



Annapolis Immigration Justice Network

**4th Anniversary Celebration
September 23, 2021**



**Keynote Speaker | Original Poem by Neighbor
Live Auction | Fellowship
Virtual Toast offered by Caliente Grill**

From our Executive Director and President



I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Annapolis Immigration Justice Network. When we first came together in April 2017, I don't think any of us could have ever imagined how big our organization would grow. What started out as concern for immigrants in our community, became a call to action. It's been an amazing journey to watch our organization expand and prosper, and it's only through the incredible dedication and hard work of so many people. We have assisted more than 380 of our immigrant neighbors, connecting them to quality legal counsel and case management support, and provided more than \$220,000 in legal fee assistance to families and individuals in Anne Arundel County. Almost 60% of our immigrant neighbors who have needed financial assistance are children. I am so thrilled to be celebrating our 4 year anniversary, and I can't wait to see how AIJN grows in the future!

Warm regards,
Suzanne Martin
Executive Director and Founder

Four years ago, I wanted to learn more. DACA, DREAMers, immigration reform – terms and concepts I heard about but did not fully understand. As a parent, by international adoption, of a son who identifies as an immigrant, I needed to know more.

What I have learned – and continue to learn – is that immigration is complicated. It is confusing and difficult to navigate. Each person has their own story, many that bring a tear to your eye and break your heart. I had no idea that an informational meeting in April 2017 would spur a community to action and form a network of volunteers who would support hundreds of our neighbors to live safely, thrive and flourish in Anne Arundel County.

My heart is full of gratitude to the volunteers, donors, supporters, Board members, advocates, and our inaugural executive director for their time, generosity, leadership, and compassion.

And to our neighbors – welcome.

Monica Rausa Williams
President, Board of Directors



Maureen Sweeney



Maureen Sweeney is a Law School Professor and the Faculty Director of the University of Maryland Carey Law School's Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice. She has directed the Immigration Clinic at the law school since 2004. Before that, she worked as a staff attorney at Catholic Charities Esperanza Center in Baltimore and as a legal aid lawyer for migrant farmworkers.

As a teacher and a scholar, Maureen writes and has trained lawyers and law students in Maryland and around the country on immigration-related topics like asylum, the immigration consequences of convictions, and the relationship between the immigration court system and the U.S. federal courts.

She serves as an advisor to various advocacy groups, including the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG), the ACLU of Maryland, the Annapolis Immigration Justice Network, and Kids in Need of Defense in Baltimore.

Poem by Cris and Edi



To give a donation to AIJN
is like giving oxygen
to a family that is out of breath.
It is like giving hope
When everything is lost.

It is like giving tools
to rescue a family
and unite them after
they have been so cruelly separated.

It is like breaking down walls, crossing barriers,
going against the current,
with the purpose of reuniting family members
who haven't the least idea
of what to do in this kind of situation.

AIJN with great intelligence,
will know how to use your donation
and, believe me – they will work miracles with it!

And you will be blessed for showing your love and compassion
to a family that needs it so much.
-- Cris and Edi

This poem was written by a married couple forcibly separated at the U.S. southern border more than 2 years ago. When they reunited months later with AIJN's support, Edi met his infant son for the first time.

ROSARIO'S* STORY



Scene: Sunday evening in a small street front shop with attached living quarters. A single mother, Rosario, is in her shop when two men walk in and her two children also enter from their room. The men had appeared once before and asked for money. She didn't think they would return.

"We need more money. Are those your children?" they asked.

"Yes," Rosario answered.

"Your son is about the right age. He can be useful to us. You know what we can do to them if you don't cooperate."

Together with her parents, Rosario made the difficult decision to flee El Salvador with her son. They had to cross Guatemala and Mexico to arrive at the US border. Through AIJN Rosario received a legal consultation. Although tragic, her case didn't meet the traditional standards for asylum representation. Consequently, Rosario had no option but to represent herself against a government attorney before an immigration judge. One of the attorneys with whom we collaborate, agreed to offer background support by coaching our volunteer case managers to counsel Rosario for the upcoming hearing. Rosario bravely told her story in front of a federal judge without legal representation and won her case for asylum. We are now providing financial assistance so she can retain an attorney to help her complete paperwork necessary to be reunited with her younger daughter who had to be left behind in El Salvador. We are hopeful that they can be reunited soon.

