



For many years there were *no* standards of care for unaccompanied children in U.S. immigration custody.

Children were denied release to potential caregivers, held indefinitely in poor conditions, and forced to sleep in facilities built for adults—along with unrelated adults.

This began to change in 1997, when the *Flores* Settlement Agreement set an essential baseline for treating unaccompanied children. Significant gaps in protection persisted for this vulnerable population, but the U.S. government now had a legal obligation to hold unaccompanied children in safe, sanitary facilities in the least restrictive setting possible and release them whenever possible to parents or other appropriate sponsors without needless delay.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 represented a next step in the right direction. It transferred the responsibility for the care and custody of unaccompanied children to the Office of Refugee Resettlement within the Department of Health and Human Services, an agency charged with prioritizing children's well-being.

In the years that followed, unaccompanied children continued to face threats to their safety, including being returned to Mexico without a determination about whether they would face trafficking or other hazards. In response, Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2008—a historic, bipartisan breakthrough. Among other advancements, the TVPRA required trafficking screenings for unaccompanied children in the United States. It also ensured that children could pursue asylum through a non-adversarial interview, instead of in adversarial court proceedings.

The TVPRA saved lives, but so much more work remained.

To begin with, while the TVPRA mandated that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should facilitate pro bono legal representation of children to the maximum extent practicable, it nor any other law mandated that the U.S. government provide unaccompanied children with attorneys. Many children in courtrooms across the country remained on their own.

That's why, in 2008, Brad Smith, Microsoft, and Angelina Jolie formed KIND. Their shared vision:
No child should face immigration court alone.

Our Mission

We envision a world in which children's rights and well-being are protected as they migrate alone in search of safety.

Our Vision

We will achieve our vision by:

- Ensuring that no child appears in immigration court without high-quality legal representation;
- Advancing laws, policies, and practices that ensure children's protection and uphold their right to due process and fundamental fairness;
- Promoting in countries of origin, transit, and destination durable solutions to child migration that are grounded in the best interests of the child and ensure that no child is forced to involuntarily migrate.

Children at a shelter in Mexico
Brett Gundlock, 2022

From a humble beginning to global impact

Dear Friends,

Fifteen years ago, when a team of seven came together working out of a small office at the American Immigration Lawyers Association, we knew unaccompanied children needed trained attorneys to help them navigate the U.S. immigration system. We knew these children needed support throughout their migration journey and that we could not truly protect them if we did not also work to tackle the immigration policies that failed them. This is why, together, we have led Kids in Need of Defense for the past 15 years.

There was a lot of hope when we founded KIND in 2008. Congress enacted the TVPRA, codifying the laws that continue to guide our work today. That was also the last time that Congress passed any significant changes to our immigration laws. There is not a day that goes by that we do not appreciate the Washington leaders in office at that time, who understood how essential it is to see past party lines, work together on a bipartisan basis, and protect children in search of safety.

Today, KIND's footprint looks quite different than it did 15 years ago. We have nearly 550 employees spread across 16 offices throughout the United States. We work in Mexico, Central America, Europe, and the United Kingdom. The partnerships we formed—more than 850 pro bono partners, more than 10,000 pro bono attorneys, and tens of thousands of donors, advocates, and allies that joined us since those earliest days—make KIND an international leader in protecting children and keeping families together. We bring our expertise to bear not just in legal representation, but also in holistic psychosocial support, advocacy, and communications.

Today, we rededicate ourselves to protecting unaccompanied children and the serious work that lies ahead. We are closer than ever to implementing specialized children's dockets in immigration court that ensure that children receive due process that is child centered. We worked against the rollback of antitrafficking protections, urging Congress to embrace reforms that build upon, rather than tear down, existing protections. We helped ensure the appropriate care of children in U.S. Customs and Border Protection custody. We rallied support to families torn apart by the Zero Tolerance Policy.

As you read this Impact Report, you will see how much the KIND community has accomplished on behalf of unaccompanied and separated children through the years.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we made a profound difference in the lives of so many children. And with your continued support, we will continue to make sure these children have futures filled with hope, safety, and possibility.

Fifteen years of change, influence, and agency

**With co-founder
Brad Smith's leadership...**

We built a community of
856 pro bono partners
who donated more than
\$889 million—or 1.49 million
hours—in legal services.

In collaboration with those
partners, **we provided legal**
representation to more
than 19,000 children—
more than 15,000 in the
United States, and more
than 4,000 in Europe.

We **educated more than**
72,000 children on their
legal rights in the United
States and Mexico.

We **provided psychosocial**
support to more than 18,000
children and families in the
United States and Mexico.

We have a better-than
95% success rate in cases
in which we represent the
child through the conclusion
of their legal case.

Brad Smith meets with one of KIND's first clients and her pro bono attorney in Los Angeles. KIND helped this client find safety in the United States.

Attorney General Eric Holder recognized Brad Smith as a White House "Champion of Change"—an Obama Administration initiative to highlight Americans making an impact.

2013

NASDAQ recognized KIND's work with unaccompanied children. Brad Smith, Wendy Young, staff, and board members rang the closing bell.

2016

KIND launched Kids in Need of Defense UK to help vulnerable children in the United Kingdom secure citizenship rights. Wendy Young and Brad Smith attended the launch event in London.

2019

Brad Smith with then-host of "The Daily Show," Trevor Noah, after their panel discussion at the annual gala. Noah shared his perspectives on immigration as a South African living in the United States.

2023

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, backstage at the 2023 gala with Pamela Passman, Brad Smith, and Wendy Young.

Co-founder Brad Smith transitioned to Board Chair Emeritus after 15 years at the helm. We celebrate his legacy as we look to the future.

We ensure children's access to justice and protection.

Every day, KIND legal staff and thousands of pro bono attorneys are making a difference in the lives of unaccompanied children and their families. We make sure our clients have a legal professional by their side during their immigration journey.

KIND represents children at no cost. We train and mentor a vast network of private-sector legal volunteers to provide quality representation to children. We share vital legal information with children in need. We advance children's rights through strategic litigation.

