

A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, seen from behind, wearing a dark blue sleeveless dress. She is holding the hands of two children, a girl on the left and a boy on the right, both wearing white shirts. They are standing on a grassy lawn with trees in the background. The text 'METHODIST JUSTICE ministry' is overlaid in white, with 'JUSTICE' in a large, bold, sans-serif font and 'ministry' in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font. The 'T' in 'ministry' is stylized as a cross.

METHODIST
JUSTICE
ministry

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters and Friends,

2025 was a year of growth, recognition, and new beginnings for Methodist Justice Ministry (MJM), and none of it would have been possible without the community that continues to stand beside us.

After 19 years in the original office space, MJM completed a move to a refreshed second-floor space of First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth's Foundation Building. With updated paint, flooring, and thoughtfully selected consignment furniture, the space welcomes every family who walks through our doors with calm, dignity, and safety.

We celebrated our new home with our first Open House, which also marked the launch of the Lee Moncrief Giving Society, MJM's sustained giving initiative. Combined with strategic investments in staff and infrastructure, these efforts strengthened our capacity to serve more families than ever before. In 2025, MJM filed 142 cases, an increase of 31% over the previous year, helping more vulnerable children and families access safety, stability, and justice.

Our commitment to this work was further recognized when MJM's Program Team received the D CEO Midsize Nonprofit Team of the Year Award. Accepting this honor on behalf of our team was both humbling and inspiring, but the true measure of success is found in the lives changed through our services. Every protective order secured, every child protected, and every family guided through crisis reflects the generosity of people like you who believe justice should never depend on a person's ability to pay.

As this report demonstrates, the need for our services continues to grow. More individuals are seeking court orders to address domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, through the family law system. Behind every case is a person searching for a future free from fear. Because of your support, our team is able to respond with legal advocacy and compassionate services when it is needed most.

This annual report is a reflection of what we have accomplished together. The stories, milestones, and outcomes within these pages are possible because of a community that refuses to look away when families are in crisis.

Thank you for making this work possible. Your generosity ensures that when vulnerable families reach out for help, someone is there to answer the call.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Aaryn Landers Lamb
Executive Director and Attorney



Hope. Protection. Support.

MISSION

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

VISION

By ensuring children are with a nurturing and protective caregiver, MJM works to break cycles of abuse and improve outcomes for both the individuals and the community.



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PROGRAM SERVICES

239

Cases Litigated

498

Survivors Helped

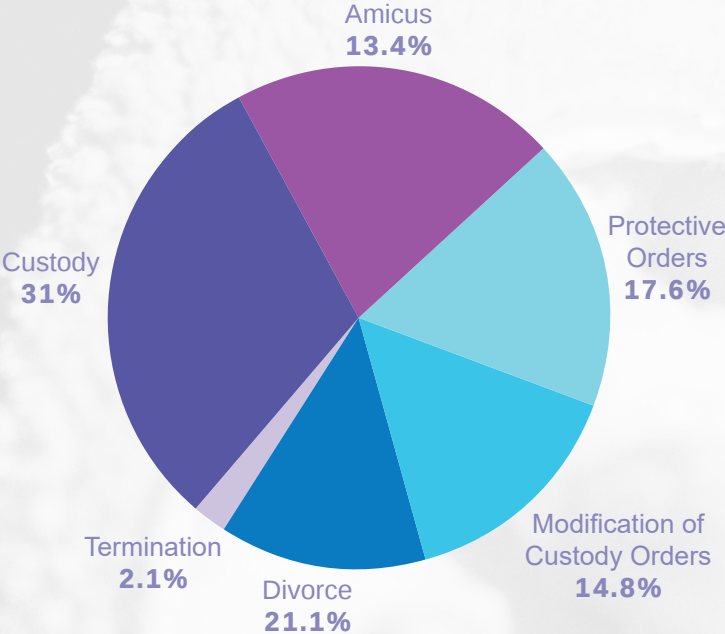
494

Counseling
Sessions Covered

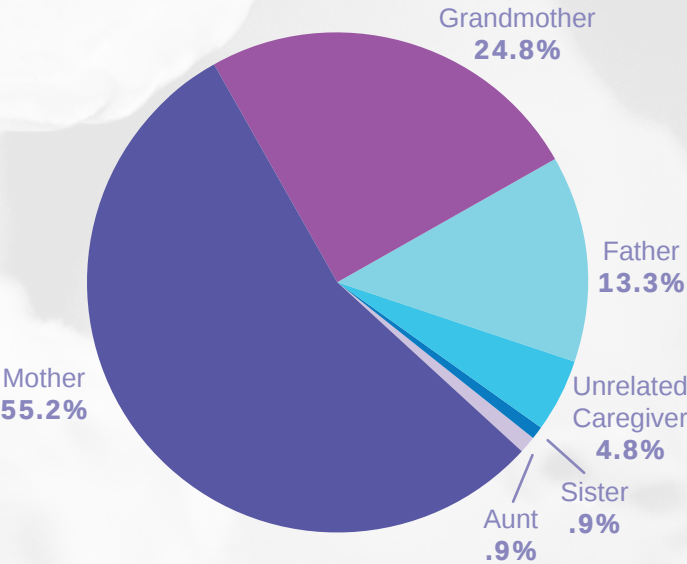
43

Safe Home
Requests Met

TYPES OF CASES FILED



CAREGIVER RELATIONSHIP



A GRANDMOTHER’S PROMISE

Diana* received a phone call no parent should ever get: her daughter, Priscilla, had been killed by her husband. The tragedy occurred in front of Priscilla’s young children, leaving them traumatized and forever changing their lives.

