Cover photo: These children were part of a caravan that trekked for a month across Central America and Mexico in hopes of reaching the United States. They were being held at a temporary shelter in Tijuana, Mexico, on the border with the U.S. (November 2018)

Pedro Pardo/AFP/Getty Images

Makeshift comfort on a long journey: these children, part of a large group of people migrating from Central America, are walking through Veracruz, Mexico, toward the U.S. border. (November 2021)

Yahir Ceballos/picture alliance/Getty Images

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As we reflected on the many challenges and opportunities of 2021, we were sobered by the knowledge that KIND’s mission to provide legal and social services to unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children is more complex—and the needs of those we serve more dire—than at any point in recent history.

Confronting this reality is often heartbreaking and sometimes maddening, but comprehending the greater need and our obligation to meet it also steels our resolve and impels us to redouble our efforts.

Most importantly, it sets us an additional and essential mission. Laboring to make progress within a broken U.S. immigration system means that we will never fully achieve our goal of a world in which every unaccompanied child on the move has access to legal counsel and has their rights and well-being protected as they migrate in search of safety. When we can no longer work effectively within this system it is incumbent on us to build something better.

In 2021, KIND continued its work across borders, serving thousands of children. Each day we centered our clients’ voices, elevated their stories, and provided the resources they needed to find sustained safety and care. We were challenged to do so in the face of ongoing political, financial, and environmental instability, by the profound uncertainty brought on by COVID-19, and by an unprecedented influx of migrant children who desperately needed support.

With investments of time and resources from active and committed supporters like you, KIND remained nimble and innovative in its mission to protect the rights and well-being of children during their journey and upon their arrival.

Our work spanned local and state arenas, informed federal legislation, and helped cut through the noise of partisan rhetoric. We successfully lobbied the Biden Administration, from day one, to prioritize children in immigration policies. KIND was a leading partner with the Biden Administration’s Task Force on Family Reunification, helping reunite families separated by the prior Administration’s Zero Tolerance policy.

We accomplished these things, and so much more, because of your generosity. We have much work to do to improve the plight of unaccompanied children. In these increasingly tumultuous times, your steadfast support has enabled us to provide smart solutions to new challenges and to go a step further—to reimagine the protection of children at every stage of their migration. We look forward to continuing this journey with you and forging new paths to help lead unaccompanied children to safety.

KIND provided legal, social, and psychosocial services to thousands of children and their families. And we didn’t do it alone. We deepened and expanded our pro bono partnerships with more than 700 law firms, corporations, law schools, and bar associations, ensuring high-quality representation for thousands of unaccompanied children in the United States. We partnered with governments and humanitarian organizations from Central America to Europe to scale our proven model, and provided resources and services to unaccompanied children no matter where they were in their journey.
Advocating for the Most Vulnerable

Since 2011, dramatically increasing numbers of unaccompanied children—from toddlers to teenagers—have arrived at U.S. borders. This surge was most evident in 2021. By March 2021 more than 100,000 children had reached the U.S.-Mexico border; at one point in June, more than 500 migrant children arrived each day.

Each child comes to the U.S. hoping for protection and the promise of a safe and secure future. KIND, the leading nongovernmental organization focused solely on protecting the rights and well-being of unaccompanied children, was prepared to respond to this historic challenge. In addition to providing critically needed legal and social services to children and families, we worked with policymakers across the political spectrum to develop durable solutions that will begin to repair the broken and outdated U.S. immigration system.

Providing Expert Guidance to the Incoming Administration

The incoming Biden Administration inherited a host of urgent challenges in immigration, many of which stemmed from the closure of the border by the previous Administration. Among the most serious and growing concerns was the chaos at the U.S.-Mexico border and the safety of unaccompanied children. As a result of Title 42, a decades-old public health law that was triggered—purportedly—to protect the U.S. from the spread of COVID-19, thousands of migrant children and families were turned away, pushed back into northern Mexico, or returned to their home countries.

KIND’s persistent advocacy and firsthand expertise ultimately helped influence the Biden Administration’s 2021 decision to exempt unaccompanied children from Title 42. Once exempted, children who arrived between ports of entry were again able to access the U.S. immigration system. Pent-up demand for protection from children who had been waiting a year, combined with deteriorating conditions in Central America as a result of the pandemic, resulted in historic numbers of children entering the U.S. Many of these received legal, social, and psychosocial services from KIND.

