

JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

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Dallas Clinics:

- May 11, 2010
- June 1, 2010
- No July clinic

FTW Clinics:

- May 7, 2010
- June 4, 2010
- No July clinic

For volunteer opportunities, contact us at:

214-381-0901 (Dallas)

817-534-3293 (FTW)

amyspaur@hotmail.com

NORTH TEXANS TAKE PART IN MARCH FOR AMERICA

On Sunday, March 21st, hundreds of thousands of people peacefully gathered on the national mall in Washington DC to call for fair, humane immigration reform. It was the largest demonstration in Washington since President Obama took office.

Among the over 200,000 demonstrators were many North Texans. Five buses and three passenger vans with more than 300 Texans traveled 28 hours to be part of the event. Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance (RITA) organized the Texas Caravan for America, and Lovers Lane UMC in Dallas hosted the press conference and send-off for the caravan.

The buses arrived in Washington DC late Saturday



Supporters of JFON and members of Christ's Foundry UMC take part in the March for America in Washington DC

night, filled up on a good meal, slept on the floor of St Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church, and got up early on Sunday to join others who came from across the country. Al-

though the journey was long, people of faith traveled with a purpose. "Our faith compels us to speak out on behalf of those who are vulnerable," explains

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GO GREEN FOR JFON CAMPAIGN

The "Go Green for JFON" campaign has been well-received in both the North Texas and Central Texas Conferences. The campaign kicked off on Sunday, April 18th in celebration of Earth Day, and has provided an opportunity for church members to properly dispose of broken or outdated

electronics. The electronic items will now be recycled and the proceeds given to support the ministry of Justice For Our Neighbors.

Special thanks to board members Sally Vonner and Dean Reed for organizing the campaign, and to the following churches for their

help in making this a successful event:

- FUMC Richardson
- FUMC The Colony
- Pleasant Mound/Urban Park UMC
- FUMC Grapevine
- FUMC Stephenville
- Polytechnic UMC

GARAGE SALE SET FOR SATURDAY, MAY 15TH



Dallas Justice For Our Neighbors is organizing a garage sale on Saturday, May 15th in the parking lot of Pleasant Mound/Urban Park UMC. Spaces can be rented for \$30. For an additional \$10, a table will be

provided. The proceeds from space rentals will benefit the work and ministry of Justice For Our Neighbors as we continue to provide free, high-quality immigration legal services in the Pleasant Grove neighborhood and beyond. For more information on supporting this effort, contact Amy Spaur at amyspaur@hotmail.com or 214.381.0901.

What: Garage Sale

Date: May 15th, 2010

Time: 7 AM—2 PM

Place: Pleasant Mound
8301 Bruton Road
Dallas, TX 75217

Rent space or stop by and make some great purchases!

"Our faith compels us to speak out on behalf of those who are vulnerable"

—Bill Mefford

MARCH FOR AMERICA (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)

Bill Mefford of the General Board of Church and Society, "and the suffering of our immigrant brothers and sisters calls us to do all that we can to ensure Congress enacts just and human reform."

The March began with an interfaith service and then included a slate of prominent speakers. Among those making an appearance before the crowd was Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño of the Desert Southwest Conference and Lori Stafford, North Texas Confer-

ence United Methodist Women Social Action Chair and Co-Founder of Welcoming Immigrants Network (WIN).

The March for America coincided with Ecumenical Advocacy Days, an annual event aimed at strengthening the Christian voice and mobilizing people of faith for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues. The theme of the conference this year was "A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees, and Displaced Peoples." Conference attendees joined in worship,

study, and dialogue around the issues of immigration and migration, and then headed to Capitol Hill to advocate for a remedy to these injustices. Participants from Dallas and Fort Worth met with the offices of Senators John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison as well as several congressional representatives from various districts across North Texas. In keeping with the spirit of the movement, the Mega March for immigration reform will be held this Saturday, May 1st at 1 PM in downtown Dallas. For more information, see www.megamarch.com.

LOCAL UPDATE: FARMERS BRANCH

On March 24th, US District Judge Jane Boyle of Dallas declared unconstitutional a Farmers Branch ordinance that would make it illegal for landlords to rent to undocumented immigrants. This is the second time a federal judge has ruled this

way, stating that the ordinance was attempting to enforce immigration law, something reserved only for the federal government.

The decision will now be appealed to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The city of Farmers Branch,

a Dallas suburb of 30,000 residents, has spent about \$3.2 million in legal fees related to immigration matters so far, and tens of thousands of dollars more are expected to be spent on the appeal.

