

# YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF AN UNACCOMPANIED MINOR

Unaccompanied minors are children and young people who entered the U.S. before turning 18 and have no parent, guardian, or sponsor in the U.S. available to provide care or custody of them.



## COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Most unaccompanied children and young people in Oregon's foster care system are between 17 and 21 years old and have come from Mexico, as well as countries in Central America and Africa.

## TWO SYSTEMS OF CARE

The federal system serves all unaccompanied children and young people who cross the border without a parent or legal guardian. The state foster care system serves those who have experienced abuse and have no relative or sponsor identified to care for them.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

You can support unaccompanied minors in the Oregon foster care system by being a resource parent and family. These young people need to be connected to networks of support.

## ESTABLISHING PERMANENCY

In addition to the support of an Oregon Department of Human Services caseworker, unaccompanied minors are represented by a dependency attorney and typically by an immigration attorney who works with them to establish permanent residency in the U.S.



## WHAT DOES A RESOURCE PARENT/FAMILY DO?

As a resource parent for an unaccompanied minor, you will work with teenagers and young adults who are driven, independent and look forward to building a future in which they can be successful and support themselves and their loved ones. You will help them settle in their community and work with their caseworker and community programs to help them gain the skills to become independent. There is a special need for resource families who can speak the language of unaccompanied minors in their care, and share an understanding of their culture.



## HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

Learn more about how you can become a resource parent through the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) website, [helpafosterchild.oregon.gov](http://helpafosterchild.oregon.gov). You can also call Every Child Oregon at 1-800-331-0503 to get answers to your questions and connect with a local ODHS office.