Children displaced from their home countries, fleeing to the United States without a parent or legal guardian, are the most vulnerable among us. The immigration system in which they must participate does not adequately serve them. The existing legal framework for their protection was developed in the late 1990s, when only a few hundred children arrived each year. Unaccompanied children both need and deserve better than what they face now: from barriers that hinder their access to legal services, to a fragile social safety net. In 2021, we brought our decades of experience directly to the halls of power, serving as key experts and advisors on local, state, and federal policies, to help spark meaningful change and a pivot toward child-centered immigration reform.
Achieving Victories at the State and Local Levels

KIND’s 2021 advocacy efforts helped to ensure that more unaccompanied children received better protections while in federal custody and upon their release into local communities.

**New Jersey:** KIND, in collaboration with local partners, successfully petitioned the state to make a groundbreaking $3 million investment for legal representation and case management for unaccompanied minors and other immigrant youth. This initiative is only the second state-funded legal representation program for unaccompanied minors (after California), and was the first to expand its scope to include similarly situated youth. KIND also supported the passage of the 2021 Cover All Kids initiative, legislation that expanded healthcare access for all uninsured children, including undocumented immigrant children.

**California:** KIND and its coalition partners played a key role in passing legislation that ensures that unaccompanied children placed in licensed Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) facilities receive the same protections and relevant support as other California children in state-licensed settings.

These victories are helping to improve our clients’ immigration experiences, to expand the services they can access at the state level, and to set new national standards in legal representation and child protection.

Lobbying for Fair Treatment

KIND Vice President for Policy and Advocacy Jennifer Podkul testified before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations. During this hearing on unaccompanied children at the border, she both communicated the extraordinary hardships faced by unaccompanied children and identified the inefficiencies and failed processes of previous Administrations. She made immediate and long-term recommendations to advance the fair treatment of all migrant children seeking protection, such as placing child welfare professionals at Customs and Border Protection facilities and having Health and Human Services staff co-located at reception centers to expedite the transfer of children to licensed facilities and family reunifications.
In 2021, KIND’s services were needed more than at any other time in the history of our organization. As the leading global child protection organization focused solely on unaccompanied and separated children, KIND had the expertise, experience, and proven solutions to respond to the massive influx of children at the U.S.-Mexico border. We rose to the challenge and were able to scale our programs so that every child we served received appropriate assistance. Specifically, last year KIND:

- Hosted 275 pro bono attorney trainings to help prepare volunteers for immigration cases.
- Deployed more than 150 staff members, volunteers, and pro bono partners to the U.S.-Mexico border to support children being housed at makeshift emergency intake sites.
- Provided more than 4,500 children with individual consultations or screenings for legal services.
- Gave Know Your Rights orientation sessions to more than 33,000 children housed at emergency intake sites to help them understand the immigration process and their legal rights.
- Kind’s pro bono attorneys donated 152,000 hours of skilled legal assistance to Kind’s clients, totaling almost $100M.
- Kind’s social services team served more than 1,000 children via therapeutic programs at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Since its founding, KIND has been committed to advocating for those who cannot advocate for themselves. We do so by providing high-quality legal assistance and representation that ensure children’s protection and uphold their right to due process. These resources help our clients avoid the threat of being forced back to the precarious conditions that caused them to leave their home countries in the first place.

Another crucial component of our work is providing social services to immigrant and refugee children. We deliver both trauma-informed and culturally responsive care, critical factors in a child’s growth and well-being as they recover from their migration journey, await legal status, and begin to rebuild their lives.
Responding to the Emergency at the U.S.-Mexico Border

When unaccompanied children arrive at a U.S. border, law requires that they be held in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facilities for no more than 72 hours. Under the restrictive provisions of the previous Administration’s Title 42 enforcement, unprecedented numbers of children were held in CBP stations for much longer than the legal limit, often in wholly unfit conditions. This in turn strained the ability of the Office of Refugee Resettlement to move the children to its licensed children’s shelters: many were (and are) operating under COVID-19 occupancy restrictions. In March 2021, the ORR created Emergency Intake Sites (EISs) to facilitate moving children to less-harsh settings. These makeshift shelters were set up on military bases and in convention centers and sports arenas left vacant by COVID restrictions. While the EISs could house more children, they were neither state licensed nor subject to oversight by licensing agencies. Thousands of children languished in EISs for weeks or months waiting for space in one of ORR’s licensed shelters, or to be released safely to a sponsor.

