

**BECAUSE  
LEGAL  
AID  
MATTERS**



## LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MISSOURI 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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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



Legal Aid matters  
because legal rights  
aren't self-enforcing.  
Without Legal Aid,  
thousands face the civil  
justice system empty-  
handed. It's hard to play  
in a game where your  
opponent has the gear  
and you have nothing.



If you are trying to fight  
an unlawful eviction,  
secure veterans'  
benefits which you've  
earned but been  
denied, or protect your  
family's safety from an  
abusive partner, you  
need civil legal help.  
But not everyone can  
afford an attorney.

Equal access to justice  
doesn't just make  
some of the difference  
for people in need. It  
makes all the difference.







Our low-income  
neighbors experience  
1-3 civil legal problems  
each year. And these  
legal problems create  
huge barriers to  
life's necessities —  
necessities like housing,  
health care, food, and  
freedom from violence.



Legal Aid staff and  
volunteers work hard  
— but we can't reach  
everyone. Because of  
funding and staffing  
limitations, we turn  
away more than half  
of the applicants who  
qualify for our help.







But, guess what...

Last year, we brought  
life-changing legal  
assistance to more than  
13,000 families and  
individuals.

And your support made  
a difference — because  
Legal Aid does matter!



# BECAUSE LEGAL AID MATTERS



## Patty

Patty is a young woman in her 30s who is completely deaf. In addition to having a hearing impairment, she also has other physical health issues that affect her everyday life. As a result, Patty lives with her parents and has collected Social Security benefits since childhood.

While attending an event for people with disabilities, Patty learned of a program that assists disabled persons with the challenges of entering the workforce. She was very excited about this opportunity and immediately entered the program. After she graduated, Patty found a part-time job that accommodated her deafness and other physical needs. Patty then notified Social Security of her new job and was enrolled in a *trial work period*, which allowed Patty to test her ability to work and still collect Social Security benefits.

Patty became one of her employer's favorites and, although a part-time employee, she frequently was scheduled for significantly more hours. After several years of working there, she received two notices from Social Security; the first explained that she had been overpaid nearly \$10,000 in benefits due to her income from wages, and the second notice explained that she had exceeded the *trial work period* by working too many hours for too long. Social Security no

