



## Coming Together for Children Alone

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# Hope for Nayeli



# Who is an Unaccompanied Child?

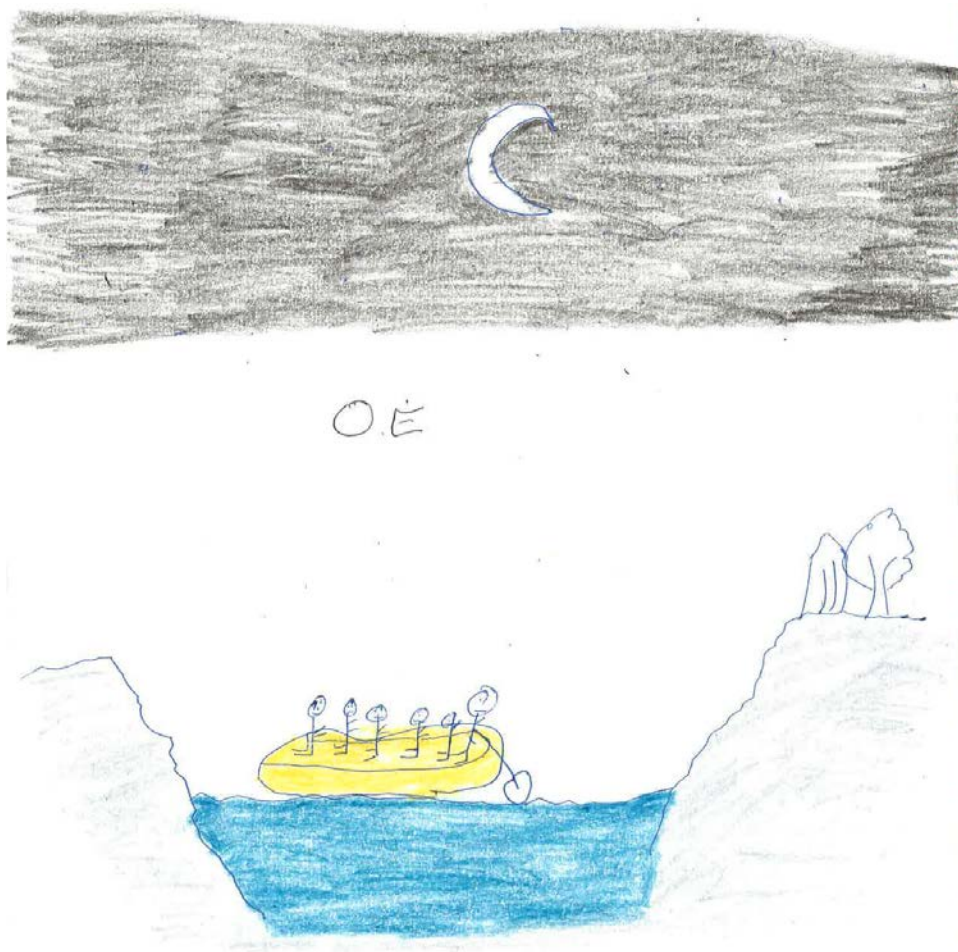


A child who has **no lawful immigration status**, is **under 18 years of age**, and has **no parent** or legal guardian in the U.S. **available to provide care and physical custody**.

Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))

# Why do they come to the US?

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Many children are fleeing:

- Gang violence
- Gang forced recruitment
- Severe abuse
- Domestic violence
- Gender-based violence
- Lack of caretaker
- Abandonment
- Neglect
- Deep poverty

