

# ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2021

JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021



JUSTICE AND MERCY  
LEGAL AID CENTER

*Dear Friends,*

**J**AMLAC has been born—again! On July 1, 2021, after 15 plus years as a program of Mile High Ministries (MHM) and being delayed by an additional year due to COVID, the Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Center officially become an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

This transition, we believe, is good and healthy for JAMLAC and for MHM. We remain tremendous friends and partners with MHM as **we continue our mission of seeking justice for people who are struggling with poverty and oppression.** We are excited about this new phase of our work.

As you read this annual report, **please praise God with me for the good things He has done, and trust Him for the good things he is going to do through all of you along with us.**

Peace of Christ.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steve".

Steve Thompson  
Lead Servant, JAMLAC





# OUR MISSION

We seek **justice** for people who struggle with poverty and oppression.

We do this through compassionate civil legal services in a way that affirms people's dignity and strengthens their capacity to positively direct their own lives.

Clients received full legal representation

687

613

People received legal consultations or advocacy services

250

Individuals received legal advice at our legal clinics  
(Despite many closures due to COVID)

## VOLUNTEERS

116

Volunteers provided 1,600 hours of services

**\$160,000** worth of time and talent to help low-income families in the community.

78%

of our clients are **SURVIVORS** of abuse.



# Impact

Thanks to your support in FY2021 we provided:

**Full Representation,  
Legal Advice & Advocacy**

for over **1500** people!

Navigating the legal system alone is confusing and challenging for everyone. Access to an attorney is one key factor that determines if a survivor will return to an abuser.

## OUR PROGRAMS

### Immigration

We represent immigrants with U-Visa, I-360 Self-Petition (VAWA), Lawful Permanent Residency, DACA, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), Naturalizations, and other immigration processes.

### Family Law

We represent victims of domestic violence and other crimes with divorce, custody, and child support issues.

### Protection Orders

We ensure the protection of victims through representation and assistance with temporary and permanent civil protection orders.

### Pro Bono Project

Through our Pro Bono Project volunteers attorneys represent individuals in a variety of civil legal matters.

### Workshops

We host workshops to help educate and counsel underserved communities on legal options and rights.

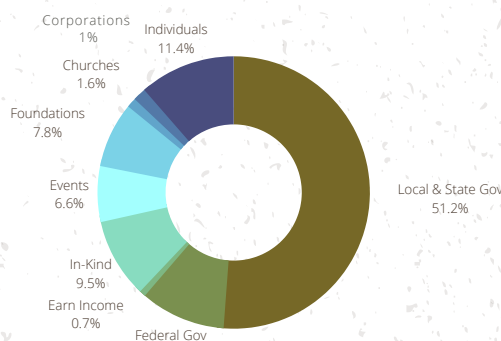
### Clinics

We offer 11 legal clinics, in partnership with Christian Legal Society, across the Denver metro area where volunteer attorneys provide legal advice on various matters.

# JAMLAC Finances

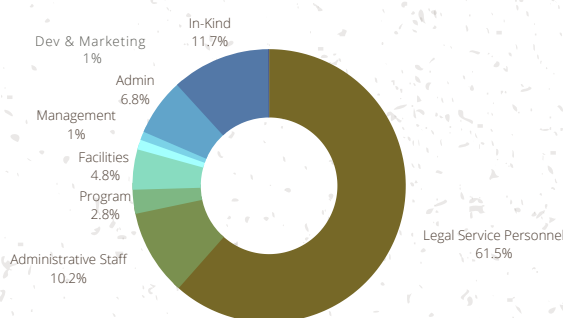
## INCOME

Local and State Gov. Grants.....	\$758,110
Federal Gov. Grants.....	\$150,428
Earn Income.....	\$11,351
In-Kind Donations.....	\$140,850
Events & Other.....	\$98,215
Foundations.....	\$115,953
Corporations.....	\$17,625
Churches.....	\$23,702
Individuals.....	\$169,322
<b>Total JAMLAC Income.....</b>	<b>\$1,485,558</b>



