

“For now, we are her family”

More than a dozen communities of women religious have worked together in Illinois to create a place of safety for asylum-seeking young women who have aged out of federal children’s detention centers. Female asylum seekers, ages 18-22—who would otherwise have been shackled and taken to adult detention centers—are instead being welcomed into Bethany House of Hospitality in the Chicagoland area.

“ ‘Elizabeth’ arrived in the U.S. alone after her father died crossing the Rio Grande,” Dominican Sister Kathlyn Mulcahy, O.P. says of one Bethany House guest. “Efforts to find her remaining family in Angola have been unsuccessful, but she holds out hope. For now, we at Bethany House are her family as she works on her high school diploma.”

Mulcahy serves as a live-in house coordinator on the weekends while other sisters take over her duties during the week.

“Being here at Bethany House is a way to stand in solidarity with women from around the world,” Mulcahy states. “They are living signs of the brokenness of our world, yes, but they are also living signs of hope and courage working to overcome that brokenness. Their lives here proclaim that a new story is possible, one where women from around the world live and work together to support one another and bring new possibility into being.”



*Catholic sisters came together in 2017 to found and support **Bethany House of Hospitality** in the Chicago suburbs. The house is a shelter for young female asylum seekers. Without it, they would be held in adult detention centers. Pictured here are members of the board of Bethany House of Hospitality. (Photo courtesy of Bethany House of Hospitality.)*

From Vision Vocation Network: Religious orders aid and advocate for migrants

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