From Rosario:

"Please support AIJN. I wouldn't have reached where I am without the support of this organization. Think of someone else in a difficult situation whose life you might be helping."

*client name changed

A NEIGHBOR'S STORY

In June 2021, AIJN received the following text message from our client:

“My family was stopped by the Mexico Gulf Cartel. They had been given 10 minutes to give a password that they did not have...they were told they would kill them right there...I wish I could do something for them...but what can I do???”

Our client’s brother, sister-in-law and 10 year old child were kidnapped by the cartel in Mexico at the border, and later released. The family was extremely lucky to have been rescued by two people who took them to a shelter, but they were still stuck in Mexico and in grave danger. Through the windows of the shelter, the family could see the cartel members standing outside.



AIJN sprang into action and learned that the Biden Administration had quietly started a new program called “Title 42 Exceptions” to allow exceptionally vulnerable people through the border and that HIAS, a nonprofit supporting refugees around the world, was the gateway. Within a few hours, Kids In Need of Defense’s (KIND) managing attorney put us in touch with a Director of HIAS. We are not sure how it happened, but we would like to believe it was our organization’s wonderful partnership with KIND that quickly convinced HIAS to make AIJN an approved legal service provider to make these urgent referrals.

Several days later, HIAS lawyers walked with this family across the bridge from Mexico into the United States where they were processed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and released into Texas. The family walked to the local bus station to rendezvous with our other connection, Team Brownsville, an amazing nonprofit who has helped several of our clients at the border. Team Brownsville gave them food and connected them to a local shelter and to Miles 4 Migrants, another amazing nonprofit that helps fly asylum seekers to their final destination using frequent flyer miles. The family arrived at Dulles Airport in June.

It took six organizations to bring them to their ultimate destination in Anne Arundel County: KIND, Casa del Migrante, HIAS, AIJN, Team Brownsville and Miles4Migrants. AIJN celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their countries of origin.

AIJN VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL

I feel very fortunate to have been a part of AIJN since its inception in 2017, when my wife and I were introduced to a family whose husband/father had been swept up in a raid by ICE officers while on his way to work. The risk of deportation to El Salvador was very high. At this point, he had lived and worked here for 14 years. AIJN quickly rallied to connect him and his family to support during his detention. He eventually was deported and ended up fleeing to the border again but this time a great lawyer at the border represented him. He passed his 'credible fear' interview at the border, and was able to be released after posting bond in Texas.



One of the most memorable moments in my entire life was meeting this gentleman, with his family and AIJN supporters at BWI Airport in the wee hours of the night, to welcome him back to Maryland, after 8 grueling months!

As an AIJN volunteer I drive immigrant neighbors to Baltimore for ICE check-ins, to attorney meetings, or court hearings. On one occasion, I had the immense pleasure of witnessing when one individual, along with Suzanne Martin, was notified that he was eligible for a "U" visa by virtue of his assisting the police in the investigation and prosecution of the individuals who robbed him as he was delivering pizza. He was totally unaware of this option. I transported him to meetings with his attorney, who filed the application for him, his wife, and child for the 'U Visa.'

AIJN has provided me with powerful experiences and memories! This organization has significantly impacted my life in ways I could never have predicted.

Patrick Fleearty

Letter from Deborah Ninan, Esq.

It is with great pleasure that Ninan + Vibriesca Law, LLC, extends its congratulations to Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN) on its 4th anniversary. We began partnering with AIJN in 2018 to provide legal advice and representation to immigrants in Anne Arundel County.

Throughout this partnership, we have witnessed the invaluable service AIJN provides immigrant families and individuals, many of whom arrive in the U.S. without the support of family and friends, and without access to information about their legal rights and options. AIJN offers case management support, transportation, translation services, and legal fee assistance to connect clients to experienced immigration attorneys.



Some of these immigrants are in removal or deportation proceedings and must seek relief before an Immigration Judge in order to remain in the U.S. legally. These immigrants have no right to counsel, and without the help of an attorney, the chances of successfully seeking relief from deportation rapidly decrease.

