



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

KIND's DC field office serves 623 children living in the **DC** metro region. The office serves primarily Spanish-speaking clients living in both urban and rural settings, who have vastly different access to resources. As experts in child immigration law and trauma-informed practices, the **DC** office provides legal representation to unaccompanied children and trains pro bono attorneys to represent child clients.

— In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, **KIND's DC** office and their pro bono attorneys reached out to hundreds of clients to connect them to vital resources. The office created a resource list for clients to increase access and awareness of relief options related to the pandemic and is now distributing gift cards to clients to support access to food, transportation, and other necessities.

- The **DC** office partnered with the Latin American Youth Center to facilitate access to the Events **DC** COVID-19 relief funding for at least 65 families, a fund sponsored by the Washington, **DC** government to support undocumented families during the pandemic.
- In August, the office partnered with Imagination Stage for a virtual art collaboration where 8 clients collaborated with artists to explore the skills of storyboarding, filming, animation, and editing to create stop-motion videos to showcase their own stories.



[These] cases provide an opportunity to help children achieve safety, education, familial support, and other life opportunities that they might not otherwise have.

— Pro Bono Attorney, Crowell & Moring LLP

MEET Meliodas*

*Meliodas fled death threats and violence from gang members in El Salvador when he was only 16. Upon his arrival in the U.S., he was connected to a **KIND** pro bono counsel for legal representation. **KIND** has connected Meliodas, who is intellectually disabled, to significant social services support including assistance with finding housing, obtaining medical care, and emergency assistance with bond payment to get released from ICE detention. **KIND** also represented Meliodas in a T visa application based on trafficking at the hands of a family member here in the U.S. Meliodas' application for T status was recently approved, granting him the ability to petition for family members and to eventually apply for lawful permanent residence. In his spare time, Meliodas enjoys drawing and skateboarding.*



* Name changed to protect identity

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 the **DC metro region**. 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!



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WASHINGTON, DC BY THE NUMBERS

623

CURRENT CLIENTS



59

NEW CLIENTS ACCEPTED IN 2020

8,000+



IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE CHILDREN RELEASED TO SPONSORS IN THE AREA OUR FIELD OFFICE SERVES SINCE 2014

16

STAFF MEMBERS



289

ATTENDEES HOSTED FOR TRAININGS IN 2020

106

PRO BONO PARTNERS



58

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 the **DC metro region**, 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.