

## Unaccompanied Children in need of Accompaniment

### **R from Guatemala**

R was nine years old when her father was killed. Her mother abandoned her and told her that she did not want her in her life. She was left with her maternal grandmother, who hit her and treated her badly. In 2011, R moved to live with her paternal grandmother. Life was much better for her there, and she lived with her paternal grandmother until that grandmother's death in 2016. After that, no relative could offer R a permanent home and she fled to Minnesota, where she has some family. She does not believe she can return to Guatemala because she has no family there that would be able to support her.

R is now living alone in a rented room in St. Paul. She could use assistance with bus cards, and investigating any resources that might be available to her as an 18 year old finishing high school and living alone, such as college application resources, help with navigating nonprofits that offer assistance to low income

### **M from Mexico**

M suffered abuse throughout her childhood from her relatives. The abuse was so bad that she tried to run away, but her family found her and punished her for running away. The situation got so bad and unsafe that she fled to the U.S. M is now the mother of a very cute little toddler. M would love help with diapers and wipes, and accessing other resources that would be helpful to her and her little boy. M and her son live in Minneapolis, and speak English and Spanish.

### **S from Guatemala**

S's father died when he was 3 years old. After S's death his mother was unable to provide him with suitable clothing or shoes. S's mother did not work, and instead relied on her children to work and earn money to support the family. Sometimes there was no food available for S to eat, the food was meager or S's mother refused to give him food. S had to drop out of school to support his family. He worked 12 hours a day in dangerous conditions. S's mother beat him with a stick or a belt if he did not go to work. She also sometimes refused to feed him if he did not go to work.

S fled to the U.S. He is finishing his GED, and will graduate in one month. He will not be eligible to get a work permit for at least two more years, and in the meantime he is eager to attend technical school for construction or architecture. He would like help applying to school, and with other basic need.

### **A from Ethiopia**

A is a 19 year old young woman who fled to the U.S. alone and applied for asylum on her own at the age of 17. Her family has suffered a lot of torture and harassment from the Ethiopian government. She was believed by the government to be a supporter of the opposition party, and faced the same torture if she stayed in Ethiopia. She is living here with family friends who provide her a place to stay while she finishes high school, but she has to work to pay for food and other basic needs. She is struggling a lot knowing her family is far away and in danger. She would like to see a therapist. She also needs help with

her expenses, as it is difficult for her to make enough as a high school student to meet her basic needs. She needs food assistance, clothing, and school supplies, and assistance with looking for college scholarships that she can access as an asylum seeker.

*We also work with many folks in outstate Minnesota and South Dakota who could greatly benefit from accompaniment!*

*For example:*

**F from Guatemala**

F has suffered abuse from his father throughout his life. Since F and his siblings were seven or eight years old, their father hit them and forced them to work long hours in the fields. He hit them when they got tired from long hours of work. They did hard and dangerous work from a very young age. F fled to the U.S. to live with his sister. F and R live in Austin, MN. They would like to take English classes, and F would like to see a therapist to deal with the trauma he has survived. They would like to get a bed and somewhere to put clothes.

*Is your church interested in accompanying one of these young people? Please contact Alison Griffith with the Advocates for Human Rights at [agriffith@advrights.org](mailto:agriffith@advrights.org) or 612-746-4673, to learn more and begin walking with one of these young immigrants.*