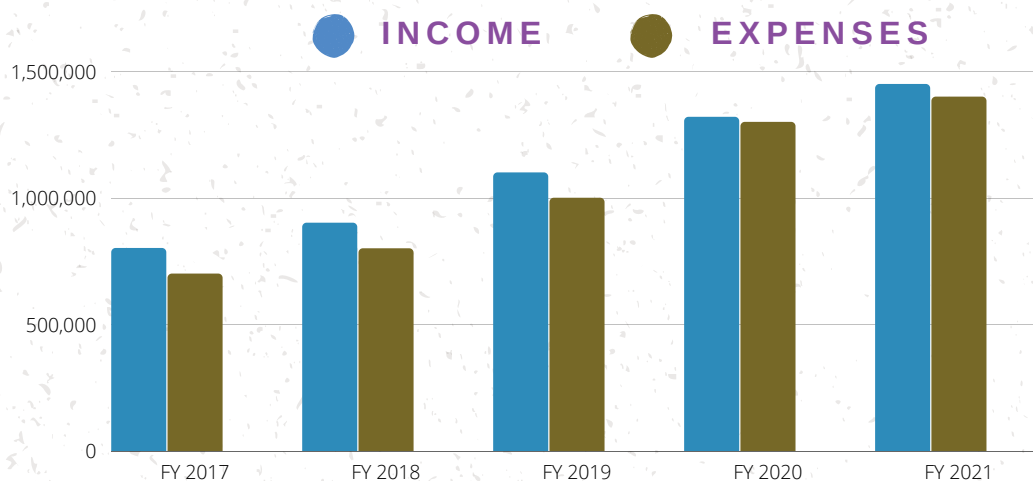
## EXPENSES

Legal Service Personnel.....	\$737,514
* Administrative Personnel.....	\$122,251
Program.....	\$34,853
Rent, Facility & Utilities.....	\$57,745
Auto & Equipment.....	\$1,354
Development & Marketing.....	\$14,832
Management.....	\$12,599
Administration, Printing, Supplies....	\$81,428
In-Kind Expenses.....	\$140,850
<b>Total JAMLAC Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$1,203,427</b>



\*Estimated based on staff administrative responsibilities

## YEAR - BY-YEAR COMPARISON



## IMPACT PARTNERS!



Finest Quality Imports LLC



## DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

### VOLUNTEERS

116 volunteers served in FY21

### CHURCH PARTNERS

Bear Valley Baptist Church, Celebration Community Church, City Church Denver, Colorado Community Church, Mission Hills Church, and Denver Community Church (Project Renew).

### FOUNDATIONS

The Denver Foundation (Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund & LatinasGive!) 1st Judicial District Bar Association, Colorado Nonprofit Development Center, Bachus and Schanker Cares Foundation, Colorado AILA Chapter, Colorado Bar Foundation, Standing Pines Foundation, and various family foundations.

### GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Victim Assistance Law Enforcement (VALE) grants from the 1st, 2nd, 17th and 18th Judicial District, Aid to Agencies Arapahoe County, Family Violence Justice Fund, City and County of Denver, and Crime Victim Services grants.

### BOARD MEMBERS

Douglas Griess, Michelle Warren, Jeff Messer, Jim Helfrich, Wes Hayes, Kacie Mulhern, Ayinde Russell, Vanessa Guzman, Thom Scheffel, Hawk Thomas, Scott Lumpkin, Heidi Messer and Caitlin Finn

### INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE DONORS

355 individuals, families and businesses financially supported our mission this year.



# JAMLAC Vision!

**FY2021 WAS A BIG YEAR FOR US,  
BUT WE BELIEVE THE BEST  
IS YET TO COME!**

In order to address the lack of legal representation for economically disadvantaged individuals, JAMLAC's strategic vision is to have a well-resourced, full service, faith inspired, civil legal center that can be replicated as a model in other locations. Our goals:

- ✓ Expand to other areas of law to become a comprehensive civil poverty law center
- ✓ Create a model for legal aid centers that can be duplicated in other cities/locations
- ✓ Expand immigration services to meet the growing need for this vulnerable population
- ✓ Grow the Pro Bono Project to utilize more attorney volunteers to make a greater impact

## "The best thing I ever did"

**"I thought I had to endorse all those bad things** because I was an immigrant and didn't have resources. I first left him right when he started hitting me, but I was pregnant with my first child and I felt so insecure because I didn't have any income or way to provide for my son. **So I went back.** The abuse was physical and mental – it was just horrible. It took me 7 years to open my eyes. The last time I let him hit me, **I woke up and said this is not the life for me or my kids.** I went to live my parents and got into therapy. My therapist referred me to JAMLAC and they helped me with everything.

**I was scared, but seeking help was the best thing I ever did.** He was not only a bad person to me but a bad person to my kids as well. Now I'm at peace and the fear of abuse and instability is gone. Even my therapist says I'm doing so much better. I finally got my life settled thanks to JAMLAC."

*Eve – JAMLAC Client, Survivor and an Amazing Mom!*

