

We're always looking for volunteers! Contact us today!



Meet Mayra - Dreamer, Student, Neighbor

Mayra was born in Costa Rica, but the only country she has ever known is America. Her parents brought her to the United States when she was only 6 months old.

She grew up in Hurst, where she excelled in high school, earned an associate's degree from Tarrant Community College, and dreamed of continuing her studies. But Mayra was undocumented. She couldn't work legally. She couldn't get a driver's license. She couldn't apply for in-state tuition or for state student loans and scholarships. She had hit a wall and could go no further. Like most undocumented people, there was no legal remedy for her to gain legal status.

Her life changed when Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was announced, which allowed Mayra to receive her work permit in 2013. Suddenly, all the things that Mayra had dreamed of were within her reach. Determined to finish her education, she applied to prestigious Sarah Lawrence University and received a full scholarship. Currently studying public policy and Spanish language and literature, she plans to go to law school and eventually to work for an immigrant justice organization.

"I have been granted privileges most from my community have not," she says. "I am frightened and devastated at the news that DACA has been terminated, but am committed to working wisely and joyfully for equality. I will never forget that my existence in the only country I know was criminalized before I could speak. And I will never stop fighting for my community's right to hug their loved ones and lead a life with dignity."

Those of us at JFON who have witnessed Mayra both struggle and thrive with her undocumented status over the years now share in her commitment. We are certain that this exceptional young woman is going to accomplish great things, both for her community and for our country.

YOU CAN HELP MAYRA follow her dreams. Please contact Sen. Cruz, Sen. Cornyn, and your U.S. House Representative at (202) 224-3121 and ask them to support a "clean Dream Act."

If you don't know who your representative is, you can find out by following this link: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Texas JFON Roundtable - April 4-5 - San Antonio

As you know, the five Texas JFON sites are working together in a way they never have before. We are planning to work together on advocacy, communications, and long-term strategies. There will be a Texas JFON Roundtable April 4-5 in San Antonio. Conference rate is \$98.07 /night including taxes at The Drury Inn & Suites, San Antonio N. Stone Oak, 801 N. Loop 1604E, San Antonio, TX 78232 Please call or email Shelley Kennerdell to make a reservation (210) 408-4514 skennerdell@riotexas.org

I would love to see you there!

Thanks,
Graham

Volunteers Needed

JFON DFW is working to develop a partnership with the non-partisan League of Women Voters to educate new voters in the immigrant community. Would you be interested in hosting a voter registration/ education event in your area? Our goal is to organize 50 such events in the next year. Please call our office at 817-310-3820 and leave a message if you are interested. Thanks!

Immigration / Racial Justice Event - February 17 in Stephenville, TX

On February 17, the Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women annual Charter for Racial Justice hosted the education event called Sing-A-Rainbow. About 80 people from churches around the Ft. Worth area made the drive to Stephenville FUMC on a rainy Saturday to learn about the vital work going on in Texas to support and defend the rights of our Immigrant and Refugee neighbors. The event featured Graham Bateman of DFW JFON speaking, Virginia Raymond of Austin JFON, and Becky Story of Texas Refugee Services. Learning together leads to changed hearts and living our United Methodist Women's motto: Faith, Hope and Love in Action!



*Arnold's Naturalization,
1983*

Becoming a Citizen: a Photo Essay on naturalization

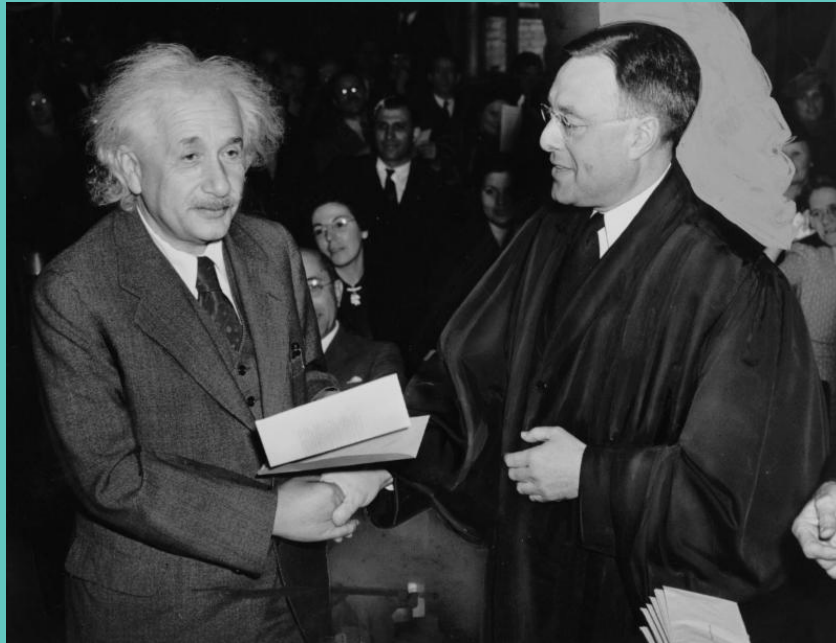
"Naturalization ceremonies take place across the country, in venues ranging from small courtrooms to vast sports stadiums. In all cases, applicants are asked to hand-in their permanent residency cards before taking the Oath of Allegiance, after which

they will be handed a certificate of naturalization. For many new citizens this moment will resonate for the rest of their lives.

As Austrian-American actor Arnold Schwarzenegger recounted in 2004, "As long as I live, I will never forget that day 21 years ago

when I raised my hand and took the oath of citizenship. Do you know how proud I was? I was so proud that I walked around with an American flag around my shoulders all day long."

[Click here to see the Photo Essay](#)



Albert Einstein at his naturalization ceremony in 1940

Donation Station

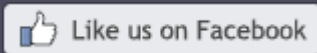
JFON-DFW is 501(c)3 non-profit, and we depend on our individual supporters as a source of funds to continue and EXPAND our work of compassion and justice for our immigrant neighbors. Your donation is tax-deductible and you can donate securely through our website.

Thank you for your support!

[**Click here to Donate to JFON Online!**](#)



STAY CONNECTED:



Justice For Our Neighbors DFW, 422 Church Street, Grapevine, TX 76051