In 2023 we represented more than **7,500** children.

We help children at every point in their journey.

Right, staff in KIND's Los Angeles office use puppets, cartoon figures, and photos of a courtroom to prepare children for—and help them be more comfortable with—the realities and expectations of a courtroom experience.

We connect with children early in their journey...

Yaquelin fled from gangs in El Salvador when she was 17 years old, and found KIND during her first week in the United States. "I didn't know that there are organizations here that help people like me," she said. "My experience with KIND has always been great because **they go through every step with you, explaining everything slowly, taking the time to go over everything.**"

stay with them, every step of the way...

Alexandra fled abuse and trafficking in Guatemala when she realized that local authorities were unable—or unwilling—to protect her. As she waited to appear before an immigration judge in the United States, she was terrified that she would be forced to return to the dangers she fled. "**I didn't know how the people in the courtroom were going to respond to my story,**" she said. "The day of the hearing I kept thinking that the immigration judge was not going to grant my case," she added. "This was really difficult for me. My attorney gave me a therapeutic tool to use while we were waiting for the hearing and that helped."

and celebrate their victories.

A KIND attorney's connection to their clients can last for years after their hearings, celebrating milestones like graduations, green cards, and citizenship. Yaquelin is now working and taking advantage of all the opportunities the United States has to offer. "**KIND has helped me a lot and if it weren't for KIND, I wouldn't have my residency. I feel so much better and grateful.**" With KIND's support, Alexandra was granted asylum and now lives safely, working to help other vulnerable youth in her community.

We served **640** clients affected by forced family separations at the border in ongoing legal cases in the United States.

We provided **9,114** children with Know Your Rights presentations.

We have a **better-than 95% success rate** in cases in which we represent a child through the conclusion of their legal case.

Last year we represented clients from more than 40 countries.



Guatemala	31%	Mexico	4%
Honduras	29%	Ecuador	2%
El Salvador	28%	Others*	6%

* This is a snapshot of the countries of origin of our clients. Others include Afghanistan, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guinea, Jamaica, Somalia, and Venezuela.

We are committed to reunifying families.

KIND committed to representing as many families as possible, to help them get started on their journey to healing with their children.

- 1,744** Families were represented in return cases
- 224** Families were reunited in the United States
- 814** Families seeking return were screened and registered

April 2021—Nani, then 10, listens to traffic passing over the Ohio River in Jeffersonville, Indiana. She had just joined extended family in the state, following her release from U.S. Health and Human Services custody as an unaccompanied minor after spending nearly eight weeks in shelters, the last one in New York City.

We support our clients to heal, learn, grow, and thrive.

With our comprehensive support, our child clients and families can work effectively with counsel to pursue immigration legal relief, rebuild trust and bonds, and successfully join their new communities.

In 2015, KIND launched a social services program. In our first year, a team of three staff provided services for (then) nine offices. We began addressing our clients' trauma and their other non-legal needs, like access to medical and mental health care, school enrollment, counseling, and housing assistance.

Our program has grown and evolved, as has the need for these crucial services. Now, all KIND offices in the United States and Mexico have dedicated psychosocial staff. We offer more substantial support to our clients over a longer term. In addition to being able to refer clients to trusted providers in their communities, we accompany them to assist with complex

tasks like school enrollment—often simultaneously educating administrators about the special needs and rights of our client population. Our model strives to move clients beyond simple stability to self-sufficiency.

Psychosocial services—like all the services we provide—are seamlessly entwined in the KIND model. We provide direct client services; train, mentor, and support our volunteer attorneys; advocate for child-sensitive practices and policies; provide technical assistance; and build meaningful partnerships to extend the program's reach, allowing us to serve more children in need.

Since 2018 we've partnered with Artolution to provide creative experiences. We provided dozens of clients in Boston, Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia, and New York City an opportunity to express themselves in their new communities by creating large-scale murals, animation and claymation, and other innovative art.

We respond to our clients in crisis.

In 2018, the psychosocial team supported KIND's family separation response at the U.S.–Mexico border, offering coping strategies to anxious, frightened children. In 2019, KIND began serving the needs of unaccompanied children along the border. The psychosocial team conducted large, therapeutic group activities, provided individual services, and made forbidding spaces more child friendly. We hired social services professionals based in Ciudad Juárez and Tijuana, which helped us cultivate strong local partnerships and build trust in KIND's legal and therapeutic programming models. This, in turn, led to us being invited to provide and improve services at the overwhelmed local and government-run shelters in Mexico.

In partnership, we help our clients connect, express themselves, and plan for the future.

In 2020 in Seattle, our partner Art Corps facilitated an eight-week virtual art course to counter the isolation and stress of the pandemic lockdown. Each client received a package of art supplies at home, and an introduction to multiple art styles, poetry, and rap music. Some clients recognized each other from Office of Refugee Resettlement programs, or from school. Many of them met each other for the first time through their phone screens.

We promote educational success from elementary school through college, assisting with enrollment, providing workshops for clients 17 years old and older, and supporting readiness for and access to college. We partner with regional donors and community organizations to provide students with essential school supplies—tools that can mean the difference between a successful school year and a child falling further behind. Around the country, KIND's efforts help hundreds of children each year enter school confident and ready to learn.

In 2023, KIND's psychosocial services teams in the United States and northern Mexico served thousands of children.

6,186

participated in therapeutic programming and events

4,212

received services from basic needs support to crisis intervention

1,851

received one-on-one support

We design adaptive, creative programming to help our children overcome barriers to care.

In 2020 we responded nimbly and quickly to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to meeting our clients' basic and critical needs remotely, we modified our service model to prioritize therapeutic work aimed at decreasing isolation, increasing positive coping, and fostering resilience. We created virtual pregnancy-and-parenting support groups; introduced clients to expressive arts activities from poetry to photography; and trained clients to improve their digital literacy. Post-pandemic, we continue to employ a hybrid approach to providing services. While we prioritize in-person contact, we offer virtual options to provide accessibility to an even greater number of clients.

