

# NEW ENGLAND JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

## 2025 IMPACT REPORT



New England Justice for Our Neighbors is proud to present our 2025 Impact Report. It was a busy and successful year marked by both challenges and growth. Federal actions led to a particularly rocky spring and summer, including layoffs, but at the end of the year we hired several new employees, including staff dedicated to the Massachusetts Access to Counsel Initiative (MACI). In the end, we were able to serve more clients in more towns than ever before. While our *Advice & Advocacy* program remained strong, most of our growth was driven by our *Pathway to Hope* program for unaccompanied youth. New England JFON provides critical legal assistance so that immigrants can successfully obtain the legal status they need to avoid deportation and build a better future for themselves and their families. This work has never been more urgent. We are thankful for our staff, volunteers, communities, donors, and other partners who make our work possible.



# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## Greetings, friends!

As I look back on 2025, I am struck by the astounding amount of change we - and our entire country - have experienced. Every month brought new challenges, although often positive changes as well. For example, in the spring we lost our federal funding; by fall the funding had been restored, and we were able to hire several new employees. What has remained constant, from our inception over 13 years ago to today, is the steadfast partnership of our supporters, volunteers, and partners. In fact you, our community, rallied around us in ways we could not have imagined. Our clients, the Board, and I are so grateful to have you behind us as we travel this increasingly unpredictable journey.

Jenna Andelman  
Executive Director

I am gratified to report that 2025 marked our most successful year yet. We beat several of our own records, including new and total clients served (214 and 409 respectively), new and total full representation cases (107 and 285), and the number of cities/towns served (70). Our full representation numbers were particularly notable, with total cases increasing by 31% and new cases by 67%. Of the 409 clients we served in 2025, 192 (44%) were children. Last year New England JFON also became a provider in a new Massachusetts legal services program (MACI).



In the coming pages, you will learn more about our 2025 achievements, programs, clients, and staff. While this publication focuses on last year, you will also read about our plans for the next twelve months and beyond. Those plans include completing our expansion of the *Advice & Advocacy* program and launching a pro bono attorney program. We look forward to including these new programs and their impact in next year's report. To stay informed of our progress throughout the year, sign up for our [newsletter](#) - and please share it widely.

One of our team members recently shared with me, "What I find most rewarding is being able to stand beside our clients during some of the most frightening and uncertain moments of their lives, offering not only legal support, but reassurance, dignity, and hope." We are needed more than ever, and despite increasing obstacles, we remain dedicated to fighting for and with our immigrant neighbors.



On a personal note, I would like to close by reiterating how much your support means to us. Knowing that there is a community at our backs buoys our spirits in these ever more challenging times. Being on the front lines is much more manageable with the knowledge that others - longtime and new friends alike - care deeply about us, our clients, and our mission. Please continue to be in touch, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to learn more or if New England JFON can be of assistance.

With gratitude for your friendship and support,

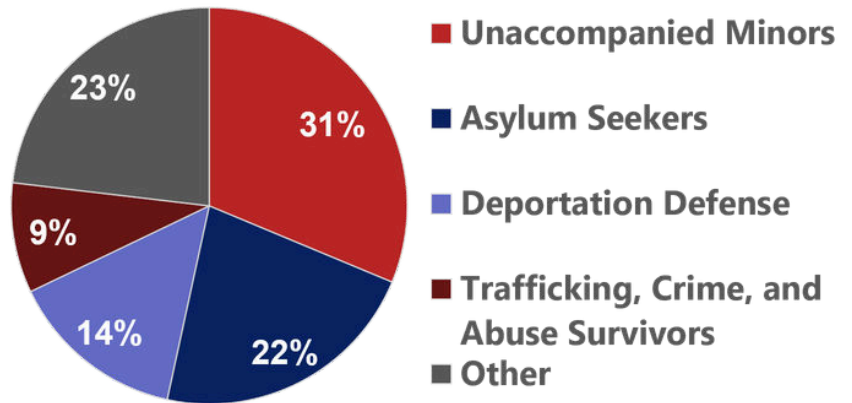
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenna Andelman".

