

NEW ENGLAND JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

2022 IMPACT REPORT

New England Justice for Our Neighbors is proud to present our 2022 Impact Report. The year was an exciting and gratifying one. We celebrated our 10th year in service to immigrants in communities across Massachusetts, improved our infrastructure and operations, and welcomed new Board leadership. Most importantly, we experienced significant growth in our services, as you will read in the following pages. By providing critical legal assistance to those who need it most, New England JFON ensures that immigrants can successfully navigate the complex U.S. legal system and obtain the legal status they need to build a better future for themselves and their families. We are thankful for our volunteers, attorneys, staff, communities, donors, and other partners who make our work possible.



10 *years of access to immigrant justice
... and counting!*



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jenna Andelman
Executive Director

Greetings, friends!

We're still coming off of the high of celebrating our 10th anniversary year. I, the Board, and our volunteers and partners especially enjoyed seeing so many of you in person at our 10th Birthday Party.

2022 also marked a successful year in terms of client services. We were able to fully re-open our in-person clinics and implement remote appointment options throughout our service area. Compared to the previous year, we saw an over 30% increase in total new clients, consults provided, and new full-representation cases accepted. Our ongoing caseload also grew by almost 20%. Overall, in 2022 we and our lawyer partners touched the lives of 292 ongoing and new clients, bringing them closer to achieving their dreams of safety, prosperity, and justice!



We look ahead to 2023 with renewed dedication to our work. Our clients - unaccompanied minors, asylum seekers, victims of domestic and other forms of violence, and victims of human trafficking - have experienced indescribable horrors and exhibited extraordinary fortitude to reach our doors. There is always more to be done, and we will continue to fight for them and with them, with the aid of our supporters, volunteers, and legal partners.


To that end, we are excited to be embarking on a strategic planning process, which will help us better understand New England's immigrant communities and legal landscape, refine our mission and vision, and create a sustainable and innovative path for the future. We will also seek partnerships with other immigrant organizations and continue to improve our infrastructure. And we will be thinking about how to be in better conversation with you - our volunteers, donors, and clients. To stay informed throughout the year, sign up for our [newsletter](#) - and then share it widely.



On a personal note, I have enjoyed meeting many of you this year at our Birthday Party and over email and Zoom. I look forward to getting to know even more of you both in person and virtually in 2023. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to chat.

With gratitude for your friendship and support,

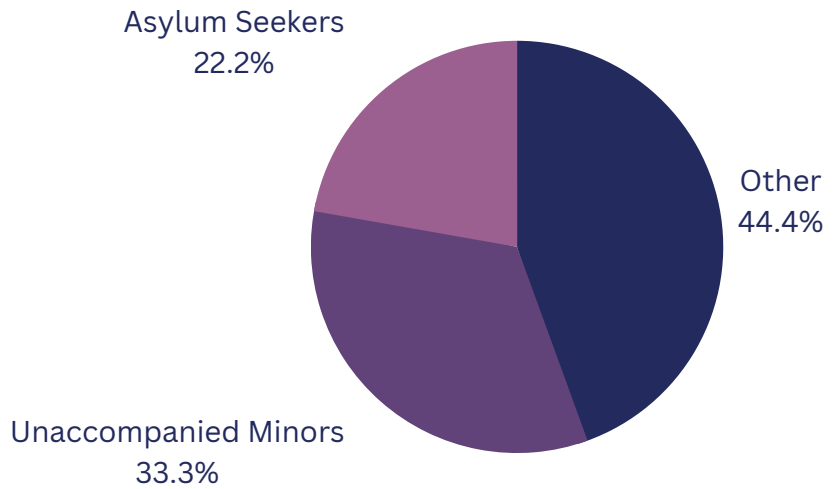
Jenna Andelman

P.S. If you would like to be an ongoing part of our mission, consider becoming a monthly donor through our [Access Allies](#) () program.

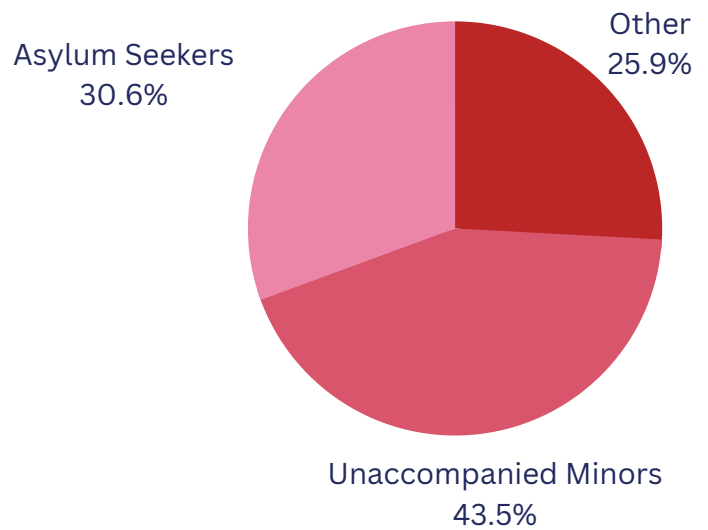
2022 AT-A-GLANCE

- ✓ Served 274 clients in total
- ✓ Represented 117 ongoing clients
- ✓ Saw 159 new clients
- ✓ Took on over 30 new full representation cases
- ✓ Closed 18 cases with a 72% success rate

