

MOSAIC MOMENTUM

February 2026



MOSAIC
FAMILY SERVICES

Meet LaKeisha!

I am honored to introduce myself to you through this month's Mosaic newsletter. I serve on Mosaic's Board of Directors, and it is a privilege to support an organization whose mission is not only meaningful to our community, but deeply personal to me.

I first became aware of Mosaic through volunteering with my employer. What began as an introduction quickly became a calling. I saw firsthand the compassion, professionalism, and unwavering commitment of Mosaic's staff—and the life-changing impact that commitment has on survivors and families. When the opportunity arose to join the board, I knew it was a chance to give back in a more meaningful and lasting way.

By profession, I am a lawyer with more than 20 years of experience, and I also hold a degree in Social Work. Early in my career, I had the opportunity to counsel survivors of sexual assault—work that shaped my understanding of trauma, resilience, and the long road to healing. That experience continues to inform my passion for advocating for survivors and for systems that truly support safety and justice.

Mosaic's mission is especially close to my heart. Just over five years ago, my family lost my cousin, Bridgett, to domestic violence. Her life—and the difficult journey that followed—remains a constant reminder of why organizations like Mosaic are so essential. In her honor, my family sponsored one of the legal rooms at Mosaic's corporate office, both as a tribute to her life and as a testament to the long road to justice that so many families must endure. It is our hope that this space supports survivors as they take brave steps toward safety, healing, and empowerment.

Serving an organization with such dedicated, compassionate staff is truly inspiring. Every day, Mosaic helps individuals and families recover, rebuild, and live more fully in safety and dignity. That work changes lives—not just for those directly served, but also for the communities in which they live.

Thank you for being part of Mosaic's mission, whether as staff, client, donor, volunteer, or community partner. Your support makes hope possible. Together, we can continue to stand with survivors, honor those we've lost, and build a future rooted in safety, justice, and compassion.

With gratitude,

LaKeisha Forté-Wells



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**Your company
can make an impact!**

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

Terry mobilizes his community to give back for the holidays!

The holidays can be especially challenging for survivors and refugees. Financial stress, family responsibilities, and ongoing uncertainty often make it difficult to afford even basic necessities, let alone holiday gifts for loved ones.

That's why we are always deeply grateful for the way our community shows up during this season.

Terry Bax is one of those exceptional community members who truly goes above and beyond. Each year, Terry hosts a holiday party and mobilizes his friends to give back in support of local

nonprofits. This year, he chose to support Mosaic by providing gift cards, toys, and gifts for the families we serve, ensuring parents could provide essentials for their families during the holidays.

"I first heard about Mosaic from the former Executive Director, Tori Hobbs. The more she told me about the place, the more excited I was to help out!" Terry shared. "It is sad that we live in a world where human trafficking, domestic violence, and being a refugee exist. I am glad I can do my little part to hopefully make a huge difference. A little love can go a long way!"

We are so grateful for Terry and his incredible friends, who remind us that the true spirit of the holidays is found in serving others!



You help refugees build the future that was once out of reach

Sadaf is an Afghan mother of two who was forced to flee her home country with her husband and children in 2021. After spending months on a U.S. military base, her family was resettled in Dallas, where she first heard about Mosaic through her community.

When Sadaf first met her case manager, she was struggling with depression and anxiety. She carried the weight of the trauma of war, yet she also carried hope to receive an education and build a stable future for her family, both here and back home. In Afghanistan, she had been denied the opportunity to study simply because she is a woman. During their first meeting, she asked her case manager, "Will I ever be able to receive an education

and study in the U.S.?"

With support from her case manager, Sadaf began ESL classes to prepare for college, and her determination quickly became clear. She progressed to college-level coursework and enrolled at a local college to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. At the same time, she began attending a support group at Mosaic, where she found a safe space to share her experiences and process her anxiety and depression with the guidance of a compassionate counselor.

Today, Sadaf is building the future she always hoped would be possible. In a new country with a different language and culture, she is pursuing higher education and reclaiming

opportunities that were once out of reach. Her journey is a testament to resilience, courage, and the power of support, and she is on her way to achieving her dream of becoming a nurse and providing for her family.



Natural Disasters, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking

In the aftermath of a brutally cold winter storm, we can't help but think about how natural disasters amplify domestic violence and human trafficking.

When extreme weather strikes, the physical destruction is immediate and clearly visible. At Mosaic, we know this firsthand from the impact of the 2021 Winter Storm Uri, which caused devastating damage to Mosaic House. But beyond the physical and structural damage lies often overlooked harm to domestic violence and human trafficking survivors.

Although natural disasters and winter storms don't outright cause violence, they do exacerbate conditions that make violence in the home or exploitation more

likely to occur. That's because disasters destabilize everyday life, disrupt support systems, and increase financial stress, among other factors. These stressors worsen the risks for harm, particularly for people who are already experiencing violence or vulnerabilities that increase their likelihood of experiencing domestic violence or human trafficking.

In February 2021, Winter Storm Uri hit Texas, causing widespread outages and catastrophic damage across the state, and the chaos from the storm continued even after the ice melted. The storm caused flooding at Mosaic House, and burst pipes led to a gas leak that forced us to relocate shelter residents for over four months. In the aftermath of the storm, a national

organization, FreeFrom, surveyed domestic violence survivors reaching out for help, and found that 1 in 4 people said the abuse began or worsened during the storm, and 90% said the storm caused unexpected expenses. This data shows that the impact of natural disasters on gender-based violence is not isolated to individual circumstances but is part of a bigger pattern.

It's easy to only think about the immediate effect on our personal lives when in the midst of a crisis. But it's important that we remember the impact of a winter storm extends beyond the icy roads and empty grocery shelves. For many survivors, a storm means increased isolation and heightened danger in their home.

Volunteer Spotlight: Hagar's Heart empowers survivors through self-care

We are so grateful for our incredible community partners like Hagar's Heart, who uplift survivors in our community. As a dedicated volunteer organization, Hagar's Heart supports survivors with thoughtful self-care initiatives, including their "I See You" boxes, powerful reminders to survivors that they are valued, seen, and not alone.

In addition to these meaningful gifts, Hagar's Heart hosts special events at Mosaic House, such as their joyful Mother's Day brunch and holiday celebration, creating moments of connection, dignity, and hope for the families in our care.

Founder, Jennifer Jones shared, "Hagar's Heart is dedicated to reminding survivors, they are seen, valued, and loved, because abuse can take away dignity and hope. Emotional and verbal abuse often leave deep, invisible wounds; eroding confidence, isolating individuals, and diminishing their sense of worth. Our goal is to help survivors rebuild their identity, strengthen their emotional well-being, and take confident steps toward healing."

This amazing partnership brings comfort, encouragement, and light to countless survivors on their healing journeys. Thank

you, Hagar's Heart, for all you do for survivors!



The Champions of Human Rights Society provides partners the opportunity to further serve refugees and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

As a member, you provide high-impact support and an ongoing commitment to victims in our community, ensuring culturally

responsive and trauma-informed care, and empowering survivors to rebuild their lives. Your support is essential to continue these critical services and to move into the next stage of Mosaic's history. To be recognized in the Champions of Human Rights Society, invest a minimum of a \$1,500 unrestricted gift in support of client health, healing, and self-sufficiency.

To learn more about becoming a Champion of Human Rights, contact Gazal Valestani, at

gazalv@mosaicervices.org, or scan the QR code below.

Thank you for standing with Mosaic, and with every survivor on their journey home.

