



# Immigrant Services

## Meet the People We Help...

### **Problem**

Sana, a widow with six children, is a Pakistani refugee who came to the United States seven and a half years ago. With the help of staff from JF&CS's Pittsburgh Refugee and Immigration Assistance Center (PRIAC), Sana and her two oldest daughters recently became citizens; and her oldest son, who suffers from a severe seizure disorder, received a disability waiver.

Because Sana's other three children were under age 18, they automatically became U.S. citizens when their mother did. However, children do not automatically receive certificates showing their citizenship.

Sana is attempting to get disability benefits from Social Security for her youngest son, who was born with cerebral palsy, but she is facing a number of bureaucratic hurdles in the process because her son does not have a certificate of citizenship.

### **Solution**

Sana came to PRIAC for help in obtaining her son's Social Security benefits. She could have filed for a citizenship certificate for him, but that process involves fees that her family could not afford on its meager income. She was eligible for a fee waiver, however, so the PRIAC staff assisted her through the many steps in that lengthy and complicated process.

### **Outcome**

The staff has been walking Sana and her family through the process of applying for the fee waiver, and only one step remains, submitting receipts showing one month of household expenses. After that is complete, Sana will be able to obtain a citizenship certificate for her son and begin to receive his SSI benefits.