CASES CLOSED IN 2022



ONGOING CASES



Most common new client countries:
Guatemala (17%)
Haiti (17%)
Brazil (12%)

New clients came from **30 cities** across Massachusetts.

Our new clients' most common cities of residence:
Worcester (20.5%)
Lynn (14%)
Springfield (12.5%)
Lawrence (10.5%)

These four cities total to just over 50% of our entire new client population.

Other Organizations
7.8%

Grants
19.2%

Faith Communities
35.7%

Individual Donors
37.2%

2022 INCOME

STORIES FROM NEW ENGLAND JFON

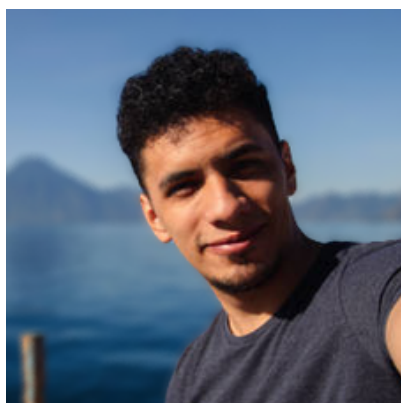
ANDRÉS

Before coming to the United States, "Andrés" lived in Guatemala in a one-room house with his parents, three siblings, and six other family members. The 12-person household made only \$40/month, often lacked food to eat, and could not afford medical care. Andrés was forced to leave school in sixth grade in order to work in the fields and help support his family. When he turned 16, he made the perilous journey north to join his older brother in hopes of improving his living conditions.

Although he did gain access to adequate food, shelter, and an education following his arrival in the U.S., his legal situation remained precarious. In 2022, Andrés attended New England Justice for Our Neighbors' Western Massachusetts clinic. His New England JFON lawyer at Central West Justice Center filed for a green card, and Andrés received it a few months later.

Andrés reports, "I am very grateful to [New England JFON and Central West Justice Center] for changing my life. I feel safer and have more opportunities." He emphasizes that, since he could not previously work legally in the U.S., he would have had no path to legal representation without our free services. Now that he has completed high school and received legal status, Andrés has been able to obtain a driver's license and a stable job at a warehouse.

Thanks to his bravery and initiative and our aid, Andrés has been able to improve his life immeasurably and is now looking forward to a much brighter future.



MEHIDA GONZALEZ

Board member and intake volunteer Mehida Gonzalez knows the immigrant experience first-hand. She arrived in New York at age eight with her mother, siblings, and several other family members, fleeing the horrific dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. Mehida recalls the challenges of adjusting to a new country but also the comfort of finding a community and mentors who shared her language and culture. She remembers that "there were always people who had kind hearts and helped you."

As she became a young adult, Mehida was determined to help the disadvantaged, especially immigrants. A young mother of three, Mehida nonetheless attended college and graduate school in order to become a school counselor in her underserved community. While volunteering with immigrants at her church, she received the call to become a deaconal minister and, later, a deacon in order to spend her life serving the poor, Latinx immigrants who flocked to the church.

Mehida has always sought ways to help the disadvantaged beyond her work and ministry. Her guiding question has been, "How can we help children and youth early enough for them to follow their dreams?" She most recently found an answer to that question in 2018 when she began volunteering at New England JFON's Lawrence and Lowell clinics. Shortly thereafter, she joined the Board of Directors. Recently retired, she still serves in both of these roles. "It took me a long time to have a voice," she notes. "I want to help others have that voice." She credits her immigrant experience, ministry, and youth counseling work for her success in the intake role, which requires sensitivity and patience.

Contemplating her life's work and involvement with New England JFON, Mehida reflects, "We can choose to be silent, but we can also choose to use our voices."



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

New England Justice for Our Neighbors extends our gratitude to all of our donors for your financial support in 2022. Thanks to you, we were able to provide critical services throughout the year and rebuild a strong foundation as we came out of the worst of the pandemic. We extend a particular note of appreciation to our major donors and organizational supporters for their generosity.

