

# Want to Help CCFW Serve the Unaccompanied Children?

## Here's How!

### Foster Opportunity

The **International Foster Care** partners with foster families to provide children who have fled their country of origin with a safe, nurturing, and culturally sensitive environment that equips and empowers them to reach their full potential. Children come to us as refugees, victims of trafficking, and asylees from places around the world such as East Africa, Burma, and Central America. Services are designed to meet the needs of each minor and may include tutoring, mentoring, independent living skills training, cultural activities, legal assistance, mental health services, intensive case management, and education/ESL classes. The IFC program works with Unaccompanied Refugee Minors and Unaccompanied Children.

### **What You Need to Know**

- IFC provides long-term foster care for unaccompanied children.
- This includes Unaccompanied Refugee Minors that come from refugee camps in countries like the Congo, Ethiopia, Burma and Nepal; and Unaccompanied Alien Children that are usually from South and Central America.
- All of these children are fleeing war, persecution and social violence in their home countries and are hoping to find refuge in the U.S.
- These children are often between the ages of 15 to 17.
- The children stay in our program until they are 21.
- We provide many services for the foster youths, including medical, educational and legal services.
- The need for foster parents is long-term and we need foster families ready and waiting for when the youth arrive.
- We need families that are open to all of our client populations and not just those from Central and South America.

### **Requirements for Foster Parents**

- Between the ages of 25 - 65
- Foster parents must be married.
- Must pass a background check and FBI fingerprint
- Proficient in English

- Complete 39 hours of training
- Complete a home study

### **Contact Information for Foster Opportunities**

Brenna Linehan

P: 817.289.0335

Email: [blinehan@ccdofw.org](mailto:blinehan@ccdofw.org)

### **Donation Opportunities**

The **Creating Hope Donation Center** at Catholic Charities Fort Worth is proud to serve the needs of these children, and appreciate any who would like to help meet the immediate needs of all the children in our care. We invite you to participate in one of our donation drives to help us meet our children's needs. If you are unable to provide all of the items in one box, we will happily accept any of the items listed below. Or, if you prefer, we will gladly accept gift cards of any amount to Wal-Mart or Target.

#### **Activity Box:**

- 1 plastic shoebox size container
- Chapstick
- Puzzles
- Washcloths
- Composition Book
- Stress Ball
- Playing Cards/Card Games/Magic Cards
- Coloring books/ Activity books
- Crayons/ Map Pencils
- Mechanical Pencils
- Hot Wheel Cars
- Barbie Doll(s)
- Small Bibles (English or Spanish)
- 1 nail polish
- 1 small Lego set
- Journal
- Purse/Wallet
- Disposable Camera

- Scrapbook
- Soccer ball
- English/Spanish Dictionary

**School Supply Bags Needed:**

- 1 Backpack
- 2 Pocket Folders
- 1 Binder
- 2 Spiral Notebooks
- 1 Pack of Pens
- 1 Pack of Pencils
- 1 Pack of Crayons
- 2 Packs of Notebook Paper

**Hygiene/Welcome Box:**

- 1 Plastic shoebox sized container
- 1 Lubriderm/Gold Bond/Eucerin lotion for extremely dry skin
- 1 Shampoo
- 1 Conditioner
- 1 Body Wash/Bar Soap
- 1 Toothpaste
- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Brush/Comb
- 1 Pack of Hair Ties
- 1 Deodorant
- 1 Small Toy
- English/Spanish flash cards
- Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication Flash Cards

**Additional Items Needed Include:**

- Toilet Paper
- Disinfectant Wipes
- All-Purpose Cleaner
- Sponges
- Dish Soap
- Canned Food Items
- Backpacks & School Supplies

- Laundry Detergent

Currently, the greatest need is for school supplies, activity boxes and the listed cleaning supplies. The Donation Center serves over 40 social service programs, including veterans, family services and refugees.

Catholic Charities of Fort Worth sees caring for children as core focus area in our efforts to serve those in need. We care for children by providing critical assessment services, counseling services, family support, reunification and resettlement efforts, foster care, and a safe, loving environment for those suffering from the most traumatic of situations. A financial gift to CCFW will help continue our efforts to care for children through more than 40 programs. With 90 cents of every dollar you give going directly towards poverty-ending programs, you can impact lives.

**To Donate Today, Please go here: <http://www.catholiccharitiesfortworth.org/donate>**

If you would like to mail your donation, please send it to:

**Catholic Charities Fort Worth  
P.O. Box 15610  
Fort Worth, Texas, 76119**

**Drop Off Information**

249 Thornhill Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76115

Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

- There will always be ongoing volunteer needs for those seeking to assist CCFW clients in need, especially our Unaccompanied Children.
- To find out more about volunteering at CCFW, register for one of our upcoming Volunteer Orientations.

**Volunteer Requirements:**

- To work directly with IFC and UAC children, volunteers will need to go through a State of Texas Volunteer Background Check that requires a Social Security Number.

**Contact Information for Volunteer Opportunities**

P: 817.289.3871

Email: [Volunteer@ccdofw.org](mailto:Volunteer@ccdofw.org)

## **Who Are These Children?**

- Most of these children are from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.
- These children flee their home because their home countries lack economic opportunity and quality education and because a growing extreme criminal presence threatens citizen security and creates an environment of fear.
- Gangs have become a part of everyday life, infiltrating neighborhoods and schools, and controlling communities with the threat and exaction of violence, extortion, kidnapping, sexual assault, murder, and forcible recruitment of children into criminal activity.
- Often the life-threatening journey north is a more appealing option to these children, or is viewed by their families as the last remaining option to secure their safety.

## **How long do they stay?**

- We have a designated number of beds set aside for some of the children placed in our care.
- Through our International Foster Care program, others are placed in foster homes.
- Regardless of where they are housed, all of our children have a case manager who works to reunify them with their families in the US.
- We house them, screen them to assess if they are victims of human trafficking, determine whether they are eligible for legal status in the U.S., administer a full medical checkup and vaccines, and provide them with a safe place to live for perhaps the first time in their lives.
- While with us, HHS/ORR works to find U.S.-resident relatives or other sponsors with whom the children can live while they await the outcome of their immigration.
- With the rising influx of kids comes the need to expand capacity in both of these programs.