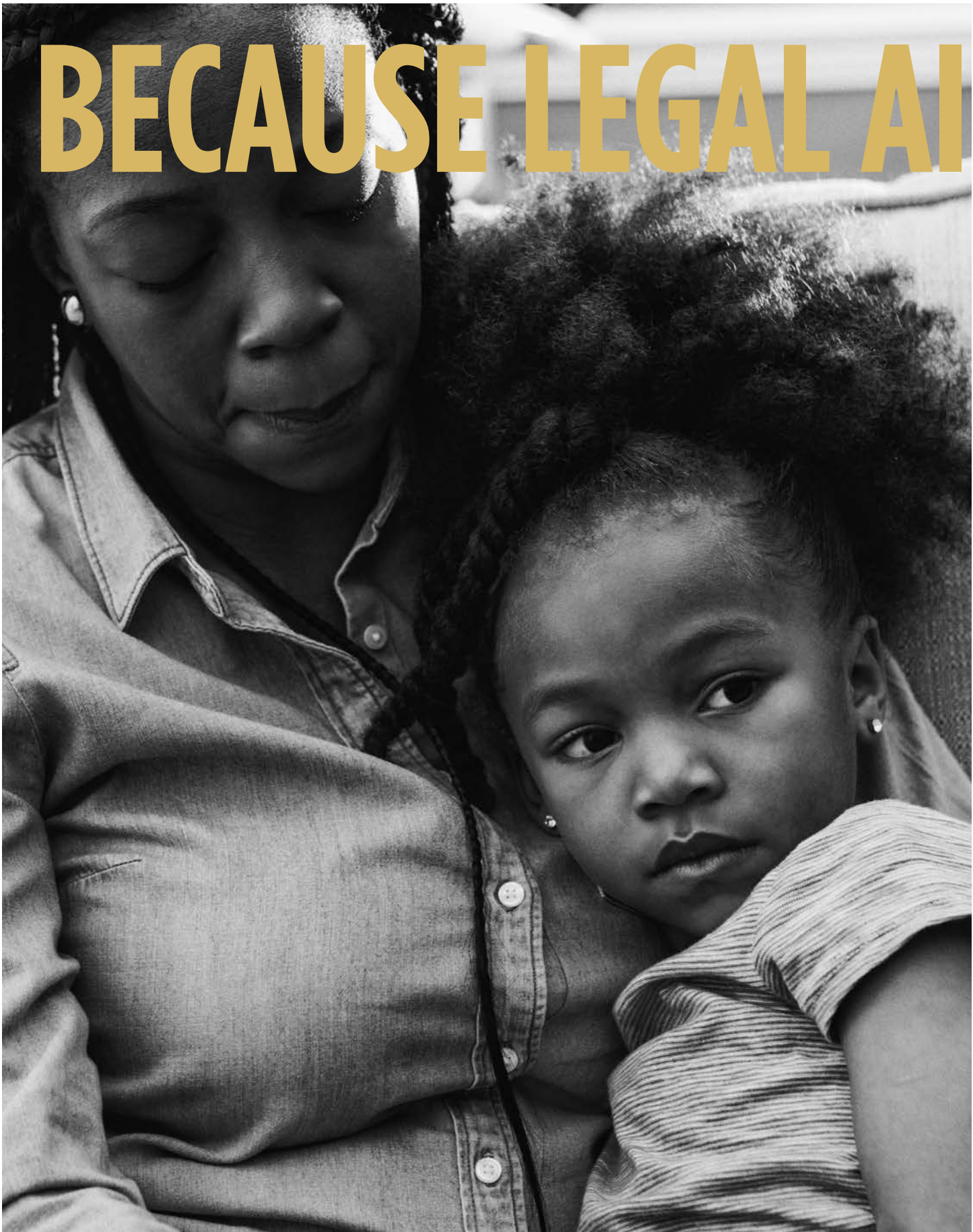
longer considered Patty disabled, and thus no longer eligible for benefits.

After receiving these notices, Patty's parents suggested she contact Legal Aid. Her case was accepted, and Patty's Legal Aid attorney immediately assisted her in filing a Request for Waiver, or a Reduced Repayment Plan, regarding the overpayment. While awaiting an answer on the overpayment issue, Patty's attorney explained to her what it would take for her to receive benefits once again. Patty met with her physician, counselor, and employer. Ultimately, Patty decided she did not want to appeal the termination of benefits as she planned to continue full-time employment, even receiving a raise along with an assistant manager position that gave her more responsibilities.

With help from her Legal Aid attorney, Social Security agreed to reduce the total amount of the overpayment to \$3,000, and a reasonable repayment plan of \$25.00 per month was established. Patty makes her payments on time, often paying extra as she plans to pay it off early. She is very proud of her new position and is flourishing. She recently told her attorney that she plans to get her own apartment and live independently of her parents for the first time in her life.

**THANKS TO HER LEGAL AID ATTORNEY, PATTY CAN SUPPORT HERSELF WITHOUT THE HELP OF PUBLIC BENEFITS.**





# BECAUSE LEGAL AID MATTERS

## Ava

Ava is a single mother of one daughter, Becky. Becky, who has developmental disabilities and must attend special education classes, loves the public school she attends and is doing well.

Last Fall, Ava had surgery and got behind on her rent. She was sued by her landlord for Rent and Possession and immediately contacted Legal Aid for help with the case. Ava lives in a USDA-subsidized rental complex and was very concerned about keeping her daughter in her current special education classes at her local school. She knew that if she were to be evicted and forced to transfer Becky to a different school it would affect her daughter's well-being.

