



REFUGEE CHILDREN CENTER

San Fernando Valley • North Hills, California

2025



NEW

Annual Report

www.refugeechildrencenter.org

*Culturally grounded, trauma-informed,
and holistic support for children,
caregivers, and families rebuilding
their lives after migration.*

A Message from Our Executive Director

In 2025, we braced ourselves. We knew the year would be hard — hard for our community, hard for our families, and hard for the children who had already survived so much. So we prepared. We intentionally planned Know Your Rights presentations, built out wellness programming, and laid the foundation for healing in our garden and across all of our programs.

By mid-year, what we feared became reality. Intense, unconstitutional raids, violence, and persecution swept through Los Angeles, forcing us to eliminate large-scale gatherings, activate our ICE protocol, and pivot rapidly to keep our families safe. What followed was one of the most hostile and draining years our organization has ever faced — and one of the clearest signs that our work is more necessary than ever.

We did not pull back. We leaned in.

Through it all, the Refugee Children Center continued to show up through our Children & Families Department and our Legal Resources Department — both embodying the heart of our mission: to provide culturally grounded, trauma-informed, and holistic support to children, caregivers, and families as they rebuild their lives after migration. We deepened our programming, strengthened our partnerships, and expanded access to essential resources for both new and returning participants.

None of this happened without you. Your tangible support, alongside the dedication of our staff and leadership, made it possible for us to offer what our families needed most — a healing embrace and a dignified welcome, now more than ever.

As we move into 2026, we carry forward everything this year taught us: that our model works, that our community is resilient, and that the need for holistic, wraparound care does not pause.

Thank you for standing with us.

Mayra Medina-Núñez

Executive Director



Children & Families Department

- 215** active participants received direct support
- 50** new families joined RCC in 2025
- 64** families participated in enrichment activities (*healing & connection focus*)
- 30** community members served through outreach and collaborations
- 19** families/month received diapers, wipes, and clothing (*Baby2Baby & For the Kids LA*)
- 38** families supported through the Back-to-School Giveaway (*For the Kids LA & IMMIGO*)

Legal Resources Department

- 30** youth and families received ongoing legal guidance and case follow-up
- 7** youth began the SIJS process (*low bono, IMMPowered Law Office*)
- 4** youth received pro bono SIJS representation (*Pitzer College*)
- 40+** families referred for free immigration consultations (*IMMIGO & partner attorneys*)
- 6** Know Your Rights presentations facilitated

Critical legal support provided:

- Pro se asylum applications
- Motions to change hearing formats and venues
- Employment Authorization applications
- Individualized case support led by a partially DOJ-accredited representative, with support from student interns and volunteers
- All legal filings reviewed by an immigration attorney, ensuring accuracy and timeliness despite limited access to paid counsel

Family Preparedness & Stability

- Emergency preparedness plans developed with families
- Support for parents applying for U.S. passports for U.S.-born children
- Guidance on dual citizenship options when available
- Parent trainings on third-party caregiver consent documents in the event of detention or deportation



Donations & Resource Distribution

- \$75,000+** in essential resources distributed year-to-date
(clothing, diapers, school supplies, groceries, toys, gift cards)
- \$25,000+** in financial grants distributed to participants
- \$10,000+** in fellowships for students



Caregiver Enrichment & Wellness

- 100+** caregiver sessions *(yoga, creative workshops, parenting & ESL classes, community gatherings)*

Children & Youth Programs

- 20+** art-based intervention sessions
- 14** children and caregivers served through the Spring Break Program
- 37** children (ages 18 months–5 years) engaged in Nuevos Comienzos
- 40** youth engaged in Raíces Fuertes Youth Empowerment Program
- 15** youth reached through the Nueva Visión Music Program (6-week series: piano, guitar, drums)
- 1st** cohort of Guardianas del Jardín trained and meeting weekly

Community Events & Partnerships

- 2** cultural field trips to the Skirball Cultural Center
- 30+** families served at the Zona Libre community gathering
- 12** families participated in the Nature for All outdoor education series
- 12** Community Garden events held
- 6-week** youth series in ongoing collaboration with Nature for All and CHIRLA

Referrals & Case Management

- 20** families received individualized case management through MSW interns
Referrals provided for: child development services (The Help Group, Regional Center), housing, Medi-Cal, and other services.



