



2021 Impact Report

New England Justice for Our Neighbors is proud to be celebrating our 10th year of service to New England immigrants. We started when a small group of committed volunteers and lawyers created an immigration legal aid ministry at HopeGateWay in Portland, ME and became a part of the National Justice for Our Neighbors network. Ten years later, we've provided humanitarian legal relief to hundreds of immigrants and counseled

countless more about their best legal path forward. Along the way, our volunteers have greeted each of these neighbors in our clinics, served them meals, watched their children, and provided a warm and safe welcome (with a pause for remote services during COVID!). We look forward to our future thankful for the firm foundation of service upon which we stand and for the volunteers, attorneys, communities, and donors who have made a life-changing difference for so many.

Our Work

New England Justice for Our Neighbors specializes in providing free, expert legal aid for low-income immigrants, specializing in humanitarian cases. Our model combines the work of volunteers and immigration lawyers to provide a warm welcome to immigrants and an efficient model for legal aid. Working with our partners, Central West Justice Center and Northeast Justice Center, we fully represent 20% of our clients and provide immigration legal consultation and advice to the rest. This trustworthy advice is especially valuable because



it allows our clients to avoid predatory lawyers who take their case (and their money) even if it is without merit. Our work helps families stay together, victims of violence escape further harm, asylum seekers find a safe haven, and unaccompanied

minors begin a new, more promising future. The effects of legal status ripple out from our clients themselves, who are often heads of household, to their children and eventually additional generations.

2021 At-a-Glance

120 new clients

24 new full-representation cases accepted

96 consults provided

97 ongoing full-representation cases

42 full-representation cases closed

From Our Executive Director



Jenna Andelman,
Executive Director

Most common
new client
countries:

Guatemala
Brazil
El Salvador

New clients
came from more
than
30 cities
in MA
and a few from
out-of-state

Most common
new client cities
of residence:

Lynn
Lowell

Greetings, Friends!

I'm very pleased to present our 2021 Impact Report and to introduce myself to anyone "meeting" me for the first time. Since joining New England JFON last October, I have learned so much about the history and strengths of our small but mighty organization as well as the opportunities that lie ahead to make even greater impact.

Over the past decade, New England JFON has been able to serve hundreds of immigrants because of our network of committed volunteers, expert attorneys, dedicated Board members, and steadfast supporters, especially within the United Methodist Church. I've joined this critical enterprise at an exciting time. Not only are we marking our 10th year of service, but we are also re-opening our in-person clinics and reconnecting with communities and volunteers after the pandemic.

While we are celebrating our 10th year, we are also hard at work envisioning our next decade and strengthening our infrastructure to support our goals. We are focusing on creating a hybrid clinic model to better serve clients in a wider geographical area. We are planning for group information sessions in order to serve larger numbers of immigrants. We are building ties with other immigration-focused organizations and immigrant communities. We are also working to strengthen our connection with our supporters and to expand the circle of people who know of and are involved in our work. Please help by spreading the word about New England JFON.

If you don't already, please subscribe to our [newsletter](https://bit.ly/NEJFONNews) (<https://bit.ly/NEJFONNews>) and follow and follow us on social media to keep abreast of the exciting developments ahead. And if you are in the area, I hope to see you in person at our 10th Birthday Party this summer. (More details coming soon!)

With gratitude for your support of our vital mission,

Jenna Andelman

Our Clients



In 2021, NEJFON served clients
from **29 countries** across **5 continents**.

Immigrants seeking humanitarian-based visas have experienced indescribable horrors and exhibited extraordinary fortitude to reach our doors. Our clients include unaccompanied minors, asylum applicants, victims of domestic violence and other forms of violence, and victims of human trafficking. Obtaining legal status marks a turning point, allowing them to receive the services they deserve and live without fear to their full potential.

How We Help

Living without legal status (including without work authorization) means lower income, a lack of healthcare and other public benefits, susceptibility to unscrupulous employers, and a life of fear. Obtaining a visa provides relief for those who are eligible. However, private immigration lawyers charge thousands of dollars, while appearing in immigration

court without a lawyer significantly reduces the chance of a successful outcome even if the case has merit. For our low- and no-income clients, free legal aid and representation is a true lifeline—the difference between safety and deportation, between remaining with family members and being forced to separate from them, often even between life and death.

Juan

Last April, “Juan,” an indigenous Guatemalan teenager living in Great Barrington, attended one of New England Justice for Our Neighbor’s virtual legal clinics.

In Guatemala, Juan, his parents, and his six siblings lived in a very small house and regularly struggled to find enough food to eat. In 2019, at the age of 17, Juan made the perilous journey north in hopes of improving his family’s living conditions.

