



METHODIST
JUSTICE
MINISTRY

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



A word from Brooks Harrington, Founder and Legal Director

As I reflect on 2019, I am reminded of *beginning* **Methodist Justice Ministry** (MJM) on January 1, 2006 with the mission to protect and minister to indigent battered women and children who were abused and neglected by someone they love.

Since that time MJM has grown from just me to now *four* hard-working attorneys who together, we have obtained more than 2,300 court orders to protect and provide for low-income women and children victims of domestic abuse. In addition, we have provided legal counsel and direction to thousands of others also seeking to help and protect abused women and children.

Our progress since that January day in 2006 would not be possible without your generous gifts to this ministry. Thank you for supporting MJM each step of the way and helping to serve more and more abused women and children.

Last year was a true leap of faith for our Board of Directors and for me as we committed to increasing our capacity to serve even more abused women and children through this life-changing work. In May, we hired Melanie Hanna as Development Director to help raise awareness and additional funds to support our mission along with adding attorneys, Sarah Pricer and Jennette Miller.

Still, we are suffering from an epidemic of family violence and child abuse in Tarrant County, and the need for our work continues to grow. With so many poor, abused women and children in our community, we feel compelled to continue making this difference in the lives of those who cannot help themselves.

We typically receive 30-40 new requests for legal representation each week — in addition to our 100-110 open cases and new requests for help from past clients. Even with our expanded capabilities, our great frustration remains having to turn away the many vulnerable and needy women and children we are unable to represent due to our limited resources in the face of this enormous need.

I thank you for your prayers and financial support of MJM — and for your continued commitment to helping us provide light and hope to abused women and children who have taken the bold step to give us a call — and change their lives for the better.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brooks Harrington', written in a cursive style.

Rev. Brooks Harrington



773 WOMEN SERVED



1533 CHILDREN SERVED



2300 LIVES SAVED



530 COUNSELING SESSIONS



\$21,000 **SAFE HOME PROGRAM**
Provides necessities so that families can live in a safe home environment



\$401,706 **PROGRAM SERVICES**



\$58,080 **FUNDRAISING AND ADMINISTRATIVE COST**



\$481,016 **CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FRIENDS OF MJM**

MJM SUCCESS STORIES

Christy came to MJM last December seeking a divorce from her husband who is the father of her two children. Christy's 17 year marriage was tainted by physical, emotional, verbal, and financial abuse. She worked nonstop as a hair stylist to support the family while he "worked" on his hobbies. The work schedule left little time for her children and she eventually left her husband to gain more control over her finances and time. Christy admits that she was facing being homeless when she met with Jodie to discuss her case.

She credits Jodie Coughnton, MJM Attorney, and the entire MJM team for giving her the strength and courage to finally leave her husband. Christy has gone to court on six different accounts and Jodie has been there every step of the way.

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The family also utilizes the counseling sessions that are offered by MJM and comes by the office two to three times a week, where she truly feels like family.



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