Jenna Andelman

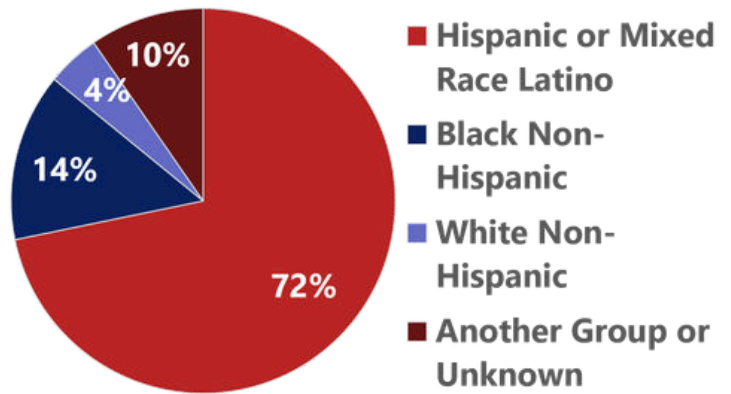
# 2025 AT A GLANCE

- ✓ Served 409 clients in total
- ✓ Saw 214 new clients
- ✓ Accepted 107 new full representation cases
- ✓ Closed 25 cases with 90% success rate
- ✓ Served 192 children (44% of total clients)
- ✓ Joined Mass. Access to Counsel Initiative (MACI)

## RELIEF SOUGHT

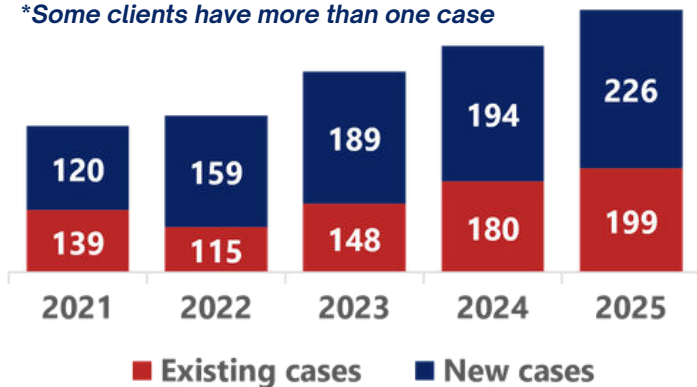


## CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

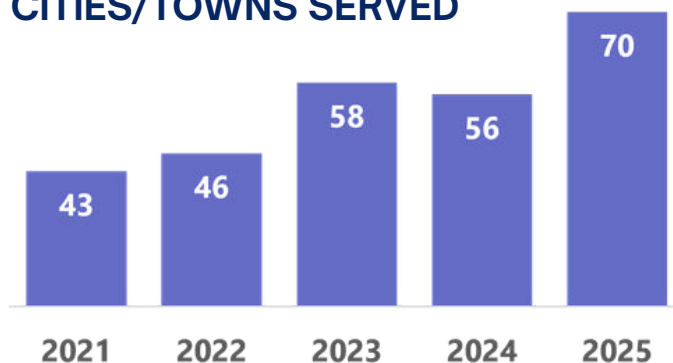


## ANNUAL CASES\*

\*Some clients have more than one case



## CITIES/TOWNS SERVED



*"This past year has been especially challenging because the need has grown significantly while the system has become harder to navigate. We are seeing more children and families in crisis, longer processing times, and more barriers at both the state and federal levels... While it has been exhausting at times, it has made clear how essential this work is and how much our community depends on it." – New England JFON Attorney*

# OUR WORK

Now in our 14th year of service, New England JFON provides free, expert legal services to immigrants seeking humanitarian-based legal relief. We focus exclusively on helping immigrants obtain the legal status that will prevent their deportation and provide them with a life of security and peace of mind in their new home. This work has always been important but has taken on new urgency under the current administration. These complex cases can take years to resolve, and many other immigration legal service providers lack the resources to offer them. We deliver our services via three programs.

**Advice & Advocacy** is a clinic-based program in which attorneys provide in-depth advice to clients about the merits of their case and their options. This trustworthy counsel is especially valuable because it helps clients avoid predatory lawyers who are unfortunately eager to take immigrants' money even when their legal case lacks merit. Approximately 25% of these clients are subsequently accepted for full legal representation. As you will see later in this report, in June 2026 we achieved our longtime goal of expanding this program by 50% to cover all of Massachusetts except the Cape and Islands.

Launched in 2024 with the support of a federal subcontract, **Pathway to Hope** serves six counties in Eastern Massachusetts and focuses exclusively on full representation of unaccompanied youth. All clients are immediately accepted as full-representation cases. The program represented New England JFON's first foray into several counties and towns (now joined by *Advice & Advocacy*).

