

MOBILIZATION FOR JUSTICE

Our mission is to achieve social justice, prioritizing the needs of people who are low-income, disenfranchised, or have disabilities. We provide the highest quality free, direct civil legal assistance, conduct community education and build partnerships, engage in policy advocacy, and bring impact litigation, with a focus on four key areas: Housing, Economic Justice, Disability & Aging Rights, and Children's Rights.

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2021 YEAR-END REPORT



A Lifeline for New Yorkers in Need

MFJ Kinship Care client Ms. T with her newly adopted grandson A, after his mother's tragic passing from brain cancer at 23.

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MOBILIZATION FOR JUSTICE VICTORIES – THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT!

Helping Siblings Orphaned by COVID-19 Stay With Their Family

Three siblings ages 3 to 10 experienced an unimaginable loss when both their parents died of COVID-19 days apart from one another in February 2021. Mr. and Mrs. C contacted MFJ seeking assistance getting custody of their three nephews while still grieving the loss of their loved ones. MFJ attorney Karla Johnson filed an emergency custody petition.



MFJ client Mrs. C with her and her husband's lovely children.

After two court appearances, prepping the clients for a virtual court-ordered investigation of their home and communicating with the attorney for the children on a very tight deadline, Mr. and Mrs. C were granted a final order of sole custody of all three siblings. The story doesn't end there: providing holistic services, MFJ helped the family apply for a Havens Grant for beds and bedroom furniture so the three children would no longer have to share one bed and have a space to do their schoolwork.

During the pandemic, MFJ's Kinship Care legal team has assisted far more relatives after the death of a parent than usual. This has been incredibly challenging and we are proud of the MFJ KCLP attorneys for meeting clients' needs during moments of intense crisis with patience, understanding, and compassion.

Helping a Single Father of Two Make Ends Meet

Mr. A moved into his Bronx apartment with his 2 sons nearly 15 years ago. Previously, his family received a housing subsidy, commonly referred to as FHEPS (Family Homelessness & Eviction Prevention Supplement). In recent years the voucher payments were cut off because he started working as a security guard, with income that made him ineligible for the program. Despite a full time job, the pay was not sufficient to take care of his family's basic needs. Mr. A could not afford to buy groceries, pay for his work uniform, and pay the rent. It was too much, and he fell into arrears that quickly accumulated to almost \$7,000.

After contacting MFJ, housing attorney Javeria Hashmi guided Mr. A through the process of applying for a one-time rental assistance loan. Within two months, Mr. A received the loan and signed a court-ordered stipulation to discontinue his eviction case. Mr. A was so relieved that someone was there to listen to him and provide legal assistance. He wrote the attached letter to Javeria, a "true angel":



Fair Fares program extended to Access-A-Ride Users!

After many months of negotiations and advocacy, an MFJ attorney persuaded the city Human Resources Administration (HRA) to expand the Fair Fares Program to include people with disabilities who use Access-A-Ride (AAR). Fair Fares is a NYC program that helps low-income New Yorkers between the ages of 18 and 64 with their transportation costs by providing a 50% discount on fares. Inexplicably, when the program

was conceived, it excluded New Yorkers who use Access-A-Ride. MFJ's Access-A-Ride expert Daniel Ross, with colleagues in the Access-A-Ride Reform Group (AARRG!), pointed out to HRA that this is clearly disability discrimination. Frustratingly, the city went ahead and launched the program without making any changes. After a demand letter was sent to the HRA commissioner, months of negotiations began, including nailing down the details of how the program would work. In October 2020, the settlement agreement was finalized, and Access-A-Ride users will save hundreds of thousands of dollars that can now be used for food, shelter, clothes, etc. A great win for thousands of New Yorkers!

Reuniting 2 Daughters with Their Mother After 14 Years!