In 2022 we developed a novel therapeutic toolkit customized to our clients' developmental ages. It can be used by both psychosocial and legal practitioners. The kits contain toys, puppets, soothing tools like ice packs and weighted blankets, mindfulness activities, drawing materials, and games useful to clients and adults during intakes and other anxiety-provoking times when clients benefit from extra care and consideration.

We advocate for fair, child-appropriate policies—and our models inform practices throughout the country.

Our 2020–2023 technical assistance to the Opportunities for Youth Initiative in California facilitated the work of providers throughout the state to connect youth to legal representation, physical and mental health care, and school enrollment—helping more than 3,500 children.

In 2021, we advocated to obtain state funding to support legal services and case management for unaccompanied children with the New Jersey Consortium for Immigrant Children. Based on our successful implementation and administration, New Jersey expanded the program and has increased funding each year since. Today, KIND offers case management services and serves as the technical assistance provider for members of the consortium.

We cultivate powerful, resilient networks so that we can help more children.

We build strong partnerships with local nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, regional and international organizations, and governments, to provide unaccompanied and separated children with quality legal and psychosocial assistance. We train these organizations, provide technical assistance, and strengthen their capacity to promote safe, trauma informed, and culturally relevant treatment of unaccompanied and separated children. Through this work, we advance local, regional, state, and federal good practices and measures for care of children and adjudication of their cases, and establish safeguards to prevent children from being returned to harm.

KIND produced its CAM outreach materials in Spanish and five Indigenous languages to broaden the audience for the information.

Our peer learning initiative enhances safeguards for migrant children in Mexico.

Last year we worked with our strategic partner IDC (**International Detention Coalition**) to help Mexican authorities effectively implement a national framework to protect migrant children. One of the most successful mechanisms we employ is peer learning among municipal, state, and federal authorities, and international and civil society organizations. Exchanging knowledge among authorities in different locations allows them to identify common challenges, share good practices, and develop innovative and collaborative solutions. The resulting support networks and communication facilitate the development and improvement of protection protocols.

We work to build the capacity of frontline staff in the Ukraine refugee response.

Child helplines provide support and counseling services to children impacted by the war in Ukraine and are a critical frontline child protection response. To build capacity of the helplines and their counselors, KIND supported a series of in-person workshops held by **Child Helpline International** in partnership with **UNICEF** in Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, and Slovakia. The meetings brought together experts from more than a dozen organizations and more than 200 frontline workers for training and collaboration. KIND's presentations described the singular challenges created by the mass displacement of children from Ukraine, underscoring the need for better identification, support, and protection of all unaccompanied and separated children, especially through free, quality legal assistance. Experts and attendees shared knowledge and best practices, highlighted the importance of improving communication and collaboration across disciplines and countries, reviewed the lessons learned from the emergency response to Ukraine, and planned how best to support children over the longer term as the conflict continues.

We help families access a safe, legal pathway to reunification.

Since September 2022, KIND has helped provide Central American children and families access to the **CAM (Central American Minors)** resettlement program. This work entails first reaching families eligible to sponsor their children, assisting them with their petitions, and providing individual case support. KIND informs parents and guardians about the program and works with them to prepare the required documentation. In 2023, we received 595 referrals, submitting 373 Affidavits of Relationship. We also developed online tools to provide information and address language barriers. We connected a larger audience to our resources with widespread outreach, using a combination of provider, community, and government networks and events with a mix of traditional broadcast media, social media, and text messages.

All of us are stronger as a result.

We support attorneys with timely, relevant training and assistance.

We train and provide technical assistance to attorneys to ensure ongoing learning, skill building, and excellence in delivering legal services. This includes substantive skill-building training responsive to the needs of attorneys and the issues arising in our cases, and individualized case-specific support.

Since the launch of our program...

We trained **2,246** pro bono lawyers and served **6,136** children in Europe (France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Slovakia) and the United Kingdom. In Mexico, we trained more than **720** government authorities (in Mexico City and 25 of Mexico's 32 states), along with **44** consular representatives from Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Top: A peer learning event held in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico. The event brought together state and municipal authorities from the offices of the Attorney for Children and Adolescents Protection, the System for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents (SIPPINA), and members from NGOs.

Center: KIND delivered a specialized workshop in Warsaw in June 2023 on child trafficking risks in relation to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The workshop was part of training organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe for frontline responders from Ukraine and other countries. We participated in similar workshops in March and September 2023, in which we trained more than 100 frontline civil society responders from 33 countries.

Bottom: KIND staff member Amaya Anzola was interviewed on the Houston, Texas, NBC affiliate KPRC2. She publicized KIND's August 2023 legal clinic—hosted in partnership with Houston nonprofit Baker Ripley—for families possibly eligible for the Central American Minors program.

We recognize that not all unaccompanied children can—or want to—remain in the United States.

KIND's Child Migrant Return and Reintegration Program ensures that children returning to their countries of origin do so safely. We partner with five community-based organizations in Guatemala and Honduras to help children returning to their communities receive vital services, including mental health and medical care, education, job skills training, and ongoing case management.

Since 2010 the program has served more than 2,500 children returning from the United States and Mexico and is a proven model—most children who participate do not remigrate during the time they are receiving reintegration services.

In Guatemala, returned children and their siblings pose after a group reintegration activity—with KIND partner Asociación Pop No'j.

Since 2010 KIND has provided comprehensive reintegration support to more than 10,000 children and family members.

José's New Direction Brings Him Purpose and Success

José,* 17, and his 13-year-old sister live on their own (without an adult caregiver) in a gang-controlled neighborhood in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. With little education and few prospects, José had no hope of providing for and protecting his sister and no opportunity to pursue his own dreams. He made several attempts to get to the United States, but was always sent back to Honduras from Mexico. On his last trip, he got sick in Mexico and spent several months in a shelter. He returned home depressed, struggling with what he would do next.

