportkind.org](http://www.supportkind.org)

[@SupportKIND](#)

## WASHINGTON STATE BY THE NUMBERS

480+

CURRENT CLIENTS



25

CASES FOR RELEASED CHILDREN ACCEPTED IN 2020



2,642

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE CHILDREN RELEASED TO SPONSORS SINCE 2014

19

STAFF MEMBERS



113

ATTENDEES HOSTED FOR TRAININGS IN 2020

60

PRO BONO PARTNERS



108

CLIENTS CONNECTED TO SOCIAL SERVICES IN 2020

## THANK YOU

As 2020 has been a trying year for all of us, we at **KIND** are immensely grateful to all our supporters in **Washington State**, who enable us to protect refugee and immigrant children who came to this country for a safe future.

*Thank you for standing with us in our fight; we could not do it without you.*