2017

LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI





WHAT'S INSIDE

INTRO: OUR STORY	1
SUCCESS STORIES	13
PRACTICE AREAS	20
CASE STATISTICS	22
WHERE WE WORK	24
OUR PEOPLE	26
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT	29
DONATIONS	33
FINANCIALS	36

LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI has improved the lives of those in need through quality legal assistance since 1964. Legal Aid provides free civil (non-criminal) legal assistance to people who need it most and can afford it least. With offices in Kansas City, Joplin, St. Joseph and Warrensburg, Legal Aid serves a 40-county area where 295,000 people live in poverty.

Throughout our report we use pseudonyms and stock photos to protect client confidentiality.

LAWMO.ORG

Legal Aid of Western Missouri on Facebook & LinkedIn | @LegalAidTweets on Twitter





our story

Legal Aid of Western Missouri provides free civil (non-criminal) legal assistance to people who need it most and can afford it least.

- We help veterans access benefits.
- We help seniors access prescriptions.
- We help survivors of domestic abuse get to safety.
- We help families facing eviction stay in their homes.

Legal Aid protects people's livelihoods, families, health, and homes.

It would be easy to fill this report with statistics and demographics, but we don't experience the world solely through numbers. We experience the world through stories.

Stories let us cross cultural and economic barriers. Stories give meaning to what happens to us and those around us. Stories show us how our actions impact our neighbors and our community.

This is more than our annual report. This is our story.





Civil legal aid can mean the difference between shelter and homelessness, safety and abuse, food on the table and hunger, and economic stability and bankruptcy.

justice

Every day, Missourians are denied the basic rights to which they are entitled under the law simply because they can't afford an attorney. Equal access to justice doesn't make just some of the difference for our neighbors in need. It makes all of the difference.

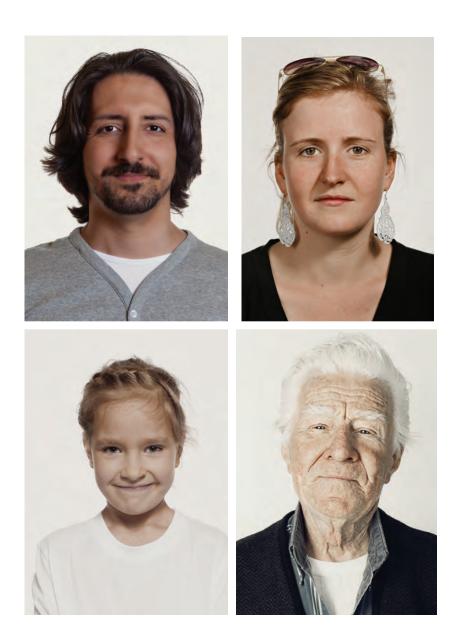
dedication

Legal Aid staff and volunteers are dedicated to helping people — not for fortune or fame, but because it is the right thing to do. But good intentions are never enough. As advocates for our clients, we share the responsibility to find bold solutions that work. It's what our mission demands, and it's what our clients deserve.





Civil legal aid reduces homeless shelter costs, foreclosure and eviction rates, and domestic abuse costs, while increasing employment.





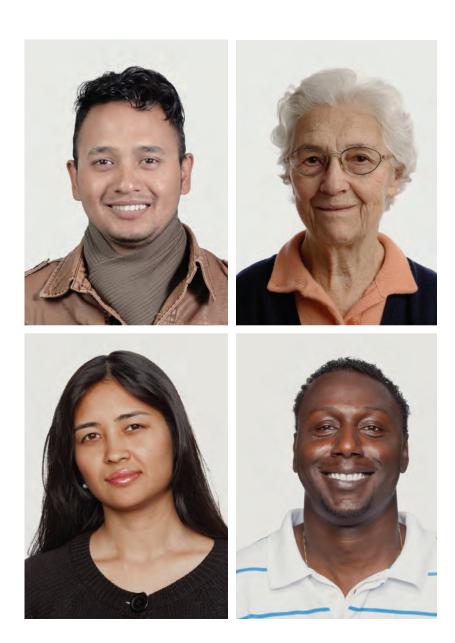
One unresolved legal issue can create a downward spiral of costly social problems that ruin lives and impact the whole community.

neighbors

We serve 40 counties in Missouri where approximately 295,000 people live in poverty — most of whom you will never meet or even know. But they have faces, families, hopes and dreams. They are our neighbors. They live in the communities we call home.

fairness

Legal Aid ensures fair play in a complex legal system that is stacked against our low-income neighbors. It's hard to play in a game where your opponent has the gear and you have nothing. Without Legal Aid, our low-income neighbors face the civil justice system empty-handed.





Every eviction or foreclosure avoided, every family protected, eases the strain on public resources while increasing long-term benefits to families and children.

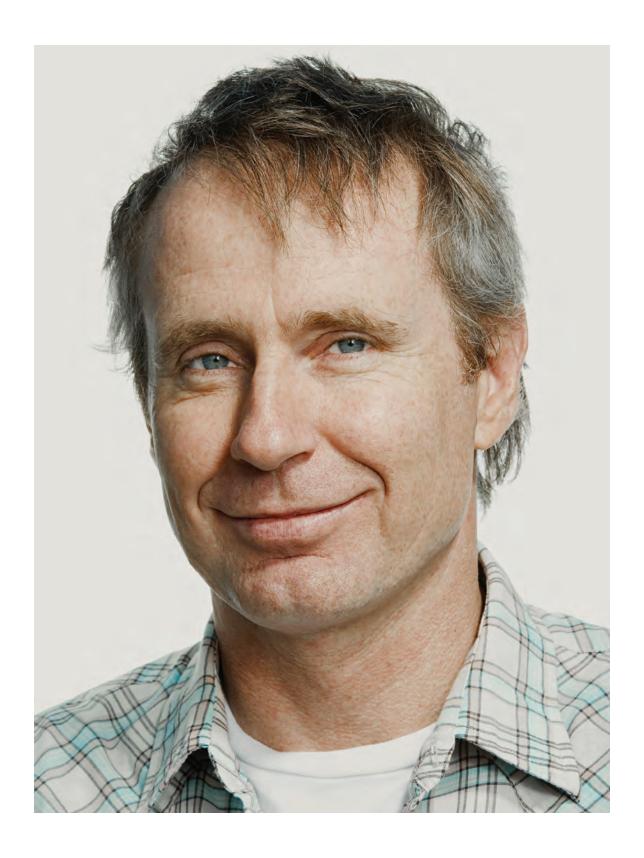




Equal justice is a fundamental principle of democracy. Our laws guarantee basic rights and protections for all of us — not just those who can afford a lawyer.

gratitude

Without you, there would be no justice for our low-income and at-risk neighbors. Together, we help seniors, children, the ill and disabled, veterans, and more. In 2017, we provided free civil legal aid to 12,855 individuals and families. Your support really does make a difference. Keep reading and see for yourself!



