

Attorneys at Law

Jodie Connaughton
Brooks Harrington
Sarah Pricer

Development Director

Melanie Hanna

**Executive Legal Assistant
and Office Manager**

Norma Serrano Castilla

Program Manager

Yajaera Chattersson

Intake Specialist

Maria Cena

Board of Directors

Nelson Holm, Chair
Laura Arbour
Jade Bailey
Com. Roy Brooks, Jr.
Jerry Colwell
Sandra Garcia
Bob Haslam
Courtney Holm
Carol McQuien
Hon. Mike Moncrief
Gayla Scheideman
Cindy Mendoza
Greg Monroe
Ken Seeling
David Tutt
Monica Vasquez

Ex Officio

Rev. Lance Marshall
Ralph Green

Media Contact:

Melanie Hanna
Development Director
817-793-7649
mhanna@myfumc.org

Methodist Justice Ministry receives Healthy Kids, Healthy Families grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas

Award will fund Legal Representation for Indigent Women and Children that have been impacted by domestic abuse.

Fort Worth, Texas, (July 19, 2022) Methodist Justice Ministry announced it was awarded a Healthy Kids, Healthy Families® (HKHF) grant by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX). The HKHF funding will support BCBSTX's commitment to community-based organizations supporting children and families that focus on health and wellness and target impacts of socio-economic and social determinants of health, as well as economic opportunity.

This grant will help provide life-changing legal representation in matters of family law that include protective orders, divorce, custody, along with financial and medical support for the children. MJM also modifies current orders and files motions for enforcement when abusers violate court orders.

Development Director, Melanie Hanna, shared "MJM is the only pro bono legal organization in Tarrant and Johnson counties that will accept these complicated cases that require a tremendous amount of time researching and securing documentation to present in court."

Launched in 2011, HKHF started as a three-year project designed to improve the health and wellness of at least one million children through community investments. The program was extended as BCBSTX's ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the children and families across Texas.

"We are happy to award these grants that will support and nurture meaningful and transformational projects across Texas," said Sheena Payne, BCBSTX's director of Community Investments. "Strategically, it is also important that we continue to aid community-based organizations that are directly supporting children and families with health and wellness equity as well as building foundations for economic opportunity."

The HKHF program – which centers on nutrition, physical activity, disease prevention and management and supporting safe environments – has awarded more than \$20 million in funding since inception, and this year will impact the lives of more than 5 million children and adults in Texas.

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 and the women can lead a life without the fear of violence and abuse. To learn more, go to <http://methodistjusticeministry.org>