ORGANIZATIONS

Aldersgate UMC, Chelmsford MA
Belmont-Watertown UMC, Belmont MA
Ben's Construction, Inc., Natick MA
Carter Memorial UMC, Needham MA
Centralville UMC, Pelham NH
Chestnut St. UMC, Gardiner MA
Commonwealth West District of the UMC, Methuen MA
Crawford Memorial UMC, Winchester MA
First Church of Christ, Congregational UCC, Bedford MA
First Community UMC, Medford MA
Fisk Memorial UMC, Natick MA
Harvard Epworth UMC, Cambridge MA
Idylwilde Farm, Inc., Acton MA
Leominster UMC, Leominster MA
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Woburn MA
North Boston Korean UMC, Andover MA
Pastoral Ministries at Brooksby Village, Peabody MA
St. Matthew's UMC, Acton MA
Trinity UMC, Springfield MA
UMC of Newton, Newton MA
United Methodist Women, Fisk Memorial UMC, Natick MA
Wesley UMC, Worcester MA
Wilmington UMC, Wilmington MA

MAJOR DONORS

Allan and Susan Anderson
Alma Lee Carpenter
Anonymous
Colin and Linda Simson
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Dongshin and Grace Kim
Eric Wheeler
Gary Richards
Henry and Jean Marcy
John Frantz
Louise and Robert Halstead
Lynn Rodman
Margaret Bradford
Wendell Luke, Jr. and Reba Luke
Robert and Elizabeth Sweet
Teal Guidici
We Hyun Chang



GRANTORS

Immigration Law and Justice Network (formerly National Justice for Our Neighbors)
George Lucas Charitable Fund of Calvary Church
New England Annual Conference of the UMC
United Methodist Foundation of New England

Due to our efficient, largely-volunteer staffing model, two-thirds of each donation goes directly to attorneys' time providing legal aid. The more funds we raise, the more migrants we are able to advise and represent, helping them fulfill the dreams for which they have already suffered so much.

FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Margaret Bradshaw
Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Margaret Bradshaw,
Chair

Allan Anderson*

John Frantz

Mehida Gonzalez

Byungmoo Lee*

Diane Mackie

Jocelyn Milton*

Sylvia Missal

Peg Papanastassiou

Renee Perez*

Gary Richards*

Sela Rousseau*

David Troughton

Joseph Wilson

Ruwei Yang

*No longer serving in
2023

Dear Friends of New England Justice for Our Neighbors,

It has been a pleasure and an honor to take on the role of New England JFON's Board Chair. As you have seen in this Report, we have just completed an amazing 10th anniversary year. I and the Board are incredibly grateful for the staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who make our work possible.

These are difficult times for many around the world. We see countless examples of political unrest, violence of all kinds, natural disasters, and economic injustice. In the midst of these challenges, many see the United States as their only option for safety and security. The hardships faced by our clients on their journeys and upon their arrival in the U.S. - and by the people still facing desperate situations in their home countries - are what motivate us every day.

Unfortunately, our immigration policies have not kept pace with the needs of migrants. A tangle of policies favors some immigrants over others, presents families of mixed status with impossible choices, and produces years-long wait times. There are not enough pathways to citizenship or visas to work in the United States. We continue to illegally deny access to asylum seekers seeking refuge in our country. The most recent set of policies from the Biden administration has done little to change the situation on the ground.

While there is clearly much more work to be done, we are proud that New England Justice for Our Neighbors has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of people. Our clients' bravery and resourcefulness are a constant source of inspiration, and serving these asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, and others in need is truly gratifying work.

Thank you for your ongoing support and friendship. We look forward to partnering with you in the coming year and beyond as we continue to strive for a more just and compassionate world.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Bradshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Margaret Bradshaw

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Join Our Team of Volunteers

New England Justice For Our Neighbors could not carry out our critical work without the assistance of our invaluable volunteers. We are seeking people with a wide range of skills, and experience is not necessarily required. Current volunteer opportunities include:

- New client intake phone calls (English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole speakers)
- Clinic volunteers (Worcester and Springfield)
- Project or event assistance
- Social media posts
- Graphic design and videography

We're also seeking individuals to join our Board, including attorneys (immigration or non-profit); marketing, development, and strategic planning professionals; and people with personal experience obtaining (or trying to obtain) a humanitarian-based visa.

If you are interested in volunteering with New England Justice for Our Neighbors, please complete this brief [form](#).

Donate

We are sustained by the generosity of our donors.

New England Justice for Our Neighbors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. To make a tax-deductible contribution and sustain our future, click [here](#) or visit our website.

Need legal assistance?

Contact your region's clinic at the phone number below via phone call or text message:

Central Mass. (978) 400-2126
Northeastern Mass. (617) 794-7024
Western Mass. (413) 386-9951

Remote appointments available.

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



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