Through AIJN's direct financial assistance, our firm has been able to represent at least 26 adults and children. We continue to witness how our clients have thrived with the help of AIJN to adjust to a new life here in the United States, and to gain the knowledge and power they need to make empowered decisions for themselves and their families. We are thrilled to celebrate this anniversary with AIJN and wish for many more years of success serving our community.

Deborah Ninan, Esq.

AIJN HIGHLIGHTS

Mission: Walk alongside and support our neighbors as they navigate the immigration process.

Vision: Empowered, unified families and individuals living safely in our community.

Established in 2017, Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN) is a volunteer-supported organization providing residents of Anne Arundel County case management support and connections to legal representation and other resources to assist with their immigration cases. We are driven by the fundamental right to due process for our immigrant neighbors. Quality legal counsel prevents family separation and deportation in underserved communities and provides a true opportunity to seek a pathway to citizenship in the United States. Our programs help improve not only the well-being of our immigrant neighbors but also of our entire county by promoting family preservation and security from deportation.

- We have provided services to over 388 county residents.
- 136 county neighbors, including 76 children, connected to legal representation for their immigration cases.
- Almost \$220,000 granted by our Legal Fund to help clients pay attorney fees.
- Provided transportation and logistical support for over 350 client trips to federal immigration court, I.C.E. and ankle monitor checks, and legal appointments.
- 29 clients have received employment authorization permits enabling them to support themselves and their families.
- 12 people in government custody at the border reunited with their families.
- 11 youth clients received Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) predicate orders in Circuit Court. SIJS is a pathway to eventual citizenship.
- 4 client families, including 7 children, granted asylum in federal immigration court.

Support and learn more at www.aijnetwork.org.

IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

How your contributions help immigrant families remain safe and unified:

\$50 gift could support the case management needs of a family with court filings and administrative services including critical translation needs, scheduling, and connections to community resources.

\$100 gift could supply roundtrip transportation to Baltimore for a family's federal immigration court hearing, ICE check-in or legal consultation.

\$500 gift could help a mother pay the filing fee for her employment authorization or green card application.

\$1,000 gift could fund ten attorney consultations for individuals seeking counsel on pathways to legal relief from deportation.

\$2,000 gift could provide legal representation fee assistance for a family seeking asylum or a child pursuing a visa for abused, neglected, and abandoned children.

**If you would like to make a gift to AIJN, please visit our website at <https://www.aijnetwork.org/> or send your check made payable to:
Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN)
1125 West Street, Suite 623
Annapolis, Maryland 21401**

Annapolis Immigration Justice Network is a 501(c)(3). Federal Tax ID 83-2499061.

A copy of the current financial statement is available by writing to Suzanne Martin, AIJN, 1125 West Street, Suite 623, Annapolis MD 21401 or by calling (717) 584-4860.

Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, (410) 974-5534.

WELLS
FARGO

Advisors



Bird Barkman Financial Strategies Group of Wells Fargo Advisors
congratulates

Annapolis Immigration Justice Network on your 4th Anniversary Celebration

Ken Barkman, CRPC®, CRPS®, AIF®

First Vice President – Investments
2661 Riva Rd., Ste. 1011, Annapolis, MD 21401
Direct: 410-897-5708
ken.barkman@wellsfargoadvisors.com
<https://fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/bird-barkman-fsg>

Tom Bird, CRPS®, AIF®

Managing Director – Investments
410-897-5718
thomas.bird@wellsfargoadvisors.com

Investment and Insurance Products: • NOT FDIC Insured • NO Bank Guarantee • MAY Lose Value

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.
© 2020 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. All rights reserved. CAR-0420-01697 IHA-7088959



FELICIDADES!

4TH ANNIVERSARY

**Annapolis Immigration
Justice Network**

*your commitment to support the immigrant community
has been so important to all families, and Caliente
Grill is so proud to support your organization! cheers
for many successful years to come!*



www.calientegrillannapolis.com





Mark Glueck
CONSULTING, LLC

In support of AIJN's
important and successful
mission



CONGRATULATES

*Annapolis Immigration
Justice Network*

700 Mill Creek Road
Arnold, Maryland 21012
(410)544-5448
www.thepointcrabhouse.com

Felicidades AIJN por tu servicio
y trabajo incluyente para
nuestra comunidad!

♡

Congratulations AIJN for your service
and inclusive work in
our community!

