

# UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT MINORS: LEGAL SERVICES LANDSCAPE, THE SAN DIEGO EXPERIENCE



Casa Cornelia Law Center  
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# Casa Cornelia Law Center (CCLC)

- Founded in 1993
- Incorporated into a 501(c)(3) in 1996
- Mission is to provide quality pro bono legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations.
- CCLC has a primary commitment to indigent persons within the immigrant community in Southern California.
- CCLC seeks to educate others regarding the impact of immigration law and policy on the community and the public good.



# Our Free Legal Programs

## □ Asylum

- Meet definition of refugee

## □ Domestic Violence/Victims of Serious Crimes

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- U Visa for victims of serious crimes helpful to LEAs

## □ Human Trafficking

- T Visa for victims of human trafficking with a focus on labor trafficking

## □ Children's Program

- Unaccompanied children
- Child asylum claims
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) for abused, abandoned or neglected children



# Volunteers Support Our Mission

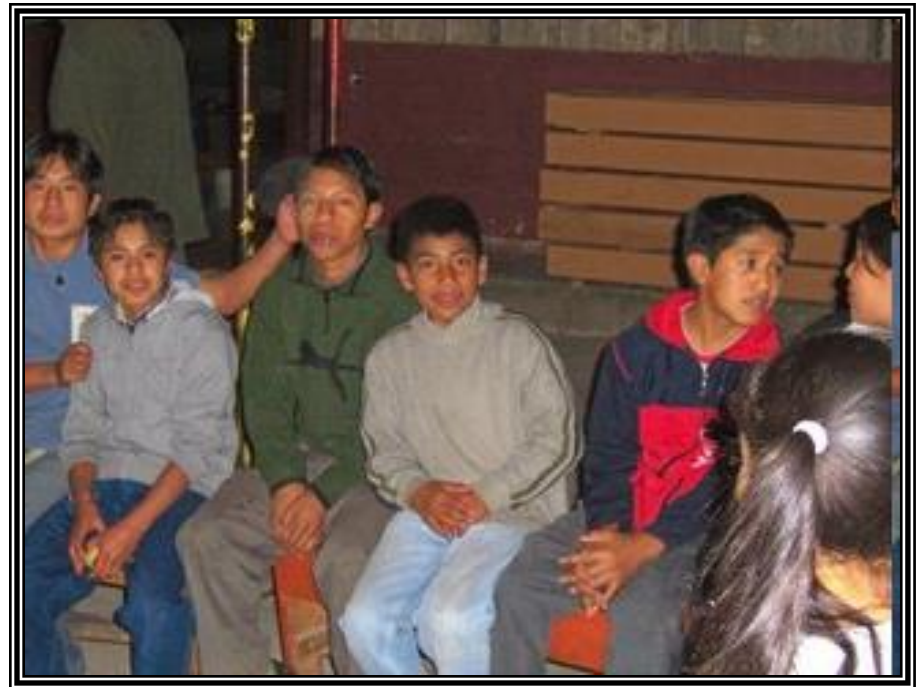
- Attorneys from the private bar
- Law Students
- Undergraduate Students
- Interpreters/Translators
- Community Members

# CCLC's Services to Detained Children



# Network of Legal Service Providers

- Know your Rights (KYR)
- Court Preparation
- Legal Screening
- Identification of children at risk
- Referrals to partner/network services
- Referrals to long term foster care
- Direct Representation while in detention
- Motions to Change Venue
- Friends of the Court
- Direct Representation if local release



From January 1<sup>st</sup> -  
September 30,  
2014

More than 40,000 previously  
detained children were released  
to a sponsor



Source: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs/state-by-state-uc-placed-sponsors>

# State and Number of Children Released to that State

Alabama	685	Nebraska	302
Alaska	3	Nevada	194
Arizona	226	New Hampshire	30
Arkansas	256	New Jersey	2,276
California	<u>4,905</u>	New Mexico	33
Colorado	350	New York	<u>5,033</u>
Connecticut	468	North Carolina	1,695
Delaware	171	North Dakota	4
District of Columbia	309	Ohio	519
Florida	<u>4,502</u>	Oklahoma	296
Georgia	1,709	Oregon	103
Hawaii	8	Pennsylvania	541
Idaho	18	Rhode Island	166
Illinois	468	South Carolina	509
Indiana	383	South Dakota	34
Iowa	208	Tennessee	1,079
Kansas	273	Texas	<u>6,272</u>
Kentucky	359	Utah	106
Louisiana	1,427	Vermont	3
Maine	12	Virginia	<u>3,319</u>
Maryland	<u>3,301</u>	Washington	332
Massachusetts	1,175	West Virginia	26
Michigan	168	Wisconsin	73
Minnesota	260	Wyoming	8
Mississippi	249	Puerto Rico	1
Missouri	180	Virgin Islands	1
Montana	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>45,029</b>



## By county in California

CA	Alameda County	305
CA	Contra Costa County	120
CA	Fresno County	<u>112</u>
CA	Kern County	<u>82</u>
CA	Los Angeles County	<u>2,474</u>
CA	Marin County	118
CA	Monterey County	<u>81</u>
CA	Orange County	251
CA	Riverside County	<u>163</u>
CA	Sacramento County	56
CA	San Bernardino County	<u>125</u>
CA	San Diego County	<u>105</u>
CA	San Francisco County	223
CA	San Mateo County	201
CA	Santa Clara County	170
CA	Ventura County	58

# Casa Cornelia's Children's Program - An Update



# Children's Program Response

- Children Detained in San Diego
  - ▣ Continue services to all beds in SD
  - ▣ Increase volunteer involvement, especially attorneys from private bar
    - Direct Services Model
    - Volunteer Services Model
    - Self help Model
  
- Children Released in San Diego (Non-Detained)
  - ▣ Increase staff and add volunteers to assist growing number in need
  - ▣ Prepare for projected increase in children appearing in local court
  
- Outreach to Non-Detained undetected children

# What We Still Need

- Additional attorneys to manage the crisis
- Full-time case/data manager(s)
- Paralegal(s) for legal case and program management assistance
- Upgrading internet bandwidth/IT

# Local Impact

- Number of children served by Casa Cornelia has increased 106% since 2011
- Change in detention policy: children detained locally released in 5-10 days instead of 30-45 days
- Change in trend: more siblings, girls, and younger children
- *Increased trauma identification: in country of origin or en-route*
- *Adjustment issues/sponsor inability to provide adequate care*

# Each child....

- Will need an attorney who is knowledgeable about immigration law
- All persons who are before an Immigration Judge have a right to be represented but **do not** have a right to appointed counsel or representative, not even children.
- Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause and the Immigration and Nationality Act's provisions requiring a "full and fair hearing"
  - J.E.F.M. v. Holder, was filed in U.S. District Court in Seattle, WA



# First contact?

- Educators
- Social Services
  - ▣ Welfare
  - ▣ CPS
- Mental Health
- Recreation
- Employment
  - ▣ Day labor sites
  - ▣ Construction sites
  - ▣ Service industries
- Medical professionals
  - ▣ As regular patients
  - ▣ As victims
- Law Enforcement
  - ▣ As victims of crime
  - ▣ As derivative victims

# Thank you!

For more information please go to  
[www.CasaCornelia.org](http://www.CasaCornelia.org)