Just weeks earlier, Priscilla had finally decided to leave the abusive relationship. Diana believed a safer future was ahead. Instead, she found herself grieving her daughter while suddenly caring for two grandchildren and navigating a legal system she could not afford.

Without legal help, Diana feared the children could end up in foster care or with relatives who had their own history of abuse. Then a victim assistance coordinator connected her with **Methodist Justice Ministry (MJM)**.

At a time when everything felt uncertain, MJM stepped in to provide the legal advocacy Diana desperately needed—completely free of charge. With MJM by her side, she secured custody of her grandchildren and created the nurturing home they needed to begin rebuilding their lives.

Diana was able to enroll them in school, consent to counseling services, and establish new routines that gradually replaced fear and chaos with stability and hope.

“I was able to keep the kids safe, and that’s all that mattered,” Diana shared.

The first holiday season without Priscilla was especially difficult. Diana worried she would not be able to provide the comfort and joy her grandchildren deserved. But through the generosity of MJM’s supporters, the family was surrounded by love. Donors provided clothing, gifts, and even new bicycles for the children.

It was a blessing Diana never expected.

While nothing can erase the loss this family has endured, your support helped transform a moment of crisis into a path toward healing.

**Names and images have been changed to safeguard client privacy. While this story represents one family’s journey, it is drawn from the experiences of several MJM clients.*



Did you know?

Approximately 20% of the families we serve need additional support to maintain long-term stability. MJM offers support services during and after their legal case, including counseling services, emergency financial assistance through our Safe Home Program, and other seasonal aid.

CASE TRENDS

↑ 31%

With an increase in staff, space, and funds, MJM was able to file 31% more cases in 2025 as compared to the previous year.



21%

of MJM’s new clients required a protective order in addition to their divorce or custody lawsuit.

“I love being an attorney at MJM because while we often see the worst of society, we also see the best. We see grandparents, aunts, uncles, and even neighbors, step in to care for children who have been abused. These caregivers are typically at or below the poverty level before taking in additional children, yet do not hesitate to make this huge commitment when asked. We are also able to watch women who have experienced family violence gaining their independence and strength.”

— Jodie Connaughton
Legal Director



HOPE BEYOND THE COURTROOM

Led by Program Director Norma Serrano Castilla, our program team guides families in crisis through the intake process, case progression, and connections to support services and community resources that promote long-term stability. Their dedication to serving clients was recognized by D CEO Magazine with the Nonprofit Team of the Year (Mid-Size) award.

Last year, MJM responded to 1,207 new calls for help from families in crisis. From those calls, and through collaborative referral partnerships and careful screening, we provided legal services to 238 survivors of domestic violence and protective caregivers of abused or neglected children in Tarrant and Johnson Counties who are living in households up to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.



YEAR IN REVIEW



We entered 2025 with the same unwavering commitment that first guided our work in 2006, continuing nearly two decades of service to vulnerable families.



In April, MJM hosted its first Open House in commemoration of Child Abuse Prevention Month.



In the Spring, we welcomed new counseling partners in the City of Arlington.



Over the summer, Executive Director Aaryn Landers Lamb accepted the DCEO Award for Nonprofit Team of the Year Winner.

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS
**NORTH TEXAS
GIVING DAY**

We had a record-breaking fundraiser for North Texas Giving Day totaling
\$86,546 raised!



Because of generous supporters, MJM provided holiday gifts to 149 children and their caregivers.

Thanks to First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth, our team relocated to a new office during the first quarter.

In May, TCU John V. Roch Honors College students selected MJM for two grants, highlighting our visibility amongst our community.

By the end of the second quarter, MJM saw a significant increase in new cases filed.

In August, 70 Students received backpacks and school supplies, thanks to our incredible donors.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, our staff and board held several networking events to amplify partnerships and impact.

