Volunteer -
Refugee Children's Center
San Fernando Valley

Driven by a desire to directly support local immigrant families, I decided to volunteer two to three hours a week at the San Fernando Valley Refugee Children Center.
My first day started with a tour that really opened my eyes. I saw how the center acts as a vital safety net for people, and they even have a beautiful vegetable garden. Right away, I noticed how kind and caring the staff members are when welcoming everyone who walks through the door.

I also met a 6-to-7-month-old baby named Enzo. He was sitting safely in his infant car seat inside the donation room where volunteers sort through items. He stayed there while his parents were at work and his grandmother volunteered. Seeing Enzo in the room, and seeing how well the staff looked after him, showed me how much trust and flexibility the center offers these families.

The whole experience made me feel so blessed to be in a position where I can give back. Moving forward, I want to help out by leading activities for the kids, assisting in the legal department, helping with fundraising, and planning community events. Plus, if I move away for college next year, I definitely plan to keep supporting them digitally by doing online legal research, virtual fundraising, or helping with typing and admin work from my dorm.