



Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mary's Center Hosts Vigil in Front of White House in Support of Unaccompanied Children
The Center Seeks to Bring Attention to Resources Needed to Serve This New Population

Washington, DC--During the last few weeks, Mary's Center has received more than 500 children from Central America at its four locations in DC and Maryland. Because of the traumatic experience they've been exposed to, these children are in urgent need of medical, legal, counseling and mental health services.

As a newly arrived population, these children lack health insurance and access to other support services. However, Mary's Center and a large number of community organizations in the DC Metropolitan Area have made services available to the children and their families despite the financial burden created by this situation to all them.

"Providing services for these children without health insurance represents nearly \$400,000 to Mary's Center," says Maria Gomez, president and CEO. "At the vigil this Monday, we want to bring firsthand stories of what is happening to these children and their families and to urge the President and Congress to make resources available so that these children and their families can heal and get back on their feet."

What: Vigil in front of the White House

When: Monday, August 18, 2014
6:30 – 7:30 pm (EST)

Who: Mary's Center, President and CEO, staff, participants including unaccompanied children with their families, joined by a group of community organizations, and community leaders.

Where: Meeting point: St. John's Episcopal Church (16th and H Streets)

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