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## **“and Justice for all” Announces \$81,000 in Grants to Local Civil Legal Aid Programs**

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—January 30, 2020—“and Justice for all” (AJFA) is pleased to announce \$81,000 in grants have been awarded to nine organizations through their grants program aimed at supporting innovative civil legal aid programs that provide direct legal services to Utahns facing troubling issues such as protection from violence, safe housing, immigration, homelessness, health care, and economic stability.

“and Justice for all” is a joint fundraising collaboration between Utah’s three primary providers of civil legal aid in Utah—Utah Legal Services, Disability Law Center and Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake. As part of their mission, the organization sets aside 10% of funds raised for a grants program to nurture additional local civil legal aid programs that provide legal aid to underserved populations.

Holy Cross Ministries is one of those organization who has been receiving AJFA grants funding for their legal immigration program since 2001, and their CEO had high praise for AJFA’s assistance.

“AJFA has been a key partner supporting Holy Cross Ministries’ (HCM) legal team sustain its work of providing affordable legal immigration services to some of the most vulnerable individuals in Utah’s communities,” says Emmie Gardner, the CEO of Holy Cross Ministries. “Their support over the past 20 years has made it possible for HCM’s Legal Immigration Program to serve over 2400 at-risk individuals on an annual basis and we are immensely grateful for their ongoing partnership.”

The 2020 grantees include:

**Catholic Community Services (CCS) Immigration Program** has been working with the immigration population of Utah for more than 20 years providing essential services that help reunite families and allow new citizens realize their American Dream. CCS provides full legal representation to immigrants and refugees when they submit applications to ‘legalize’ or upgrade their immigration status. This includes dispelling myths and explaining immigration laws and rules in a language that clients can understand.

**DNA People’s Legal Services (DNA)** provides culturally appropriate, free legal aid to qualifying low income residents in geographically isolated in portions of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. DNA provides a broad range of civil legal services in the courts of the Navajo Nation and before the administrative tribunals of public benefits agencies on critical issues such as housing, public benefits, safety from and crime. Their clients are 75% Navajo although services are provided for qualified clients of any ethnicity in San Juan County.

**Holy Cross Ministries (HCM) Legal Immigration Program** is dedicated to helping immigrant families participate in the community and gain self-sufficiency. Recognizing that there are limited accessible resources for low-income families in Utah, HCM operates Utah's first and largest U visa program for victims of crime and has helped over 10,000 men, women and children gain some type of legal status since opening in 2000.

**Utah Dispute Resolution (UDR) Family Mediation Program** uses trained, qualified volunteer mediators to provide free or low-cost mediation services to low-income and middle-income families in legal conflict over issues ranging from divorce and co-parenting matters to eldercare and probate disagreements.

**Volunteers of America, Utah's Homeless Youth Legal Clinic (VOA)** assists youth who are accessing services through the Youth Resource Center with the often complicated legal issues they are experiencing. VOA provides free consultation, representation and education to youth clients in order to remove any barriers to them obtaining housing, employment, education or achieving their potential.

**Timpanogos Legal Center (TLC)** provides civil legal aid services to fill in the gaps in service for low income Utahns in Utah County. With special outreach to rural communities, TLC provides assistance in the area of family law, housing, elderlaw, and to assist victims of crime through their legal clinics and referral services.

**Immigrant Legal Services (ILS):** provides services to immigrants that fall victim to immigration services scams, receive poor immigration counsel, or can't afford a private immigration attorney. They have made it their mission to help immigrants by providing quality legal services at an affordable rate so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of their communities – benefits such as a driver's license, a stable job, and a sense of security.

**International Rescue Committee (IRC):** The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and gain control of their future. That includes providing legal assistance to assist clients with residency and citizenship matters.

**Mountain Mediation Center (MMC):** Mountain Mediation Center Inc. is a organization whose mission is to provide the low-income residents of Park City, Summit and Wasatch Counties in Utah with the support needed to prevent and resolve disputes and to transform conflict into progress.

“We’re so grateful for the work that these admirable organizations do in our community,” said Kelly Striefel, the “and Justice for all” Executive Director. “Being able to help support legal programs that reach underserved low-income families and people with disabilities is an important way we fulfill our mission to ensure equal access to justice for everyone in our community.”

#### **ABOUT “AND JUSTICE FOR ALL”**

“and Justice for all” is a joint fundraising collaboration between Utah’s three primary providers of civil legal aid in Utah—Utah Legal Services, Disability Law Center and Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake. These three nonprofit providers offer free civil legal representation and programs that help people in Utah

receive justice, protect their well-being and overcome poverty. Learn more at [www.andjusticeforall.org](http://www.andjusticeforall.org) or by following the organization on [www.facebook.com/UtahAJFA](https://www.facebook.com/UtahAJFA).