



Bethany House of Hospitality

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House Coordinator Stella Akello, an immigrant from Uganda, right, organizes the kitchen at the Bethany House of Hospitality on May 17, 2021, in Chicago. (Erin Hooley / Chicago Tribune)

## Offering Housing and Support Services to Young Immigrant Women as they Journey to Independence

Bethany House and its partner for young men, Viator House, were featured in a *Chicago Tribune* article by Mary Wisniewski on May 18, 2021. We have already received several contacts in response to the article. Thank you to Mary and the *Chicago Tribune*! Click to read in the [Chicago Tribune](#) or on our [website](#).

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## Deterrence Doesn't Work as Immigration Policy

More than a decade of immigration policy aimed at deterrence only proves that **deterrence doesn't work**. When people are facing death—violent and immediate, or the long slow death of extreme poverty—in their home countries, they are not easily deterred. People *want* to stay with their families in their home country—only desperation forces them out. Policies aimed at deterrence only incentivize people to use more dangerous routes and human smugglers—opening doors to human trafficking and exploitation.

The present policy of exclusion of **unaccompanied children** from Title

42 (immediately sending asylum seekers back to Mexico without a hearing or opportunity to petition for asylum for public health motives) tries to offer a more “humane” response, but in practice leads to the new forms of family separation.

Between January 20 and April 5, Border Patrol agents encountered more than 2100 unaccompanied migrant children who had been previously expelled when they tried to cross with their families. “Unaccompanied” children who arrive with adults other than their parents may be separated from grandparents, aunts/uncles, and even from siblings 18 and over.

Bethany House learned of four sisters who fled their home in South Asia and traveled together for almost a year through nine countries from Brazil to Mexico. When they reached the U.S. border, the 15- and 17-year-old were sent to child detention centers under the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement; their sisters, 18- and 20-years-old, were sent to adult detention in ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) custody. One of the younger sisters came to Bethany House on her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, where her younger sister was able to join her two months later. It was many more months before the older two were released, and the four were finally reunited at Bethany House, thanks to the untiring efforts of their pro-bono immigration attorneys.

### **A Humanitarian Challenge, Not a Security Challenge**

The [\*American Immigration Council\*](#) summarizes the situation clearly: “Years of deterrence-based policies have not produced anything but short-term declines in the number of people seeking asylum while inflicting significant harm on families and children. The solution cannot be to turn people away and send them back to harm in their home countries. As the Biden administration continues to expel families back to Mexico, it cannot be forgotten that **seeking asylum is legal**. Solutions to the current situation at the border should not have *reducing numbers* as their primary goal, but instead should ensure the creation of a unified humanitarian approach for all groups—whether they’re single adults, families, or children.”

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### **Mother’s Day Tribute**

Special thanks to the Porter family of Wilmette who made a Mother’s Day donation to Bethany House in honor of **Christine Porter**.



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### **Gratitude to our Muslim friends**

We are very grateful to all of our Muslim friends, especially the **Muslim Women’s Alliance** and **Muslim Community Center**, who were so generous to us in meals, donations and gifts during Ramadan and Eid.



## Bethany House counts on your support!

### Monetary donations can be mailed to:

Bethany House of Hospitality  
c/o Patricia Crowley OSB,  
7430 N. Ridge Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60645

### Gift Cards

Gift cards are always welcome for groceries or the women's personal needs. (We frequently shop at Local Market Foods, Costco, Jewel, and Target).

### Amazon Wish List

The Bethany House Wish List on Amazon includes personal and household items we regularly use. The wish list can be found [HERE](#).



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## Bethany House Of Hospitality

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