REFUGEE CHILDREN CENTER



2025 Leadership

Executive Committee

Anchulee Raongthum, President — *Director of Education, Outreach & Support
at Square Group, LLC (ASG)*

Charles Laing, Treasurer — *Tax Manager at Clumeck Stern Schenkelberg & Getzoff*

Gabriela Lagarda Arias, Secretary — *Former Director, Creative Marketing at Participant Media*

Board Members

Aimee Porter — *Early Childhood Trauma Specialist, Children's Book Author and Photographer*

Amanda Hillsberg Arya — *Writer & Producer*

Leslie Robin — *Nonprofit Strategist Consultant*

Lori B. Schoenberg — *Immigration Attorney, Private Practice*

Rosa Navarrete — *Writer & Director*

Thea Smolinski — *Art Advisor and Private Collection Manager*

2025 Advisory Council

Ivelise Markovits — *Former Chief Executive Officer at Penny Lane Centers, Retired*

Ninette Ayala — *Fundraiser Consultant at Ayala-Brown Consulting LLC*

Guillermo Torres — *Immigration Program Director at CLUE (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice)*

David Farley — *Former Director, Justice and Compassion Essential Ministry Team,
Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Retired*

Emeritus Board

Rev. Frederick Birten Morris, Founder — *Former Executive Director for the Refugee Children Center
and Former Senior Pastor at the North Hills Hispanic Mission United Methodist Church, Retired*

2025 Staff

Mayra Medina-Núñez — *Executive Director*

Frida Ramírez Aldapa — *Operations and Volunteer Manager*

Carolyn Mendoza, MSW — *Former Program Manager*

Andrea Murillo — *Coordinator for the Children and Families' Program*

Natalie Jubrail — *Former Coordinator for Children and Families' Program*

Selena Alseryani — *Former Immigration Legal Resources Coordinator*



REFUGEE CHILDREN CENTER

Student Interns

Doctor of Occupational Therapy Students

Kayla Leah Francisco

(2024–2025)

UCLA Undergraduate Students

Karla Alejandra Vásquez Pérez

Macy Benson

Jessica Bailin

Sungmin Son

Nicholas Weber

Melany Solares

Tessa Mazzocco

Emily Gharibian

Sumaiya Akbar

Selena Alseryani

Alexiss Sanchez

Leslie Sanchez

Layan Alhajii

Camila Ramos

Lizbeth Vega

Nima Kazzi

Jacqueline Marin

Sylvanna Olivas Beltran

Nathaly Gonzalez

Casandra Aguilar

Ashlyn Vales

Emily Carrera

Nat Escondido

Cassandra Cazares

Yuri Cortez

Maya Pannazo

CSUN MSW Graduate Students

José López (2024–2025)

Brynne Velasquez (2024–2025)

Diana García (2024–2025)

CSUSB Undergraduate Students

Iketra Porter

Consultants

Carlos Long — *Graphic Designer*



Volunteers



ESL Program Instructors

Jackson Gzehoviak
Flora Zemleni

Garden Program

Alban Martínez
Sebastián Araujo
Marilyn Barrientos

Tierra del Sol

Odette Limani
Olga Solis
Bryan Avelar

Art Program

KC & Aimee Porter
Beth Matthews

Enrichment Programs

Chiara Lepe

Nuevos Comienzos Program

Micaela Bronstein
Melissa Lugo
Anjelica Villa

Legal Support

Lori B. Schoenberg
Sumangala Bhattacharya
Sharilyn Nakata

Ixil Language Interpretation

Gerónimo Ramírez

Distribution of Surplus Donations at the San Diego–Tijuana Border

Reverend Joel Hortiales
Pastor Rubén Esponda





REFUGEE CHILDREN CENTER



Grants & Donors

Grants

- Adamma Foundation
- Community Partners | Flexible Funds —
The First 5 LA Early Childhood Policy Advocacy Fund
- Department of Youth Development and Liberty Hill Foundation
- Elevate Prize
- GO Campaign
- Klub Nocturno
- LA2050
- Presbytery of San Fernando: Disaster Relief PDA Grant
- Third District – Office of Lindsay Horvath
- UCLA Community Exploratory
- United in Action | Best Start San Fernando Valley Communities
- United Methodist Foundation
- WIN (Women Inspiring Next Gen)

Donors

\$50,000+

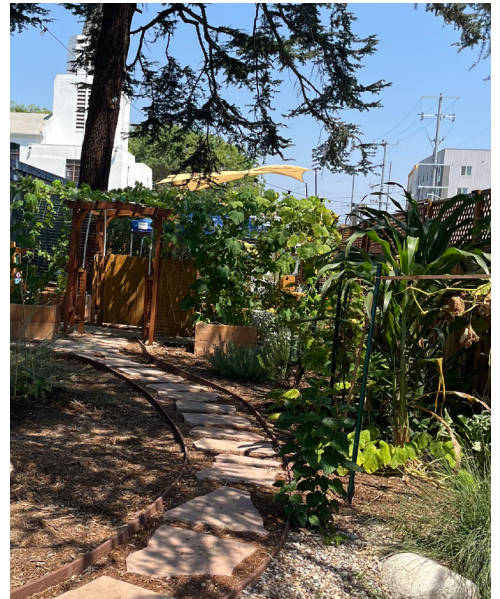
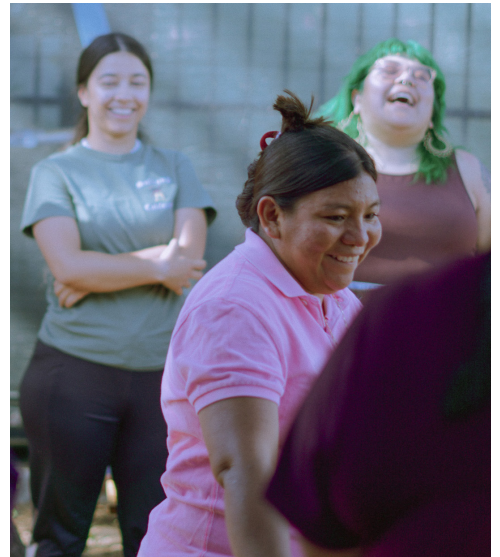
The Wilson Family Foundation
The Weber Family Fund

