103 YEARS OF SERVICE
• Immigrant Children’s Legal Program (formerly known as the National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children)

• Post Release Services and Home Study Program for UAC

• National Human Trafficking Victims Assistance Program (NHTVAP)
What is an unaccompanied alien child (UAC)?

• no lawful immigration status in the United States

• has not attained 18 years of age

• no parent or legal guardian in the United States, or no parent or legal guardian in the United States available to provide care and physical custody
Reasons for Migration

- Community Violence & Gang Persecution
- Family Reunification
- Educational and Financial Opportunity
- Abuse, Neglect, Abandonment
- Domestic Violence
- Medical Treatment
- Human Trafficking
Where do they come from?

- Guatemala – 37%
- Honduras – 30%
- El Salvador – 26%
- Mexico – 3%
- Ecuador – 2%
- Other – 2%

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/u.cs/about#overview
Advocating for the rights of immigrant children

Mexico City -> US 1,000 miles
San Salvador, Tegucigalpa, Guatemala City -> 1,400 miles

© USCRI, 2009
What happens at the border?

Detained at border

Mexicans or Canadians?

Detained inside the US

Other than Mexican children?

Screening by Border Patrol

No

Yes

Repatriation

Placed in removal proceedings
Children are processed by DHS and transferred to ORR custody within 72 hours*. 

*USCRI, 2009
2003-2014 Referrals

UAC Referrals

- 6,775 in 2003-2011 Average Per Year
- 13,625 in FY 2012
- 24,668 in FY 2013
- Estimated total in FY 2014: 60,000

*http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs/about#overview
Children are placed in the least restrictive setting to meet their needs in one of approximately 100 residential facilities, with a preference for initial placement near their potential sponsor.

- Levels of Care

- RTC
- Secure Staff Secure
- Transitional FC Shelter
- Emergency placement
- Long Term Foster
Establishes a minimum standard of care to include:

- Weekly individual counseling
- Group counseling
- Indoor and outdoor recreation
- 6 hours of education
- Medical care (vision & dental)
- Contact with relatives

*Right to pursue reunification
UAC have the right to reunify with their family in the US, when safe and appropriate.

Family members may come forward as a “sponsor” to care for the child until their immigration case is decided.

Sponsor’s complete an application and undergo a basic assessment/approval process.

If approved by ORR, the child is released from the shelter and must continue to attend his/her immigration hearings.
Release Procedures

- Sponsor Responsibilities

- Discharge Packet Includes:
  - Verification of Release (ID)
  - Medical Record (vaccinations)
  - Educational Report
  - List of legal resources
  - Mental Health Records

- Child is **Medically Cleared**

- Positive PPDs

*May require follow up vaccinations*
Challenges to Reunification

- Extended family separation
- Trauma & Loss
- Expedited discharges
- Placement stability
- School enrollment & access to ESL
  - Guardianship
- Access to legal services
- Smuggling debt and family obligations
- Lack of ID*
- Confusion over legal process
- Access to resources
McKinney – Vento Act

- “lack a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence...”
- “sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing...”
- “migratory children...”
- “ran away from their home...denied housing by their families.”

- Eligibility should be evaluated based on the nature of his or her current nighttime living arrangement, not the circumstances that caused him or her to leave home.
McKinney – Vento Act

- Immediate enrollment
- Attend classes while gathering documentation
- Enrollment without proof of guardianship
- Assistance from the homeless liaison/local liaison

*Helpful Resources:*


*National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE*
Plyler Vs. Doe

- Provides access to public and secondary education to all children.
- Districts may not “chill or discourage the participation, or lead to the exclusion, of students based on their or their parents’ or guardians’ actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status”

Helpful Resources:
Legal Orientation Program for Custodians of UAC

In person orientation:

- Long Island, NY
- NYC, NY
- San Francisco, CA
- Atlanta, GA
- Miami, FL
- Raleigh, NC
- Newark, NJ
- Boston, MA
- Dallas, TX
- Houston, TX
- Los Angeles, CA
- Arlington, VA
- Washington, DC
- Gaithersburg, MD
- Silver Spring, MD
- Baltimore, MD
- Charlotte, NC

1-888-996-3848

*Serves families nationwide.*
Legal Relief for UAC

- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status or SIJS
  - Time sensitive
- Asylum
  - Contact with Consulate or Embassy
- U Visa
- T Visa
- DACA*

Helpful Resources:

Representation:
http://www.supportkind.org/en/

File Requests:
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/requests-for-uac-case-file-information
EOIR HOTLINE

Executive Office for Immigration Review:

Court Information System

1-800-898-7180

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Mandatory Court Attendance!!
How can I help?

- Make a donation to a UAC organization: www.refugees.org
- Volunteer:
  - Big Brothers Big Sisters
  - ESL Classroom
  - Get licensed as a foster parent
  - Volunteer at a UAC program
  - Pro Bono Representation
  - Young Center Volunteer Advocate
http://theyoungcenter.org/act/volunteer/
How can we help?

- School based mental health services
- Trauma-informed services
- School support
- Buddy system
- Legal representation

Families Reunite Curriculum

Robin Hamby, Family and School Partnerships

Contact: 703-204-4330
rshamby@fcps.edu
Questions?

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703-310-1130 Ext. 3039