

Volunteers are needed to care for and accompany thousands of unaccompanied children at the southern border. The following information provides some context.

1. Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families asked Catholic Charities to take the lead on providing care and accompaniment of thousands of unaccompanied children at the southern border.
2. Catholic Charities will receive an emergency procurement for management and youth services ASAP (possibly as early as March 26)
3. HHS/ACH is in the process of opening at least six large centers all across the country for the children to be properly housed as they await the next step(s) in the process of being united with family members.
4. The estimation is a need for 7000+ volunteers to help with the housing of these children.
5. Catholic Charities eagerly welcomes 200+ Sisters to help with this emergency situation.
6. The “work” would include working with small groups of children (@15 children) over the course of 3-4 daily shifts. The kind of work ranges from helping with documentation, contacting their family members, engaging in meaningful activities, and mostly providing a listening presence, compassion and support.
7. The volunteers do NOT have to speak Spanish. While it would be a help, the facilities will provide interpreters.
8. The HHS/ACF will transport the children, ensure vaccinations and provide basic necessities.

If you are interested in volunteering for this emerging response to the current border crisis, please have them contact: Kristan Schlichte. Her email is: [kschlichte@catholiccharitiesusa.org](mailto:kschlichte@catholiccharitiesusa.org). Kristan will track the volunteers and when Catholic Charities receives further information about the centers, the volunteers will be contacted and mobilized. For now what is needed is a response of potential volunteers who can be contacted when needed.

For financial donations, please continue to use the Catholic Charities website: <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>. Given the need for clothing, food, supplies, bus tickets, etc. donations to Catholic Charities allows for a distribution of resources over a vast range of needs many of which do not receive some of the notoriety but are in very serious need of all kinds of resources.