Last spring, the untimely termination of our federal funding forced us to lay off staff. However, a lawsuit spearheaded by the contractor and our partner, Acacia Center for Justice, was successful, restoring funding and allowing us to hire staff and accept new clients. In December, *Pathway to Hope* was serving 111 children, and it has continued to grow. The federal contract is now scheduled to end this summer; however, with the support of our partners and donors, we are committed to maintaining the program and serving each of these children to their case's completion.

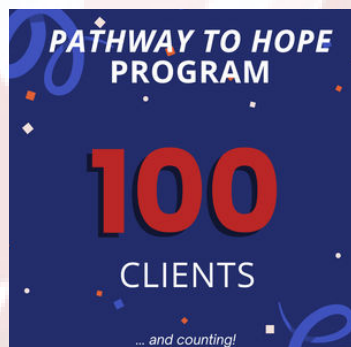
In late 2025, we became a provider for the Commonwealth's new **Massachusetts Access to Counsel Initiative (MACI)** program, which allowed us to hire an attorney dedicated to this initiative. The program explicitly includes detained clients, a new area that we are happy to move into in this policy environment. We are grateful to Massachusetts for having stepped up in response to the federal government's actions and look forward to continuing this partnership.



Legal Director Valerie Napier visited an 8th grade class in Lynn to talk about immigration.



New England JFON personnel and Central West Justice Center attorney at launch of new clinic location



Pathway to Hope now serves over 120 clients!

# OUR CLIENTS' STORIES

Our clients - unaccompanied youth, 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. Once here in the U.S., they still face challenges of every type, now more than ever. We are gratified to be able to make such a momentous difference in the lives of our clients. To illustrate the results of this critical work, we offer you the following examples of courage, justice, and hope. These are stories that begin with determination born of despair and almost miraculously end with triumph and joy. We know that you will be as inspired as we are every day.



“Carlos” fled El Salvador in 2021 after gang violence made it impossible for him to continue his education or remain with his family without harm. Abandoned by his father as a child and living with his single mother, Carlos was targeted by MS-13 gang members at school and beaten after refusing to sell drugs for them. Fearing for his safety, he stopped

attending school but was still a regular victim of gang beatings. He made the difficult choice to flee to the U.S. and was seen in New England JFON’s Central Massachusetts clinic a few months later. Our *Advice & Adocacy* legal team secured guardianship for his aunt, successfully terminated Carlos’ deportation proceedings, and obtained Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and work authorization on his behalf. Since receiving his work permit, Carlos has graduated from high school and found employment. In March of 2026, we helped him file for his green card, which remains pending. He hopes to attend plumbing school and to continue building a safe and secure life in Massachusetts.

We served **192 children** last year, **44%** of our total clients.

Our clients came from **43 countries** and **70 cities** across Massachusetts.

Most common new client countries:  
**Guatemala (30%)**  
**Haiti (12%)**  
**Honduras (9%)**



Currently a 19-year-old high school junior, “Mariana” made the dangerous journey from Guatemala to the United States by herself in 2024 at age 17. Abandoned by her father when she was 3 years old, she and her mother lived at a subsistence level, surviving on tortillas with salt after a spinal surgery left her mother disabled and unable to work. Mariana became a

client in our *Pathway to Hope* program shortly after her arrival, received her Special Immigrant Juvenile status this past October, and is now awaiting approval of her work authorization. Due to a long wait list, she will likely receive a visa in 2030. In the meantime, she is thriving in high school and hoping to become a criminologist.

Most common new client cities of residence:

**Lynn (17%)**  
**Springfield (17%)**  
**Worcester (11%)**  
**Lawrence (9%)**  
**Lowell (7%)**

These five cities total **61%** of our entire new client population.

# MEET ADRIANA REYES-RIVERA



New England JFON employee Adriana Reyes-Rivera was born in Puerto Rico and is therefore a U.S. citizen by birth, but she knows something about feeling like an outsider. As a child, she moved to a predominantly white suburb in Massachusetts with her mother and younger brother, leaving behind her home and a large, tight-knit extended family. “I didn’t hear my language, and I was without everyday connection to my culture... Being born a U.S. citizen but still being looked at and treated as an outsider was a huge piece of my identity for a while.”