randall

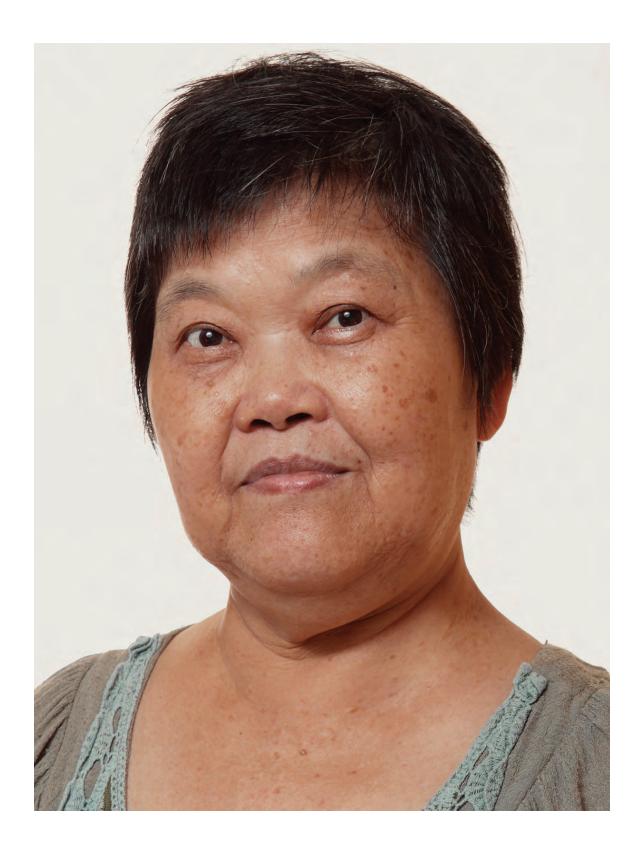
Randall, a 47-year-old man, was living in a homeless shelter. He has a history of mental illness along with a history of alcohol and substance abuse. Mental health and substance abuse issues ran in his family; Randall's brother, who had been dealing with similar circumstances, had committed suicide a few years prior.

Randall knew he had to change his circumstances or he would end up like his brother. His substance abuse and lifestyle had driven a wedge between him and his family, but he reached out to his parents, and after much consideration, they finally relented and let him move back into their home.

Randall contacted Legal Aid for help because his Medicaid benefits were being discontinued based on a determination that he was no longer medically eligible. A Legal Aid attorney represented Randall at an administrative hearing and was able to discredit the report of Family Support Division's examining psychologist. That, coupled with a strong letter from his neurologist, resulted in a favorable hearing decision for Randall. Randall's attorney was able to get Medicaid to cover Randall's past medical expenses based on the retroactive coverage granted by the hearing decision.

Randall is well on his way to a healthier, more stable life as a result and his relationship with his family has never been stronger.

THANKS TO HIS LEGAL AID ATTORNEY, RANDALL IS ON THE PATH TO ACHIEVING STABILITY, HEALTH, AND HAPPINESS



elizabeth

When Elizabeth's husband passed away, she did not have enough money to pay for his funeral. As a last resort, she and her disabled son went to a payday loan company to borrow \$150 each. This gave them the money they needed to afford the funeral expenses.

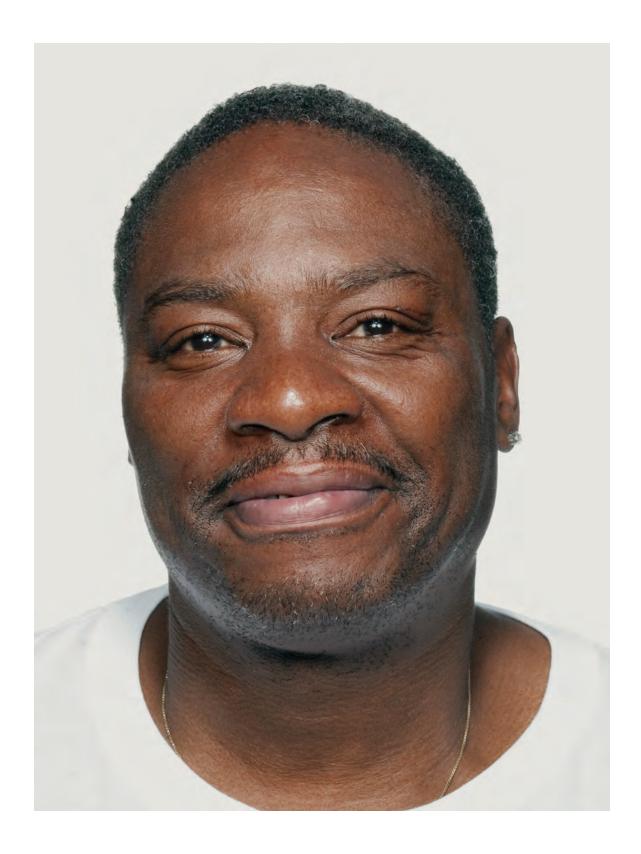
Neither Elizabeth nor her son could read. They felt they understood the terms of the loan, but did not appreciate the results; each of the loans carried an interest rate of almost 425%. They both made their payments on time for a number of months, but soon discovered that everything they paid in was being applied to the interest.

With their limited income, Elizabeth and her son could not afford to pay off this debt. After six months, they reached out to Legal Aid. Their case was placed through the Volunteer Attorney Project with a private attorney who was willing to assist them.

After reviewing their applications and visiting with Elizabeth and her son, the volunteer attorney contacted the loan company and told them what they were doing was "outrageous." He noted that the clients had no assets and no income beyond Social Security, which the loan company couldn't touch. To his surprise and delight, the loan company quickly agreed to cancel their debts.

Within four months of contacting Legal Aid, the loan company converted both loans to a zero balance.

ELIZABETH ESCAPED A PAYDAY LENDING THREAT THANKS TO HELP FROM OUR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT.



frederick

Frederick's utilities were disconnected while he was hospitalized for a life-threatening liver condition. When he was released from the hospital, he had no power or water and the police refused to allow Frederick to stay in a home with no utilities. He was forced to get a hotel room that night.

Frederick could not afford to pay his utility bill and reconnection fees after being hospitalized, nor could he afford to stay in a hotel again. The following day was a Friday, and it was unseasonably hot and humid. Frederick's health would be further jeopardized if he was forced to stay on the streets until he could afford to pay his utility bill and reconnection fees the following week.

Frederick reached out to a Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. The Outreach Coordinator contacted Legal Aid's Veterans Relief Project for assistance.

A Legal Aid attorney was able to convince the municipal utility company to immediately restore Frederick's utilities without payment on the condition that he pay his late utility bill when he received his next SSDI disability payment. Within a few hours, the city turned on his water and electricity and Frederick was able to go home.

FREDERICK WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO HIS HOME AFTER BEING HOSPITALIZED. HE HAD LEGAL AID ON HIS SIDE.

66

When all this began, I remember feeling so helpless and unsure of what to do or where to turn. It is wonderful to have someone working on my side!

- MARIE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I write this year's "Message from the Executive Director" for our award-winning annual publication, I also celebrate the one-year anniversary of my hiring on February 21, 2017 by Legal Aid of Western Missouri's Board of Trustees.

