

MOSAIC MOMENTUM

May 2025



MOSAIC
FAMILY SERVICES

Meet Mirjana!

Hello! My name is Mirjana Omeragic, and I am honored to introduce myself as the new Acting Executive Director of Mosaic Family Services. Stepping into this role is both a privilege and a profound responsibility—one that I carry with deep respect for the incredible work Mosaic has done, and continues to do, for survivors of family violence and human trafficking, and refugees in our community.

Although I'm new to this position, my journey with Mosaic began 26 years ago, and most recently I served as the Senior Director of Refugee Services. In April 1999, I came across a job posting for a Domestic Violence Case Manager. That moment was my "aha" — the moment my dream of helping those affected by family violence became a reality. Three weeks later, I was hired. Since then, Mosaic has become my second family, and today, I continue to believe deeply in its mission and values.

As a former refugee, Mosaic's mission is very personal to me. I arrived in the United States in 1998 as a refugee from Croatia/Bosnia with my husband and our 9-month-old son, after spending seven years as a refugee in Munich, Germany. I like to say that I have two homes — my home country, and the United States — and I'm profoundly grateful for both.

Through my journey as a refugee, I've learned so much about life and humanity. I've learned that life circumstances can change overnight and any one of us can find ourselves in a new and unfamiliar world in the blink of an eye. I've learned that every human being is searching for kindness — and that a single word has the power to either lift someone up or break them down. I understand many of the struggles refugees face when they come to the U.S. and I know from my personal experience how important it is to treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Our work is rooted in compassion, resilience, and a belief in the strength of every individual who walks through our doors. I look forward to continuing my journey with Mosaic in this new role and am so grateful to work alongside our dedicated team, community partners, and supporters like you who make this work possible.

Thank you for being a vital part of the Mosaic Family. Together, I know we can continue to make the world a better place.

With hope,

Mirjana Omeragic



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**Your company
can make an impact!**

Contact Cindy Nguyen at
cindyn@mosaicfamilyservices.org, to learn
more about volunteer opportunities
for corporate groups.



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Volunteer Spotlight: Engineering Systems Inc. Makes a Difference at Mosaic House

Volunteers groups are instrumental in helping create a welcoming and healing experience for survivors living at Mosaic House. Their willingness to step up and make a difference embodies the spirit of volunteerism and partnership. It is a shining example of the power of community to drive positive change.

Engineering Systems Inc., is one Mosaic's newest volunteer partners, first volunteering with us in 2024. Though they are a new volunteer group, they have quickly made a huge impact for Mosaic House residents!

When ESI volunteers come to Mosaic House, they are ready to

be put to work and eager to make a difference. Their enthusiasm for giving back is evident from the start of their volunteer shift, and their commitment to a job well done is so appreciated.

"Our desire to continue working with Mosaic House stems from knowing that our efforts contribute to a better life for the women and children affected by domestic violence and human trafficking," said Nicole Bounds, Project Coordinator and Administrative Manager at ESI.

We are so grateful for everyone at ESI! Thank you for your dedication to helping survivors!



You help survivors find justice

Beatriz came to the United States from El Salvador seeking safety and a better life for her children. She fled gang violence with the hope of creating a peaceful, stable home where her children could thrive. But without immigration status, she faced many obstacles—and soon found herself in a violent relationship with the father of her two children.

After a particularly violent confrontation, Beatriz made the brave decision to call the police. That call changed the course of her life. She was able to leave the abusive relationship and found safety at Mosaic House, where she and her children began to heal.

While staying at the shelter, Beatriz met with an immigration attorney from Mosaic's legal team. For the first time, she learned about her rights and options under U.S. law. Together, they decided to apply for a U Visa, a form of immigration relief for survivors of serious crimes like domestic violence.

Beatriz knew this could be her chance at a new beginning—a future built on safety, dignity, and belonging.

Years later, Beatriz faced another dangerous situation. A boyfriend showed up at her home intoxicated and became aggressive. Though she was the one being threatened and harmed, Beatriz was arrested. The police never asked for her side of the story. Instead, she was taken away in handcuffs after being questioned about her immigration status. It was a traumatic experience that left her feeling voiceless and afraid.

Though the charges were dropped and Beatriz was cleared of any wrongdoing, the arrest became a red flag in her immigration case. In this case, she was wrongly arrested due to prejudice against her lack of immigration status. But with the help of her attorney at Mosaic, Beatriz wrote a powerful personal statement explaining the abuse and injustice she endured. She

shared her truth—and her resilience.

Thanks to her courage and the dedicated support from Mosaic, Beatriz's U Visa was approved. She is now in the process of becoming a Legal Permanent Resident. Today, she continues to build a safe and stable life for her children, filled with hope and opportunity.



Exciting News! Mosaic has a New Home!

Mosaic is thrilled to share our move to a new office space—a significant milestone that will enhance our capacity to provide life-saving services to the families we serve.

Every element of our new office has been thoughtfully designed with trauma-informed care principles to ensure that survivors feel safe, respected, and empowered from the moment they walk through our doors.

This new space offers:

- **A Calming Atmosphere** – Soft, natural lighting, warm colors, and soothing artwork create an environment of peace and reassurance.
- **Privacy & Dignity** – The layout ensures confidentiality, allowing survivors to enter a space where their safety and comfort come first.
- **A Sense of Control** – Comfortable seating areas provide choices for where to sit, helping survivors regain

autonomy in their journey toward healing.

- **Inclusive & Welcoming** – Multilingual signage and culturally diverse decor reflect the backgrounds of the individuals we serve, making all feel seen and valued.

We would love to welcome you to our new home! To schedule a tour, email development@mosaicervices.org.



Patricia Brings Justice Within Reach

For many of Mosaic's clients, access to affordable, trustworthy legal support can mean the difference between safety and uncertainty.

Volunteer attorneys, like Patricia Freshwater with Lopez & Freshwater, play a critical role in helping survivors rebuild their lives with dignity, offering legal support during some of their most vulnerable moments. Lopez & Freshwater PLLC, is an immigration law firm dedicated to providing for the legal needs of immigrant families, and have been a

trusted resource for Mosaic's clients.

"As a volunteer attorney, I've seen how Mosaic Family Services guides survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence on their journey to security, justice, and dignity. Their expertise helps clients overcome legal, housing, and other challenges that would otherwise stand in the way of healing. With empathy and cultural competence, Mosaic makes a lasting impact on our community, and I deeply admire and support their work."

Thank you, Patricia, for standing with survivors and making justice more accessible for those who need it most.



Our monthly giving community, *You Belong Here*, is an opportunity to express your ongoing commitment to survivors of human rights abuses.

Your recurring gift has a profound effect

on survivors across our services. Monthly donations make it possible for us to respond to survivors' needs quickly and powerfully. Because of you, help is always within reach, no matter what challenges arise.

Join You Belong Here. Here you will be part of a community of generous, passionate, and invested individuals who believe

that dignity, freedom, and justice are fundamental human rights.

Scan the QR code to join *You Belong Here*!



For questions, contact Gazal Valestani at gazalv@mosaicervices.org