

METHODIST JUSTICE ministry

Hope. Protect. Support.



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



A message from MJM's Executive Director

Dear Supporters and Friends,

When I became Executive Director of Methodist Justice Ministry (MJM) in May 2024, I was immediately moved by the heart of this organization—and by the generosity of those who make our work possible. Thank you for being a vital part of MJM's mission to protect and uplift families facing abuse and neglect.

With a background in family law and child welfare, I've seen how life-changing this work can be. I began my career in private practice and later served as a CPS prosecutor, deepening my understanding of the systems meant to protect children. Leading MJM has allowed me to bring that experience to a mission I deeply believe in.

This past year, we have experienced meaningful growth. We welcomed attorney Milan Bolash, once an MJM intern, back to the team. With Milan on board, we now have four attorneys advocating for survivors of abuse. Together, we served over 300 individuals in need of safety and stability.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, our families received support services for healing as they work to rebuild their lives. In December, we hosted our first in-person holiday celebration, complete with crafts, snacks, story time with Santa, and gift distribution to 133 children and their caregivers. These moments of joy and connection are central to our ministry.

We also strengthened partnerships with local agencies, helping us reach more clients in crisis. Collaborating with others allows MJM to broaden its reach and amplify its impact.

Thank you for standing with us. As demand for our services continues to grow, your continued support ensures we meet each need with professionalism, compassion, and hope.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Aaryn Landers Lamb
Executive Director and Attorney

Mission

The mission of Methodist Justice Ministry is to provide free legal representation and ongoing support to vulnerable community members impacted by family violence, child abuse, and child neglect.

Vision

We exist to provide hope to families in crisis by combining legal expertise with continuing support services for healing. By ensuring that children are with a nurturing and protective caregiver, MJM helps break cycles of abuse and improve outcomes for both the individual and the community.

What We Do

MJM attorneys file lawsuits in Tarrant and Johnson County's family courts including protective orders, custody, and divorce. We represent victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or severe child neglect. Alongside our legal representation, we offer hope beyond the courtroom with essential support services such as counseling and emergency financial aid to help families heal from trauma and regain their independence.



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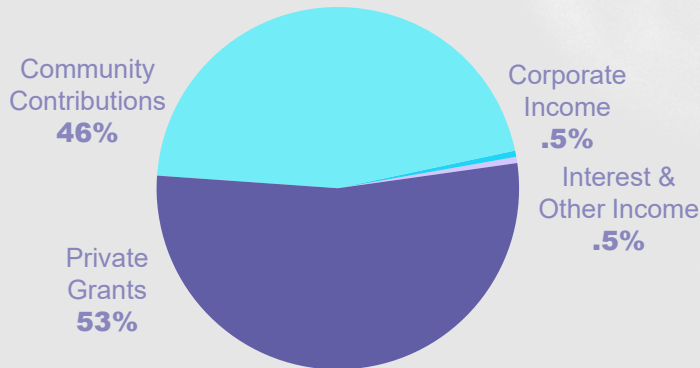
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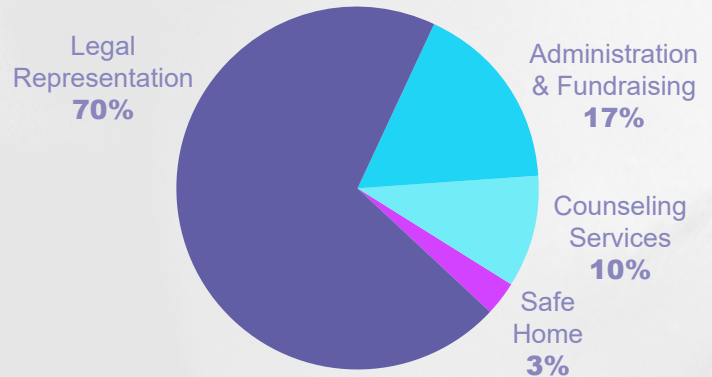
Charitable Donations