\$11,000 – \$25,000

Dr. Lois Henson
T. June and Simon K.C. Li Charitable Fund

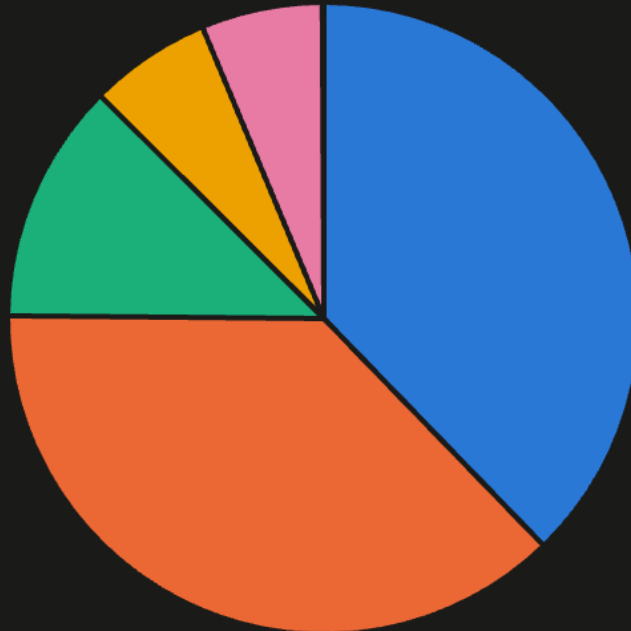
\$5,000 – \$10,000

The Martha Wells Family Foundation
Myna and Uri Herscher Family Foundation



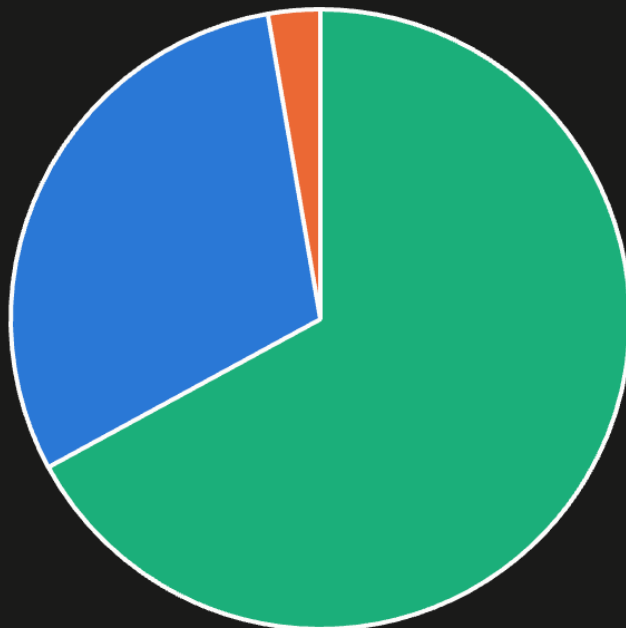
Breakdown of funding and expenses

Income – \$472,608



- Foundations – 37.8% (\$178,482)
- Other organizations – 37.4% (\$176,616)
- Individual contributions – 12.3% (\$58,319)
- Government – 6.2% (\$29,496)
- Corporations – 6.2% (\$29,318)
- Fundraising events – 0.1% (\$378)

Expenses – \$375,352



- Programming – \$251,760 (67.1%)
- Administration – \$113,386 (30.2%)
- Fund Development – \$10,206 (2.7%)

Organizations

Faith-Based Organizations

- North Hills Hispanic Mission United Methodist Church
- The Baha'i Community of Malibu Canyon
- United Methodist Foundation
- First United Methodist Church of Glendale
- Presbytery of San Fernando
- Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church
- Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church

Collaborating Organizations

- North Valley Caring Services
- Nueva Vision Community School
- Baby2Baby
- GO Campaign
- Skirball Cultural Center
- Nature for All
- Undocu Brahmas
- Tierra del Sol Foundation
- Klub Nocturno
- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- California State University, Northridge (CSUN)
- YMCA
- For the Kids LA
- Life Force Kitchen
- UNICEF UCLA





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THANK YOU

Your support makes it possible to create spaces of care, belonging, and empowerment for families rebuilding their lives with resilience and hope. Together, we are making a lasting impact.

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