In April 2021, ORR contracted with KIND to provide legal intakes and Know Your Rights presentations at five EISs in California and Texas. In a matter of days, we mobilized our network and served more than 30,000 children. After identifying the need, we expanded our support to EISs in San Diego, California; and Dallas, San Antonio, and Midland, Texas, while each was in operation. KIND continues to be the legal service provider at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.

Following Direct Action with Policy Reform

At the height of the crisis, KIND pushed ORR to establish robust standards for EISs and to closely monitor compliance to ensure children’s safety, well-being, and access to protection. We urged the Biden Administration to minimize its reliance on EISs by enacting fundamental reforms—including a full transformation of the border reception and shelter systems to ensure child-appropriate procedures, care, and staffing—measures that would eliminate future need for unlicensed facilities.

In both 2020 and 2021 KIND obtained congressional approval to direct the Department of Homeland Security to hire child welfare professionals at the border to help improve the care of children in CBP facilities and to screen for protection risks. Unfortunately, neither the Trump Administration nor the Biden Administration (as of May 2022) fulfilled this congressional directive.

Providing Aid On Both Sides of the Border

Throughout 2021, ports of entry into the United States remained closed to asylum seekers. Some unaccompanied children were pushed back into northern Mexico or deported to their home countries. Others were stranded in dangerous border towns, unsure how to approach the border to seek safety in the U.S. Thousands languished in long-term custody in Mexican government-run children’s facilities.

KIND worked in partnership with Mexican organizations, shelters, and other stakeholders to identify children and families who urgently needed legal services. We provided orientation, direct assistance, and trauma-informed support to more than 500 individuals. We also flagged a number of cases for immediate action, working directly with high-level U.S. government officials and policymakers to make clear the importance of opening the border to children and asylum seekers. We provided legal services to children who were cleared to cross into the U.S., in KIND field offices or through other legal-services providers. All of our efforts were directed toward seamless, more-efficient processing of children at risk, in order to protect them from further trauma.

The New York Times

“Administration officials have pledged to provide the best care possible to the children and said it was the goal to get the children out of federal custody and safely placed with a sponsor as quickly as possible. And now we’re just kind of waiting for them to make good on that promise.”

Wendy Young, KIND President

Photo by Brett Gundlock

Kids in Need of Defense
Making a Crucial Family Connection for Orphaned Siblings

KIND was contacted by a Mexican shelter about three siblings, all under the age of nine, who had traveled from Honduras with their mother to seek protection in the United States. They were suddenly and tragically orphaned, then stranded alone in a dangerous border town. KIND was able to connect them with their grandmother in the U.S.—she was desperate to be reunited with her grandchildren. Through our legal representation and advocacy, the children were able to present at a border crossing and ask for protection. They were allowed into the U.S. and released to their grandmother.

KIND client Mario, 14, fled Honduras with his older sister after his parents were murdered. He reached the U.S.-Mexico border and was separated from his sister. Under the provisions of Title 42 he was denied access to ports of entry to seek asylum in the U.S. and was deported back to Honduras. In desperation, he made the dangerous trip again and was denied access a second time. Mario exhibited emotional stress as he languished in shelter care in Tijuana for nearly a year, unable to cross the border. With support from KIND’s social services program and attorneys at the border, he was able to enter the U.S. and reunite with his older brother. KIND is currently providing him with pro bono legal representation.

KIND and StoryCorps: Connecting, Illuminating, Creating Change

KIND continued to build upon our belief in the power of storytelling through a partnership with StoryCorps and its national audio storytelling project. StoryCorps recorded conversations with KIND clients, pro bono attorneys, and staff to showcase how our work has evolved to best meet children’s needs, amid ever-changing legal and political landscapes. The collaboration elevated our clients’ stories and provided poignant insight into their experiences of tragedy and triumph. Thanks to StoryCorps’ national reach and millions of listeners, more people from around the country heard our clients’ stories, which helped humanize and add perspective to public discourse. Recordings are posted on both the StoryCorps platform and our website.

As a complement to the creative relationship, KIND became a StoryCorps community partner and took the project in-house, training staff to record conversations with clients interested in sharing their stories with a wide audience. We also expanded our Voices That Matter Most project, which provides clients with storytelling training and more opportunities to share their stories publicly. In a two-week online workshop in collaboration with a professional photographer, six clients learned the basic elements of photography and how to create a photo narrative. They produced photo essays about their journeys to the U.S., their achievements since their arrival, and family life in their home country.

