



# AMMPARO

Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities

## AMMPARO UPDATE, Spring 2019

### Highlights in 2018

- **International engagement** to protect migrant children, youth and families in countries of origin, transit and in the US
- **116 welcoming and sanctuary congregations** in 31 synods in all 9 regions in the ELCA – now 123. See the Living Lutheran story at:  
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/01/welcoming-those-in-need/>
- **21 synods** with AMMPARO/Immigration task forces- now 22
- **8 Guardian Angel programs** – **6 new** this year in Omaha, Denver, Boston, Atlanta, Detroit and Minneapolis/St Paul – New programs in 2019 in San Francisco and Hartford
- **National advocacy leadership** in the Interfaith Immigration Coalition and regular consultation with Congress on conditions in Central America
- **5000 advocacy cards** for child protection delivered to Congress from National Youth Gathering
- **1875** advocacy messages for Dreamers, **1028** messages on the budget bill, **1000** Lutheran pledges to stand with asylum-seekers
- **Engagement in advocacy by Bishop Eaton** on DACA, Family Separation (ecumenical statement) and asylum
- **Accompaniment of the exodus** of Central Americans was accompanied – See Global Mission Updates, Spring, 2019 for the full story
- Invited presenter in Rome at the World Vision Global Partners Forum
- **Legal engagement** in pro bono work includes cases and ELCA AMMPARO Pro Bono week at Dilley. See the article at:  
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/02/hope-in-the-courtroom/>

### International Project results

#### Mennonite Social Action Commission (CASM) (2017 – 2018):

- 508 returned migrants have been enrolled in vocational training programs
- 37 returned migrants have started microenterprises
- 322 returned migrants have rec'd psychological attention; 97 of these have required extended psychological treatment to deal with the severe traumas experienced during the migrant journey
- 1,850 families have rec'd humanitarian assistance during the repatriation process (food vouchers to purchase groceries, meal tickets, school kits, emergency medicines, etc.)



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## LWF/DWS (2017 – 2018):

- 127 returned migrants (77% men, 23% women) have rec'd training for employment and/or microenterprise development
- 123 microenterprises have been started
- Savings & loan coop has been started by 12 microentrepreneurs, # of coop members has grown to 30
- 30 returned migrants have organized their own network for public communications & advocacy

## Pop No'j (figures from 2018):

- 63 returned migrant minors & their families have been accompanied in the reintegration process back to indigenous communities (more than twice as high as their annual target of 30)
- Majority of new cases accompanied during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2018 include **parents who were separated from their children at the US border** as a result of the Trump Administration's Zero Tolerance policy
- 57 returned migrant minors & their families have rec'd psychological care during home visits
- 57 migrant minors & their families have rec'd HR information & orientation
- **SLS Migrant Ministry** (figures from 2018):
  - 66 women assisted (IDP's & returned migrants)
  - All new cases (41) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2018 are single women or families headed by women – total # of persons assisted is 141 including their children & other family members

**Domestic work with LSS NY includes** representation of **42 unaccompanied children** in immigration and state courts

## Resources on AMMPARO

- Full strategy and summaries, videos, printed resources for congregations and synods in both English and Spanish at [ELCA.org/ammparo](http://ELCA.org/ammparo)
- Sign up for the ELCA Advocacy Network: [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy)
- Follow on Facebook: [Facebook.com/ELCAammparo](https://Facebook.com/ELCAammparo)