In fact, at the time these remarks were due for publication in 2017 I was so new here and had so much to learn about Legal Aid that I thought it advisable to ask our Board President, Judge Jerry Venters, to pen the message. Judge Venters rescued me and did a great job with his task. Now, it is my turn.

When the Board of Trustees hired me last February, it was the first time in almost 30 years that an Executive Director had been chosen from outside the ranks of existing Legal Aid personnel. Not only was I not an existing Legal Aid employee, but, at the time of my hire, despite having been blessed with an exciting and diverse 36-year legal career, I had never worked for a not-for-profit organization. By the end of my first week on the job, it was plenty clear to me....I had a lot to learn.

What are some of the most important things I have learned about Legal Aid in the last twelve months?

When asked about how I like my new job, usually the first thing out of my mouth is that I had no idea of the breadth of the services we provide to those with no other possible avenue to justice. I knew we handled many family law cases, focusing our work primarily in assisting survivors of domestic violence. I also had no idea how many survivors we were unable to serve due to inadequate funding for staff. I know that we work hard every day to bridge that funding gap.

In the pages of this booklet, you will read about the services we provide to people in the areas of housing

assistance, community development, access to health care, consumer fraud, immigration assistance, and access to education, among many others.

I am proud to write that we run a nationally renowned urban development program with the assistance of seven Kansas City law firms. This program is the Adopt-A-Neighborhood Project. Our federal funding for the Adopt-A-Neighborhood was increased significantly this year in recognition of its success. The Legal Services Corporation, which funds the majority of the project, even sent legal aid programs from other states to study and learn from our best practices!

Most importantly, I learned that Legal Aid of Western Missouri is staffed from top to bottom with hardworking, talented and dedicated people who, as Judge Venters said last year in his letter, "work dayin and day-out to obtain justice and fair treatment for those who would otherwise be denied both"

As I begin my second year here, I could not be more proud to be a part of this organization, and I am excited about the future of Legal Aid of Western Missouri. I am excited because of the people who work here, and the generosity of our donors and sponsors who make certain we are able to be here every day as we work to fulfill our mission.

Thank you, all of you, for your support and for contributing to our story. Here's to the next chapter.

Joseph P. Dandurand
Executive Director

OUR MAIN PRACTICE AREAS

Health Care/State Benefits: Legal Aid represents people who experience problems with state-administered public assistance programs. These programs include MO HealthNet for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (Medicaid); Medicaid Spend Down; Qualified Medicare Beneficiary; Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary; Temporary Assistance; SNAP (food stamps); childcare assistance; Blind Pension; Supplemental Aid to the Blind and home and community-based services, among others.

Legal Aid also provides assistance to families, children and pregnant women to obtain and maintain Medicaid coverage. We provide representation to individual clients at administrative hearings and in negotiations with state agencies. We provide advice and counsel to clients regarding eligibility requirements for public benefits programs. We also do extensive outreach to educate the community about public benefits. This outreach improves the quality of our clients' lives through increased access to healthcare, food assistance and income support programs.

Consumer: Legal Aid advises and represents low-income clients, particularly seniors living on Social Security, in a variety of consumer issues. These include cases involving utility shutoffs, predatory loans, home repair, warranty claims, illegal and unfair debt collection practices and other debtor-creditor issues.

Family Law/Domestic Violence Protection: For more than 30 years, Legal Aid's largest practice area has been domestic violence intervention. Legal Aid's experienced Family Law advocates help ensure lasting safety for survivors of

domestic violence and their children. We provide legal representation to low-income survivors of abuse and secure protective orders, establish paternity, obtain divorces and establish child custody and child support orders.

Due to our limited resources, our Family Law attorneys are only able to accept cases that involve domestic violence, and priority is given to those in which children are at risk.

Effective legal representation, combined with our ability to refer clients to other community resources for assistance with non-legal matters, has proven to be one of the most effective means of enabling our clients and their children to escape abusive relationships. With Legal Aid's assistance, domestic violence survivors are able to achieve physical safety and financial security. With this support, survivors are more likely to permanently leave their abusers and have the personal and financial capacity to establish a life free from abuse

Federal Benefits: Legal Aid provides assistance to clients with federal benefit claims. Staff represent clients in administrative hearings and in court to ensure they receive the public benefits to which they are entitled. Typical claims involve benefits such as Social Security, Supplemental Security Income and Medicare.

Housing Assistance: Housing advocates focus on public and other federally subsidized housing. Legal Aid is the attorney for the Public Housing Resident Council of the Housing Authority of Kansas City which provides housing subsidies for about 10,000 families. This housing is critical to families with extremely low income. Families are

20 LAWMO.ORG

able to find work and even purchase homes after a few years in stable public housing.

We also represent people, who have accessibility challenges due to a disability, obtain fair treatment so they may live in housing with non-disabled tenants. Some need help with disputes over eligibility for these valuable benefits. We regularly provide advice or representation to help our clients avoid wrongful evictions, recover wrongfully withheld security deposits and make sure rent is correctly calculated. We help residents when there is a widespread problem in a housing development to make sure the problem is corrected for all the tenants, not just a single person.

This year the Housing Team has started an eviction self-help clinic at the Jackson County Courthouse to reach out to renters who are being evicted. We are available for consultation and advice in the halls outside the courtrooms before, during, and after the Landlord/Tenant dockets. Already, we have answered questions and provided advice to many renters as they wait for court.

Foreclosure Prevention: Saving the homes of low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners from foreclosure is a Legal Aid priority. Through litigation in state and federal courts, we challenge deficiencies in the foreclosure process and frequently are able to stop foreclosure sales or set aside legally invalid sales.

Legal Aid also negotiates directly with loan servicers to pursue loss mitigation options, including loan modifications to reduce interest rates and payments. We counsel homeowners and tenants on their legal options before and after a home is foreclosed upon and provide legal representation when needed.

Economic Development: Legal Aid's Economic Development Unit represents nonprofit community organizations in neighborhood improvement activities, including the creation of low-income housing in Kansas City.

Staff attorneys provide legal assistance to neighborhood associations seeking to remedy vacant and blighted homes, to nonprofit social service providers helping low-income residents and to community development corporations seeking to rehabilitate and develop residential units in their neighborhoods.

Legal services include property acquisition, financing, real estate closing and syndication, tax abatement, zoning and contracts with service providers.