“I can have a new life being in this country that truly makes me forget what I had suffered as a child. That up until now, I feel like this would have been a dream.”

KIND client Saul in his StoryCorps conversation with his attorney.

Making Safety and Stability a Reality for Mario

Pictured here are Saul, his newly wed wife, and his KIND attorney Jessica Mols (right). Photo courtesy of the family.
Reimagining Ourselves Through Art

KIND and Artolution, a community arts organization in Brooklyn, NY, worked with KIND clients to create a large-scale mural that explored the concept of identity. During the two-week project called “Our Creative Identities / Nuestras Identidades Creativas,” KIND clients attended workshops with Artolution artists in which they were encouraged to reimagine themselves and to embrace positive self narratives. Children and their families, together with community members, celebrated the completion of the mural with a live dance performance in which the dancers moved to express their experiences. KIND joined Artolution in virtual expressive arts workshops throughout the year, including a series that culminated in clients from across the country meeting online to present their final projects.
KIND helped a Honduran father, forcibly separated from his then two-year-old daughter, return from Honduras to reunite with the now six-year-old girl. After four years of suffering her absence, he can now pick up his daughter from school every day. The two enjoy dancing together—an activity that his daughter insists on, even though he tells her he can’t dance.

At the start of 2021, more than 1,700 children remained separated from their parents, and more than 1,000 separated parents, many of whom had been deported, remained to be found. Throughout the year, KIND leveraged its deep knowledge of family separation to partner with the Biden Administration to accelerate and expand family reunification efforts.

In February 2021 the new Administration launched the Family Reunification Task Force, which implemented humanitarian parole to allow separated parents to return to the U.S., reunite with their children, and apply for U.S. protection. The U.S. Department of State and the UN Refugee Agency selected KIND to lead these reunification efforts. KIND helped guide the rollout of the initiative in its early stages by meeting frequently with the Task Force and other stakeholders to make certain that feedback from families was directly incorporated into the process. Specifically, we highlighted the need to help families complete local travel requirements, ensured that dependent family members were included in the process to prevent new separations, and advocated for families’ access to housing, health care, and education resources upon arrival in the U.S.

To date, the Task Force has reunited more than 100 families, with hundreds more currently in the reunification process. As a leading partner, KIND assisted 40 of the first parents to reunify under the new system. We continue to provide critical input to the Task Force to help improve the process to serve all families impacted by forcible separation.

In 2018 we first witnessed families being torn apart at the U.S. border as a direct result of the previous Administration’s cruel Zero Tolerance Policy. Since then, the pain and suffering experienced by thousands of children and caregivers has quietly slipped from the headlines. At KIND, however, we face the ongoing and enduring implications of family separation each day in our work. While the task of reuniting these families is a tremendously difficult undertaking that will require more time and more resources to accomplish, we made significant strides on this front last year.

An emotional father embraces his son for the first time in months. Nine children were flown from New York and reunited with their families in Guatemala, months after U.S. border agents separated them and deported their parents as part of the previous Administration’s Zero Tolerance Policy at the border. (Guatemala City, August 2018) John Moore/Getty Images

Joining Forces with the Biden Administration to Reunify More than 100 Families

Ending the Scourge of Family Separation

Enjoying Small Comforts, Making New Memories

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A Honduran migrant carries his daughter after crossing the border into El Florido, Guatemala. (January 2021) Josue Decavele/Getty Images

Kids in Need of Defense
Hundreds of families have yet to be reunited and are desperately seeking assistance in identifying and reconnecting with their loved ones. Although reunification becomes increasingly difficult the longer the separation continues, KIND has redoubled its efforts to identify those still separated and in need of assistance. In September 2021, with support from the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, KIND partnered with the UN Refugee Agency to launch a Help Desk to find and serve families who are still hoping to locate their children.

As of late January 2022, KIND had contacted 422 families, offering them education and orientation about the reunification process and registering 337 of the 422 on the Family Reunification Task Force’s website. KIND reached out to parents through phone calls, direct messaging platforms, and videos shared on social media, and fielded phone- and email inquiries through the Help Desk—in multiple languages. We also worked with our partner Justice in Motion to conduct on-the-ground searches for parents unreachable by phone or direct messaging. In tandem, we continued to represent children who were separated from their parents.