From an early age, Adriana was known for speaking her mind and standing her ground, traits that led her to pursue a degree in criminal justice and soon started working on immigration cases, where her Spanish language skills were invaluable. While it began as a practical fit, something shifted when she began working on Special Immigrant Juvenile cases. “The stories really get to you. I couldn’t imagine doing anything else.” Adriana worked in immigration law for four years and then transitioned into the mental health field, where she continued to use her strong ability to connect with others. In the meantime, she received her bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice / Sociology at UMass Boston and began a master’s program in Psychology and Forensics at Southern New Hampshire University.

She was ready for a change when she came across a job posting at New England JFON. Adriana returned to immigration with a deeper understanding of how to support young clients, not only in their legal cases, but as people dealing with complex and often difficult situations. As Senior Paralegal / Program Coordinator for *Pathway to Hope*, Adriana has played a critical role in building a program that has grown from just a handful of clients to more than 120, all minors. “At a smaller organization,” she explains, “you can really see the difference your work makes day to day.” Having completed her master’s degree, Adriana is now working toward Department of Justice accreditation to be able to support her clients in new ways.

As challenging as Adriana’s childhood was, she is quick to acknowledge that her clients’ paths are much more challenging. “I never take my privilege for granted, and my goal is to do everything in my power to help [my clients] find safety and security.”

## TERMS TO KNOW

**Humanitarian-Based Legal Relief:** Legal status granted to asylum seekers; unaccompanied minors; victims of violence, trafficking, or abuse; and similar groups of immigrants

**Unaccompanied Minor:** Child who entered the United States without a parent or other guardian and is therefore eligible for a special path to residency or legal permanent resident status

**Full Representation:** Legal representation by an attorney from initial filings through a case’s full resolution, usually years later

**Removal Defense:** Labeled “Deportation Defense” on the chart on Page 2, a case with the purpose of challenging an immigrant’s deportation order and pursuing a pathway to remain in the U.S.

# WHAT'S NEXT? 2026 PLANS

## **Advice & Advocacy Program**

The geographical footprint of our legacy clinic program is 50% bigger! Our service area now includes all of Massachusetts except the Cape and Islands. New remote and in-person clinics will also increase the number of clients seen in this program by 50%. When fully implemented, we will serve clients in Greater Boston, Metrowest, Southeastern Massachusetts, and remotely.

## **Pathway to Hope Program**

Our federally-supported program for full representation of unaccompanied minors is now two years old and serves over 120 children. Uncertain future funding means planning is on hold, but we do know that we will continue to serve all existing clients for the duration of their cases, no matter what happens. Now that the program is established, *Pathway to Hope* clients are starting to see results, such as “Mariana” on Page 4. This is extremely gratifying for the staff and, of course, life-changing for our clients.

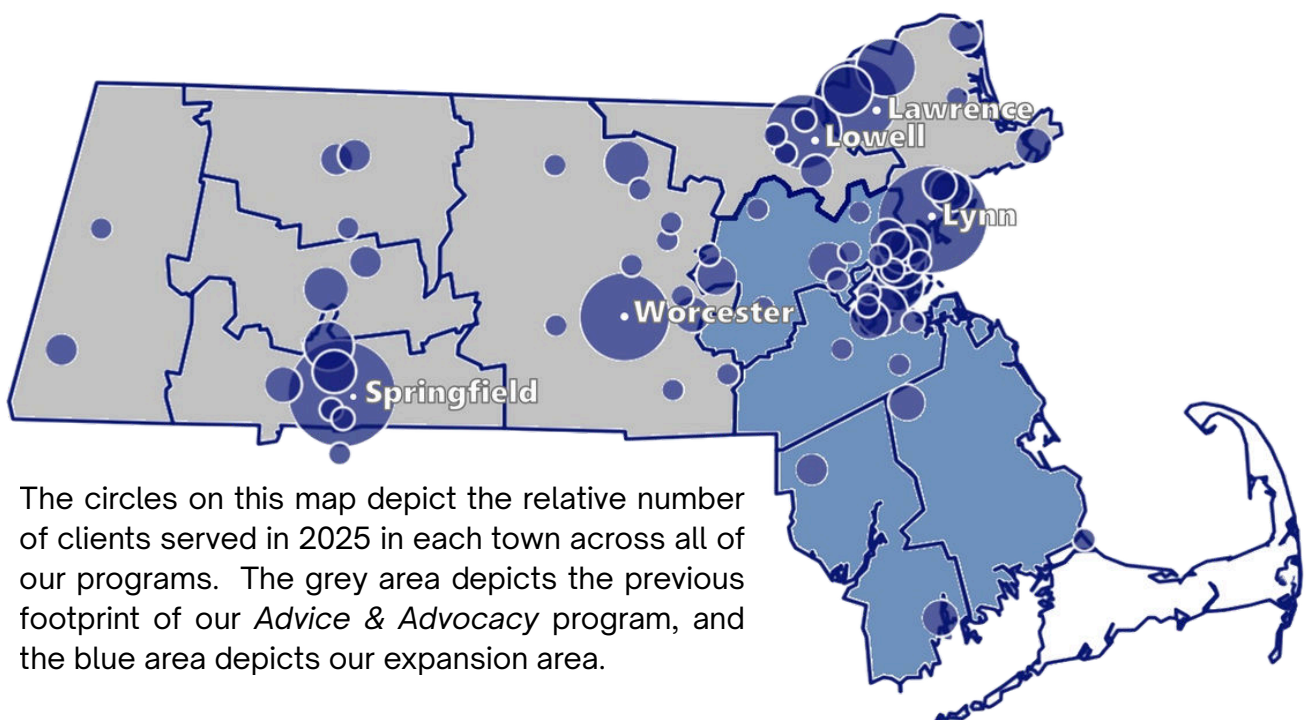
## **Massachusetts Access to Counsel (MACI) Program**