\$1,391,318



Operational Expenses

\$1,048,341



Program Impact

107

New Cases Filed

181

Total Open Cases

108

Final Resolutions

329

People Represented in
Legat Matters

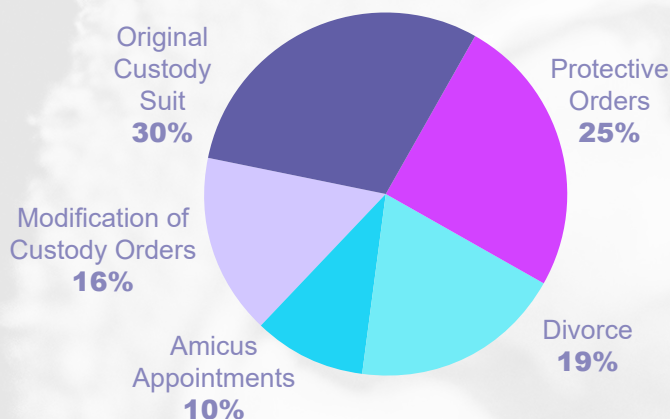
944

Counselling Sessions
Covered

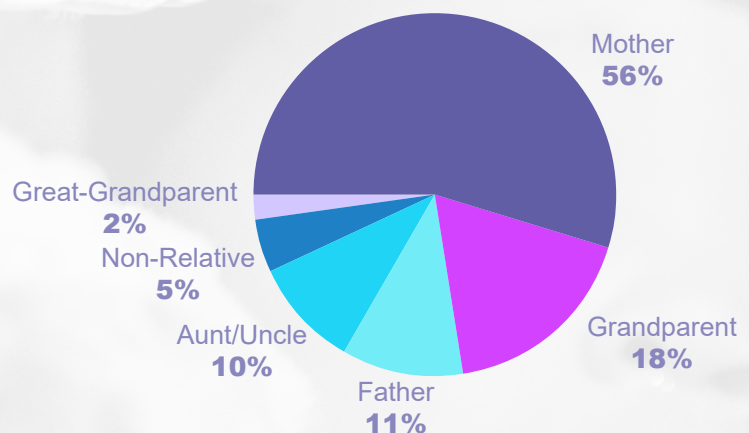
26

Safe Home Request Met

Case File Categories



Caregiver Relationship



A Journey to Healing

On a day she'll never forget, Tori endured hours of physical assault by her husband, fueled by drug-induced hallucinations. He hit her repeatedly, held her hostage, and attempted to strangle her. Though not the first instance of abuse, it was the most terrifying—Tori feared she might not survive. As their children's return from school neared, he allowed her to call a friend to pick them up. Moments later, he retrieved a shotgun, placed it between her legs, and said, "Shoot me, take me out of my misery." Tori knew she had to escape. She grabbed the gun, left it by the front door, and fled. Outside, the girls and the family friend saw her injured and desperate for help. Together, they flagged down an off-duty officer, and her husband was arrested in front of their children.

Tori lived with black eyes for weeks, trying to return to her job as a schoolteacher. Healing—physically and emotionally—would take far longer. In the following months, she bravely recounted the trauma to police, prosecutors, and her therapist. Though granted a Protective Order, the path to freedom remained difficult. The District Attorney's Office referred her to MJM for help with family law matters.

MJM supported Tori through her divorce and custody cases, ensuring long-term protections for her and her daughters. They also benefited from MJM's Safe Home Program, Holiday Gift Drive, and free trauma-informed counseling. MJM understands that healing from such trauma is a long process—but with their help, and the support of her therapist, Tori found the courage to face her abuser in court. Today, five years later, she and her daughters are thriving. Tori is stronger, more confident, and finally at peace.



2024 Highlights

Pro Bono Award presented by State Bar of Texas



“MJM has grown from humble beginnings to become a vital pillar of support within the Fort Worth community,”

— State Bar of Texas



Welcoming Milan Bolash

“I have always felt my purpose was to support survivors of family violence—truly the most brave and resilient people. At MJM, I found a family-like environment that creates a survivor-oriented process for clients. The attorneys I have gotten the privilege to observe are exceptional mentors and advocates. They not only provide strategic and thoughtful representation to clients, but also serve as mentors who have guided me through the work that being an attorney requires. MJM’s dedication has made my journey here invaluable.”



Point of Light Legacy Society

We are deeply moved to share that Bobbie Price, a longstanding MJM supporter and cherished member of our community, is the inaugural inductee of our Point of Light Legacy Society. Her planned gift will empower us to expand our mission, which she passionately championed.

2024 Highlights

Our Community in Action



77 kids received school supplies at our annual Back to School Drive.



133 kids were gifted holiday presents at our annual Holiday Gift Drive.

In the News

Featured in the Star-Telegram Report

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

NEWS SPORTS POLITICS RESTAURANTS OPINION GAMES OBITUARIES FINANCE CLASSIFIEDS DFW FAVORITES GUIDES

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FORT WORTH

'They never left me alone.' Fort Worth ministry has helped crime victims for decades

By Cody Copeland
Updated June 18, 2024 5:09 PM

Featured in the Metro Report

senior pastor of Diamond Hill United Methodist Church in north Fort Worth, ministering to a predominantly low-income Hispanic population in a neighborhood where poverty, hunger, gang activity, and drug abuse were epidemic. His desire to combine ordained ministry with law inspired him to organize the Methodist Justice Ministry in 2005, a nonprofit family law ministry that represents indigent victims of family violence and child abuse.

Harrington set a strong foundation within the community, gaining MJM recognition and partnerships. Now, Aaron Lomeli, recently appointed Executive Director, spearheads the organization to ensure the mission continues. "Though I recently joined the MJM team, my career spans over 18 years. My specialization is advocating for families in North Texas through Family Law and Child Welfare. I started in private practice, transitioned to public service as an attorney for the Department of Family and Protective Services, and expanded to the nonprofit sector in 2020. I am also board-certified in Child Welfare law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. I aim to bring my experience and passion to simplify the impact that MJM has on our community."

"Half of the team are not only employees but are former clients and beneficiaries of the services offered by Methodist Justice Ministry," says Virginia Chatterton, Development Director. "It doesn't matter what job title or position we hold as employees or volunteers; our entire team truly believes in our mission and the purpose of why MJM was organized."

Featured in the Metro Report

FWR FORT WORTH REPORT

Texas State Bar honors Fort Worth faith-based legal organization with Pro Bono Award

FWR FORT WORTH REPORT

Q&A: New executive director for Fort Worth legal nonprofit addresses intersections in family law

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