In 2019, MFJ met Ms. M who, after years of separation, wanted to bring her daughters, K and N to the United States from Grenada. MFJ attorney Trisha Sobha assisted Ms. M with filing her daughters' petitions, and once approved, MFJ helped prepare and submit documents to obtain an interview. This interview was scheduled in August 2021 at the U.S. consulate in Barbados, requiring them to travel to another country during the pandemic, obtain the necessary medical paperwork, and appear at the interview. Trisha prepared K and N on navigating this process and for the interview. K and N's visas were approved and they immigrated to the United States, reuniting with their mother after living apart from her for 14 years.

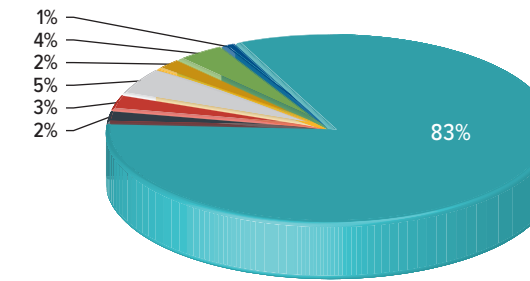
Nursing Home White Papers

This year MFJ released two reports addressing harmful, inhumane policies and a lack of oversight of New York State's nursing home system. One report revealed nursing homes' rampant abuse of involuntary discharge procedures to transfer residents to homeless shelters against their will. The other report revealed that nursing homes have failed to comply with a new state law requiring pandemic emergency plans (PEPs). The PEPs are supposed to ensure that facilities are prepared for a COVID spike or other pandemic, but instead they parrot the statutory language and rarely include actionable plans. Our reports recommend concrete steps that nursing homes, the Department of Health, and the legislature can take to improve the health and quality of life of New York's nursing home community.

2021 Audited Financial Overview FY 2021

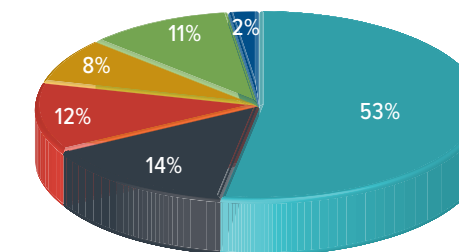
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Revenue: \$17,600,969



- Government **\$14,668,398**
- Foundations & Corporations **\$302,325**
- Attorney Fees **\$539,272**
- Annual Fund **\$882,426**
- Donated Services **\$400,000**
- Theatre Benefit **\$733,225**
- Interest & Misc **\$75,323**

Expenses: \$18,648,241

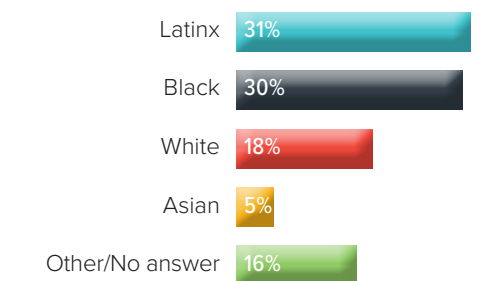


- Housing & HIV **\$9,820,295**
- Disability & Aging Rights Project **\$2,722,856**
- Economic Justice **\$2,231,143**
- Children's Rights **\$1,440,151**
- Administration **\$2,000,631**
- Fundraising **\$433,165**

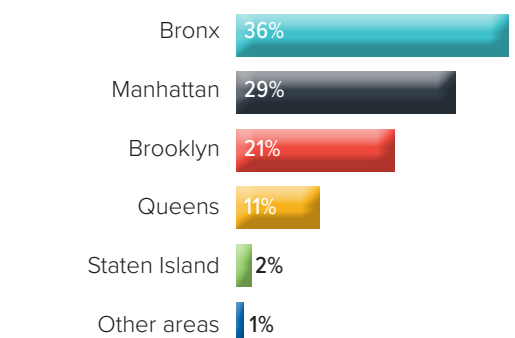
Client Profiles and Services FY 2021

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

FY 2021 Clients by Race



FY 2021 Clients by Residence



FY 2021 Client Cases