His plans were derailed when he was held in custody for two years due to lack of a guardian. When he was finally old enough to be released, he found an apartment and roommates and enrolled in school; his English tutor suggested that he contact NEJFON for legal aid.

Juan’s NEJFON lawyer at Central West Justice Center was able to confirm that Juan was eligible for legal status as an unaccompanied minor and filed his petition with the US Immigration Service.

Now Juan is eagerly awaiting the approval. Once he has it, he will be able to avoid deportation, work legally, finish school, and eventually obtain a green card.



Thanks to our generous donors, all of Juan’s legal services were provided free of charge. Our volunteers, contributors, and legal partners work together to create bright new futures for unaccompanied minors like Juan.

Adriana

“Adriana” and her 7-year-old daughter “Rosa” came from a region in Guatemala beset by rampant crime, crippling poverty, and food insecurity.

They made the arduous journey to the US, despite Rosa’s youth and the many dangers. Shortly after her arrival, Adriana fainted at work and was rushed to the hospital.



After many tests and procedures, she was diagnosed with terminal renal disease: both of her kidneys had failed.

Meanwhile, Adriana and Rosa were facing deportation. If returned to Guatemala, Adriana would not be able to continue receiving the medical treatment she needed to stay alive and support her daughter.

After months of advocacy by her NEJFON attorney at the Northeast Justice Center, the Department of Homeland Security agreed to dismiss the case against Adriana and Rosa in light of the unique and terrifying circumstances. Now they can remain in the US without imminent threat of deportation. “Your office, your work, and you as a person have been the best I could hope to find to fight my case,” Adriana told her attorney.

Thanks to Adriana’s courage and initiative, and the expert legal services provided by NEJFON and its legal partner, Adriana can now focus on her health and Rosa’s well-being, instead of fearing deportation. In situations like hers, legal services can be life-altering—even life-saving.

Immigration Policy Update

New England Justice for Our Neighbors and organizations like us are making a meaningful difference, one immigrant and family at a time. The demand for our services, however, overwhelmingly outstrips supply. Thousands of immigrants across the United States are left to their own devices, unable to afford private legal support or access free aid.

Fundamentally, the solution to the problem of immigrant access to justice and citizenship is policy change. There are simply too few paths to legal residency and to citizenship for the many people who are forced to leave their homes and communities and seek the relative safety of the United States. Undocumented immigrants not only live in fear of deportation but are also denied access to basic services that every resident of a civilized nation should enjoy.

In addition, migrants face brutal and illegal treatment when they enter the U.S., especially at our borders. Title 42, “Remain in Mexico,” has illegally forced thousands of migrants to wait

in camps south of the border until their day in court. Immigrants waiting in Mexico have been victims of additional violence and even murder. The potential termination of Title 42 would be a welcome first step, but that action is now held up in court, and new policies would need to be put in place to assure swift management of these cases that is also fair. Any new policy must also address the racism experienced during the process by all immigrants of color and especially Black immigrants.

Policies only change when people demand it. We all must do our part to ensure that the longstanding promise of the American dream is extended to today’s generation of immigrants yearning to be free of the poverty and violence that forced them to leave their homes and communities. Educating ourselves is the first step; ongoing advocacy is the second, more important one.

Subscribe to our [newsletter](#) for regular federal and state policy and advocacy updates.



Need legal assistance?

Click [here](https://bit.ly/NEJFONClinics) (<https://bit.ly/NEJFONClinics>), or phone the clinic closest to you at the following numbers:

- Lawrence/Lowell Area..... (617) 794-7024
- Worcester Area (978) 400-2126
- Springfield Area (413) 386-9951

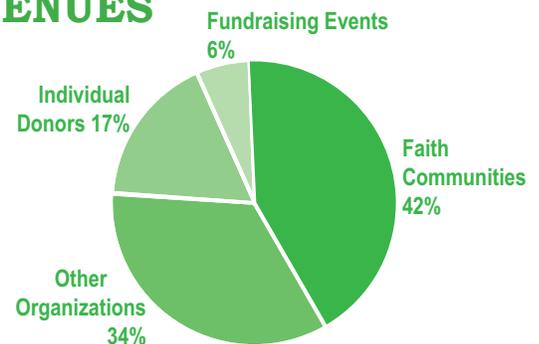
Remote appointments available.