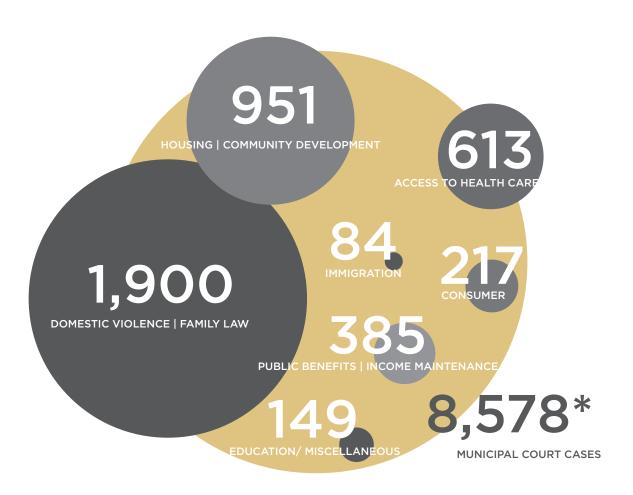
Immigration Law Project: Legal Aid staff represents individuals and their families in immigration cases to evaluate immigration benefit options. We provide comprehensive services and advice to assist individuals and families in obtaining: United States citizenship through naturalization, including helping with applications for those with a medical disability or proving United States Citizenship for a child that obtained it from a parent; Lawful Permanent Resident status for family members; and renewed or replaced resident cards for permanent residents.

We assist conditional residents, refugees and asylees in applying for permanent resident status.

Additionally, Legal Aid works with survivors of violent crimes, human trafficking and domestic violence, as well as migrant farmworkers to provide advice and evaluate immigration benefit options.

LAWMO.ORG 21

CASES CLOSED BY PRACTICE AREA



^{*} MUNICIPAL CASES MAY HAVE MULTIPLE CHARGES.

TOTAL CIVIL CASES CLOSED
TOTAL KCMO MUNICIPAL COURT CASES

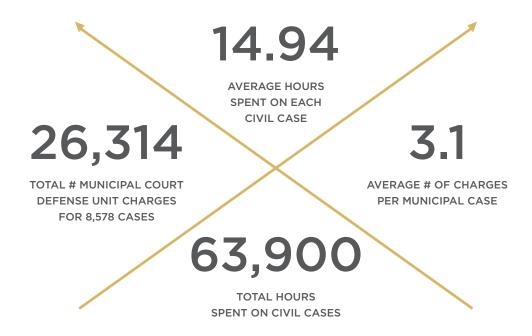
TOTAL 2017 CLOSED CASES

4,277

8,578

12.855

YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE



CIVIL CASES CLOSED BY OFFICE

JOPLIN	593
KANSAS CITY - CENTRAL OFFICE	2,487
KANSAS CITY - WEST OFFICE	232
ST. JOSEPH	458
WARRENSBURG	507

WHERE WE WORK

Joplin: The Joplin office provides services to six counties along Missouri's southwest border. The staff consists of six attorneys, three paralegals and one legal secretary. The cases handled by the Joplin office involve survivors of domestic abuse seeking orders of protection, marriage dissolution, paternity, custody, visitation and child support orders. In addition, the staff handles cases involving consumer law, landlord/tenant law, healthcare law, guardianship cases, social security cases, and public benefits.

Many clients have problems beyond the immediate legal issues that brought them to a Legal Aid office. Staff members are active in various organizations that focus on specific issues affecting clients, including domestic violence, homelessness and financial stability. Close partnerships with community agencies enable Legal Aid to help clients address these issues.

Kansas City - Central Office: The staff consists of 39 attorneys, 16 paralegals, 12 administrative staff, two intake specialists, six legal secretaries and three Volunteer Attorney Project staff members. Legal Aid's Municipal Court Defense Unit is funded by a contract with the City of Kansas City, Missouri and provides representation to low-income clients charged with jailable offenses in the City's municipal courts.

Kansas City - West Office: The Westside community — and many other inner-city Kansas City neighborhoods — are served by Legal Aid's bilingual staff located in the office on Southwest Boulevard. The staff includes six attorneys, three paralegals, one legal secretary and several volunteers.

For the past 41 years, this dedicated Legal Aid team has specialized in providing counsel and representation on issues of immigration, economic and community development and housing. Two Adopt-A-Neighborhood staff work offsite at an Eastside Kansas City location.

St. Joseph: St. Joseph's staff of twelve includes seven attorneys and five paralegals serving an 18-county area of northwest Missouri. The Mosaic Life Care Healthy Housing Project operates with one attorney, handling landlord-tenant issues, quiet title actions and Abandoned Housing Act claims. Most recently, the office added a new full-time attorney handling cases involving elder law issues.

The St. Joseph office represents a mix of both rural and urban clients. Many of the cases involve family law, including marriage dissolution, custody, guardianships and orders of protection. In addition, staff handle cases involving consumer issues, landlord/tenant law, social security cases, unemployment benefit denials, utility shut-offs and other civil matters.

Warrensburg: The Warrensburg office serves thirteen rural counties in west central Missouri. The staff consists of four attorneys, three paralegals and one secretary. The Warrensburg staff handle cases involving consumer law, housing, domestic violence, landlord/tenant matters and public benefits issues.

The staff maintain a strong presence in the community and work directly with local agencies in several counties. Staff members also make outreach presentations to local groups.

24 LAWMO.ORG









OFFICE LOCATIONS

KANSAS CITY CENTRAL OFFICE

4001 BLUE PARKWAY, SUITE 300 KANSAS CITY, MO 64130 816-474-6750

KANSAS CITY WEST OFFICE

920 SOUTHWEST BLVD. KANSAS CITY, MO 64108 816-474-9868

JOPLIN

302 SOUTH JOPLIN JOPLIN, MO 64801 417-782-1650/800-492-7095

ST. JOSEPH

706 FELIX STREET ST. JOSEPH, MO 64501 816-364-2325/800-892-2101

WARRENSBURG

305 NORTH HOLDEN WARRENSBURG, MO 64093 660-747-7101/800-892-2943

LAWMO.ORG 25

OUR PEOPLE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LINDSEY BACHMAN

JANELLE BAILEY

JOSE BAUTISTA

RONDA CALVERT

HON. RICHARD COPELAND

SHARON COURTER HON. CHARLES CURLESS MATT DAMERON - TREASURER

HEBER GONZALEZ SAUNDRA HAYES

BLAKE HEATH - VICE-PRESIDENT

ADAM HESS
MARY HILL
MATT KEENAN
LESLIE KERN
HON. MERYL LANGE
BENJAMIN MANN
HON. MIKE MANNERS
LUANN MARLOW BROWN

KIRK RAHM
DENNIS ROBINSON
FRED SGROI
KESIA SMITH
PAT STARKE
CYNTHIA THOMAS
BETH TONG

HON. JERRY VENTERS - PRESIDENT

GILLIAN WILCOX

SHAUNA WOODY-COUSSENS - SEC'Y

BRAD YERETSKY

KATIE BARNARD - ADVISOR MARGARET MAY - ADVISOR

LEGAL AID STAFF

JOPLIN OFFICE

SHELLEY BOSTON SARAH CANADA AUTUMN DEER SHANNON MCKINNEY

PAMELA ROYCHAUDHURY BHEND

SARAH SCOTT
JEFFINER THOMPSON
CHERYL VASQUEZ
HEATHER WALKER
MATTHEW WILLIAMS

CENTRAL OFFICE-KC

LATRICIA ADAMS CHRISTINA ALBRECHT KATHY ANDERSON-REINKE

ERIN BARTLING ALYSSA BIRD LAURA BORNSTEIN
JOHNDA BOYCE
JIM BRIGHTMAN
KAITEE BROWN
TAMA BYRNES
EDNA CALDERA
DENNIS CHANAY
LISA CLARK
JULIA COTTER
KAREN CUTLIFF