This time, Honduran authorities connected him with KIND's reintegration program and our partner **Comisión Acción Social Menonita** (Mennonite Social Action Commission). He found his outlook changed quickly, promising on his first day, "I will make you proud." With program coordinator Abigail Balderramos (Abby), he created his 'life plan.' He chose to be a barber and enrolled in classes funded by KIND. He did his vocational training at a local dialysis center for low-income patients and quickly became a favorite, as word spread that his haircuts were the best. Praised for his skills, commitment, and kindness, he graduated with honors.

Abby praises José as "someone with goals and dreams and the ability to achieve them." She notes, "He takes such pride in being able to say 'Soy *barbero*' ('I'm a barber.'). We always make room in our caseload for children like José who are heads of households. Without the support of a parent or caretaker—someone to believe in them—these kids can get lost. If it were not for KIND, José would have either kept risking his life to go to the United States or be dealing with the loneliness and depression he felt. With the money he earns as a barber, he is now getting ready to achieve his dream of finishing high school." She also expressed her gratitude to the families she works with, saying "Thank you for letting me be part of your growth, for letting me participate in each of your achievements."

* name changed

Returned migrant children in KIND's reintegration program working with partner CASM play a modified game of bingo to foster conversation on goals and dreams as part of working on their life plan.

Some of our volunteer attorneys call our pro bono program the most meaningful legal work they have ever done.

In 2023:

Our pro bono network in 2023 was 628 law firms, 152 corporate partners, 51 law schools, and 25 bar associations

Our partners donated \$118,000,000—158,000 hours

We had 4,538 active pro bono attorneys

51% of our current pro bono attorneys took two or more cases

Nearly 65% of our cases were represented by pro bono attorneys

Since 2008 KIND has had 11,834 active pro bono attorneys. Our partners donated \$889,000,000—or 1,490,000 hours—and handled 13,605 cases.

KIND's Pro Bono Attorney program is at the core of our work. We recruit volunteer lawyers from law firms, corporations, law schools, and bar associations and provide them with training, mentoring, and other resources necessary to represent children. Attorneys work with KIND staff to help them build their cases, gain valuable courtroom experience, and develop expertise in a unique area of law.

Immigration judges are 100 times more likely to grant legal relief to unaccompanied children with counsel than to those without. Our dedicated legal partners help close this gap and allow us to assist many more children.

Arnold & Porter

Arnold & Porter LLP has partnered with KIND since our founding. The firm's attorneys represented 24 unaccompanied children in the United States and worked in the United Kingdom, Europe, and Latin America, dedicating over 15,000 pro bono hours to KIND's mission.

Arnold & Porter attorneys worked relentlessly to represent an Afghan unaccompanied child in his asylum claim. This was one of the first pro bono teams to take on an Afghan asylum claim through KIND, shortly after the United States experienced an influx of Afghan arrivals in 2021 through Operation Allies Welcome. The firm filed a strong, detailed asylum claim for their client and secured a final positive result from the Houston Asylum Office. And commendably, they built genuine rapport and trust with their client, helping him navigate the difficulties of being separated from his family and having to find safety and community without them.

▶ “Working with KIND on this case has been immeasurably rewarding, and we’re proud of helping our client get the result he deserved. We’ve all gotten to know our client as he has grown into a kind, thoughtful, hard-working young man. Giving back to the community via pro bono is always fulfilling, but doing so in a way that lets you help an individual in such dire circumstances is really, I think, why so many of us became lawyers in the first place.”

Matt Hudson, Associate | Arnold & Porter

A young boy pulls a suitcase as refugees arrive from Afghanistan at London's Heathrow Airport in August 2021.

We preserve vital protections for children and families.

We cultivate legislative champions on both sides of the aisle and assemble leading voices to educate the public. We relentlessly seek out dialogue with all the relevant decision makers, making sure that we bring the most compelling arguments to bear in our conversations with them. Our advocacy allows us to leverage and amplify our work to achieve the greatest impact and spark change at the highest levels of national and international policymaking.

Despite the polarized atmosphere, **we achieved real success in 2023.**

KIND staff and pro bono attorneys attended KIND's Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., a day on which they met with members of Congress and advocated on behalf of unaccompanied children.

Through strategic litigation, legislative advocacy, and public education, KIND influenced policy changes that enhance the safety and well-being of unaccompanied children. We successfully advocated for improved access to legal services, family unity, and better care and support systems for these vulnerable children.

Additionally, KIND's community engagement and partnership initiatives expand our reach and impact. By collaborating with local organizations, government agencies, and international bodies, we strengthen the support network available to unaccompanied children, ensuring a holistic approach to their care and protection.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our vision of a world where children's rights are respected and upheld. KIND's achievements this year serve as a testament to the power of advocacy and the profound impact it can have on the lives of children in need.

We worked against the rollback of antitrafficking protections.

KIND helped prevent The Secure the Border Act of 2023 from becoming law and urged Congress to embrace reforms that build upon—rather than tear down—existing protections. The proposal was on the wrong side of the American public, 77 percent of whom want to expand legal counsel for unaccompanied children who can't afford it.

We helped ensure the appropriate care of children in Customs and Border Protection custody.

After their arrival, children are initially held at the U.S.-Mexico border in CBP facilities that are unsuited for children's unique needs. KIND secured bipartisan congressional leadership in the push for dedicated funding for full-time, licensed child welfare professionals to be placed at the facilities.

We are working to remove barriers to education.

A positive experience with K–12 education can benefit the outcome of an unaccompanied child's legal case, general well-being, and full integration into their new community or safe working opportunities.

KIND's input informed the U.S. Department of Education's guidelines for families and educators: "Protecting Access to Education for Unaccompanied Children." The guidelines specifically highlight areas that KIND recommended—accepting the ORR Verification of Release form as identification and ensuring students receive both language and special education assessments.

We rallied support for families torn apart by the Zero Tolerance Policy.

KIND was actively involved in the *Ms. L. v. ICE* lawsuit, the primary tool for stopping the Zero Tolerance Policy, which led to the separation of nearly 3,000 children from their parents. We advocated for a settlement that emphasized family unity and long-term social and legal stability for affected families. Because the December 2023 settlement did not provide guaranteed representation, we raised funds to provide free legal assistance to the families who will have just two years to prepare their cases.



