



PROMOTING THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

Each year, tens of thousands of unaccompanied children seek refuge in the United States. Most are from El Salvador, Guatemala or Honduras and are fleeing violence and threats to their safety.

For many, the long and dangerous journey to the United States is just the beginning. After these children are released from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) custody and into the care of a sponsor, the transition is difficult as they adjust to new communities, cultures, languages and families.

Each child has unique mental health, safety, education and legal needs that must be met. Many sponsors--who may be without legal status themselves--are ineligible or face legitimate fear in seeking out the limited community-based services to help meet their child's needs. That's where CWS and our network of providers come in.

CWS partners with ORR to serve and support unaccompanied children as they reunify with their sponsors in the United States.

In our Home Study and Post Release Services program, CWS and our network of providers work closely with children and their sponsors. CWS ensures that children are reunified into safe

placements and that sponsors are supported as they prepare for their new responsibility. Though the length of services varies based on each child's goals, CWS provides case management services and connects them with available resources as they join their new communities.

Since the beginning of our program in December of 2021, CWS has walked alongside 10,430 children from 51 countries of origin. We expect to serve an additional 3,000 children through December 2023.

CWS supports smooth transitions for many children and additional support is needed to address the needs of children and their sponsors.

These needs include mental health services, legal representation, English language programs, vocational training opportunities, cultural integration support, and financial assistance to cover basic living expenses. If you would like to donate to support these vulnerable children in getting access to the services they need, please visit [our website](https://welcomingchildren.org).

The Children's Services department's vision is that unaccompanied children maintain hope for the future, feel supported by their community and build resilience.