



# Immigrant Services

## Meet the People We Help...

### **Problem**

Pam met her husband, Joe, a U.S. citizen, when he traveled to her native Croatia on an extended business trip. When the couple decided to get married, they chose to settle in the United States. Pam entered the country on a fiancée visa. After their wedding a few months later, she got her conditional green card, which allowed her to reside in the country as long as she remained married.

The couple had their first child about a year after the wedding, and Pam was expecting again within a few months. During Pam's second pregnancy, Joe suddenly became very abusive. Pam feared for her safety but realized that she could be deported if she left her husband. Ultimately, she did choose to flee to a women's shelter with her son.

### **Solution**

The staff at JF&CS's Pittsburgh Refugee and Immigration Assistance Center (PRIAC) helped Pam file a Violence Against Women Act claim, which allowed her to stay in the country on the conditional green card that she received after her marriage.

### **Outcome**

With the help of PRIAC, Pam eventually received a green card on her own, and she is working to become a U.S. citizen. She hopes to take her test within the next few months.