CNN profiled four KIND clients who in 2018 were forcibly separated from their mother, Juana, at the U.S.-Mexico border. After four months in U.S. detention, Juana was deported to Honduras. She spent more than three years apart from her children before her application for humanitarian parole, which allowed her to reenter the U.S. for 36 months, was approved. The profile relates the suffering of the girls as they lived without their mother, but also the unrivaled joy at their reunification. Juana’s oldest daughter, Montserrat, who assumed some of the responsibility of caring for her younger siblings, recalls the moment she was finally united with her mother: “It felt like... the beginning of a new life. A new stage [...] It’s time that we’ll never get back, but now we’re here and the only thing to do is to move forward.”

Using Every Available Tool to Reach and Reconnect Families

“I can’t send us back! Make sure they know that. They will kill my dad if we go back. Can you make sure to tell them that?”

8-year-old boy from Honduras speaking to Supervising Attorney Emily Norman (2018)
Amid the chaotic evacuation efforts, KIND immediately set into action and developed plans to assist children who had been separated from their parents or caregivers. Understanding every aspect of a child’s migration journey and the challenges they face upon arrival, we were uniquely suited to engage with unaccompanied Afghan children, providing representation in some cases and helping with family reunification in others.

In addition to providing on-the-ground support in the U.S., we acted as a trusted partner. We called upon the U.S. government and international organizations to collaborate in implementing a streamlined, coordinated approach to support transnational family reunification and resettlement for separated Afghan children. We provided the U.S. government crucial information on best practices and policies to help meet the unique needs of these children, and gave expert support to expedite transnational reunifications for children whose parents were evacuated to other countries in Europe. We collaborated with our European Union (E.U.) partners to identify where families were sent, to ensure reunifications and durable solutions. With leading European and international human rights organizations, we also issued statements calling on the E.U. to expand safe and legal pathways for Afghan children and families.

Assisting Unaccompanied and Separated Afghan Children

Drawing from our expertise in transnational reunification and leveraging our partnerships with humanitarian organizations around the world, KIND was well equipped to provide support to the children and families who were displaced when the United States withdrew from Afghanistan in August 2021.

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Every child who seeks entry at a national border has been compelled to leave the familiarity of their home country to escape intolerable conditions. Whether they leave to escape war, famine, natural disasters, gender-based violence, or the mortal threat of gangs, these children face the perils of migration alone, without the comfort of care and protection from adults they trust, in search of safety and security. KIND’s work is undergirded by our belief in care for the whole child, no matter where they are in their migration journey, and by the understanding that we need to identify and resolve the issues that cause them to flee their homes in the first place. When unaccompanied or separated children either decide on their own—or are forced—to return to their home countries, we work to provide reintegration support and capacity-building efforts to local partners to help them create a better, safer future for their communities.

In 2021, by working in a consortium with local partners, humanitarian organizations, and governments across borders, KIND expanded the impact of our services to help address the many root causes that drive children from their homes, while developing in-country solutions to ensure their rights are protected.

Addressing the Root Causes of Migration

In November 2021, KIND staff accompanied our client and her two children to a port of entry to seek protection. Cielo Fortin-Camacho/KIND

Prioritizing Assistance for Children and Women in Central America

El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have among the highest rates of gender-based violence against women and children in the world. In an uncommon show of bipartisan support for child protection reform, the Central American Women and Children Protection Act was introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate in the summer of 2021 to more broadly address this issue. KIND helped to shape and advocate for the bill, which would authorize funding for bilateral protection compacts to address gender-based violence against children and women in Central America, one of the primary drivers that compels thousands to flee their homes, communities, and countries.

Thanks in part to KIND’s advocacy, the bill gained additional co-sponsors from both parties and made progress advancing through the House. Ultimately, the bill’s language was included in the 2022 omnibus budget which directed $15 million to these protection compacts as part of a $70 million investment in programs to address violence against women and children in Central America. KIND advocated for these resources—a doubling of what was provided in the previous year—and will continue to engage on its implementation.

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KIND successfully advocated for the Biden Administration to restart and expand the Central American Minors program that allows certain children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to apply for U.S. protection while still in their home countries and avoid a dangerous migration journey alone. The enlarged program now includes children with parents and legal guardians who are in the process of applying for asylum or other protection in the United States. KIND continues to push for this vital program to be extended further to include children who have other caregivers in the United States, to provide attorneys to help families through the process, and allow for emergency evacuation when a child is in imminent danger.

