

# UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE MINORS



*"There were wars in Congo. They killed my Grandfather and we had to leave for a refugee camp in Uganda. We are very lucky because after 7 years, we were admitted to the United States of America and we had hope."*

*~Esperant: URM, Grandson & Brother*

# UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE MINORS

In 1980, LSS/NCA expanded its programming to serve unaccompanied refugee minors (URM)-- children who made their journey to the United States without parents or other guardians.

Since then, the United States has experienced waves of immigrant children crossing the southern border in an attempt to escape gang violence and death, as well as an increase in children separated from their families during the wars in the Middle East. These children often experience tremendous adversity in their journey to a new life, striving to overcome unique acculturation and emotional challenges.

Every year, the LSS/NCA URM Program serves approximately 40 children from all over the world through foster care services and benefits. The program ensures that youth develop the appropriate skills to enter adulthood and achieve self-sufficiency. As with traditional foster care services, the program encourages reunification with family whenever possible through family tracing and coordination with federal partners. However, if reunification is not possible, the program creates a case specific permanency plan for each child.

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area  
[LSSNCA.org](http://LSSNCA.org)



## FACT CHECK

Since 1980, almost 13,000 minors have entered the URM program. At its peak in 1985, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) provided protection to 3,828 children in care. Now in various states, there are about 1300 children in care\*

\* Office of Refugee Resettlement; An Office of the Administration for Children and Families; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



## VOLUNTEER

Please open your home and heart to a child in need by becoming a foster parent OR become a Community Advocate to assist our staff at foster parent recruiting events.



## CONTACT US

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