EFFIE DAY

LISA GARZA

JOE DANDURAND

CRISSY DEL PERCIO
JANET DOBSON
JACKIE DOMIAN
DANIELLE ELAM-JOBE
MEAGAN FISHER
ADRIAN FITZMAURICE
MEGAN FREDERICKSON
CHRISTINA FROMMER

JESSICA GOATLEY NOAH GURZENSKI **DICK HALLIBURTON** KARA HARMS **VINCE HAYES** WARREN HAYTER KAYLA HOGAN KATHLEEN HOLMES **ALICIA JOHNSON ABBY JUDAH** KAREN KARNES **FMILY KFIMIG** SUSAN KEPHART SELINA KHAN SANDRA KINCAID LISA KIVETT

LISA KIVETT
CAROL KLINKENBERG
SARA KOSMICKI
CHARLOTTE KREBS
JULIE LARSON
CHARITY LINDGREN
EDDIE LORENZO
PAT LUKENBILL
SAM MCHENRY
SUSAN MCRILL
DALE MEYER
MARTIN MOSCOSO
TRACIE NEWMAN
NHU NGUYEN

MICHAEL O'GORMAN

DEMETRIA PARKS

LANA PARTRIDGE

KATE PAVLICA MADISON PEAK

KATHALEEYA PLUNGKHEN

TERRY RINEHART STEVEN ROWE **CODY RUSSELL** SILYA SHAW **ALIA SISSON** JAMES SMITH **WAYNE SMITH GWEN SOWDER** PERLA TAPIA RIVER TEMPELIN **FVAN THOMPSON** CLAUDIA TRUJILLO WARREN WADE **BIANCA WAGNER** JOSH WALBURN MAURA WEBER JANE WORLEY KIM WRIGHT

WEST OFFICE-KC

BRENDA ROMO ALBA MICHAEL DUFFY

JENNIFER WIEMAN EARLES

DIANE JIMENEZ BRANDON MASON GRANT REICHERT EDWIN SAGASTUME

ST. JOSEPH OFFICE

JANICE DYDELL
ELISA HAMM
JOHN KEIFFER
AARON MCCLINTIC
DEBBIE MOORE
BECKY MORRISON
JOSH MURPHY
TIFFANY SADLER
KENISHA SANDERSON
MEGAN SIMPSON
JEFF STEPHENS

WARRENSBURG OFFICE

MEGAN ALFANO
KELSIE BARNES
KIM BASINGER
JACQUE DUVALL
SUSAN HANRAHAN
CINDY LOWRY
SHERRY SCHIERENBECK

BILL SHULL
JESI STANLEY

WHAT IS THE JUSTICE GAP?



The "justice gap" is the difference between the civil legal needs of low-income Americans and the resources available to meet those needs. There are far too many people in need of legal help who can't afford market-rate lawyers and not nearly enough legal aid lawyers to serve our low-income neighbors. We are forced to turn away more than 60% of the people who come to us for help.

The good news is your support, combined with our staff's commitment and flexibility, allows us to expand our ability to serve more people and adapt to our clients' changing needs. As a result, we are able to grow core practice areas and develop partnerships and projects in order to concentrate our legal services in areas of particular need in our community.

66

My volunteer attorney was excellent.

Although he volunteered his services, he treated me with respect. He was understanding and compassionate.

- RODNEY

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT

The Volunteer Attorney Project (VAP) places eligible clients with private attorneys who agree to provide free legal representation to those who otherwise could not afford it. The private attorneys who volunteer their time through VAP believe in the principle of equal access to the legal system, of making "justice for all" more than just a promise. These attorneys are convinced that our legal system must work for all its citizens. They donate their time and considerable talents to make that ideal a reality.

During 2017, VAP attorneys closed 453 cases representing more than 6,119 hours of legal representation, approximately \$1,223,800 worth of legal services. The following attorneys accepted new VAP cases in 2017.

BRIAN DOHERTY

JACOB DOLESHAL

KANSAS CITY **ROBERT ABERNATHY** TODD ABPLANALP JOHN AISENBREY KRISTIN JACOBS ALEXANDER SHAUNA ALEXANDER DANIEL L. ALLEN JASON AMERINE TERESA L. ANDERSON **ROBYN ANDERSON** ASHLEY ARAMJOO **DWIGHT ARN** KIMBERLY ATHIE JOSEPH M. BACKER SARAH ANNE BAKER **BRIAN BALTZELL** DAVID R. BARLOW SAM BARFOOT AMANDA BASRI ANNA BERMAN **BRITTANY BARRIENTOS** AMANDA BASRI JACOB W. BAYER, JR. KATHERINE BECHINA ROBYN BEDELL **BRYCE BELL**

JAMES H. BERNARD, JR.
JUDITH L. BERRY
MARY ELLEN BIGGE
GEORGE BLACKWOOD
ALLEN BLAIR
VALERIE BLEVINS
STEWART C. BOGART
STEPHEN D. BONNEY
JONATHAN A. BORTNICK
STEPHANIE BRADSHAW
DOUGLAS B. BREYFOGLE

DANIEL BEREZOSKI

ADAM BROWN LEE B. BRUMITT MATTHEW E. BRUNKHORST **BRETT BURMEISTER** JOHN BURNETT **DEANNA BURNS** STEPHANIE BURTON SAM BUTLER CHRISTOPHER T. CAMPBELL ROBIN K. CARLSON CHANDLER CARR LYDIA M. CARSON SEEMA CHAWLA SARA CHRISTENSEN TERESA CHU CARL R. CLARK GARY W. COLLINS MEREDITH K. COLLINS DAVID L. COOPER CAMERON COOPER JOHN COWDEN FRED CROUCH

JAMES CRUMP

KEITH CUTLER

PAUL DAVIS

TOM DAVIS

MICKEY DEAN

JAY D. DEHARDT

SHERRY DEJANES

TIMOTHY DENKER

JONATHAN DILLY

CINDY DODGE

FLIZABETH DELAGARDELLE

DAVID DEAN

DONALD L. DAVIS

KENDALL PAUL DAY

CHRISTOPHER J. CUSACK

CATHERYN BROOKS

PRESTON DROBECK DOUGLAS J. EDMONDS STEVEN C. EFFERTZ **COLEMAN ROBERT ELLIS** JAMES ENSZ JOSHUA ERWIN GAYLE STUTZMAN EVANS ROCHELLE FALK HON. ARTHUR FEDERMAN ANDREW FELKER G. ADDAM FERA KYLE FERDEN MICHAEL FIELDING JOSH FISHER NICOLE FISHER CHRIS FRANTZE MARSHA FRIFDMAN JOHN FUDGE WM. BRIAN GADDY **BRIAN GARDINER** KAREN GARRETT STANLEY GILLESPIE CLAYTON GILL ETTE JORDAN GLASGOW CHRISTINA E. GONDRING ALYSSA GONNERMAN ROBERT E. GORDON SHANNON GORDON HUNTER GOULD MOLLIE GREVER STEPHEN OWEN GRIFFIN KRISTON GUILLOT ANGELA HABEEBULLAH SCOTT B. HAINES DANIEL C. HALL STEVE HAMILTON