Some children are trafficked

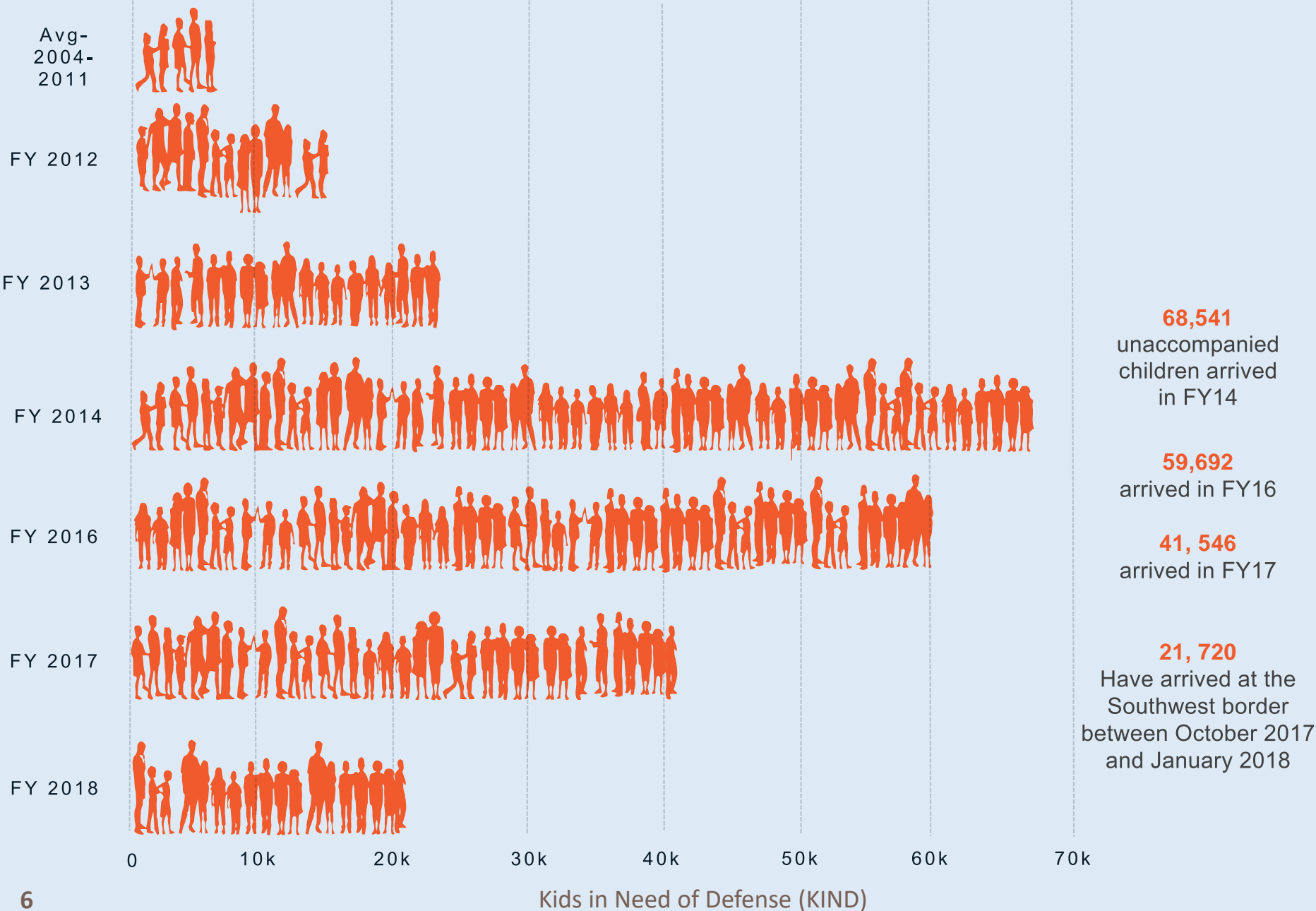
# What are their journeys like?

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- Children may migrate to the U.S.:
  - On their own or in groups or with guide
  - On foot, by bus, train, boat, or plane, hitchhiking
  - Through smuggling or as victims of trafficking
- Children suffer on their journeys
  - Witness horrific crimes
  - Are victims of abuse including rape/kidnapping/extortion
  - Walk for days
  - Packed into trailers and required to stand for days without food or water
  - No adult on the journey to protect them