“While no settlement could ever fully heal the trauma that these families—and particularly the children—will live with for the rest of their lives, it’s a first step toward moving past that horrific time and ensuring that the large-scale separation of families at the border never happens again.”

Jennifer Podkul, Chief of Global Policy and Advocacy

“Trump-era policy separating migrant parents from children: Deal would settle key lawsuit,” October 16, 2023

We are closer than ever to specialized children’s dockets in immigration court.

KIND has worked for years to secure specialized children’s dockets in the immigration court system. We collaborated with a group of bipartisan, bicameral congressional offices on drafting the Children’s Court Act of 2023, a pragmatic bill that garnered support from both parties. In November, a bipartisan group of congressional champions introduced the bill. Soon thereafter, in December, the Department of Justice released the Children’s Cases in Immigration Court memorandum, which requires courts to have specialized children’s dockets. It lays out child-friendly practices the courts should adopt and protocols for better identifying and mitigating child trafficking and exploitation. These changes will also conserve government resources, streamline immigration court operations, and ensure the immigration system is in line with child welfare standards and offers children a fair opportunity to tell their story.

“The U.S. immigration court system is fundamentally designed for adults, not children. [...] Even the most seasoned immigration attorney may face challenges facing this arena, so it can prove virtually impossible for a four- or five-year-old child to even comprehend, much less successfully navigate the complex adversarial U.S. immigration system.”

Jason Boyd, Vice President, U.S. Federal Policy

“Immigration court adds docket and procedures for migrant children,” December 22, 2023

Top left: Two young mothers from Honduras (left and right), and their respective children—a 12-year-old (blocked), and a one-year-old—are detained by the United States Border Patrol after rafting across the Rio Grande on the U.S.–Mexico border. (June 2018–Granjeno, Texas)

Top right: KIND President Wendy Young with Representative Dan Goldman, Representative Hillary Scholten, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, former House Representative and member of KIND’s Leadership Council for the Keeping Kids Safe Campaign

Left: Chief of Global Policy and Advocacy Jennifer Podkul and Leadership Council member Jeanne Celestine Lakin (not shown) testify on efforts to address child trafficking before the House Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations, September 14, 2023.

Judge Ramona Gonzalez

We launched our Keeping Kids Safe Campaign to completely reimagine the immigration system for unaccompanied children.

KIND's Keeping Kids Safe Campaign is a ten-year initiative designed to transform outdated laws, shift conversations about child immigration to center child protection, and reform the way the current U.S. immigration system—and subsequently, protection systems across the globe—treats children.

KIND envisions a future in which unaccompanied children receive the protections they deserve. The campaign is the newest chapter in our longstanding efforts to promote laws and policies that protect vulnerable children throughout their migration journey. By engaging a broad spectrum of policymakers and the public, Keeping Kids Safe aims to systemically reform the child immigration process so that it puts children's safety and well-being at the center.

Last year we assembled a standout Leadership Council whose expertise, professional affiliations, and political acumen brought the campaign's message to new audiences. KIND deliberately recruited leaders who could demonstrate that protecting kids is a universal goal shared by people from diverse backgrounds. Members include the leader of an evangelical women's group, healthcare professionals, former members of Congress and administration officials, state and federal court judges, and experts in trafficking, banking, child welfare, and international affairs.

One of the campaign's first acts of advocacy was championing the Immigration Court Efficiency and Children's Court Act. The campaign also hosted numerous immigration court visits for Council members who in turn have become champions of the bill and the campaign in the media.

We look forward to continuing to build a broad network of supporters who want to keep kids safe and promote practical solutions for a better system for the children and our country.

**KEEPING
KIDS
SAFE**

A seamless safety net
for children on the move

Children look at a smartphone while hiding in the subway, as a siren warns of air raids from Russia on July 26, 2023 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Yan Dobronosov/Global Images Ukraine via Getty Images

"The result would be a more streamlined, orderly and fair system that mirrors best practices in the adjudication of children's cases in all other legal contexts. Judicial resources would be better used and unnecessary time in court would likely be reduced."

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

"Children Are Not Little Adults In Immigration Court,"
November 7, 2023

Former U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) is a senior advisor at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.

"To see children's withdrawal from others after being forcibly separated from a parent or main caregiver, clutching, sometimes, the smallest of mementos of their previous lives—a picture of a parent, a toy from a loving grandparent, a scrap of paper with a telephone number that is a lifeline to their families—is to see psychological damage in progress."

Dr. Luis Zayas, PhD

"Unaccompanied Migrant Kids Suffer Deep Trauma. They Need Our Help," June 9, 2023

Dr. Zayas is a social worker and developmental psychologist. He is provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

"The courtroom is an intimidating place to be, even for adults. It was obvious this part of our immigration system was not designed for children, failing to take into account their age, developmental level or unique vulnerability. I know the United States can do better. We should do better."

Bri Stensrud

"Children Fleeing Alone Need Our Compassion and Protection" Nov 7, 2023

Bri Stensrud is an author, speaker, and human dignity advocate. She is the director of Women of Welcome, a non-partisan, advocacy project for immigrants and refugees.



Scan to learn more about
Leadership Council members
and read full versions of the
opinion articles quoted here.

We promote awareness, empathy, and action.

Our global communications reinforce and support our programming and advocacy. We are recognized for our pragmatic, measured messaging while never losing sight of our commitment to the rights of children on the move.

“If we don’t tell our stories, others will tell them for us—and they will get them wrong.”

Our **Client Ambassadors program** gives the young people we work with the opportunity to share their stories publicly, to advocate and educate, and to promote connection and empathy toward unaccompanied children. Together with our Client Experts and Voices That Matter Most programs, we amplify the stories that should be integral to discussions about our clients’ futures.

As Client Ambassadors, interested clients receive professional training in storytelling, public speaking, advocacy, civics, and interacting with the media—skills that can help them throughout their lives. We encourage them to focus on the parts of their story they are comfortable presenting, in ways that are meaningful to them. Many are motivated by a desire to make a difference in the lives of other children who come alone to the United States.