In December, New England JFON became one of 15 providers in Massachusetts’ new MACI program, offering full representation to immigrants across the Commonwealth, including detained clients. In just a few months, the program has already taken on 30 clients, and we look forward to further growth over the next year.

## **Pro Bono Attorney Program**

Planning is well underway for the launch of our pro bono attorney program. While all of our services are free for our clients, the pro bono program will utilize volunteer attorneys to expand our capacity without expanding our budget. Cases are expected to begin this summer. If you are an attorney and would like to volunteer, please reach out.

## CLIENT LOCATIONS AND *ADVICE & ADVOCACY* SERVICE AREA



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

New England Justice for Our Neighbors extends our deep gratitude to all of our donors for your financial support in 2025. Thanks to you, we were able to provide critical services throughout the year and maintain a strong foundation for our future. In addition to the institutions below, over 140 individuals contributed to our mission and, fundamentally, to our clients' pursuit of justice. We extend a particular note of appreciation to our major donors and Access Ally (A) monthly donors for their generosity.

## ORGANIZATIONS

Aldersgate UMC	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	The Shepherd of the Valley UMC
Belmont-Watertown UMC	Newmarket Community Church	United Methodist Foundation of New England
Carter Memorial UMC	Preachers' Aid Society of New England	United Methodist Women of Fisk Memorial UMC
Church of the Good Shepherd eWheeler, Inc.	South Athol UMC	United Women in Faith of Harvard-Epworth UMC
First Church of Christ Congregational	Spencer Family Charitable Fund	Wesley UMC
First UMC, North Andover	Starbucks Foundation	Woburn UMC
Fisk Memorial UMC	Sudbury UMC	
Harvard-Epworth UMC	Sugar & Spice Restaurant, Inc.	
	Temple Tiferet Shalom/Social Action	

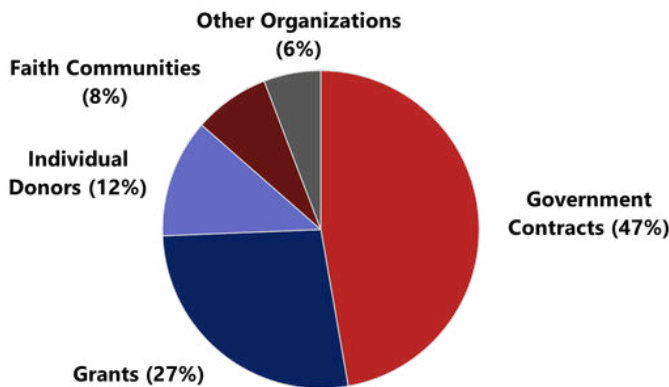
## INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Acacia Center for Justice  
 Immigration Law & Justice Network  
 Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)  
 New England Conference of the United Methodist Church