ROBERT HAMMEKE JESSICA M. HAMPTON COURTNEY HARRISON JOHN P. HASTINGS M. BLAKE HEATH KENNETH A. HERRING TIM HILTON DANIEL B. HODES PAUL HOFFMANN DAVID HOLDSWORTH CHARICE HOLTSCLAW CAMRON HOORFAR LYNN HOOVER STEPHEN P. HORN ADAM HOSKINS JENNIFER E. HOUSE PACKARD BILL HUBBARD ANNE HUCKER MICHAEL HUFFT PATRICIA L. HUGHES ALEXANDRA HUTCHINGS ASHLEY N. IRWIN KATHLEEN JEANETTA **CHARLEY JENSEN** JOSEPH JEPPSON DAVID JERMANN MAX JEVINSKY CARSTON JOHANNSEN **BRIAN JOHNSON** MELESA JOHNSON RON JOHNSON

SARA JUAREZ

DANA KAISER

BARRY M. KATZ

CHRIS KEYSER

DANIEL KENNEDY

NICHOLAS B. KENNEY

MOLLY WALSH KEPPLER

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT (CONTINUED)

JOHN D KILGORE RYAN D. KILIANY JENNIFER KIM KURT H. KING J. SCOTT KING D. BRYANT KING, III DON KIRKPATRICK RYAN KNIPP LACY KOLLATZ ALICIA KORANDA CHRIS KORTH THOMAS KREAMER ERLENE W. KRIGEL ABRAHAM D. KUHL JOHN W. KURTZ BRYCE E. LANGFORD JOSHUA J. LANGLOIS LAURI J. LAUGHLAND TERRY L. LAWSON, JR. JACK LEWIS MARY T. LIDDLE CYNTHIA LINDEMAN IONAHLOCK **EMMETT LOGAN** GREGG LOMBARDI **HEATHER LOTTMAN** HOWARD LOTVEN HAROLD L. LOWENSTEIN MELISA LUDEMAN FLIZABETH LYNCH LISA MACHICAO KAY MADDEN MIGUEL P. MADRIGAL JEAN MANEKE NICOLE MARCOTTE LIBBY MARDEN CHARLES A. MARTEL III MISHELLE MARTINEZ KAY L. MCARTHY RYAN L. MCCLELLAND **BRAD MCCORMACK** MEGAN MCCURDY ELENA MCFARLAND TIFFANY MCFARLAND BRENDAN MCPHERSON MARTIN M. MEYERS CHRIS MILES **BETHANY MILLER** R B MILLER JOHN J. MILLER

HUMAIRA A MIR7A **GREG MITCHELL** MARK MOLNER JAMES MUELLER TIM MURPHY **KEVIN MUXLOW** JOSEPH P. NASTASI **KELSEY NAZAR** AROOJ NAZIR **COBY NELSON** SHERYL NELSON **IOHN NETTELS** ANGELA NICHOLS **DOUGLASS NOLAND CLAY NORKEY** ALEXIA NORRIS JOSEPH F. O'HARA JANET F. OLIVER DANA OUTLAW SCOTT OWENS MARK PARACHINI TINA PARSLEY-HUGHES COURTNEY PATTERSON RYAN PATTON ROBERT PAYNE AUNNA L. PEOPLES STEVEN PETRY **BRITTENY PFLEGER** KARL PHARES WILLIAM D. PIEDIMONTE DUVEL (D.J.) PIERRE JOHN R. PINK LARRY A. PITTMAN, II JESSICA PIXLER JASON N.W. PLOWMAN KEVIN PREWITT PAM PUTNAM **ELIZABETH RAINS** MATTHEW K. RAND MICHAFI RAPP MARTIN RICE ROBERT W. RICHARDS TRACY L. ROBINSON AMANDA ROBINSON MEGAN LEIGH ROSE KATHERINE ROSENBLATT THOMAS E. ROSZAK JEFFREY ROYER JORDEN RYAN

JOHN P. RYAN, JR.

SAMANTHA SADER

NEIL SADER MICHAEL SANTSCHI MARTHA SCHACH TINA SCHAEFER ANDREW SCHENDEL KIMBERLY SCHEUERMAN **EMILY SCHWAPPACH** JERE SELLERS **BRETT SHANKS** DARREN SHARP STEVEN A. SHEPHERD AMBER SIMON JOHN SIMPSON WALTER SIMPSON MARETA SMITH **BURT SMOLIAR** DEBRA SNOKE-ADAMS JOHN SOMMER SHANNON SORENSEN ANDREW SPEICHER TRACY BARNES SPRADLIN NADER J. STANFORD IANICE STANTON VANESSA STARKE A LISTECKLEIN TONI STEGEMAN STEWART STEIN BENJAMIN STELTER-EMBRY RACHEL STEPHENS JOSEPH L. STOKELY ROBERT STOPPERAN BRUCE E. STRAUSS STEVEN STREEN KIM SUMMERS JAMES O. SWANEY, JR. LINDA HART TABORY HENRY TANNER MONICA TANZEY JULIA TAYLOR CASSANDRA TERHUNE **RON THIEWES** NORRIS M. THOMPSON KRISTEN THURMOND JAMES W. TIPPIN KELLY C. TOBIN ANTHONY TOTTA JUDD TREEMAN **CHRIS TROPPITO** D. PAUL TYSON PAUL VOGEL NATE VAN EMON

PAIGE WAITS DAVID WATKINS JOHN A. WATT **BRIAN WEBB** MEREDITH WEBSTER BERNARD WEINAND DOUG WEMHOFF JESSICA WENGRONOWITZ THOMAS H. WEST B. JEROME WHEELER DANA WILDERS LESLIE WILLIAMS EDWARD A. WILLIAMS JANE L. WILLIAMS BARBARA WILLIAMS PEGGY A. WILSON STEVE WOLCOTT MARSHALL W. WOODY LOUIF WRIGHT **BRAD YFRFTSKY** CHRIS YOTZ DAVID ZEILER ROBERT 7FI DIN ERIC H. ZIEGENHORN G. GABRIEL ZOROGASTUA

JOPLIN

HON. RICHARD COPELAND

ST. JOSEPH BRUCE ENLOW RYAN KNAPP JEREMY SWENSON

WARRENSBURG MICHAEL DAWSON

TONY MILLER

LEGAL AID'S SPECIAL PROJECTS

ABANDONED HOUSING ACT PROJECT (KANSAS CITY)

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

ADVOCATES FOR FAMILY HEALTH

GUARDIANSHIPS FOR MINORS AND INCAPACITATED ADULTS

HEALTHY HOUSING (MOSAIC LIFE CARE- ST. JOSEPH)

IMMIGRATION PROJECT

LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP WITH KANSAS CITY CARE CLINIC

MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS PROJECT

MIGRANT FARMWORKERS PROJECT

NEIGHBORHOOD ATTORNEY PROJECT

PROJECT ASSIST NORTHWEST (PROTECTIVE ORDERS)

PROTECTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES PROJECT (PROTECTIVE ORDERS)

RURAL ASSISTANCE NOW PROJECT (PROTECTIVE ORDERS)

VETERANS RELIEF PROJECT

VOICES IN COURT (PROTECTIVE ORDERS)

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

- ADOPT-A-NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT
- EDUCATION PROJECT
- LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC ATTORNEY PANEL
- PRO BONO PROGRAM FOR BANKRUPTCY LITIGATION
- PROJECT CONSENT (GUARDIANSHIPS)
- PRO SE DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE CLINICS
- TRANSACTIONAL LAW PROJECT

SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS WITH KANSAS CITY MUNICIPAL COURT:

- DRUG COURT
- MENTAL HEALTH COURT
- VETERANS' TREATMENT COURT



Civil legal aid is free help — including advice, representation and other assistance — for low-income individuals, families and communities facing urgent non-criminal legal problems.