We welcome all immigrants regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, ideology, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

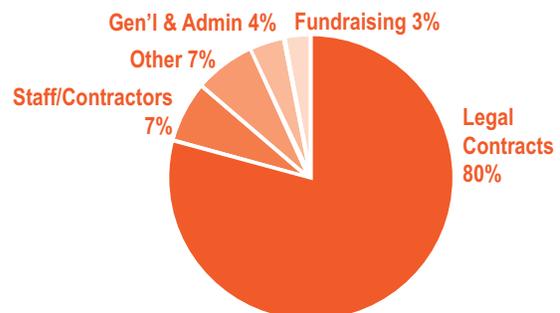


2021 Financials

REVENUES



EXPENSES



Join Our Team of Volunteers

New England Justice for Our Neighbors could not carry out our important work without the assistance of our invaluable volunteers.

We are seeking people with a wide range of skills, and experience is not necessarily required. If you have time and interest, please be in touch!

Our current volunteer opportunities include:

- New client intake phone calls (English, Spanish and Portuguese speakers)
- Curating our online presence, from Guidestar to social media
- Carrying out fundraising research and assisting with grant applications
- Data entry for various purposes
- Conducting market research
- Communications assistance

We are also seeking the assistance of attorneys (immigration and non-profit); marketing, development, human resource, and strategic planning professionals; and people with personal experience seeking a humanitarian-based visa.



If you are interested in volunteering with New England Justice for Our Neighbors, please complete this brief [form](https://bit.ly/NEJFONNext10) (<https://bit.ly/NEJFONVolunteer>).

Thank You to Our Donors

New England Justice for Our Neighbors wishes to thank our donors for your financial support in 2021, a year made more challenging by COVID-19. With your help, we were able to continue providing critical services to our clients throughout the pandemic. In addition to our generous individual supporters, we would like to thank the following organizations:

Aldersgate UMC • Chelmsford, MA
Belmont-Watertown UMC • Belmont, MA
Carter Memorial UMC • Needham, MA
Central West District • UM Conference
Crawford Memorial UMC • Winchester, MA
Cummings Properties, LLC • Woburn, MA
First UMC • North Andover, MA
Fisk Memorial UMC • Natick, MA
Harvard Epworth UMC • Cambridge, MA
National Justice for Our Neighbors • Annandale, VA
NE Conference of the United Methodist Church • Methuen, MA
New Hope Regional Ministries • Springfield, MA
North Boston Korean UMC • Andover, MA
Pastoral Ministries at Brooksby Village • Peabody, MA
St. Matthew's UMC • Acton, MA
UMC Newton • Newton, MA
United Methodist Foundation of New England • Derry, NH
Wesley UMC • Hadley, MA
Wesley UMC • Medford, MA
Wesley UMC • Worcester, MA
Weston UMC • Weston, MA
Wilmington UMC • Wilmington, MA

To make a tax-deductible contribution toward our second decade, please click [here](https://bit.ly/NEJFONNext10) (<https://bit.ly/NEJFONNext10>). New England Justice for Our Neighbors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Closing Thoughts from Our Board Chair



Gary Richards,
Board Chair

Board of Directors

Gary Richards,
Chair

Allan Anderson

Margaret Bradshaw

John Frantz

Mehida Gonzalez

Byungmoo Lee

Diane Mackie

Jocelyn Milton

Sylvia Missal

Peg Papanastassiou

Sela Rousseau

David Troughton

Joseph Wilson



Dear New England Justice for Our Neighbors Friends,

2021 was a painfully challenging year on all fronts for poor and powerless citizens of our global community. The pandemic, climate change, political unrest, violence in all forms, and economic injustice forced millions of individuals and families to migrate, and many of these migrants arrived here in New England.

Throughout 2021, we at New England Justice for Our Neighbors maintained our presence and continued to fulfill our mission to provide free and quality legal services in spite of all these challenges. Although the need for legal representation is more than can ever be met without changes to our immigration system, New England JFON has continued to expand access to immigration justice in New England, making a meaningful difference in 120 new clients' lives this year and, over our decade-long history, helping hundreds of low-income immigrants achieve legal status.

I want to thank the steadfast New England JFON volunteer community that has answered calls, translated, scheduled attorney consultations, served our legal clinics, and organized church donations and offerings. I am very grateful for the leadership of our Board of Directors, who faithfully steward the mission of New England JFON.

One of our 2021 goals was to hire the first New England JFON Executive Director. Jenna Andelman has been doing an amazing job at moving us forward as an organization and strengthening our capacity to provide free, expert legal services. Thank you, Jenna.

Lastly, I want to thank our contributors, individuals, and congregations who have continued their support throughout the pandemic and the past decade, and who we are sure will continue to support us as we look to the future. I would particularly like to express my gratitude to the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, whose connectional system has sustained our shared goals.

New England Justice for Our Neighbors is blessed to have such wide support for immigration justice. Thank you again to all who make our critical work possible, and I look forward to our ongoing partnership in 2022 and beyond.

Peace,

Gary Richards



celebrating 10 years
of Immigrant Access to Justice