Ava told her Legal Aid attorney that she was working out a payment plan with her property

manager. Her attorney contacted the opposing attorney and verified with management that an agreement was being prepared. The arrangement was that Ava would pay \$1,000 by a certain date and sign an agreement to pay \$187 per month in addition to her monthly rent until back rent was paid in full. Ava did not have the \$1,000 needed, so she contacted local agencies for help. Her attorney verified that Community Action Agency and a local church would help her pay the \$1,000.

Legal Aid set up a meeting for Ava with management of the complex to sign a promissory note, pay amounts due, and recertify before the trial date. The case was then dismissed. Now, Ava does not have to move and Becky can continue to thrive in her current school.

**DESPITE GETTING BEHIND ON RENT, AVA AND HER DAUGHTER WILL NOT HAVE TO MOVE. THEY HAD LEGAL AID ON THEIR SIDE.**



# BECAUSE LEGAL AID MATTERS



## Dan

Dan was separated, though not legally divorced, from the mother of his two children, five-year-old Lani and seven-year-old Jess. With no formal custody agreement, the children's mother brought Lani and Jess to live with her boyfriend without disclosing the location of their home to Dan.

Their mother had a history of drug and alcohol abuse, including previous incarcerations, and was subject to supervised probation in a criminal court. Knowing his wife's history, and not knowing his daughters' address, Dan feared the conditions of his daughters' home lives; this fear worsened when he received a call from their school letting him know that Lani and Jess had not been attending on a regular basis.

When Dan discovered where his children were living, he went to the property to inspect the conditions. He found them living in a stand-alone motor trailer that did not have running water, electricity, air conditioning, heat, or any neighbors nearby.

Lani and Jess told their dad that they often had no food, had very few clothes, and that their mom was inattentive. Furthermore, the girls' mother and her boyfriend did not have any form of work-

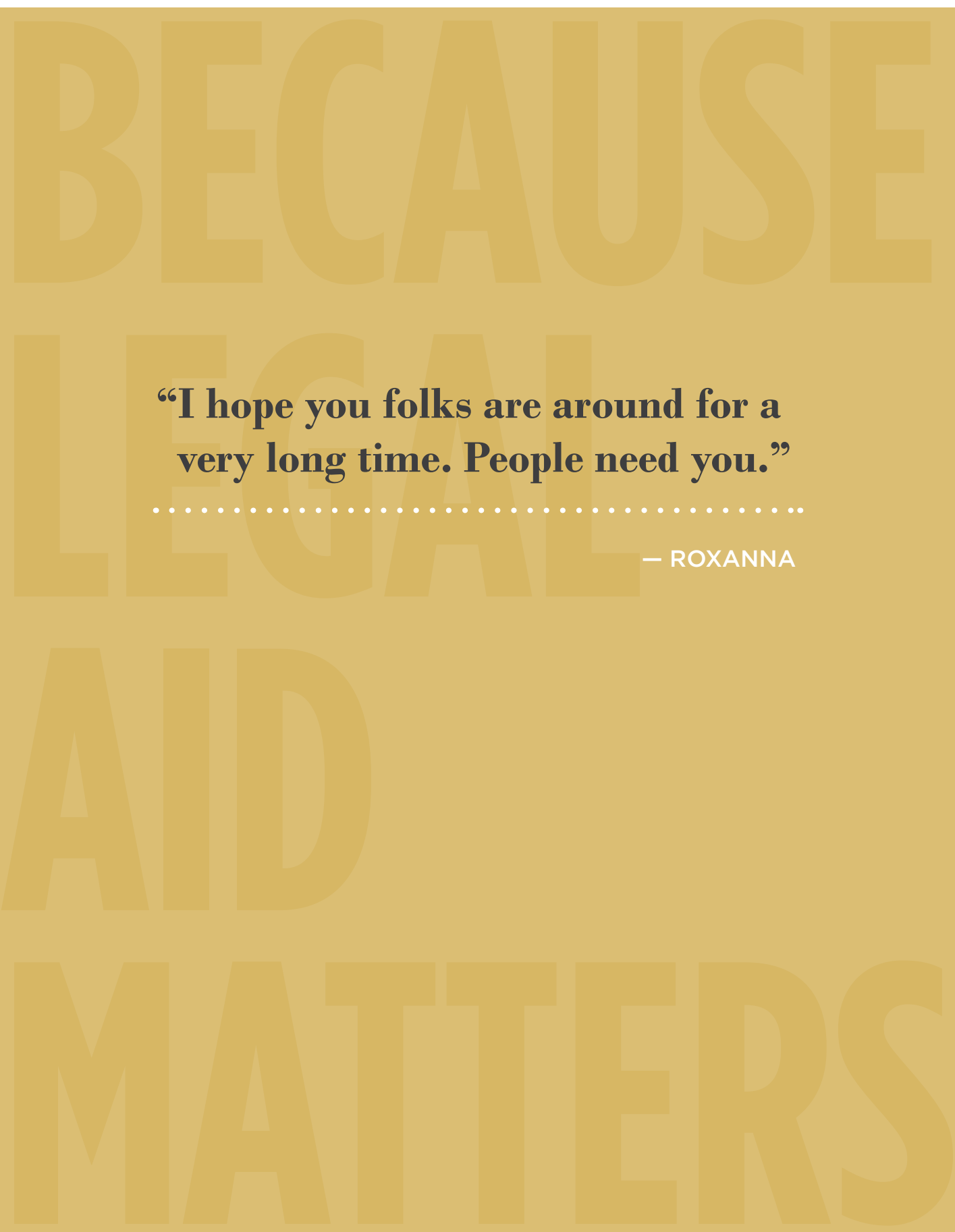
ing transportation. After seeing these conditions, Dan took his children with him and immediately filed for a child protection order for both girls at the courthouse. There, a victim advocate referred Dan's case to Legal Aid for assistance.

