



METHODIST
JUSTICE
MINISTRY

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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2020 brought both feelings of gratitude and grief at the same time during much of the year. It was one like we have never experienced in our lifetimes and will hopefully be one that we will never experience again.

I am grateful to all those that supported MJM throughout the year to help us to meet the needs of our families that have increased dramatically since the pandemic in March of last year.

The unprecedented actions to stop the spread of COVID-19 left many of our families in need of social services and financial assistance. We saw a record number of families that requested support to help with childcare, purchasing additional groceries, providing money for utilities and housing, and healthcare related items. With your help, we provided almost \$100,000.00 to ensure our MJM families remained in a safe and secure home environment.

We also saw a surge in abuse and violence in our community. MJM experienced a 30% increase for request for legal representation, from families with nowhere else to turn for help. Despite closings and learning to utilize technology, our team rose to the demand and filed 139 cases last year, another all-time high for our small, but mighty legal practice.

All of this would not be possible without your willingness to bring light into the darkness.

I hope that you will continue to support MJM to ensure that the most vulnerable children do not become even more vulnerable when times are tough.

Thank you for being such a great friend to MJM and I hope that you are safe and healthy.

With appreciation,

Rev. Brooks Harrington



901 WOMEN SERVED



1699 CHILDREN SERVED



2600 LIVES SAVED Clients Served since 2006



783 COUNSELING SESSIONS



\$98,086 **SAFE HOME PROGRAM**
Provides necessities so that families can live in a safe home environment



\$639,625 PROGRAM SERVICES



\$101,165 FUNDRAISING AND ADMINISTRATIVE COST



\$988,735 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FRIENDS OF MJM

MJM SUCCESS STORIES

John and Lilly Wilson first came to Methodist Justice Ministry seeking custody of their 8- and 3-year-old grandchildren, Bentley, and Piper after the loss of their beautiful daughter, Anita.

Anita and the children had suffered horrific domestic violence at the hands of the children's father for years. After the birth of her daughter, Piper, she took the bold step to press charges and end the relationship. Anita was awarded full custody of her children and was determined to provide them with a safe and loving home. She worked full time and graduated from Cosmetology school but struggled to overcome her past trauma and depression. Sadly, she lost her battle with depression in December 2019.

Without legal guardianship of the children, Lilly and John turned to Methodist Justice Ministry to terminate the fathers' rights and begin pursuing legal guardianship along with adoption of their two precious grandchildren.

The family also began utilizing MJM counseling services regularly and have been blessed through our Holiday Gift Drive.

After a lengthy process, the father terminated his parental rights, and they recently completed the adoption proceedings. The children are happy and thriving under the care of their grandparents and Lilly and John are grateful to be a part of the MJM family stating, "There are not enough words in the world to express our gratitude for everything our attorney and MJM has done for us."



The mission of the Methodist Justice Ministry is to provide light and hope to families who have experienced neglect and domestic violence by providing free legal representation and ongoing support to ensure that the children are with a caring and protective caregiver.

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