# Unaccompanied Child Arrivals to the U.S.



**68,541**  
unaccompanied  
children arrived  
in FY14

**59,692**  
arrived in FY16

**41,546**  
arrived in FY17

**21,720**  
Have arrived at the  
Southwest border  
between October 2017  
and January 2018

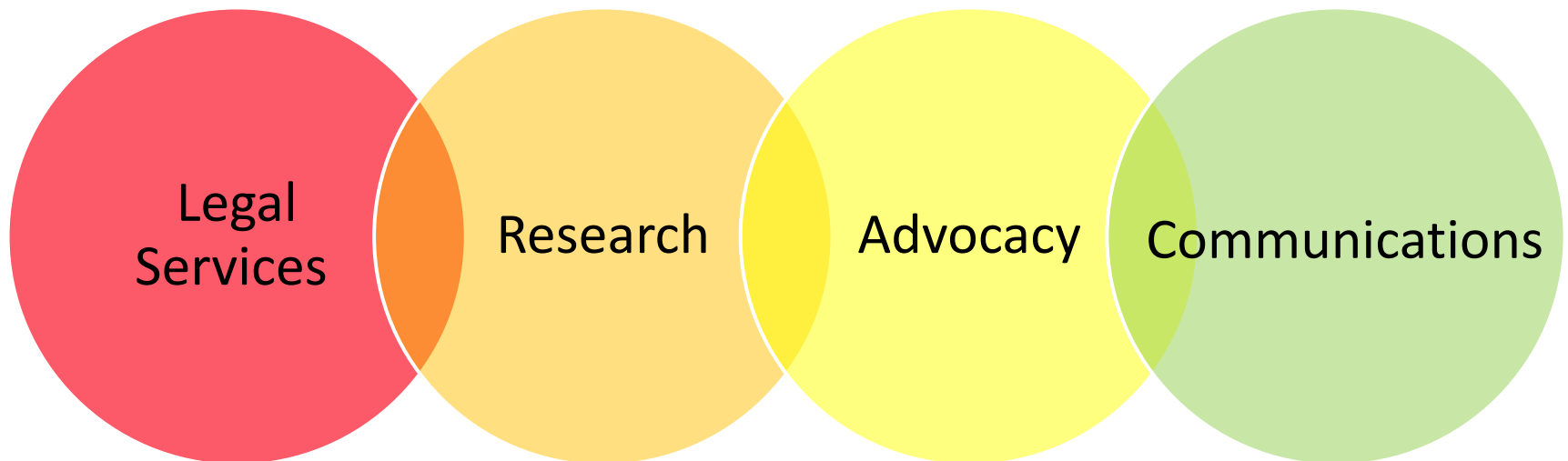
\*FY 2018 = October 2017– January 2018



# KIND's Model

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- 10 field offices located where unmet need is greatest:  
Boston – New York – Newark – Baltimore – DC – Atlanta  
Houston – Los Angeles – **San Francisco/Fresno** – Seattle
- 500+ pro bono partners nationally representing children in immigration proceedings
- KIND has trained over 24,000 attorneys



# Removal proceedings

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- Concepts of **children's rights & best interests** historically absent from immigration law
- **No right to appointed counsel**

“I’ve taught immigration law literally to 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds. It takes a lot of time. It takes a lot of patience. They get it. It’s not the most efficient, but it can be done. You can do a fair hearing.”

- Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Jack Weil, October 15, 2015



([https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/can-a-3-year-old-represent-herself-in-immigration-court-this-judge-thinks-so/2016/03/03/5be59a32-db25-11e5-925f-1d10062cc82d\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/can-a-3-year-old-represent-herself-in-immigration-court-this-judge-thinks-so/2016/03/03/5be59a32-db25-11e5-925f-1d10062cc82d_story.html))



# The Role of a Pro Bono Attorney

- Volunteer to **take on a KIND case**
- **Receive case summary & file**
- **Discuss case with KIND mentor**
- **Meet with client and counsel on options and relief**
- **Attend court hearings with client and pursue any available claims**
- Receive **ongoing mentorship and support** from KIND mentors



# Other Ways to Get Involved

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- ❑ Interpretation: Spanish, indigenous languages
- ❑ Donation drives: school supplies, holiday themed
- ❑ Sponsoring summer activities: field trip
- ❑ Linking up with existing mentoring programs
- ❑ Career events: speaking on panel; “Day at Work”
- ❑ Supporting KIND’s work
- ❑ Engaging with your Congresspeople
- ❑ Share voices of unaccompanied children
- ❑ Your ideas?

# Questions?

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