Accessing a Pathway to Safety

In-country

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Strengthening Protections for Children in Mexico

Although Mexico reformed its laws to end child immigration detention, the country’s will and capacity to respond to the increasing and urgent needs of unaccompanied and separated children remains insufficient. Children migrating through Mexico encounter weak child protection, and asylum systems that do not live up to their promise or provide safe alternatives to detention. Stressors on the child welfare systems, including the massive influx of children to Mexico in 2021, have exposed resource and infrastructure gaps. Without the consistent application of well-developed protocols to care for migrant children, many will be forced into precarious living situations. KIND is working in Mexico to fill these gaps.

In 2021, KIND trained more than 500 stakeholders—including government and civil-society organizations on Mexico’s northern and southern borders—on the U.S. law and policy impacting unaccompanied children, due process, and best practices for interviewing migrant children. These undertakings, in addition to our advocacy work, ensured that children on the move in Mexico had access to the sustainable and dignified legal, social, and psychosocial supports necessary to rebuild their lives.

In northern Mexico, families waited in limbo due to the continued application of Title 42 and the reinstated Migrant Protection Protocols, which required asylum seekers to wait in Mexico for decisions on their cases. Human rights organizations documented numerous reports of kidnapping, extortion, and other crimes against migrants who were—and still are—trapped in the region.

In response, we provided technical assistance to child protection authorities in northern Mexico, support that included both best-interest determinations and safeguarding measures for migrant children consistent with Mexican law. We also urged the U.S. government to provide financial support and training to help bolster Mexico’s practices.

In southern Mexico, KIND and its partners found that migrant children faced hardships including extended detention and difficulties accessing asylum and legal protections. Unaccompanied children had limited access to basic services and were left vulnerable to COVID-19, homelessness, gang violence, and trafficking. An increased law enforcement presence at the southern border compounded these issues by exposing the same children to violence, xenophobic attacks, and discrimination. In November 2021, KIND opened an office in the southeastern city of Tapachula to help address the many protection needs we identified.

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- To protect children from detention and deportation, volunteers provide no-cost legal and psychosocial services.
- To teach children about their right to seek protection in Mexico and their right to legal representation, we provide individual legal orientations and Know Your Rights presentations at public and private shelters.
- We ensure access to health care, documentation, and mental health services, prioritizing immediate access for gender-based violence survivors.
- We provide psychosocial support to children, parents, and caregivers through group sessions and individualized therapy at a time when thousands are experiencing trauma from their migration experience and the harms brought on by their detention.
Providing Comprehensive Support for Those Denied Entry to the U.S.

Some unaccompanied children who arrive at the U.S. border—no matter how long and dangerous their trek—are ineligible for protection under U.S. law. When this is the case, they must return to their home countries.

Returning children face many challenges, including settling back into their homes, re-enrolling in school, overcoming trauma they may have experienced during migration, and planning for a safer future in their home country. KIND’s support included case management and the psychosocial, educational, and other critical services they need to safely reintegrate and remain in their home countries.

Throughout Central America, we focused on supporting vulnerable unaccompanied migrant and refugee children who had been deported or had returned voluntarily from the U.S. Our work was doubly important, as these children were returning to countries still reeling from the hurricanes that devastated the region in late 2020, and from the ongoing, debilitating impact of COVID-19 on safety, security, and the economy.

In Guatemala and Honduras KIND supported children who had returned voluntarily to reunite with their families and reintegrate into their communities. In 2021, we provided assistance to nearly 700 people: returning children, their immediate families, and household members. KIND and its partners delivered gender-based violence prevention programming to nearly 1,500 children, adolescents, parents, and caregivers. We designed the program to help children become well informed about violence prevention, to give them the confidence to exercise their rights, and to develop skills to build healthy relationships, resolve conflict, and seek support if they or someone they know is affected by gender-based violence.

In December 2021, KIND published Dual Crises: Gender-Based Violence and Inequality Facing Children and Women During the COVID-19 Pandemic in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. In this report we shared recommendations to address the gender inequality that makes children and women even more vulnerable to violence.