66

We are on a limited income and hiring a lawyer would have put extra strain on our budget. We are so very thankful our son found Legal Aid to help us.

- MARCUS

2017 GIFTS & 2017-19 CAMPAIGN PLEDGES

We are fortunate to have the support of dedicated friends and others who make our work possible.

PLEDGES & MULTI-YEAR DONATIONS

SHOOK HARDY & BACON, LLP
THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$239,250

POLSINELLI, PC

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$210,000

THE CHILDREN OF BETH & ED SMITH TWO-YEAR GIFTS OF \$110,000

STINSON LEONARD STREET, LLP

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$108,875

HUSCH BLACKWELL, LLP

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$105,600

LATHROP & GAGE, LC

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$54,450

DAVIS BETHUNE & JONES, LLC

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$45,000

SEIGFREID BINGHAM

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$41,250

SPENCER FANE, LLP

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$41,250

GILMORE & BELL, PC

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$29,700

KUTAK ROCK, LLP

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$27,225

KETCHMARK & MCCREIGHT, PC

FIVE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$25,000

BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP TWO-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$20,000

STUEVE SIEGEL HANSON, LLP

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$19,800

PATRICK & JANNA STUEVE

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$15.000

GERMAN MAY, PC

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$14,025

LANGDON & FMISON

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$9,075

SHAMBERG JOHNSON & BERGMAN, CHARTERED

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$7,500

LEWIS RICE & FINGERSH LC

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$5,500

DOLLAR BURNS & BECKER, LC

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$4.950

THE MEYERS LAW FIRM, LC
THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$4,500

KRIGEL & KRIGEL, PC

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$4,500

LITTLE MENDELSON PC

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$3,000

KEVIN M. CONNOR

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$2,250

EDWARD A. & SARA DAVIS WILLIAMS
THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$1,800

REDFEARN LAW FIRM, PC

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$1,500

JACK & JEANNE BANGERT

ONE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$1,000

THE ROWE LAW FIRM, LLC

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$825

ERIC ZIEGENHORN

THREE-YEAR PLEDGE OF \$750

2017 LAW FIRM, FOUNDATION & CORPORATION DONATIONS

DONATIONS OF \$10,000 & ABOVE

HALLMARK CARDS, INC LEGAL DEPARTMENT
M. BLAKE HEATH, TRIAL ATTORNEY LLC
LORDI MARKER FAMILY FOUNDATION
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD OF
LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI

DONATIONS OF \$5,000 & ABOVE

DENTONS US LLP JOHN AND MAIDA HULSTON FAMILY FUND ROYALS CHARITIES

DONATIONS OF \$1,000 & ABOVE

BAUTISTA LEROY LLC
GUNN, SHANK & STOVER, PC
HAMILTON-BOYLE CHARITABLE TRUST
DMYTRO, MARIA AND OLHA JAROSEWYCZ
MEMORIAL GIFT FUND
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS CITY
J.B. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION
ROBB AND ROBB LLC
VANTRUST REAL ESTATE LLC

GIFTS & PLEDGES (CONTINUED)

DONATIONS OF \$500 & ABOVE

RICHARD P. AND JANE BRUENING FOUNDATION
DEVRIES AND ASSOCIATES, P.C.
SHIRLEY AND BARNETT HELZBERG FOUNDATION
PENDLETON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
UMKC SCHOOL OF LAW

DONATIONS OF \$250 & ABOVE

THE ALVAREZ LAW FIRM PA DUNN FAMILY FOUNDATION THE SADER I AW FIRM

2017 INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

DONATIONS OF \$20,000 & ABOVE

STEPHANIE BURTON
THOMAS & JANICE KREAMER

DONATIONS OF \$10,000 & ABOVE

KAREN & ANDREW SEE
MARY STEEB & GLEN LITTLETON

DONATIONS OF \$5,000 & ABOVE

VIRGINIA & MATTHEW CRIMMINS BRIAN & RONDI GARDNER SARAH BLUM SMITH

DONATIONS OF \$1,000 & ABOVE

JOHN & ELLEN AISENBREY DANIEL ALLMAYER KAREN BISSET & ROB BARNES JOHN W. COWDEN TIMOTHY J. DOKE KEVIN A. DUNN ARTHUR & DIANE FEDERMAN GERALD M. HANDLEY DAWN ROE JOHNSON BARRY M. KATZ **GREGG LOMBARDI** RICHARD & DEBRA LOMBARDO BENJAMIN MANN HON. MICHAEL MANNERS (RET.) MARSHALL V. MILLER MARY PHILLIPS & WESLEY POWELL CYPRIENNE SIMCHOWITZ JULIE STEENSON MARK THORNHILL JOHN & BECKY TURNER GENE E. VOIGTS

W. RUSSELL WELSH

JUDITH & KENT WHITTAKER

SHAUNA WOODY-COUSSENS

DONATIONS OF \$500 & ABOVE

DANIEL P BAKER DAVID & KATHERINE BARNARD ROBERT M. BARNES GALEN BEAUFORT VALERIE J. BLEVINS HON, CHARLES CURLESS STEVEN & LINDA DEES FRIC FRB KENT ERICKSON STEVE GARNER MR. & MRS. DONALD W. GIFFIN JEAN & MOULTON GREEN WILLIAM A. HIRSCH DAVID N. JOHNSON JOANNE M. KANE DAN & MICHELLE KAUFMAN MATTHEW KEENAN CHARLOTTE KULLMAN HEATHER A. LEITH SAMUEL MCHENRY BRENDAN L. MCPHERSON JOHN R. PHILLIPS KAY F. ROSENBOHM TERRY J. SATTERLEE LONNIE J. SHALTON MARY JO SHANEY HON. CHRISTINE T. SILL-ROGERS **RIK SIRO & TERESA WOODY** STEVEN J. STREEN MICHAEL J. THOMPSON TERENCE J. THUM J. MICHAFI VAUGHAN HON. JERRY & DR. CASSY VENTERS LISA A. WEIXELMAN VICTORIA RUHGA WESTERHAUS

Every attempt has been made to reflect accurately the names of our generous contributors. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Space does not permit the listing of every contributor, but we value all of our donors.

