

Letter to the Churches

Our Mission:

TO WELCOME IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES BY PROVIDING FREE HIGH QUALITY IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICE, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.



DACA's 800,000 Dreamers at Risk from Trump Decisions

At the end of June 10 Republican State Attorneys General signed a letter to President Trump threatening to sue him if he did not eliminate the DACA program by Sept. 5. Up to this point Trump has repeatedly said that he does not wish to do any harm to the Dreamers. Since taking office he has kept in place the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which provides work authorization and affirmative

protection from deportation for nearly 800,000 Dreamers who have met rigorous criteria, including passing a government background check.

In late June 2017, the Supreme Court asked for the Solicitor General's opinion in *Brewer vs. Arizona Dream Action Coalition*, in part asking for the DOJ's opinion on the constitutionality of DACA. While this program has repeatedly been reaffirmed by the courts, AG Sessions has consistently questioned its constitutionality.

WITHIN THE NEXT 60 DAYS, DACA COULD BE GONE—WE CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN

Dept. of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly told members of Congress on July 12 that DACA is at risk and a DHS spokesman reiterated that "if it goes to court it might not survive." We cannot let them kill DACA. Nearly 90% of Americans from across the country and across the political spectrum support Dreamers, including 8 of 10 Republicans. We need everyone to stand up for Dreamers, stand up for common sense and stand up for the values we hold dear. DACA was initiated

in 2012. It has unlocked economic opportunities for the nearly 800,000 beneficiaries who have come forward, passed background checks and have been granted permission to live and work legally in America. Most have flourished. Many were able to fulfill dreams of attending and completing colleges. Those not in school are working legally and paying taxes, providing for the families. Read about what YOU can do at www.iaumc.org/jfon "Advocacy Resources."

Find a legal clinic:

Immigrants and refugees can make an appointment by calling the office at 515.255.9809 Monday through Fridays from 9 am-5 pm .

FREE immigration legal clinics are monthly except June & December at United Methodist Churches:

*Lovely Lane UMC in Cedar Rapids

*First UMC in Columbus Junction

*Wesley UMC in Ottumwa

*First UMC in Decorah

*First UMC in Storm Lake

*Grace UMC-Des Moines

*First UMC-Marshalltown

www.iaumc.org/jfon

Mailing address and donations:

Justice for Our Neighbors

PO Box 41006

Des Moines IA 50311

STAFF:

Ann Naffier, Esq.

Brynne Howard, Esq.

April Palma, Esq.

Emily Sohn Rebelskey, Esq.

BIA-accredited staff are

Laura Mendoza, Grisell Herrera,

Rachael Duang & Alejandra

Menjivar administration.

CLIENT STORIES SHARED BY OUR STAFF FROM JUNE 9, 2017.

(More stories are available to be read at www.iaumc.org/jfon)

Ann Naffier shares this.

Juan Espinoza* and his wife Yulissa* are originally from Central America. They came to the United States more than 15 years ago, and have three children who were born here. Juan works hard in a factory in eastern Iowa, but also is receiving training to become a lay pastor at a mainline denomination congregation where he and his family have been attending and offering leadership for years.

Unfortunately, several years ago, Juan and Yulissa fell prey to an attorney from California who was helping people apply for political asylum even though they were not qualified. Juan and Yulissa ended up in deportation proceedings.

I met Juan and Yulissa in Cedar Rapids in 2015, and began to assist them in preparing for a fairly complicated legal procedure called "Request for Prosecutorial Discretion and Administrative Closure." This request asked Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to voluntarily allow the judge to close Juan and Yulissa's removal cases, even though they did not qualify for any specific immigration program. It would grant them a work permit and temporary protection from deportation. After months of document collection and brief-writing, JFON was able to submit Juan and Yulissa's Request to ICE.

This legal procedure, once quite rare, had become more common in the last few years, because President Obama had created a policy instructing ICE to carefully consider and approve, if possible, these Requests. Unfortunately, by the time we had completed the Request, it was mid-November, after the election, and we knew the days of being able to get such a Request granted were numbered because of the radically different immigration policies of the incoming administration. In a beautiful moment that redeemed my faith in the goodness of all people, including ICE personnel, the supervisor of ICE and I met to discuss their case (and several other Requests we had made for other clients), approved them quickly, and got them before an Immigration Judge to get the official order closing their deportation cases, just days before the inauguration. Juan and Yulissa are now as safe as they can be, in temporary but stable and indefinite legal status, ready to weather out the next few years of potentially stormy immigration policy.

New Marshalltown Legal Clinic Has Community Support

The newest JFON legal clinic is in Marshalltown at First United Methodist Church with cooperation by Hope United Methodist Church as the fiscal agent and supporter. As of July three legal clinics have been held.

This fulfills a long held dream that was revived two years ago. According to Rev. Scott Loethe many faith-based groups and service clubs are behind the effort. Volunteers are led by Sue Martin, former director of the Martha Ellen Tye Foundation.

The legal clinic director is Joa LaVille who works with immigration issues most every day as Children/Youth Librarian at the Marshalltown library.

Rev. Loethe noted that as the town continued to welcome new immigrants "we learned that their number one need is quality legal assistance and hospitality. Immigrant Allies, a community organization, helped bring people together to write and submit a new application. Because of our increased need and a greater staffing presence by JFON in Iowa, our application was approved."

Rev. Loethe sums up the result of the new presence of Justice for Our Neighbors to the Marshalltown community: "The work of JFON helps make Marshalltown a better place and builds beloved community. "

**TO ALL OF OUR
DONORS, WE THANK
YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT OF THE WORK
OF JUSTICE FOR OUR
NEIGHBORS.**

**HELP US CAPTURE THE
MATCHING GRANT FOR
\$10,000**

**WITH A DONATION TO
JUSTICE FOR OUR
NEIGHBORS
BOX 41006
DES MOINES, IA 50311**

**UNITED METHODIST
CHURCHES USE
IOWA ADVANCE SPECIAL
#375 TO CONTRIBUTE.**