



**Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors**  
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August 16, 2016

Rev. Danita Anderson  
Woodridge UMC  
2700 75th St.  
Woodridge, IL 60517

Dear Rev. Anderson,

I'd like to thank you and your church again for your generosity last year through Rainbow Covenant, the Bishop's Appeal or other special collections.

Thanks to you and others, we were able to raise over \$70,000 for Justice for Our Neighbors. This funding allowed us to expand in some exciting ways. We hired our first part-time administrative staff to continue expanding support for JFON. We were able to hire a part-time scheduler, to improve efficiencies around scheduling for all three clinics. And probably most meaningful, we were able to move our second part-time attorney to full time as of July 1, 2016! You're our partner in working towards the vision God has given us – of creating a world where immigrants, refugees and other migrant populations are welcomed, supported and able to live without fear!

Here are a few other highlights from the year that we hope you will share with your congregation:

- JFON saw 349 new clients from January 2015 – June 2016 and took on 599 new cases
- About half our clients were from Mexico, but all together JFON saw clients from 31 countries
- 37% of our cases are classified as "Escape from Violence" – these include asylum seekers, refugees, and victims of domestic violence or other violent crimes
- 48% percent of our clients are women, 38% are men and 14% are children

Even with the tremendous support, we are finding ourselves at capacity. Since most of our cases take anywhere from 15 – 60 hours of direct legal work and up to several years with the Department of Homeland Security, we are limited in the number of new cases we can take on. We hope you will continue to remember us through Rainbow Covenant or any other special offerings. Board members, other volunteers and I would welcome the opportunity to thank your congregation in person and share more about this ministry and its context at a time when anti-immigrant sentiment is as high as it has ever been.

We also hope to see you at **our Annual Dinner on Sunday, Sept. 18 at 4:30 at Elgin Community College where we will recognize all our supporters and bestow our first "Champions for Justice" Awards to Rev. Michael Mann and Reverend Lisl Heymans Paul.** (Invitation enclosed)

Sincerely,

Rev. Paula Cripps-Vallejo  
Chair of the Board

*"Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there." Deuteronomy 24:17-18*

Rainbow Covenant #: 50000140