

Encourage
Enrich
Equip



THE BARNABAS

2022

**Crisis Care
Training International**

A Ministry of

WEC International

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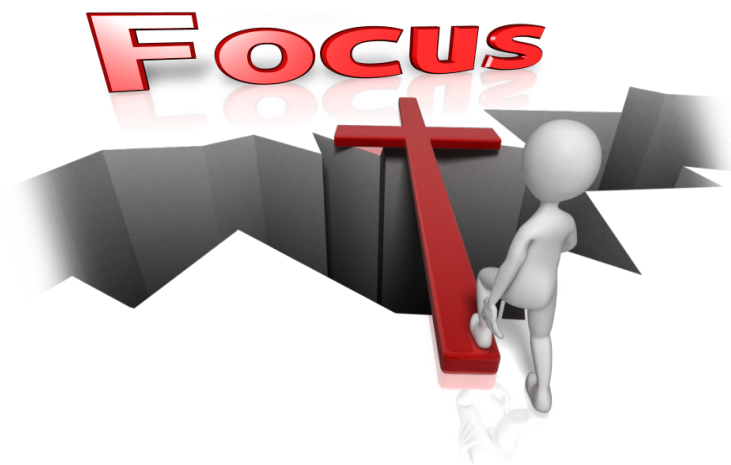
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IN FOCUS

May is Foster Care Awareness Month. I think it is quite appropriate that May is also Mental Health Awareness Month. What a great time to bring awareness of the trauma children often experience through having to be separated from their biological families, and how their mental health can be affected. There is a great deal of vicarious trauma that can occur, not only to the child, but also to the families who choose to be the hands and feet of God to these children through fostering. The need is greater than ever.

We pray that this issue encourages you, equips you, and enriches you as you consider how you can come along side foster children and families!

Serving Him Together,

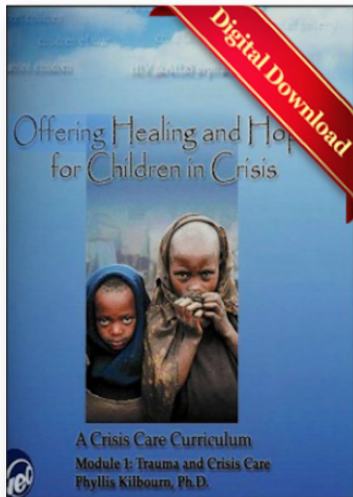
[Amy Wilson](#)

[Director of Education, CCTI](#)



Crisis Care Training International

Children's traumatic experiences are on display for the world to see, and children are marinating in trauma. Offering healing and hope for children in crisis is the heartbeat of our mission.



Crisis Care Training International presents our Trauma and Crisis Course!

~Offering Healing and Hope for Children in Crisis~

Monday, June 6, 2022, through Friday, June 17, 2022.
One class will be offered for 1.5 hours each day
Monday through Friday via live Zoom.

1800-1930-Ukraine and Romania

1700-1830-Poland, Czech Republic, Germany

11AM-12:30 EDT-USA

Offering Healing and Hope to Children in Crisis ~will include the following topics~

- Childhood Development/Attachment and Bonding
- Understanding Trauma in Children
- The Cycle of Violence and Intervention Planning
- Trauma and Loss
- Children and Grief
- Children's Emotional Health in Trauma/Trauma's Impact on Behavior
- Setting Boundaries/Structure
- Talking and Time
- Organized Play
- Parental Support
- Spiritual Nurture for Wounded Children
- Care for the Caregiver



Crisis Care
Training
International



Cost: \$125US, Limited Scholarships Available.

To register and for more information email:
Denise McCarthy at
denise@ccti-wec.org

<https://crisiscaretraining.org>

All classes will be in English with Russian and Ukrainian Simultaneous Translations.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AT THE BORDER:

What's happening and how you can help

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS NEED SAFE AND LOVING FOSTER HOMES NOW.

The need for foster care has greatly increased over the last few years. Please read the attached to learn of ways you can pray and potentially serve children in need.

What is going on right now at the border?

Fleeing violence and extreme poverty in their home countries, large numbers of Central American children and families are seeking asylum at the southern border of the United States—including thousands of children unaccompanied by parents or legal guardians.



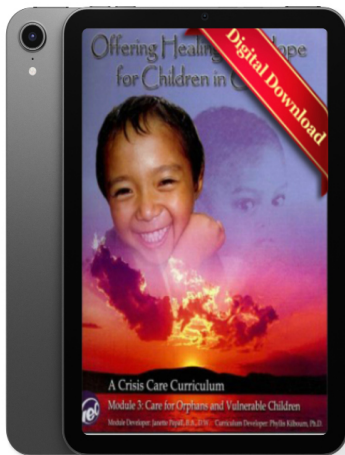
The current situation is part of a years-long crisis.

