

MJM SUCCESS STORIES

After Gisele and her family came to the United States as refugees she continued to feel trapped, but this time in an abusive marriage. Gisele did not have family or a support system nearby. She endured the verbal and physical violence by her husband to try and keep her children together, including her two stepchildren she loved deeply. It was not until Gisele gathered the strength to pursue her own freedom, that she and the kids went to a shelter and never looked back. There, someone told her about MJM's legal assistance.



Gisele's attorney at MJM was able to help her with divorce and custody of all six children. Although the case was highly contested, MJM fought and prevailed in protecting Gisele's family by limiting the father's access to supervised visits. MJM also ensured Gisele got her portion of the family home and vehicles to start her new chapter of life. MJM walked alongside Gisele in her journey and assisted the family with counseling, emergency financial assistance and holiday gifts.

Gisele has continued her commitment to protect the kids and give them a better life. After her case concluded, she remained in contact with the MJM staff. Gisele is happy to report that she has become a United States citizen. She is also taking college courses in the evenings to expand her career opportunities. The kids are healthy, doing well in school, and the oldest child is now a college freshman!



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2022 ANNUAL REPORT
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Dear Friends,

I have the great privilege and honor to follow Founder, Brooks Harrington, as the second Legal Director of Methodist Justice Ministry (MJM). I have been an attorney with MJM since January 2016, but an admirer for many more years. I believe deeply in the mission of MJM which is to provide light and hope to families who have experienced neglect and domestic violence. It is because of your support that MJM attorneys are in court advocating for the safety and protection of those most vulnerable. Your gifts also allow us to provide counseling and financial assistance to ensure MJM families are able to rebuild their lives.

MJM had an exciting 2022 year, and I want to share some things that you helped make possible. In February, we were selected as the beneficiary for the annual Foodie Philanthropy fundraiser, a charity event linking the top restaurants in Fort Worth with residents. The event was a huge success and helped raise almost \$70,000 and community awareness of MJM.

In August, MJM welcomed a third attorney, Donna Schardt. Donna comes to MJM with years of prior experience with the Office of the Attorney General and as a former public defender. Your generosity also allowed MJM to expand counseling services for current and former clients by partnering with additional agencies. One of those is Wellness Counseling and Consulting, which has multiple bilingual therapists. This has been a blessing to our Spanish speaking clients and their children.

Our annual holiday drive had a record breaking amount of families served, totaling 196 children that received gifts. Many of these kids would not wake up on Christmas morning to presents under the tree without you.

MJM continues to plan for growth. We hope to be able to expand our service area to help more communities live free from abuse or neglect. We are thankful for the contributions of foundations and individual donors who have trusted and invested in MJM.



Sincerely,

Jodie Connaughton
MJM Legal Director and Attorney

