

## Who are our neighbors?

- Spouse of a 9/11 victim left stranded in the middle of her immigration process.
- A hard-working immigrant whose money has gone to pay for worthless legal advice from unscrupulous practitioners.
- A former client who comes with a donation to help the next folks at the door and say thank you.
- A grandmother who cares for her preschool grandchildren who have escaped terror and death in their war torn home country.
- An abused wife whose U.S. citizen husband refuses her access to their child and threatens to have her deported.
- A homeless Iranian man granted the right to remain in the United States.
- A 16-year-old Venezuelan girl receiving vital medical treatment not available in her country.



*Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of wickedness,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?  
--Isaiah 58:6.*

## Mission Statement

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

*The Fort Worth Office is located in*



**Polytechnic UMC**  
**1310 S. Collard St.**  
**Fort Worth Texas 76105**  
**817.534.3293**

Mary Beth Garcia, Attorney  
Imelda Esparza, Case Manager

### For more information:

**United Methodist Committee on Relief**  
<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor>

**Central Texas Conference of the UMC**  
[www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org)

**Refugee Services of Texas**  
<http://www.refugeeservices.com/index.htm>



**Justice For Our Neighbors**  
**Immigration Clinic**

*A United Methodist  
Ministry of Hope  
and Justice*

Located in the  
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## Justice For Our Neighbors

Throughout the Bible, people of faith are exhorted to show kindness to the strangers in their midst. JFON (Justice for our Neighbors) offers United Methodists a way to be faithful to the call.

JFON is a network in mission of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Annual Conferences, local congregations, and ecumenical partners. The General Board of Global

Ministries of The United Methodist Church initiated Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) in 1999 as a response to increasingly complex

immigration regulations stemming from the far-reaching immigration law of 1996.

The events of September 11, 2001, have complicated the already difficult situation for sojourners by heightening the level of fear and distrust both in the immigrant community and in the general public which has resulted in severe repercussions for newcomers.

The main goal of JFON is to facilitate the mission of United Methodist local congregations in responding to the immigration needs of the sojourners in our midst.



Volunteer Cramer Goad assists a neighbor with form completion.

## The Work of Local Churches

Participating congregations operate volunteer-based immigration clinics. To initiate a JFON clinic, each congregation must provide space for a clinic and recruit at least ten committed volunteers who will be trained and supervised by a JFON immigration attorney and staff. The JFON program also offers to the local churches and community at large education for mission, outreach, and advocacy.

The JFON Program is a resource for individual congregations and for its national network of clinics. It is not a funding program. Its network includes United Methodist annual conferences, districts, congregations and ecumenical partners.

Whether migration is a response to God's call to move out of our own context to do God's work or whether it is the result of forced exile, our faith tradition calls us to extend a hospitable welcome to newcomers who live among us.

## JFON Fort Worth, Texas

JFON began serving clients in the Fort Worth Texas area in July 1999. Begun as a joint program of Polytechnic UMC, El Buen Samaritano UMC and the United Methodist Committee of Relief, the clinic has served over 800 clients from more than 20 different countries from around the world.

In 2002, a special collaboration between JFON – Fort Worth and Refugee Services of Texas expanded the immigration legal services in the area as the number of refugees increased.



Case Manager Imelda Esparza and Attorney Mary Beth Garcia serve the Fort Worth office.

## How can JFON help?

JFON Fort Worth provides legal services to all nationalities, addressing a wide range of needs including:

**family petitions, religious worker visas, adjustment of status, naturalization, T-visas for victims of trafficking, asylum applications, advice and counsel, NACARA, representation in immigration court, self-petition under the violence against women's act**



Attorney Mary Beth Garcia works with a neighbor and her young child.

## JFON Ministry Needs

**Prayers** ~ always!

**Presence** ~ volunteers can help with intake work, hospitality, child care, answering phones, making calls, being the hands of Christ ~ **call 817. 534.3293**

**Talents** ~ volunteer attorneys, translators, typists, and computer experts are always needed call **817.534.3293**

**Gifts** ~ monetary contributions are needed to operate the office and maintain client care. Please send checks made out to

**Central Texas Conference**  
Memo: JFON  
**484 Bailey Avenue**  
**Fort Worth, Texas 76107**