In the past few years, the dismantling of an already broken asylum system made it nearly impossible for children and families to seek asylum at the southern border, regardless of their background or circumstances.

This has led to a backlog of asylum-seekers, many of whom cannot return to their countries because of life-threatening situations and have no choice but to remain in dangerous, make-shift camps along the border, where gangs run rampant and violence is common.

[The COVID-19 pandemic has only worsened the scope of the problem.](#) In 2020, due to health concerns, the federal government banned all asylum-seekers from entering the country. This policy is still in place, and many adults and families are being turned back at the border. But the current administration, following a 2020 federal court order, has changed the rule for children unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

Continued...



Expelling these children back into Mexico or Central America would put them at severe risk of being abused, trafficked, and exploited. Instead, the U.S. government keeps them in temporary holding cells or shelters until a safe home can be found.

Unfortunately, the number of unaccompanied children crossing the border has wholly overwhelmed the immigration system, leading to unsafe and overcrowded conditions where they're being held.

Why are so many people from Central America trying to cross the border and seeking asylum in the United States?

The Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala have one of the highest murder rates in the world and high rates of extreme poverty. Many people in these countries live in constant fear of gang violence. To make matters worse, the pandemic has further destabilized this region. As a result, thousands of families—and unaccompanied children—flee the region to seek asylum in another country.

Asylum is a well-established, internationally recognized legal process where someone with a credible fear of returning to their home country can petition the government of another country to seek refuge there. President Biden and his administration have pledged to reform the asylum process, but in the meantime, thousands of people are waiting in unsafe conditions.

It's hard to comprehend a child fleeing by themselves to a different country out of a desperate hope that they might find safety and refuge. Yet this is the heartbreaking reality.

[Read more](#) about the plight of Central American children seeking asylum in the U.S.



Continued...

What is happening to the unaccompanied minors apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol?

Unaccompanied minors as young as seven years old are being placed in holding facilities until they are transferred to the custody of [the Department of Health and Human Services](#), which works to find them a safe sponsor—usually a family member in the United States—until the courts decide their immigration case.

The law clearly states that children cannot be held in a Border Patrol holding cell for more than 72 hours. But because the system is so overwhelmed right now, children are often being held longer. And as holding centers overflow, children are being placed in facilities meant for adults or even moved to temporary influx shelters in places like convention centers.

These circumstances compound the trauma of their journey.

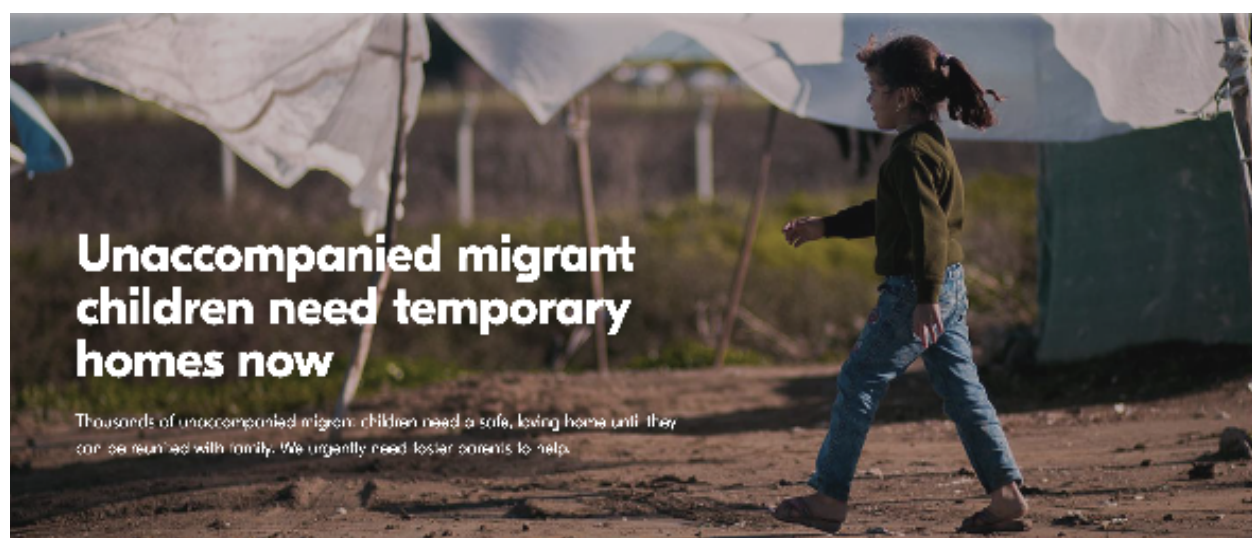
How can I help these children?