A Legal Aid attorney agreed to take Dan's case and represented him at his protective order hearing. At the hearing, it was discovered that the children's mother was in jail for violating her probation. Considering the evidence and circumstances, a full child protective order for both girls, including temporary custody of the minor children, was granted for a period of one year. However, Dan's Legal Aid attorney stressed the importance of obtaining a permanent custody arrangement and agreed to further represent him in obtaining a divorce.

Dan was successful in obtaining a divorce from his daughters' neglectful mother. Once the divorce was finalized, an agreed-upon parenting plan was established, which included joint legal and physical custody of Lani and Jess, with Dan having primary physical custody. The children's mother was granted reasonable supervised visitation with the girls.

**THANKS TO LEGAL AID, LANI AND JESS WILL HAVE A SAFE, STABLE, AND LOVING HOME WITH THEIR FATHER.**





**“I hope you folks are around for a very long time. People need you.”**

.....  
— ROXANNA

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The theme of our 2018 Annual Report is Legal Aid Matters, and we at Legal Aid are very fortunate to be able to say that all seven members of the Supreme Court of Missouri agree with this message and are strong supporters of our mission.

In this year’s “Message from the Executive Director,” I believe it is appropriate to provide examples of their support by quoting from Judge Paul Wilson’s presentation to our staff and volunteer attorneys last Fall, and by quoting Chief Justice Zel Fischer from his January 2019 State of the Judiciary address.

Supreme Court Judge Paul Wilson stated:

“The increasing number of Missourians with unmet civil legal needs presents an existential threat to the legal system in this state. There is a gap between the amount of legal services Missourians need and those they can afford, and that gap is growing at a dangerous pace. Left unchecked, this storm threatens to overwhelm our system with unrepresented litigants. The number of unrepresented civil litigants in our courtrooms has passed 100,000 per year...”

“In the first decade of this century, the population in Missouri grew by 7%...but the percentage of Missourians living in poverty shot up by 39%...”

“...the tide of unmet need for legal services is rising, and Legal Aid is the seawall holding that tide back. And unless Legal Aid has enough funding to double or triple its current capacity, we need LOTS of volunteer lawyers to plug the gaps and keep us going. That is why I started this talk by saying ‘Thank you.’”

