

## Post-Release Services for Unaccompanied Alien Children

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has been working with unaccompanied children since the 1990's to respond to children who were being smuggled into the U.S. by organized criminal gangs. Since 2003, LIRS has ensured the safe release of 1,114 children. The Family Reunification program advocates for the child's immediate and long-term best interests, ensuring that the voice of the children is a key factor in any decisions being made for their long term care.

LIRS collaborates with the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), Division of Unaccompanied Alien Children Services (DUCS) to provide high quality post-release services for unaccompanied children in federal custody. LIRS provides services which promote child well-being and safety through provision of comprehensive supportive services.

LIRS provides post-release services in partnership with a national network of child welfare agencies specializing in home assessments, crisis intervention, foster care, adoption, and family preservation. LIRS ensures efficient, effective, and comprehensive quality services through ongoing training, technical assistance, evaluation and program monitoring.

LIRS provides the following post-release services:

- Follow-up home visits and case management services to children and their sponsors.
- Ongoing psycho-educational support and opportunities to foster community integration of minors released in the New York area.
- Advocacy and support to unaccompanied children and their sponsors to overcome barriers in accessing services.

**Although we will provide services to children released to all parts of the US, our preferred regions:**

- Nassau County, NY
- Long Island, NY
- North Carolina
- Maryland
- Arkansas
- Massachusetts
- Northern Virginia (within 50 miles of Washington, DC)
- San Francisco, CA (counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin Solano, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sacramento)

**For inquires, referrals and questions please contact:**

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