~Annapolis Mayor
Gavin Buckley



By authority of Stuart Cohen, Treasurer for Friends of Gavin Buckley





THE LAW OFFICE OF KATHERINE STENLAKE
217 N. CHARLES STREET, 3RD FLOOR
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201
(410)881-3821
Kate@stenlakelawoffice.com

I work in partnership with AIJN representing many AIJN clients. I am happy to be a part of a team, who are doing such good work.

Congratulations!





Congratulations!

AIJN on your 4th Anniversary! Thank you for welcoming all of our neighbors into the community and providing us the opportunity to be a part of the tremendous impact of your mission.

Barbara Witten & Randy Bradley

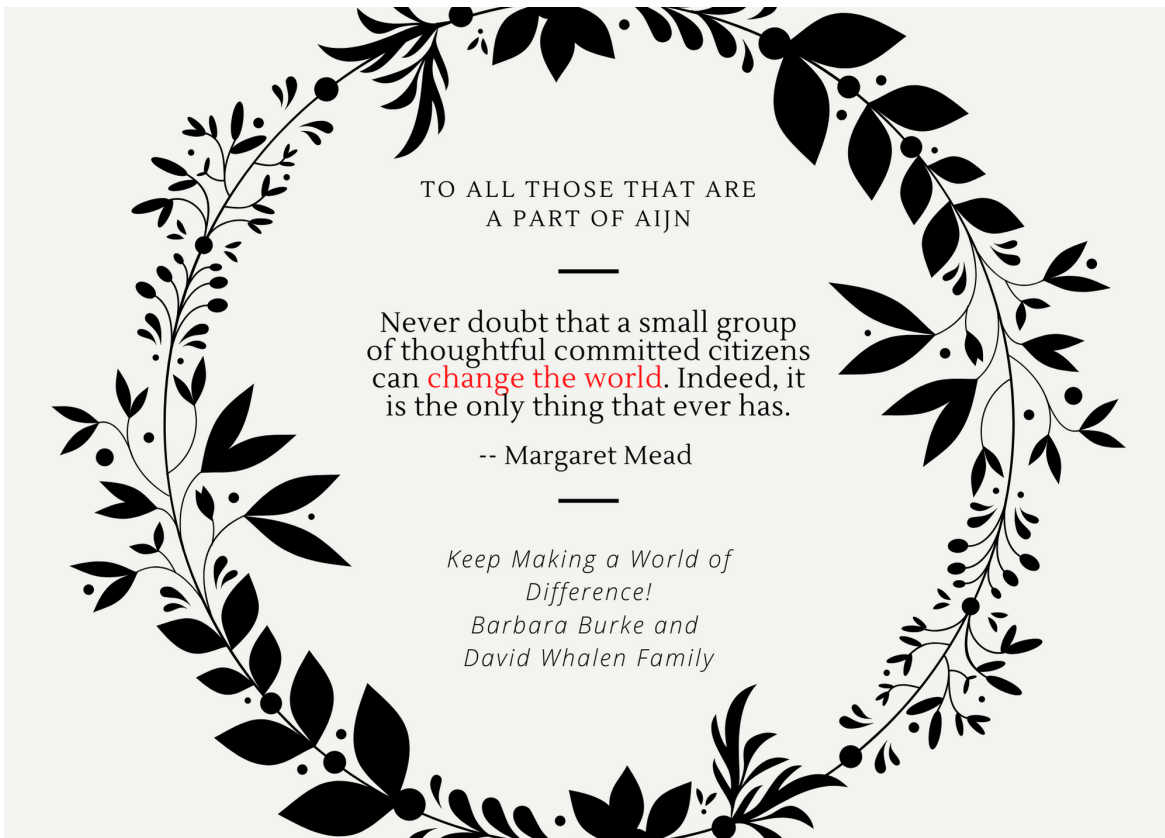


Cheers

TO AIJN

175 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland (410)280-5160
www.metropolitanannapolis.com