Europe: Providing Legal Assistance Where Most Needed

Amid continuing COVID restrictions and shifting local legal and policy frameworks, KIND and our five nonprofit partners in Europe helped more than 500 unaccompanied and separated children from 66 countries to access protection in 2021. Nearly 300 pro bono lawyers from 24 law firms and two corporations helped these children to apply for asylum, secure residence permits, challenge disputed age determinations, reunify with family, and gain citizenship.

As the crisis in Afghanistan unfolded in late summer, our partners in Ireland and France helped local unaccompanied children apply for reunification with their family members who were left behind. The Irish Refugee Council, the Immigrant Council of Ireland, and the Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l’Homme, in collaboration with local pro bono partners, assisted family members with applications for family reunification, humanitarian visas, and other avenues of protection.
“When I got the decision that my family was allowed to join me and reside with me, I felt like I was dreaming, and I could not believe it. Because it had been so long living without my parents, almost 14 years, it was like a new experience to me, when I went to sleep, and my family was there or when I woke up and my mom and dad were there at the table for breakfast. Family is the most precious thing. My family is settling very well here, and we hope to stick together as much as possible. I plan to finish college, get a decent job, and travel the world, and why not with them?”

An unaccompanied and separated child the Immigrant Council of Ireland helped reunify with parents

A child saved by the sea rescue ship Minden looks out a bus window before heading to the refugee station Mória, on Lesvos Island, Greece. More than 40 refugees traveling by rubber raft across the Aegean Sea from Turkey were rescued during the mission. (March 2016) Kay Nietfeld/dpa via Getty Images

KIND welcomed hundreds of supporters from across the country to reflect on the profound impact KIND and our network of pro bono attorneys has had on the lives of unaccompanied and immigrant children. Our virtual 2021 annual benefit gala, “Coming Together for Children Alone,” featured friends of KIND and champions for children. Guests included Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas; former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Representatives Joaquin Castro and Norma Torres; author Isabel Allende; comedian Samantha Bee; playwright V. (formerly Eve Ensler); actress, producer, and director Trudie Styler; and actors Azie Tesfai and Bridget Regan.

We were proud to recognize three pro bono partners for their invaluable service. Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP and Ropes & Gray LLP received KIND’s 2021 Allegiance Award and Netflix received KIND’s 2021 Innovation Award. The evening’s music featured the New York City Children’s Chorus’ dynamic rendition of “Seasons of Love” from Rent, and a performance by Grammy-winning artist Gloria Estefan.

Coming Together for Children Alone

“I’ve said for a long time and believe more fiercely than ever today that the truest test of any society is how we treat the most vulnerable among us, especially our children. That principle is at the heart of everything KIND does.”

Hillary Clinton
Former United States Secretary of State
Advisory Committee Members

KIND benefits from the extraordinary insights and guidance of our nine advisory committees, a diverse and distinguished group of legal, medical, academic, and community leaders from around the country who bring their deep expertise to our legal services and advocacy.

Atlanta
Tala Amirfazli, Buer & Forman LLP
Tamara Serwer Caldas, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP
Melissa Carter, Emory University School of Law, Barton Child Law and Policy Center
John Fleming, Eversheds Sutherland LLP
Noah Graubart, Fish & Richardson LLP
Terri Hendley, Troutman Pepper LLP
Piero Mancini, Multicultural Development Institute
Cheryl Naja, Abston & Bird LLP
Gigi Pedraza, Latino Community Fund
Rita Shafey, Emory University School of Law

Baltimore
Nathanial Berry, Venable LLP
Susan Francis, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service
Daniel Russon, Baltimore Gas & Electric
Charles Martel, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
Maria Rodrigues, Baltimore City Community College
Keith Rose, Goldstein Rose LLC

Boston
Eileen Chin, Goitein Rosa LLC
Maureen Edmondson, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
Rita Sheffey, Lisp Architects
Jeannette Wilson, Venable LLP

Los Angeles
Nola Alvarado, Loyola Marymount University
Linda Dabin Drinan, Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glover & Pope LLP
Mary M. Dean, Fish & Richardson PC
Janet Donoven, Lawyers Clearinghouse
Erik Eide, Circles for Change
Matthew G. Lindenbaum, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP
Celia Martin, San Diego State University
Shirley Pau, Public Counsel
Julie Petrie, Petrie & Associates, PC
Mary K. Ryan, Nutter McClennan & Fish LLP