GEORGETOWN MFSA SPONSORS PRAYER VIGIL AND JFON CLINIC

In conjunction with the March For America, the Central Texas Chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) in cooperation with Southwestern University Chaplain's office held a prayer vigil for comprehensive immigration reform. On Sunday, March 21st, about 40 people gathered at Lois Perkins Chapel at Southwestern University in Georgetown to sing, hear scriptures and other readings, and to pray. Included in the service was a reading of the Bishops' Statement on Immigration by Bishop Joe Wilson.

The Central Texas Chapter of MFSA followed the prayer vigil with hands-on

service to their neighbors. On Tuesday, April 20th, MFSA partnered with Justice For Our Neighbors to hold a clinic with immigrants in their community. JFON staff attorney, Mary Beth Garcia, and volunteer coordinator, Amy Spaur, traveled to Georgetown to meet with clients and assist them with a variety of immigration legal services, including citizenship applications, family petitions, green card renewals, and general advice and counsel. Members of Methodist Federation for Social Action underwent volunteer training and were responsible for organizing and planning the clinic, which was hosted by First United Methodist

Church Georgetown. They served as intake workers,



MFSA volunteers Julie Fuschak and Anne Jordan do intake at April 20 clinic

translators, childcare providers, and hospitality workers among other important tasks.

JFON honors the work of Central Texas Chapter of MFSA in their support of the immigrant community.

"JFON honors the work of Central Texas Chapter of MFSA in their support of the immigrant community"

GET INVOLVED WITH JFON

Justice For Our Neighbors is a faith-driven ministry that relies on volunteers to carry out its work. Please consider how you can be involved:

1. Pray for our ministry!
2. Volunteer at our monthly clinic when we welcome new clients by:
 - Serving as a Spanish/English translator
 - Serving as a client intake worker
 - Providing light refreshments for clients
 - Providing lunch for staff and volunteers
3. Volunteer as our hospitality coordinator. This involves contacting and organizing volunteers to provide refreshments
4. Serve on the local JFON task force, the group responsible for guiding and overseeing the operations of JFON
5. Teach citizenship classes to clients preparing for their naturalization exam
6. Assist with scanning and digitalizing client files
7. Invite a JFON representative to speak to your congregation, Sunday School class, UMW circle, Bible study, and other groups interested in hearing about the work of JFON, immigration and faith
8. Support JFON's ministry with your financial donations
 - donations to the Dallas

JFON site can be made payable to the Southeast Dallas Cooperative Parish, with JFON in the memo, and sent to 8301 Bruton Road, Dallas, TX 75217

--donations to the Fort Worth JFON site can be made to the Central Texas Conference, with JFON in the memo, and be sent to 464 Bailey Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107. Remember, Justice For Our Neighbors is a Fair Share Asking!

For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Amy Spaur at amyspaur@hotmail.com.



NORTH-CENTRAL REGION

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Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) is a faith-driven ministry, welcoming immigrants into our churches and communities by providing free, high-quality immigration legal services, education, and advocacy.

Justice For Our Neighbors is housed at Polytechnic United Methodist Church in Fort Worth and at Pleasant Mound United Methodist Church in Dallas. JFON also partners with Refugee Services of Texas in both Dallas and Fort Worth.

For more information on how you or your church can become involved with Justice For Our Neighbors or to schedule a speaking engagement at your local church or community organization, please contact Amy Spaur, Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator, at 817-534-3293 (FTW), 214-381-0901 (Dallas), or by e-mail at amyspaur@hotmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1. Saturday, May 1st:**
1 PM: Mega March for comprehensive immigration reform starting at the Cathedral Shrine of Virgin Guadalupe (2215 Ross Ave, Dallas, TX)
- 2. Saturday, May 1st:**
1:30 PM: Prayer vigil for comprehensive immigration reform at FUMC Grand Prairie (122 N. Center St, Grand Prairie, TX)
- 3. Friday, May 7th:**
10 AM—4 PM: Fort Worth JFON clinic day at First Street Methodist Mission (801 W 1st Street, Fort Worth, TX)
- 4. Tuesday, May 11th:**
10 AM—4 PM: Dallas JFON clinic day at Pleasant Mound/Urban Park UMC (8301 Bruton Rd, Dallas, TX)
- 5. Tuesday, May 11th:**
6:30 PM: Breaking Bread and Barriers in Asbury Hall at Lovers Lane UMC (9200 Inwood Rd, Dallas, TX)
- 6. Saturday, May 15th:**
7 AM—2 PM: Garage sale at Pleasant Mound/Urban Park UMC (8301 Bruton Rd, Dallas, TX)