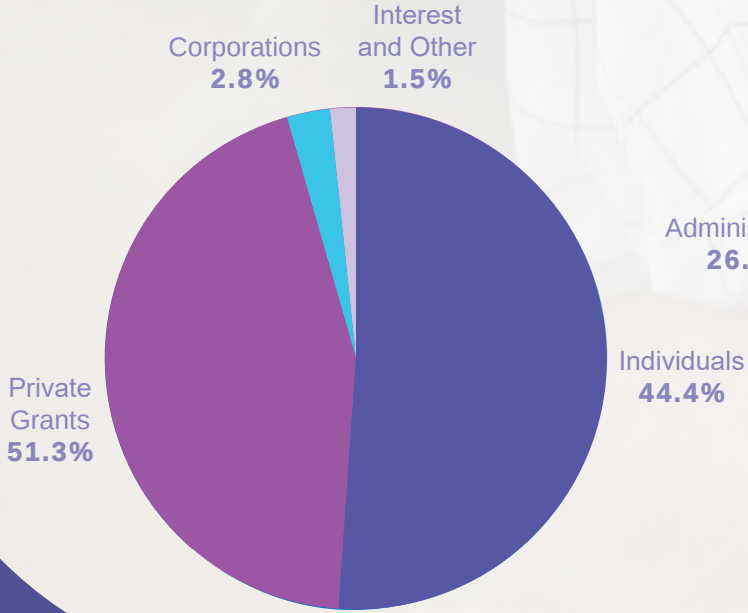
We ended the year with a special feature in the Morris Foundation's Partners in Progress Report.



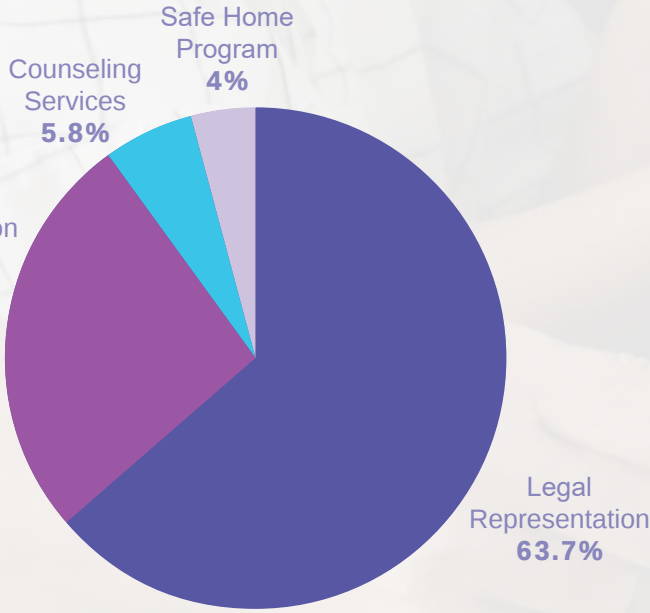
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Since being established, our partnership with First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth (FUMCFW) has provided in-kind support of office space, utilities, and accounting services. Therefore, donations received primarily impact program services.

Revenue
\$1,365,690



Expenses
\$1,188,834



Did you know?

The average annual expense per case is **\$3,438**—a fraction of what a client would pay through a private family law practice.
Access to justice should never depend on a family's income level.

INTRODUCING THE LEE MONCRIEF GIVING SOCIETY

Named after a steadfast supporter of justice and safety, MJM launched the Lee Moncrief Giving Society in April 2025. Its members help us sustain this critical work through three-year pledges at their preferred giving level. Their commitment helps us respond to immediate needs while strategically planning for our organization's growth.

Our incredible inaugural members not only met but exceeded our goal—raising an incredible **\$222,830** in our very first year

Thank you for sustaining our mission into the next decade.



Pictured: Development Director, Yajaera Chatterson speaking at MJM's Inaugural Mission Briefing Event for Giving Society members.

Join and become a pillar of:

HOPE • PROTECTION • SUPPORT • JUSTICE

For information on how to become a member, email mjm@myfumc.org.

Thank you to our Supporters!

Alton & Fay Talbert Memorial Fund

Amon G. Carter Foundation

Carol J & R Denny Alexander Foundation

Garvey Texas Foundation

Helen Irwin Littauer Education Trust

Hesta Stuart Christian Charitable Fund

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James and Dorothy Doss Foundation Inc

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Fannie and Stephen Kahn
Charitable Foundation

The Ken W. Davis Foundation

Mary Potishman Lard Trust

National Life Group
Charitable Foundation

Paul E. Andrews, Jr. Foundation

Sid W. Richardson Foundation

Tarrant County Bar Foundation

TCU Nature of Giving Class

Texas Bar Foundation

Texas Methodist Foundation

TFG Charitable Supply & Foundation

The Joyce Peugh Pate Capper
Charitable Trust

The Morris Foundation

Thomas M., Helen McKee &
John P. Ryan Foundation

United Methodist ChurchGlobal Ministries

Vestal B. Sanders Charitable Foundation

William & Catherine Bryce
Memorial Fund

Women's Policy Forum of Tarrant County

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM NELSON HOLM, MJM'S BOARD CHAIRMAN

"To all who stand with the Methodist Justice Ministry — our faithful supporters, the generous members of the Lee Moncrief Giving Society, and the many friends who helped make our 20-year anniversary such a meaningful milestone — thank you for another wonderful year. Your commitment strengthens families, restores hope, and fuels justice in ways that change lives. To our extraordinary staff, whose tireless efforts carry this mission forward every single day, your dedication is the heartbeat of this ministry. As Chairman of the Board, I am deeply honored to support such a powerful and compassionate mission, and profoundly grateful for each of you who make this work possible."



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