

NEW ENGLAND JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Annual Report



Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) is a faith-driven ministry, welcoming immigrants into our churches and communities by providing free, high-quality immigration and legal services, education, and advocacy.

Gary Richards (New England Justice For Our Neighbors Board Chair)

Dear New England Justice for Our Neighbors Friends:

Thank you so very much for your support, donations and volunteer hours. Even though the pandemic has restricted our ability to staff our church-based clinics, the ministry of providing free and quality legal services has continued. Our partner attorneys from the Central West Justice Center (Springfield and Worcester) and Northeast Justice Center (Woburn, Lawrence and Lowell) continue to respond to our immigrant neighbors with advice and counsel and ongoing litigation. The NEJFON Board of Directors has been steadfast in the shared effort of sustaining this vital ministry through 2021 and into 2022. And because of your commitment to immigration justice we look forward to the day the doors of our clinics can reopen and the hospitality of NEJFON can be shared again. Thank you again for all you do to help bring justice to our neighbors.

Peace,

Gary Richards

newenglandjfon.org
421 Common St
Belmont MA 02478
857-600-1282
NEJFON@newenglandjfon.org

Board Members

Gary Richards
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Margaret Bradshaw
Byungmoo Lee
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Rob Rutland-Brown (National Justice For Our Neighbors Executive Director)

National JFON is incredibly grateful for the work carried out by New England JFON in 2020. This was a tough year for our immigrant brothers and sisters, who faced a barrage of policy changes that made their lives and their immigration cases more difficult. It was also an exhausting year for immigration attorneys and other staff – at New England JFON and beyond – who diligently fought for immigrants each day.

New England JFON and our other 18 JFON sites around the country served more than 3,500 low-income immigrants this past year, even amid a pandemic that made the work more challenging. The ministry offered critical, high-quality services that helped families to unite, afforded safety for those facing persecution, and provided opportunities for employment and for citizenship here in the United States.

New England JFON carried out this work with love and ensured that our immigrant neighbors were treated with dignity and respect. We are proud of all the site has accomplished and look forward to a 2021 full of promise and justice.

Our Clinics

- Lawrence - Christ UMC
- Lowell - Centralville UMC
- Springfield - Trinity UMC
- Woburn - Woburn UMC
- Worcester - Epworth UMC

Took on **259** total cases.

115 clients were new to JFON.

Helped clients from **28** different countries.

We have **95** active cases.

Helped clients from **5** continents.

Our clients came from **28** countries.

The majority of clients came from Central America.

M is a 20 year old young woman from a rural part of Guatemala. As one of several children, she grew up without sufficient food or clothing, and was forced to leave school at the age of 11 to do difficult agricultural labor to earn for her family. At the age of 16, with no future in front of her, she came to the United States to escape her parents' neglect and to pursue her dreams of being educated. She was taken in by her aunt and uncle in Lynn, Massachusetts, and is currently completing high school and hopes to go onto college. Without work authorization, she cannot pay the fee for her permanent residency application.

I am an interpreter for JFON and first heard about it at a United Methodist Church. I was going through immigration process myself and it sounded very nice to me to meet other people and help them through this complicated process. I feel happy to help. It is such a small thing to help other people, just talking in my native language and broadening my knowledge of what other people are experiencing as an immigrant in the United States.

Volunteer | Translator | NEJFON

The partnership we have with JFON has enabled us to expand who we reach and how we reach them. The clinics allow people to reach us after their work day when legal services offices are typically closed and the funding allows us to consult with people who wouldn't otherwise qualify for our services because their matters don't fall within our other funding priorities.

Leticia Medina-Richman | Director | Central West Justice Center

How We Help

Special Immigrant Juvenile

Escape Violence

Work Authorization

Asylum

2020 Financials

Our Revenues \$67,000

Visit newenglandjfon.org for additional information about our services, partners, events, and inspirational videos.

Individual Contributions

Grants

Church Contributions

Special Fundraising Events

Corporate Contributions

How We Spend Our Money \$76,000

Programming - Lawyers

Fundraising

Clinics

US Government Processing Fees

Administration

Through our JFON clinics, we are able to reach a larger number of immigrants and provide legal advice about their immigration status. In my experience, one of the most stressful things for an immigrant is not knowing if he/she has immigration relief available. Just through our advice, we provide truthful information and this is comforting. And when they do have relief available, we provide hope. I mostly work with youngsters who have been abandoned, abused or neglected by their parents and came to the United States in search of a better life. Each one has his/her own heart-wrenching story. We hold them by the hand to help them take the first steps toward living and working in this country. Since it is a lengthy legal process, I get to know my clients well and we become friends. I love being a witness of their dreams, hopes, strength, resilience, faith and becoming. So, in essence, JFON is about holding a hand through difficult times.

Ana Maria Otero | Staff Attorney | Northeast Justice Center

We plan to increase our revenue to \$100,000 in 2021. We will continue to fully fund all of our clinics, and plan to open a sixth clinic in Providence, RI. We have pivoted from in-person fundraising events to online events due to the pandemic, and will do a combination of both in 2021. Please help us to reach our goal!