Northern California
Phillip Elwworth, Eversheds Sutherland LLP
Noga Firstenberg, Airbnb
Ellen Gower, Miller Starr Regalia
Maria Lema, Wonga
Lauren Markham, Oakland Unified School District
Jesus Martinez, Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative
William Martinez, UCSC Weill Institute for Neuroscience
Michael Martinez, McEnery Cartwright
Xperi
Patricia Thayer, Gilad Sciences, retired

Washington DC
Shirley Brandon

Washington State
Theodore Angelos, K&L Gates LLP
Miguel Bozabena, MacDonald Hoague & Bayless LLP
Thomas Bozart, Perkins Coie LLP
Bart Eppens, Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP
Betsy Fisher, George & Patricia Ann Fisher Foundation
Wendy Kaye, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Robert McKenna, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Salvador Mungia, Gordon Thomas Honeywell, LLP
Kelly Nuss, Noonan, Stokes Lawrence, PS
Cindy Randal, Microsoft
Courtney Seim, Summit Law Group PLLC
Martin Shively, Microsoft Corporation
David Zapien, Amazon.com, Inc.

77% of the American public believe that unaccompanied children who cannot afford legal representation should be appointed an attorney in their proceedings.

Source: 2021 KIND-supported study

This promising finding demonstrates decisive support across ideological and partisan lines for KIND’s mission to ensure that no unaccompanied child faces immigration court alone.
Leadership

Founders
Angelina Jolie
Co-Founder and Patron, KIND, Special Envoy, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Brad Smith
Co-Founder and Board Chair, KIND, President and Vice Chair, Microsoft Corporation

Board of Directors
KIND is governed by a volunteer, unpaid Board of Directors.

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President and CEO, Society for Science & the Public; Publisher, Science News
Rafael Borris*
President and CEO, Homeland Security & Defense Business Council
Rachel Brass
Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Aurora Caxiér
Partner, FisherBroyles, LLP
Robert Cundall*
Board Treasurer
Claudia Romo Edelman
President and CEO, Society for Science & the Public; Publisher, Science News
Rafael Borrás*
President and CEO, Homeland Security & Defense Business Council
Rachel Brass
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Senior Leadership Team
Wendy Young
President
Brenda Brower Soder
Chief Communications Officer
Hannah Chotiner-Gardner
Chief Development Officer
Lisa Frydman
Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President
Lesley Kirk
Director, Executive Office
Hayford Mensah
Chief Financial Officer
Maria Odom
Senior Vice President, Legal Programs
Jennifer Podkul
Vice President, Policy and Advocacy
Hardy Vieux
Chief of Staff

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Jennifer Podkul
Vice President, Policy and Advocacy
Hardy Vieux
Chief of Staff

Financials

Operating Revenue
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>$ 5,662,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>$ 31,524,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from Individuals</td>
<td>$ 5,848,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
<td>$ 103,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$ 4,116,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Revenue</td>
<td>$ 150,151,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$ 145,151,216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of Financial Position
(for the year ending December 31, 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>$ 5,662,923</td>
</tr>
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<td>Government Grants</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>$ 145,151,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$ 10,308,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$ 14,358,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant and Contribution Receivables</td>
<td>$ 6,276,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses and Other</td>
<td>$ 431,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>$ 962,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment, Net of Depreciation</td>
<td>$ 1,631,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$ 33,968,774</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liabilities and Net Assets
Temporarily Restricted Assets | $ 836,527
Unrestricted Assets           | $ 23,341,441
Deferred Revenue              | $ 2,617,315
Accrued Expenses              | $ 3,372,629
Accounts Payable              | $ 902,743
Deferred Rental Obligation    | $ 2,898,119
Total Liabilities and Net Assets | $ 33,968,774

KIND was proud to receive a 2022 Top Workplaces award, a national award based solely on feedback captured from employees, and given to less than 3% of the 42,000 organizations invited to compete for recognition from the nation’s leading employer-recognition program.

KIND has a longstanding commitment to fiscal responsibility and is proud to receive the highest ranking possible from Charity Navigator for our finance and accountability practices.
KIND’s vision is a world in which children’s rights and well-being are protected as they migrate alone in search of safety. To achieve this vision, KIND ensures that no child appears in immigration court without high-quality legal representation; advances laws, policies, and practices that ensure children’s protection and uphold their right to due process and fundamental fairness; and promotes 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 migrate involuntarily.