

Keep Luna Safe



Luna is the centerpiece of our campaign to raise money to keep her and her relatives safe.

West Seattle churches, anchored by Alki and Fauntleroy UCC, are launching a series of fundraising efforts to raise up to \$30,000 to pay the legal fees for the three Peruvian families the churches have been helping. Without good lawyers, the families are almost

guaranteed to face deportation orders even though they fled threats of extortion and death back in Peru.

There are several ways you can help!

- Participate in [our GoFundMe site](#). The account has been set up individually by Dianne Sprague of Fauntleroy and one of the key partners in aiding the families. All proceeds she receives will be forwarded to our legal defense fund. Even if you are unable to donate, please consider forwarding the appeal through Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp or by good old-fashioned mail. Or pass this message on any way you can.
- If you want to make a secure, online, tax-deductible donation, visit the Alki UCC [website](#) and click the Donate tab on the upper right. Under Add a Dedication, fill in “Peruvian Defense Fund.”
- Finally, volunteers are still needed for those of us working with the families. Please reach out to Vicky Smith at vsmith924@aol.com

Background

Luna and her cousins are only seeking a fair chance of being safe. Last summer their families, children as young as two, parents and grandmas, fled Peru after being threatened with extortion and death by organized crime. U.S. officials allowed them into the country to seek asylum. Without that protection, the families feared persecution if they returned to their country of origin. Arriving in Seattle, Washington, they have been aided by a group of churches in finding a new life.

The window to present their cases for asylum is very narrow. The families are on what is being called a ‘rocket docket’ meaning hearings are held very quickly rather than the typical two to four-year wait. Immigration judges will begin to decide by early spring whether the families can remain here. Without the option of free legal aid, the families have sought attorneys for which the typical costs for representation apply. The churches, working with the non-profit Church Council of Greater Seattle, have found a law firm but the cost is \$30,000.

Without lawyers, the likelihood of being granted asylum is slim. Even with good lawyers, the challenge is great. But all Luna, her parents, relatives, friends, and grandmothers want is a fair chance to make their case. Since the families left, Peru has been wracked with food insecurity and political violence and is even more dangerous than ever.

Luna would be so very grateful if you could help keep her relatives safe. The goal here is to raise \$20,000 for legal aid.

Thank you. Again, the GoFundMe site is <https://gofund.me/b64d7fda>