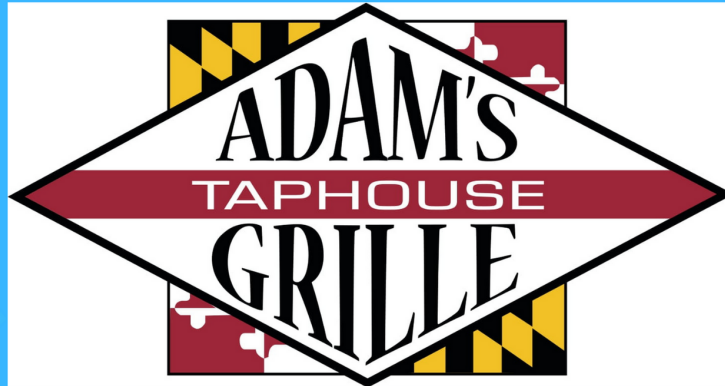


TO ALL THOSE THAT ARE
A PART OF AIJN

Never doubt that a small group
of thoughtful committed citizens
can **change the world**. Indeed, it
is the only thing that ever has.

-- Margaret Mead

*Keep Making a World of
Difference!
Barbara Burke and
David Whalen Family*



WISHES ANNAPOLIS IMMIGRATION
JUSTICE NETWORK

Congratulations

ANNAPOLIS EDGEWATER SEVERNA PARK KENT ISLAND



**Unitarian Universalist Church
of Annapolis**

Congratulates
AIJN

FOR STANDING BY LOVE
IN WELCOMING OUR NEIGHBORS TO OUR
SHARED BELOVED COMMUNITY

NINAN + VIBRIESCA LAW, LLC

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS
ABOGADAS DE INMIGRACIÓN

*We are detailed in our representation.
We are dedicated to bring you results.
We are driven to zealously advocate for you.*

301-431-4161 | 301-531-4163
HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

WWW.NVIMMIGRATIONLAW.COM
FACEBOOK: @NVIMMIGRATIONATTORNEYS
INSTAGRAM: @NVIMMIGRATIONLAW



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
FRANCIS KING CAREY
SCHOOL OF LAW

CHACÓN CENTER FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

Salutes
AIJN

for its dedicated and generous welcome
to our immigrant and refugee neighbors

Congratulations on 4 wonderful years!
We look forward to the future



ANNAPOLIS IMMIGRATION
JUSTICE NETWORK

Congratulations!

*For your steadfast work in offering
compassion and support while assisting our
immigrants through necessary legal pathways
for citizenship.*

Alderwoman Eleanor "Elly" Tierney
Member, Anne Arundel County Immigrant
Affairs Commission

Ward One, City of Annapolis
160 Duke of Gloucester St.
Annapolis MD 21401 | 410)231-1316
email: aldtierney@annapolis.gov

"America is White and Black and Latino and Asian.
America is mixed. America is immigrants."
- Jose Antonio Vargas

Thank you

AIJN FOR STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY
AND OUR COUNTRY THROUGH YOUR
WELCOMING WORK.

DAN & KIM KAVANAUGH



**SANDY
BARTLETT**

MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

DISTRICT 32



**Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN)
Congratulations on 4 years of steadfast advocacy !!!**

THANK YOU!!



Special Thank You

Match Donors

The Cable Family
Marguerite Cullman
Dave and Ada Dorn Memorial
Misti Mukherjee and Mike Williams
Carolyn Parr

Invaluable Technical Expertise

Jessica Morgan and Kayla Morgan

Auctioneer

Joe Gormley



Presenters

Maureen Sweeney,
Director, University of Maryland Carey Law School,
Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice
Cris and Javier, AIJN Neighbors

Auction Donors

Jack Anderson * Kathy Bain * Sharon & Adam Blugis * Gina Giugni
David Hartcorn Studios * Matthew Marcy * Charlie Martel * Jesse Raudales

Anniversary Celebration Partner

Roxana Rodriguez, Caliente Grill



Ad Sponsors

Bird Barkman Financial Strategies	Mark Glueck Consulting, LLC
Group of Wells Fargo Advisors	The Point Crab House and Grill
Adam's Taphouse Grille	Metropolitan Kitchen and Lounge
The Law Office of Katherine Stenlake	Delegate Sandy Bartlett
Dan and Kim Kavanaugh	Alderwoman Elly Tierney

Table Sponsors

Mayor Gavin Buckley	Barbara Burke and David Whalen
Barbara Witten and Randy Bradley	Unitarian Universalist Church of
Ninan + Vibriesca	Annapolis
Maureen Sweeney	Jonathan Wintrode