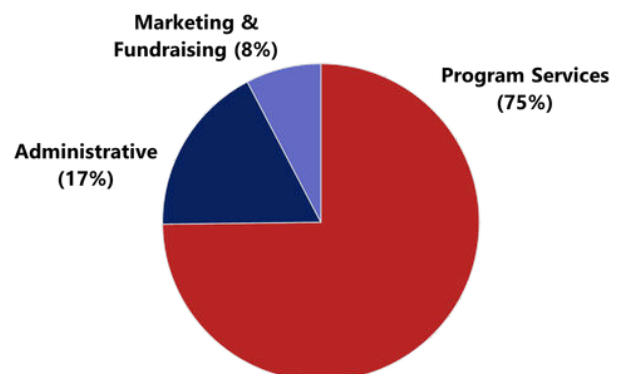
## GRANTORS

Cummings Foundation	New Hope Regional Ministries
George & Louise J. Hauser Charitable Trust	Phi Gamma Delta of MIT Fund
Ludcke Foundation	United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
Massachusetts Bar Foundation	

**2025 INCOME**



**2025 EXPENSES**



We rely on our supporters to provide our low- and no-income clients with free legal services. The more funds we raise, the more migrants we are able to advise and represent, helping them to avoid deportation and fulfill the dreams for which they have already suffered so much. Thank you!

# FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Margaret Bradshaw  
*Board Chair*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Margaret Bradshaw,  
Chair

Sam Davis

Alexandra Greene

Amy Kridaratikorn\*

Tom Lank

Jud Nirenberg

Andreia Ribas Precoma\*

Ben Ruano

David Troughton

\*Served on the Board  
in 2025

**Dear Friends of New England Justice for Our Neighbors,**

It is a privilege to serve as Board Chair of New England JFON and to reflect on another year of growth, service, and impact. As you have seen throughout this report, our staff, volunteers, and supporters continue to walk alongside our immigrant neighbors as they seek safety, stability, and hope. I am deeply grateful for the commitment and compassion that make this work possible.

While we expanded our reach and strengthened our programs in 2025, it was an extremely difficult year for our organization, for the individuals and families we serve, and for countless others like them. Across the country, and here in Massachusetts through large-scale enforcement efforts such as “Operation Patriot,” immigration enforcement intensified, humanitarian protections came under increasing threat, and immigrants with and without legal status found themselves living in unprecedented and unimaginable fear.

Here at New England JFON, we saw firsthand the heartbreaking effects of increasingly harsh policies. We held many remote appointments because our clients were afraid to leave their homes. Two teenaged *Pathway to Hope* clients self-deported against our advice rather than continuing to live in fear and uncertainty. Two child clients with real chances of obtaining legal status left the country with their father when he was deported because the family could not bear the thought of separation. These stories are a sobering reminder that behind every immigration case is a person, a family, and a potential future - all now at much greater risk than in the past.

In the face of these challenges, New England JFON remained steadfast in our mission. Every day, our staff and volunteers provided trusted legal guidance and compassionate support for individuals navigating an increasingly complex system. We helped ensure that those seeking humanitarian protection had an opportunity to pursue safety, remain connected to their families, and build more secure futures. Despite the current environment, I continue to find hope and inspiration in this work.

Thank you for your invaluable partnership and support. Together, we are building a more welcoming and compassionate future for our immigrant neighbors.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Bradshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Margaret Bradshaw

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

## VOLUNTEER WITH NEW ENGLAND JFON

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, and Haitian-Creole speakers)
- In-person clinic volunteers (various locations)
- Social media and communications
- Graphic design and videography
- Pro bono attorney

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.

***A full 75¢ of every dollar donated goes directly to helping our clients obtain legal status and gain safety and peace of mind.***

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

If you would like to be an ongoing part of our mission, consider becoming a monthly donor through our [Access Allies \(A<sup>2</sup>\)](#) program.

## NEED LEGAL ASSISTANCE?

For appointments, visit our [website](#) or call us toll free at  
**(855) NE JUST 1**

### ***Advice & Advocacy Program***

*Providing consultation and representation to clients across Massachusetts*

### ***Pathway to Hope Program***

*Representing unaccompanied youth in Eastern Massachusetts*

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

***Remote appointments available.***

## Stay informed about New England JFON!

[www.newenglandjfon.org](http://www.newenglandjfon.org)

