Jose and Antonia hadn’t been back to Mexico in over 25 years. They both entered the U.S. without documentation in 1980. They had a daughter and made this county their home.

They turned to the MVLC at the United Community Center (UCC) to gain U.S. citizenship earlier this year. They worked with volunteer attorney Teddy who took such an interest in their case that he continued to work pro bono with them after the brief legal advice he provided at the MVLC.

The citizenship application process was difficult and complicated. Friends had warned them that the interviews, fingerprints, and paperwork could take years to complete.

To their surprise, Antonia was granted citizenship five months after starting the process; Jose took an additional three months. Antonia was able to return to Mexico for the first time in 25 years while Jose waited for approval, and they saw family they thought they would never see again. Antonia said that the best part of her new citizenship was that she had “a lot more freedom.” When asked about the process and extra time he had committed to Jose and Antonia, Teddy said he was just glad he was able to help.

The MVLC is so fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers! Thank you to all the volunteers that go above and beyond for our clients.
Great news! Mindy Schroeder welcomed her baby girl, Lydia, in early October. Everyone is doing well.

The Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics are pleased to welcome Annamarie Ciofani as our temporary program assistant while Mindy enjoys time at home.

Annamarie is from Milwaukee, and she graduated from UW-Green Bay in May 2015 with a major in Democracy and Justice Studies with an emphasis on Law and a minor in Political Science. She is in the process of applying to law school and will start her legal career in the fall of 2016. For her last semester of undergrad, she had an internship with the Milwaukee County DA's office at Juvenile Court with the Victim/Witness Unit.

Annamarie will be facilitating the House of Peace and United Community Center Clinics until Mindy returns in December. She is reachable at annamarie.ciofani@marquette.edu.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

Volunteer Attorney Spotlight

Attorney BJ Westfahl is a graduate of Marquette University Law School. As his interests in real estate developed throughout law school, BJ decided to join his family's law practice, Westfahl & Westfahl, S.C. upon graduation.

BJ has been committed to volunteerism. BJ has found that the legal clinics speak for themselves and cause volunteer attorneys to return because the clinics understand the value of their time. BJ continues to make the time to volunteer at the House of Peace because he enjoys giving relief, resolution, or, at least, direction to clients who don’t know where to turn for their legal issue. BJ is also a member of the MVLC Advisory Board. With three young children, BJ and his wife are very involved in the kid’s activities, such as BJ’s role as Cub Scout Leader.

MVLC Student Advisory Board Spotlight

Adam Vanderwerff is a third-year law student at Marquette University Law School. Adam attended University Wisconsin-La Crosse, where he received a Bachelor’s of Science Degree with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy. At Marquette, Adam is a Student Advisory Board member for the MVLC, a member of Moot Court, and on the executive board of several other student organizations. Adam has an interest in health law post-law school. In his free time he enjoys weight-lifting, music, and sports.

HOUSE OF PEACE HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

The House of Peace and St. Ben’s are Capuchin Community Services. Capuchin Community Services provides central city families in need with food baskets that contain all the fixings for a holiday meal, complete with a turkey, so they are able to prepare a festive meal in their home for their families. Capuchin Community Services is always looking for partners who can assist in this crucial ministry event.

Help their Holiday Food Box Drive by sorting food and preparing holiday boxes for distribution. Volunteers are needed November 1st to December 23rd, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Brigid or Ricky at ccsvol@thecapuchins.org or by clicking here. For more information about items to donate, visit their website here.

Praise for Volunteer Attorney, Peggy Serrano, and Law Student, Andrew Rissler:

“Ms. Peggy and Andrew were exceedingly helpful, understanding, professional, and polite. What would less fortunate people do without such help? Not all of us are wealthy. Thank you again and please continue with your help.”