“Day by day we are trying to show people that we deserve to be in this country. We want to make a change and contribute to our new home.”

KIND client **Isaías** at Georgetown University, September 2023

Last year our Client Ambassadors spoke with congressional staff on Capitol Hill, on university public panels, and at KIND’s annual benefit gala. They gave media interviews, wrote op-eds, consulted for writers and casting directors working on films about unaccompanied children, and engaged in peer networking.

We created accessible mental health support tools for displaced children and their caregivers.

Service providers in Poland asked KIND to address a growing need for mental health support tools for displaced Ukrainian children and their caregivers.

Our assessment—with partner **PoMA Global**—found that just as displaced children suffer high levels of anxiety and distress, their caregivers also struggle to support them, burdened by their own traumatic stress. It also identified a need for easy-to-access visual materials in Ukrainian like video or social media.

In response, we created three engaging, informative videos in Ukrainian and English with PoMA Global. The videos were informed by Ukrainian psychologists and refugees and performed by Ukrainian actors. KIND’s team of experts consulted on the scripts and videos. The videos cover the effects of trauma, helping caregivers to normalize their own experiences and to manage trauma and stress in healthy ways. The resources are hosted on KIND’s YouTube channel, as well as on a local government website dedicated to Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Local governments in Poland promote the videos as key resource for organizations, psychologists, and psychiatrists. Numerous organizations that work with the Ukrainian community also feature the videos in their social media.

A still from “Управління стресом” (Managing Stress)

Standing up and speaking out

"I felt sad from when I left our house to right now."

"I thought it was a joke that we were leaving [Honduras]"

Background photo:
Children's drawings from an art activity with KIND staff in Tapachula, Mexico, 2022.

The New York Times

"Another powerful tool to keep immigrant children out of illegal, exploitative labor conditions is access to legal representation. Offering them legal support actively combats exploitation by helping them know their right to be shielded from danger.

Such support also helps children gain access to the U.S. protection for which they may be eligible, as well as legal and safe employment opportunities.

Helping children find lawyers and giving them a fair chance to make their case in immigration court, as provided by the recently introduced bipartisan, bicameral Immigration Court Efficiency and Children's Court Act, can prevent more of the horrors described in this devastating article."

Wendy Young, Washington

President Wendy Young's letter in response to "Children Risk Their Lives Building America's Roofs," December 14, 2023



"Now we need to make sure that the federal government really invests resources to follow through and sustain this effort. But I'm heartened by the fact that we're now seeing multiple agencies work together and really take this issue seriously."

Wendy Young

"Child labor investigation spreads to meatpacking, produce companies in 11 states," *appearance*, July 7, 2023

"There is this pressure because [HHS] wants to make sure they're doing right by kids and getting them out of these federal custody situations as quickly as possible. But it's a delicate balance between getting them out and making sure ... that you're sending the kids to a safe home."

Jennifer Podkul, Chief of Global Policy and Advocacy

"For migrant girls, new lives in U.S. bring risk of sexual abuse," July 26, 2023

Coming Together for Children Alone

In October, more than 350 partners, donors, and supporters gathered at the Ziegfeld Ballroom in New York City. Thanks to their generosity, we raised more than \$1.3 million to support KIND's programs.

We honored KIND's own fifteen-year journey and our vast, growing network of pro bono partners, whose sustained service and support have protected thousands of children—kids who left everything behind to make their journey to safety, alone.

KIND client Isaías began the evening with his own story about fleeing violence in Honduras at age 16. “I came to this country with a broken heart and a big dream,” he said. Now 20 years old and recording an album of his original music, he described how KIND helped him live in safety to pursue his goals.

Our guests were treated to inspiring musical performances by artist Nova Payton with the American Pops Orchestra, and Broadway star Mandy Gonzalez.

Top

(left) U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, during his conversation with Board Chair Emeritus Brad Smith
(right) Enrique Chavira Cantú, Elba Coria Márquez, and President Wendy Young after the presentation of the Juan P. Osuna Memorial Award

Center

Brad Smith in conversation with Casey Ryan, Global Managing Partner, Reed Smith LLP, and Horacio Gutierrez, Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, The Walt Disney Company

Bottom

(left) Broadway star Mandy Gonzalez; (center) Soprano Nova Payton;
(right) Artist and KIND client Isaías, who opened the program

“The collective commitment of those in this room means *thousands* of children can thrive, leaving fear behind them and embracing hope ahead of them.” WENDY YOUNG

KIND's then-Board Chair (now Board Chair Emeritus) Brad Smith held a "fireside chat" with Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas; and another with Casey Ryan, Global Managing Partner, Reed Smith LLP, and Horacio Gutierrez, Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, The Walt Disney Company. Both discussions delved into the current atmosphere surrounding immigration and how we can collaborate to effect change in a world where politics and rhetoric often drown out pragmatism and results.

Secretary Mayorkas related his own family's immigration journey and the influence immigration and displacement have had on his life and career. He described the balancing act of working for reform incrementally and his optimism about progress toward implementing a children's court system.

Building on the conversation with Secretary Mayorkas, Brad Smith, after noting that this is not an easy time for law firms to lean in and perform pro bono work, asked how firms might respond. "I think this is exactly the time you double

down. You don't pull away from it, you have to invest in it more than you ever have [...] because the time—when it's tough times—that's when the need is greatest," Casey Ryan responded. Ryan and Horacio Gutierrez spoke about the beneficial relationships and partnerships KIND's pro bono work offers to attorneys, not to mention the profound meaning and value to clients and partners alike. Gutierrez reminisced about his first KIND case and the structure and support that KIND provides: "I saw people who hadn't had the opportunity to display leadership skills become leaders."

