

Here are seven concrete ways you can really help, now.

1. Donate Directly to the Families

Most charities say the best way to help is through financial donations, not product donations. Well-vetted groups that provide humanitarian aid to migrants include [Pueblo Sin Fronteras](#), an organization with two shelters along the border of the Sonoran Desert, and [Border Angels](#), a volunteer coalition that provides water, free legal help, and emergency services.

You can also donate to [Immigrant Families Together](#), a group started by women in New York, working to raise bond money for parents who were separated from their children at the border. They also work to arrange long-term housing and pro bono attorneys for immigrants while they await trial.

Organizations like [United We Dream](#), the [American Civil Liberties Union](#), and [Mijente](#) are also helping coordinate advocacy and services for families.

2. Support the Lawyers Fighting for Them

By donating to [RAICES](#), you support every aspect of legal aid for immigrant families. The group aims to provide legal services to every released unaccompanied child in the state, which could be around 13,000 kids. They also aim to pay off immigration bonds to free asylum seekers from ICE custody, letting them reunite with their children. You can also donate directly through their website.

If you want to donate your time, help interview migrants at the border. If you want to visit the border area, have legal or paralegal experience, and speak Spanish, Mam, Q'eqchi' or K'iche', sign up to volunteer with the [Texas Civil Rights Project](#). [The Legal Aid Justice Center](#) also looks for volunteers who live in the Virginia area and can help with translation or administrative tasks.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association and the American Immigration Council have also started an initiative called the [Immigration Justice Campaign](#) in order to increase legal representation for detained immigrants. They currently need volunteers in *Georgia, Colorado, Texas, New Jersey, Ohio, and Washington*, as well as remotely. They're looking for pro bono attorneys and volunteers who can help with interpretation and mental health evaluations.

Here are several other local organizations providing legal aid: [New Sanctuary Coalition in New York](#), [Las Americas in El Paso in Texas](#), [Americans for Immigrant Justice in Florida](#), and [Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund in Colorado](#).

3. Donate to Several Places at Once

[ActBlue](#) splits your donations between 12 different groups. The nonprofit fundraising platform for liberal causes has set up a page that benefits *Al Otro Lado, The Florence Project, Neta, Innovation Law Lab, Fuerza Del Valle, The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, We Belong Together, United We Dream, The Women's Refugee Commission, The ACLU, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project, Human Rights First,*

and *La Union de Pueblo Entero*. You can donate any amount, and split it however you want between the groups.

4. Fostering

Most of the children coming to the US have family members in this country who can care for them. However, many families are afraid to come forward. If you are interested in being a foster family for some of the very young children or pregnant girls who are arriving, the best advice is to begin the process to become licensed foster parents. This is run through your local child welfare organization and is required by the *Office of Refugee Resettlement*. For more details, look at the page of the *Office of Refugee Resettlement's website*, and at the two organizations that generally manage foster care for unaccompanied minors: *the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops* and *the Lutheran Social Services for Children and Families*.

5. If you know a refugee who has been detained

For legal assistance for detained refugees, contact the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) hotline or *American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)*. To contact UNCHR from outside a detention center, dial 1-888-272-1913; to contact UNHCR from inside a detention center, dial 566#. To contact *AILA*, see details on their webpage.

6. Ways to support adults (who are also often parents)

Visit immigrants in detention centers in your area. Not all detention centers are at the border. ICE has hundreds of detention centers all over the country. You are allowed to visit detention centers. Many areas have visitation programs so that you can volunteer to be a visitor and provide moral support for immigrants in detention. Though there are no detention centers in Delaware, you can find a list of detention centers at <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/visitation-network> to find others in neighboring states.

Volunteer with local service providers in your area to accompany immigrants to immigration court and ICE check-in appointments: Some organizations coordinate accompaniment to court or ICE check-in appointments. Others need interpreters or people to babysit children while they interview parents. There is not one national organization overseeing these local efforts.

7. Call the National Families Together Headline

RAICES has also set up a hotline (866-378-2667) run by volunteers who are available to answer calls from 10 AM to 6 PM EST. These volunteers are trained to gather information about separated parents and will work to then locate detained parents and connect them to pro bono legal services. Callers can also leave voicemails at any time of the day.

Similarly, *Vera Institute of Justice's Immigrant Connection Project* is working to connect parents who have been separated from their children with the attorneys in contact with their kids. If you're a legal service provider who knows of a parent looking for a child, contact *ICON* at 800-845-8372 or familiasunidas@vera.org.