2017 TRIBUTE GIFTS

Each year, we receive heartfelt gifts in memory of loved ones and in honor of family, friends or special occasions.

IN HONOR OF

STEVEN BOREL BY

STEVEN & NAN STREEN

MICHELLE CONE BY

DANIEL P BAKER

KEVIN & ANNE CONNOR BY

BRENDAN L. MCPHERSON

JACK & REMY CUTLIFF BY

MARY STEEB & GLEN LITTLETON

JOE DANDURAND BY

DANIEL BOWERS

CRISSY DEL PERCIO BY

TRACY L SPRADLIN

MEGAN FREDERICKSON BY

KELLEY CARPENTER

PETER JAROSEWYCZ BY

MARY R DEVINE

KYLE D DOLAN

TOM & SUSAN JONES BY

SEAN WINDSOR

SUSAN KEPHART BY

TRACEY DIANE ISAACSON

JOHN KURTZ BY

HONORABLE WILLIE EPPS

THE LEGAL AID STAFF BY

STEVE KOVAC

KATE NOLEN

JULIE LEVIN BY

CHARLES M. THOMAS

LISA LIVINGSTON MARTIN BY

NELSON & LUCILLE WELLS

JERRY VENTERS BY

ROGER & HEATHER SAMUEL

DAVID VOGEL BY

DAN SMITH

JERRY WOLF BY

ROBERT A. LIEBERMAN

SHAUNA WOODY-COUSSENS BY

TERESA WOODY

IN MEMORY OF

BUB CURLESS BY

CHARLES CURLESS

CURT EYLAR BY

JIM BARKER

GUNN, SHANK & STOVER, P.C.

MARC & DEBORAH SPERRY

PATRICIA KOROSEC BY

KATHLEEN HOLMES

STEVE ADAM KOVAC

NEIL LOMBARDI BY

DAVID L. WEST

PATRICK O'BRIEN BY

ROBERT P. O'BRIEN

JOHN OWEN BY

LATRICIA SCOTT ADAMS

THOMAS BOYD

RICHARD AND JILL CLAYBOUR

JOHN W. COWDEN

LUCILLE A. ECHOHAWK

PEGGY EKERDT

W. ANTHONY FEIOCK

DANA FORD

WILLIAM A. HIRSCH

ROGER T. HURWITZ

LYNN & ANN KINDRED

CARL & GLADYS KRAUSS

THOMAS F. KREAMER

JAMES. M. LAMY

LAURA LANGSTRAAT

J. GARY MCEACHEN

MORRIS J. NUNN

DALE SCHULTE

KENNETH S. STARKEY, JR.

STINSON LEONARD STREET LLP

SHERRY S. TEMPLETON

SHAUNA WOODY-COUSSENS

BETH SMITH BY

RICHARD WEISS & SALLY ALTMAN

JULIE FRICKLETON

LISA P. GWYTHER

ROBERT D. HERMAN

JOSEPH L. HIERSTEINER

WILLIAM F. KOENIGSDORF

WILLIAM I. NOLINIOSDOI

& KAY E. JOHNSON

THOMAS F. KREAMER

MATTIE RHODES CENTER

BILL & SUSAN POPPLEWELL

B. JOHN READEY, III

DENNIS R. RILINGER

TERRY J. SATTERLEE

SHIRLEY & BARNETT HELZBERG

SARAH BLUM SMITH

ROBERT ZELDIN

JEFF WILLIAMS BY

LORDI MARKER FAMILY FOUNDATION

2017 ENDOWMENT GIFTS

The following individuals made direct gifts to the Legal Aid of Western Missouri Endowment in 2017. Established in 2008 to ensure the long-time financial health of Legal Aid, the Endowment currently contains pledges and gifts from over 160 donors.

JACK BANGERT JOSE BAUTISTA BRUCE BETTINGER RUTH BELZER

RICHARD HALLIBURTON & MIRIAM PEPPER

KATHERINE HOGGARD

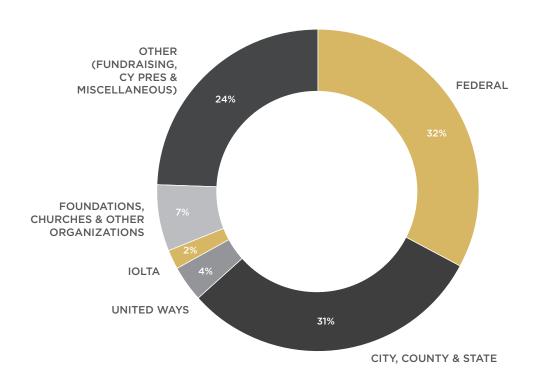
C. PATRICK MCLARNEY CHILDREN OF BETH & ED SMITH

KENDA TOMES JOHN UTZ

EDWARD A. & SARA DAVIS WILLIAMS

2017 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2017 REVENUE



2017 TOTAL REVENUE = \$9,179,729

2017 EXPENSES



2017 TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS = \$7,470,919 2017 TOTAL NON-PERSONNEL COSTS = \$1,535,618

OUR STORY IS ABOUT DENISE

During Denise and Kirk's relationship, Kirk frequently talked down to Denise, telling her she wasn't good enough for him. When Denise became pregnant, Kirk threw her belongings out of his home and tried to pressure her into getting an abortion. Denise had the baby and allowed Kirk visits. At the end of one of these visits, Kirk pushed Denise and attacked her brother, breaking his nose. Denise obtained a Full Order of Protection with help from a Legal Aid attorney.

Several months later, Kirk hired an attorney and filed a paternity/custody case against Denise. The same Legal Aid attorney agreed to represent Denise in the case. The evening after we accepted Denise's case, Kirk sent her a series of vaguely threatening text messages, including, "Just know that it did not have to come to this." Denise spotted Kirk's car behind her house. A minute later, shots were fired, and two bullets entered Denise's leg. The child was only ten feet from Denise but, fortunately, was not injured.

The Court appointed a guardian ad litem. During the case, Kirk continued to behave erratically, including by chasing down and hitting Denise's stepfather's car while the child was inside. After an extensive discovery process, drug testing, paternity testing, mediation, and several different temporary visitation arrangements, the parties reached a final settlement agreement: Denise will have sole legal and sole physical custody of the child. Kirk's visitation will be supervised until he completes a multi-week parenting course and anger management counseling. His visitation will then gradually increase until he has the child every other weekend and every other Wednesday evening. All exchanges of the child will occur at public locations, and Denise will be able to keep her address confidential. Kirk will pay at least \$612 per month in child support, plus an arrearage of almost \$7,000. Kirk also has to maintain medical and dental insurance for the child through his employer. The guardian ad litem fees will be paid by Kirk and by Jackson County, not Denise.

After the final hearing in March 2017, Denise wrote her attorney, "Thank you so much for everything. You have been here since December 2015 and never left my side. I appreciate all of your help through this stressful process."

THOSE WHO TELL THE STORIES RULE THE WORLD.

LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

