

CASE STUDIES OF AIJN CLIENTS SERVED

**names changed to protect privacy*

- **Vince***, his wife Faith*, and their three children are from Nigeria, where Vince was engaged in community organizing for social change. He was known in his community for publicly decrying violent crimes committed by gangs and "cultists." For years, Vince and his family suffered retaliation for his activism: home burglary, job loss, police corruption, threats, and brutal violence against the family. After collecting enough money to buy plane tickets, Vince's family fled to the U.S. on visitor visas. In early 2020, AIJN's volunteers helped Vince and his family secure a lawyer to pursue asylum relief here in the United States. Last month, his attorney notified Vince that he and his wife received their work permits and Social Security cards. It may take a long time for a decision to be made on their asylum case, but in the meantime, Vince, his wife and daughters are comforted knowing they have a high-quality immigration lawyer representing their case.
- Several AIJN clients are children who entered the U.S. without a parent or legal guardian. Some of these children were forcibly separated from their parents at the border; others traveled to the U.S. alone. **Camila*** is one of these children. She fled Honduras in 2018 at age 16 and was eventually reunited with her sister and enrolled as a student at Annapolis High School. In early 2019, AIJN connected Camila to a trusted immigration attorney and funded \$2,000 of her legal representation fees. In November 2019, a Maryland court granted a predicate order that put Camila on a pathway to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and eventual U.S. citizenship. Camila can now pursue her goal of becoming a nurse!

To support more youth like Camila who desperately need legal representation to prevent deportation, AIJN entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with national advocacy organization Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) in August, 2019. Under this agreement, KIND agrees to accept a total case fee of only \$2,000 for AIJN youth clients that KIND agrees to represent.



AIJN clients after winning their asylum cases in Baltimore Executive Office of Immigration Review court, pictured with AIJN volunteers and representing attorneys. These parents and their children are now on pathways to citizenship and free from fear of deportation and family separation.

AIJN HIGHLIGHTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 103 county neighbors, including 56 children, now have official legal representation for their immigration cases. AIJN's legal fund has granted over \$158,000 to help clients pay legal fees.● 3 client families, including 8 children, have been granted asylum in federal immigration court.● 21 clients have received employment authorization permits enabling them to work legally.● 6 youth clients have received SIJS predicate orders in Circuit Court (Special Immigration Juvenile Status leading to citizenship).● 11 individuals released from local and border detention; subsequent reunification with family members in Anne Arundel County, including 4 children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 300+ volunteer team accompaniments to clients' federal court hearings, ICE and ISAP check ins, and legal appointments● Facilitated removal of ankle monitoring devices for 7 clients● Executive Citation from County Executive Steuart Pittman for AIJN's "devotion to those in need... in Anne Arundel County" (September 2019)● Maryland General Assembly Official Citation presented to AIJN by Delegate Alice Cain (February 2020)● AIJN wins Herbert S. Garten Special Project Award from Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (June 2020)● AIJN board member Maria Matiella and Suzanne Martin appointed to Anne Arundel County Immigrant Affairs Commission (July 2020)
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CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

These writers include an unaccompanied minor and a single mother of two young sons with disabilities.

"I'd like to start off with thanking for all the support I've been given...because of you and the group believed in me. And for the opportunity to have a really good lawyer...I really feel happy because I got the chance to have a career in life...and the opportunity to keep studying."

"We are very thankful to [AIJN volunteers] that help me with transportation, and all others that help this organization with money. That is very helpful for us. I ask God that he give them back more than they gave us. They will be forever important in our lives."

"We will always remember your love and kindness. In no distant time too we can start giving back to help, continue the cycle of helping others in our situation. Thank you again for your large heart."

"May God bless every one of you in your organization for all your help, your efforts, and all of you on whom we count for your help."

"In your group, if someday you need me, I am at your service. I would really love to help people who may have just come to this country and are distressed just as I was one day, and [help them] just as you helped me. Without you I wouldn't have been able to do anything. Thank you."