

## **We Assist Separated Children and Others Impacted by Immigration - Here's How You Can Help**

*St. Francis Community Services, a Catholic Charities of St. Louis federated agency*

Thank you for your concern about children separated from their families at the border who are making their way to St. Louis. These children, and immigrants in other vulnerable situations, can use your help! **St. Francis Community Services** has been working with immigrants in our community for nearly 30 years through our outreach sites and several support programs, including:

- Legal representation for immigrants
- Bilingual therapy with children, couples, and families, including unaccompanied minors
- Case management services to identify community resources, including working with children who are united with sponsors in St. Louis
- Youth programming including an after-school component and day camp for children of immigrant families

### **Here's how you can help...**

#### **Donate**

- Make a monetary donation to **St. Francis Community Services** (<https://sfcstl.org/get-involved/donate>); spread the word about our Facebook fundraiser (<https://www.facebook.com/donate/1712970385489195/>).
- Donate retailer gift cards (Target, Walmart, Walgreens, etc.) that can be used to purchase essential items for those we serve.
- Donate Gasoline gift cards, which guardians can use for traveling with children to legal and therapy appointments, etc.

While we appreciate the many offers, we are not equipped to accept and process clothing donations. Children reunited with family or friends in St. Louis have been in detention centers where they felt unable to control their circumstances. By donating gift cards, you offer children and families the dignity to purchase items that fit their sizes and needs.

#### **Volunteer**

Due to confidentiality and safety concerns, we cannot explicitly put people in contact with unaccompanied minors. But you can support some of our existing programs. Contact Jane Jung at [jjung@ccstl.org](mailto:jjung@ccstl.org) or 314.256.5993 to discuss these volunteer needs:

- Help children complete homework, or practice their reading skills, during our after-school program.
- Provide bilingual support to help connect people with resources.
- Provide childcare to preschool-aged children of immigrant mothers who meet for a Thursday morning support group.

#### **Advocate**

- To stay informed about issues and action alerts for a Catholic response, check out Justice for Immigrants ([www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org)) resources.
- Plug into local organizations like Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates ([www.mira-mo.org](http://www.mira-mo.org)) and St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America ([www.stl-ifcla.org](http://www.stl-ifcla.org)).

#### **Foster Care Inquiries**

We are moved beyond words by those who have offered to welcome immigrant children into their homes! Currently, the impacted children that are coming to Missouri are being united with sponsors that have been identified as family or family friends. Children without that option, and who are represented by an immigration attorneys who have proven they are likely to succeed in their immigration case, are being placed through a federal program in conjunction with agencies in only 15 states. To the best of our knowledge, no designated agencies exist in Missouri, so there is no option at this time for Missourians to these foster unaccompanied minors. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has more information ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org), scroll to Children and Migration at bottom of page).



**St. Francis**  
community services