Left

KIND Board Chair Pamela Passman;
Casey Ryan, Reed Smith LLP

Shehzad Siddiqui, Pfizer;
Youjin Choi, Lexeo Therapeutics

Carolyn Ye and Mimra Aslaoui
from Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Center

Renata Parras, Paul Hastings LLP;
David Chenkin, Zeichner Ellman

Andrew Choi, Holland & Knight LLP;
Miri Miller, Axiom

Right

Emily Norman, KIND; Zikora Agbapu,
Amazon; unidentified guest; Kayla
Strauss and Diala Alqadi, Hogan Lovells

Christine A. Tallon, Steven Cooper, and
Roseanne Lentin from Reed Smith LLP

Jorge Escobedo and Matthew
Comiskey, Covington & Burling LLP;
Julissa Saragoza-Arroyo, Kirkland &
Ellis LLP; Jesenia Brown, A&O
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1 Luis | *La Gran Sabana* [The Great Savanna]

Acrylic paint on canvas

“The original idea was drawing the *troupiat* that was coming out, that was breaking free of the chains, showing what it would mean to break free into a better place, into a free space and a space where one can be oneself, one can have the freedom of expression, One would not have fears, one would not live with the worries of what one is going to eat, what is going to happen, the worry that you are in the street and you could be robbed or any of those kinds of things.”

2 Osmar | *Untitled*

Pencil on paper

“This drawing was done using a very small pencil. I did it one day after coming back from work and that day I had so many memories in my head. The drawing is of my sister’s story. In her childhood, she suffered so much. She didn’t have a childhood like other girls her age. She was mistreated, and these are bad memories which up until this day, we’ve surpassed. The band-aid on the nose represents that she’s doing much better than before. That now, she has the childhood that she wanted, has the liberty to be happy, to see a new world, and to reach the dreams she’s set out for herself. Thanks to our father, we have a better life, and thanks to him, we are in a country that gives us so many opportunities. I want him to feel proud of us.”

3 Filipe | *Eternal Orbit*

Acrylic paint on board

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Manion Gaynor & Manning, LLP	O'Neil & Hauser PC	Ruzicka, Wallace Coughlin, LLP	Taylor & Cohen LLP
Manning Gross + Massenburg LLP	Orbach Huff Suarez & Henderson LLP	Ryley Carlock & Applewhite, PC	Taylor English Duma LLP
Marjorie S. Schultz & Associates	Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP	Saiber LLC	Taylor Lee & Associates LLC
Marotta & Garvey	Osha Liang LLP	Salmen Navarro & Lavergne, PC	Tesoroni & LeRoy, Attorneys at Law
Mason & Black LLP	Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP	Sanford Heisler Sharp LLP	Teynier Pic*
Mason Hayes & Curran*	Owen, Gleaton, Egan, Jones & Sweeney, LLP	Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP	Thompson Coburn LLP
Matheson*	Pabian & Russell, LLC	Saxena White A	Thompson Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP
Mayer Brown LLP	Pacifica Law Group LLP	Schiff Hardin LLP	Tomlinson & Torres PC
Maynard Nexsen LLP	Pappas and Lenzo LLP	Schomer Law Group	Trenk Isabel Attorneys at Law
McCarter & English, LLP	Parenti Law PLLC	Schroeter Goldmark & Bender Law Firm	Trillos Ballerini Law Firm
McCormick Barstow LLP	Park Jensen Bennett LLP	Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt PC	Triumph Law Advisors PLLC
McDermott Will & Emery LLP	Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP	Schwartz Hannum PC	Tromberg, Morris & Poulin PLLC
McDowell & Hetherington LLP	Parker Ibrahim & Berg LLC	Scott & Associates, Inc.	Trouman Pepper LLP
McGoldrick & McGoldrick	Pashman Stein Walder Hayden PC	Sedgwick LLP	Tucker Ellis LLP
McGuireWoods LLP	Patridge Snow & Hahn LLP	Segal Roitman, LLP	Turner & Tang PC
McHaffey & Associates	Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP	Seyfarth Shaw LLP	Twomey, Latham, Shea, Kelley,
McKool Smith PC	Paul Hastings LLP	Shaheen & Gordon, PA	Dubin & Quartararo, LLP
McLane Middleton	Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP	Shaklee & Oliver, PS	Valencia and Associates PC
McManis Faulkner	Payton Jones Law	Shapiro Sher Guinot & Sandler	Vargas Law Firm
McNeely, Hare & War LLP	Peña & Bromberg, PC	Shartsis Friese LLP	Vedder Price
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Meunier Carlin & Curfman LLC	Pierce Atwood LLP	Shipley Snell Montgomery LLP	Wade Clark Mulcahy
Meyers Law Group	Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP	Shipman & Goodwin LLP	Walker Wilcox Mastousek LLP
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP	Pinsent Masons*	Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.	Walsworth LLP
Miles, Sears & Eanni	Pollock Cohen LLP	Sidley Austin LLP	Waranch & Brown, LLC
Miller & Chevalier Chartered	Polsinelli LLP	Silva, Kettlewell & Pignatelli LLP	Warner Bates
Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP	Pondeva & Sohrab, APC	Silverman I Thompson I Slutkin I White LLC	Warren Lex LLP
Miller Starr Regalia	Porter Hedges LLP	The Simon Law Group LLP	Washington Immigration Defense Group, PLLC
Mills & Born	Potomac Law Group*	Simmons & Simmons*	Weber Gallagher Simpson
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris,	Preg, O'Donnell & Gillett	Simms Showers LLP	Stapleton Fires & Newby LLP
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Mirrione, Shaughnessy & Uitti, LLC	Pachios, Chartered, LLP	Sinapi Law Associates, Ltd.	Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial
Mirsky Law Group, LLC	Prince Lobel Tye LLP	Sinton Scott Minock Kerew	Weiner, Spivey & Miller, PLC
The Modi Law Firm PLLC	Proskauer Rose LLP	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP	Werner Ahari Mangel LLP
Moore & Lee, LLP	Pryor Cashman LLP	Skoloff & Wolfe	Whelan, Corrente, Flanders, Kinder & Siket LLP
Morgan & Akins, PLLC	Quan Law Group, PLLC	The Sladkus Law Group	White & Case LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP	Quarles & Brady LLP	Smith Baluch LLP	Whiteford Taylor & Preston LLP
Morgan & Morgan	Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP	Snell & Wilmer	Willenken LLP
Morneau Law Offices	Radler White Parks & Alexander LLP	Somach Simmons & Dunn	Williams & Connolly LLP
Morris, Manning, & Martin, LLP	Reed Smith LLP	Sound Law Center	Williams, Kastner & Gibbs PLLC
Morrison & Foerster LLP	Resolute Legal PLLC	South Sound Law PS	Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Moses & Singer LLP	Reynolds Frizzell LLP	Spaulding McCullough & Tansil LLP	Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
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Mulinazzi Law Office LLC	Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti LLP	SSL Law Firm LLP	Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP	Rivera Julka Law Group	Stagg, Terenzi, Confusione, & Wabnik, LLP	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC
Murry Osorio PLLC	Rivkin Radler LLP	Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler	Winstead PC
Muskat, Mahony, Devine & Moses, LLP	Robertson Anchutz Vettters LLC	Alhadeff & Sitterson, PA	Winston & Strawn LLP
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Nossaman LLP	Rosenberg & Estis, PC	Strasser Asatirian LLC	
Nova Law Group	Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP	Sugarman Law PC	

