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ChildFund International to Serve Children Still Separated From Families at the U.S. Border

Right now, as policies and procedures surrounding children separated from their families continue to evolve, a major concern has yet to be resolved: the plight of the thousands still parted from their parents. ChildFund International is deeply concerned about their well-being.

“These kids are doubly traumatized, first in the dangerous journey from their home countries and then in being taken from the people who love them,” said Anne Lynam Goddard, ChildFund’s president and CEO. “They need much more than basic sustenance. They need emotional support and care. Children who are not in the care of their parents are also even more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.”

ChildFund has worked since 1989 in McAllen, Texas, the epicenter of the current border crisis, where the immigration issue, including family separation, has smoldered for years preceding the worldwide outcry of recent weeks. ChildFund also works with children and families south of the border in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras to address root causes of migration, including extreme violence and lack of economic opportunity.

With our long presence and solid relationships in the Rio Grande region, ChildFund is well-positioned to support separated children still waiting to reunite with their families, some of them for months. ChildFund has deployed its child protection experts to the area to assess the situation and identify where our contributions are most needed.

“ChildFund’s goal is always to strengthen families so they can thrive wherever they are, and so that they can meet their children’s needs,” Goddard said. “Research shows that fractures in these primary relationships can do lifelong damage to children’s emotional, cognitive and physical health. While we’ll work hard to help them heal from their trauma and build their resilience, we will also advocate most strongly that children be returned to their families, where they belong.”

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ChildFund International partners with communities throughout Asia, Africa and the Americas – including the United States – to create lasting, positive change for children. Our programs address the underlying conditions that prevent children and youth from achieving their full potential. Last year, we reached 11.4 million children and family members. Approximately 200,000 Americans support our work by sponsoring individual children or investing in ChildFund programs. Within the U.S. government, we advocate to elevate and advance the issues of international child protection and child well-being across U.S. foreign assistance policy and funding priorities. Find out more at www.childfund.org.