The best way to get kids out of holding cells is to move them into safe, temporary homes. Our [Transitional Foster Care](#) program provides unaccompanied minors with safe, loving foster homes until they can be reunited with their families. We desperately need more foster families to welcome these vulnerable children. COVID-19 vaccines are now available for children in foster care, their foster families, and their caseworkers to keep everyone safe.

These children have been through traumatic circumstances that no child should ever experience. Can you let unaccompanied children know they are safe and loved? Learn more at our [Transitional Foster Care homepage](#).

We are dramatically expanding our Transitional Foster Care program to meet this urgent humanitarian need.

About the Author: Brad Kramer, content writer, used by permission



STEPPING UP

by Lauren Clark



The Lord first started to grow my heart for children in foster care during my sophomore year of college. I remember going to a seminar where I heard a former foster youth tell his story, talking about how his dad would burn cigarette butts in his arm as a punishment until his teacher finally noticed. My heart broke as he went into detail about getting taken from his home as an elementary-aged child and then put in a new house that felt unfamiliar, scary, and lonely. The following summer, I went to Uganda and saw the desperate need at a babies' home. Again, my heart broke as I saw these children born into situations that hardly even gave them a chance at life. Then my senior year, I wrote a paper and my heart broke once again as I wrote out statistic after statistic about what often happens to teens who age out of the foster care system. My heart wanted to adopt every child right then and there as I wrote out things like, "foster care to human trafficking pipeline.." or how I realized that almost 30% of these kids would experience homelessness by the time they were twenty-one years old.

Foster care is a complex and challenging issue, and there are many sides and moving parts and areas of injustice all wrapped up in it. The main reasons children end up in the system are abuse, neglect, parental drug addiction, or incarceration. It makes no difference whether the child was a baby or a teen or whether the parents were abusive or not. The child inevitably faces a tremendous amount of fear, anxiety, grief, loss, and trauma when taken from their home and from everything they've known and put in a new, strange place. They don't know if they will see their parents or siblings again. They don't know how long they'll be in this house or if they'll move to another home. They don't know how these new parents will treat them. Stability and consistent attachment are both vital for children. These kids often don't receive either, and it's so damaging.

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There are several different ways to fight this issue, but the gap which specifically stuck out to me is the lack of followers of Jesus who are willing to open their homes as foster parents. I do not believe everyone is called to foster care. However, when I hear that there are over 500 children in the Wake County, North Carolina, foster care system (with less than 200 homes), and when I look around at one church of about 1200 people and can only name a few foster parents, I know that this cannot be right. There is a gap between what Scripture says and what I see followers of Jesus living out. Therefore, I feel specifically called to rouse the church to step into this injustice area and bring gospel hope here. I've seen the impact a safe, loving, God-fearing home can have on a foster child. I've watched foster children who have been intentionally pursued, who have been loved well, and who have gotten baptized. And I will never get over how beautiful it is.

I also want to be clear that there are many ways to step into foster care without becoming a foster parent. We have volunteers at our church who are involved in the ministry simply by providing a free night of babysitting to a foster family. Others sign up to provide a meal when a family receives a new placement, while others help plan events or mentor foster children. Indeed, there are a million ways to get involved based on your gifts and interests. What may seem like small ways to serve are actually huge ways to help, and I believe they will have an eternal impact. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and in this case, it is absolutely true.

Biography

My name is Lauren Clark, I was born and raised in Charlotte, NC and moved to Raleigh, NC when I started school at NC State in 2016. Four years later I graduated with a bachelor's in social work and a heart for foster care and adoption. I started working for my church in Raleigh, working with our local nonprofit partnerships and launching our foster care and adoption ministry. It's been so encouraging seeing the Lord move in powerful ways through foster and adoptive families at my church and seeing Him raise up more volunteers and more families willing to enter into these often hard places.





Books:

Finding Home by Jim Daly

https://store.focusonthefamily.com/finding-home-an-imperfect-path-to-faith-and-family/?utm_source=/FindingHome&utm_medium=redirect&refcd=1290908&utm_campaign=22FOTFmag04

The Story of Foster Care by Miriam Cobb

<https://www.amazon.com/Story-Foster-Care-Miriam-Cobb/dp/1953348734#:text=Miriam%20Cobb%20is%20founder%20and,is%20created%20with%20a%20purpose>

Websites:

<https://www.fillingemptyframes.org>

<https://www.cafo.org>