Law Schools

American University, Washington College of Law	Houston College of Law Randall O. Sorrels Legal Clinic	University of Baltimore Law School
Barry University School of Law	John Marshall Law School	University of California, Berkeley School of Law
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University	Loyola Law School	University of California-Irvine School of Law
Boston College Law School	New York University School of Law	University of California-Los Angeles School of Law
Boston University School of Law	Northeastern University School of Law	University of Houston Law Center
Chapman University	Pepperdine University School of Law	University of La Verne College of Law
City University of New York School of Law	Roger Williams University School of Law	University of Maine, Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic
Columbia University and Columbia University School of Law	Rutgers University School of Law	University of Maryland School of Law
Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America	San Joaquin College of Law	University of Massachusetts School of Law-Dartmouth
Elon University School of Law	Seattle University School of Law	University of Texas, Austin, School of Law
Emory University School of Law, Barton Child Law and Policy Center	Seton Hall University of Law	University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
Florida A&M University College of Law	SMU Dedman School of Law	University of the District of Columbia
Fordham University School of Law	Southwestern Law School	David A. Clarke School of Law
Georgia State University School of Law	St. John's University School of Law	University of Washington School of Law
George Washington University Law School	Suffolk University Law School	University of Wisconsin School of Law
Harvard Law School	Touro College - Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center	Wayne State University Law School
Hofstra University's Maurice Deane School of Law	Trinity Washington University	Western New England University School of Law
		Whittier Law School

Bar Associations

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers	Federal Bar Association—New Jersey Chapter	Montgomery County Bar Association
American Bar Association	Hispanic National Bar Association	National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
American Immigration Lawyers Association	Houston Association of Women Attorneys	National Association of Women Lawyers
Association of Corporate Counsel	Houston Northwest Bar Association	New Jersey State Bar Association
Baltimore City Bar Association	Houston Young Lawyers Association	Texas State Bar Association
Boston Bar Association	King County Bar Association	Washington State Bar Association
Brooklyn Bar Association	Maryland State Bar Association	Westchester County Bar Association
Eastern Bar Association of Los Angeles	Mexican American Bar Association	
Fairfax County Bar Association	Minority Corporate Counsel Association	



Robin | *El Vuelo Libre* [Flying Free] | Mixed media on canvas

“The piece represents the national bird of where I am from (Guatemala), but more than that, it represents flying free and alone in life, seeing the elements of the earth from up high, the brown color that is like the soil, the ground where I am from. I grew up in the dirt streets seeing the dust come up and sticking to my feet, the coffee that is the fruit that provides the most work and that you work on the most there. The blue like my flag and the small symbols there, like the subject I most enjoy at school; mathematics and the figures that appear in numbers. The rain that gets people wet without seeing who; the spots like that boy that one day would only draw lines and continues to do so, but only straighter, and the black that can’t be missed anywhere, not even within the light that has darkness. But the bird that shines through all that with the colors like the old and the new, but that will never lose the colors given by God.”

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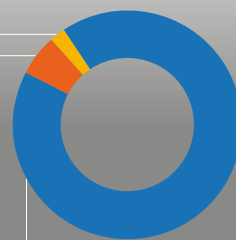
KIND is committed to fiscal responsibility. We are proud to receive the highest ranking from Charity Navigator for our strong financial health and ongoing accountability and transparency practices.

Revenue

Assets

Liabilities and Net Assets

How we used our funds



93%

\$174 million on programs

U.S. legal and social services: \$165,144,336

International legal and social services: \$5,887,670

Advocacy and communications: \$2,955,185

5%

\$10.1 million on management and general operations

2%

\$3.6 million on global fundraising efforts

These figures are unaudited.



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Washington, DC 20038

supportkind.org
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Field Offices

United States

Atlanta, GA	Houston, TX	Providence, RI
Baltimore, MD	Jacksonville, FL	San Francisco, CA
Boston, MA	Los Angeles, CA	Seattle, WA
Fairfax, VA	Newark, NJ	Washington, DC
Fresno, CA	New York, NY	
Hartford, CT	Orlando, FL	

Europe

Brussels, Belgium

Mexico

Ciudad de México
Ciudad Juárez
Tapachula
Tijuana

ON THE COVER

Robin

La Carretera [The Highway]

mixed media on canvas

One morning I was on my way to work and as always, I like to watch the sky, how it dawns and how it gets dark as well. And that morning the moon was bright and it had some clouds, which were covering it a little bit, but you could see its light and I liked it. And I said to myself, I'm going to try to make a new painting. And in that same morning I started to try a new style of painting, a new style, filled with layers and thin layers with water.

Una mañana que iba de camino a mi trabajo y como siempre, me gusta ver el cielo, cómo amanece y como anochece también. Y esa mañana la luna estaba brillante y tenía unas nubes, las cual la estaban cubriendo un poco, pero se veía su luz y me gustó. Y dije yo, dentro de mí, voy a tratar de hacer una pintura nueva. Y en esa misma me puse a probar un estilo de pintar, un estilo nuevo, lleno con capas y unas capas delgadas con agua.