Chief Justice Zel Fischer, in announcing a new Supreme Court rule and appointing Legal Aid of Western Missouri to conduct the pilot project for the new rule, said:

“A legal system that serves only the well-to-do is neither justice for all, nor justice at all. By far, the primary resource for those least able to afford an attorney comes from our legal service organizations.”

“They need help. Pursuant to a new rule and new pilot project, retired lawyers who agree to provide solely free legal help through one of our state’s legal aid organizations can apply to our Court to have their attorney enrollment fees waived.”

Thank you, Missouri Supreme Court for recognizing and assisting us with our mission.

After completing my second year here, the most difficult part of my job remains the large number of needy and qualified people who come to us for help but we must turn away for lack of staffing. We continue to need your support to help us get closer to meeting the needs of these individuals.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our staff, volunteer attorneys, agency partners, and financial supporters for all that you do. It goes without saying that we need you, and we could not do what we do without you, day after day, week after week and year after year.

  
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

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

We prioritize representing people who have accessibility challenges due to a disability by fighting for 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 subsidized 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.

The Housing Team leads an eviction self-help clinic at the Jackson County Courthouse to reach out to renters who are being evicted. Staff and volunteers 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 more than 200 renters as they wait for court.

**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.

**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.

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.

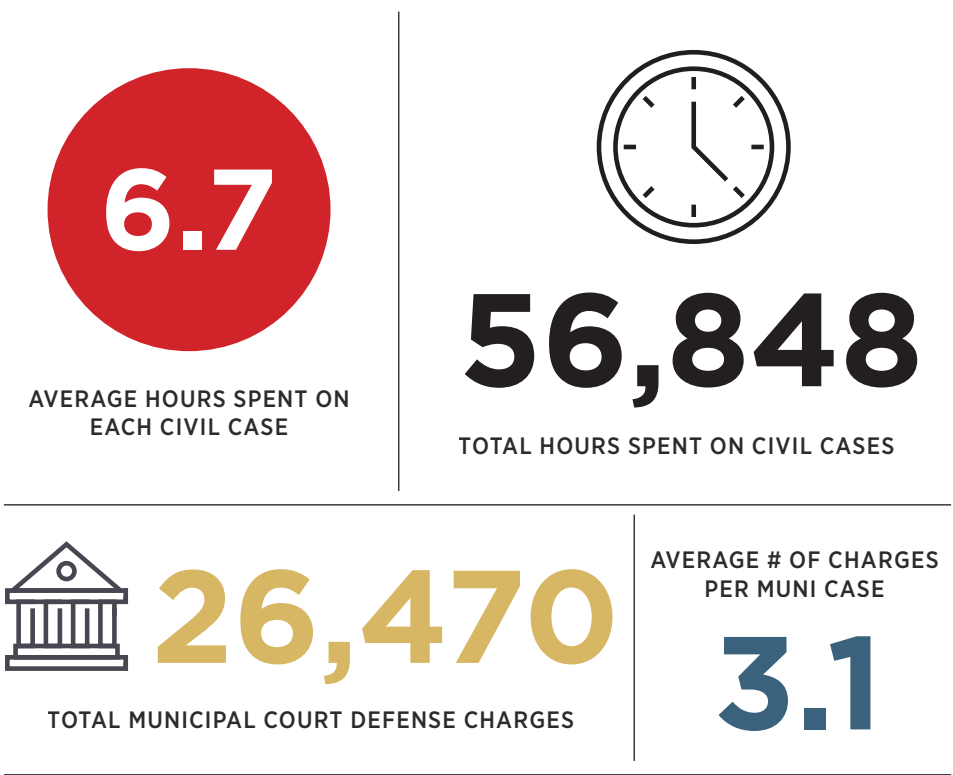
**Foreclosure Prevention:** Saving the homes of low-income, elderly and disabled homeowners from foreclosure is a Legal Aid priority. Through litigation in state and federal courts, we challenge deficiencies in the foreclosure process and frequently are able to stop foreclosure sales or set aside legally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



# YOUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

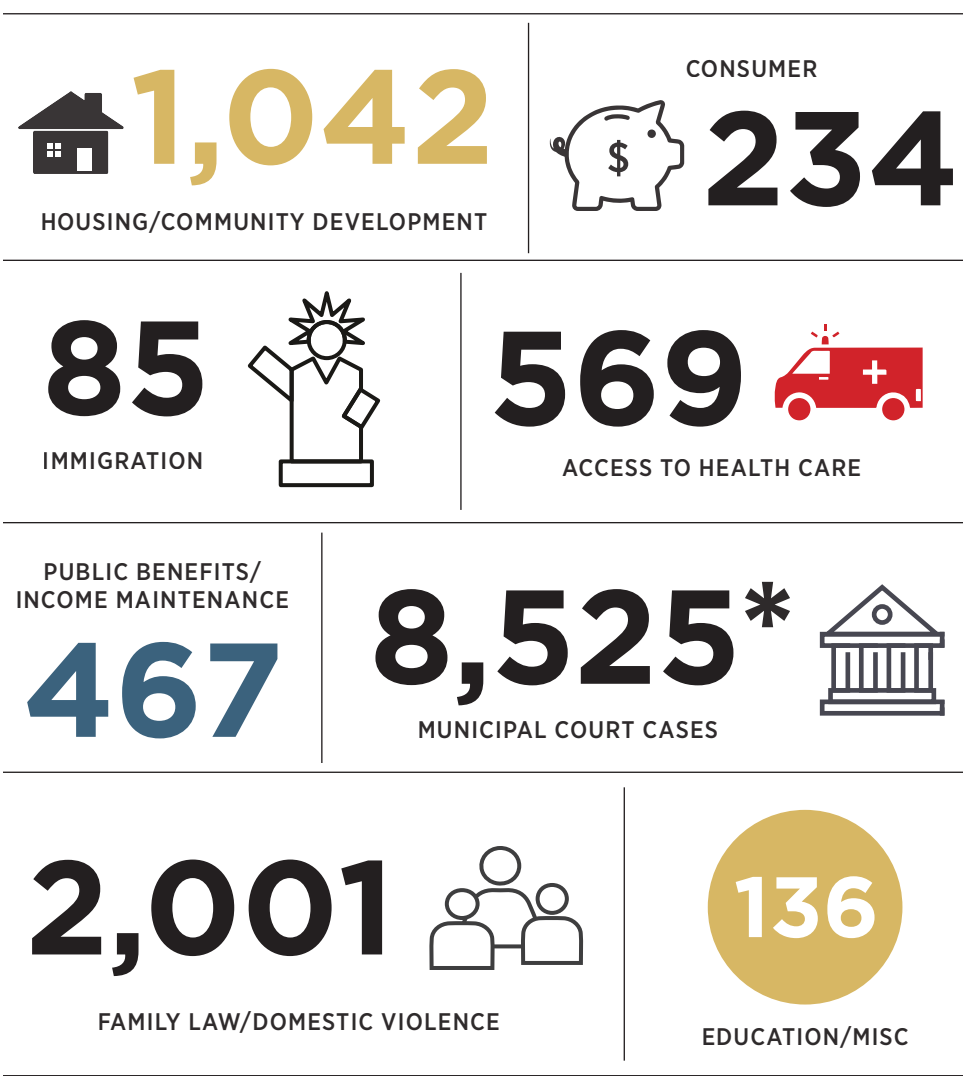
Without you, there would be no justice for our low-income and at-risk neighbors. Together, we helped seniors, children, the ill and disabled, veterans, and more! Here's a brief look at how we did in 2018.



## CIVIL CASES CLOSED BY OFFICE

JOPLIN	604
KANSAS CITY - CENTRAL OFFICE	2,803
KANSAS CITY - WEST OFFICE	211
ST. JOSEPH	523
WARRENSBURG	393

# CLOSED CASE SNAPSHOT



\* MUNICIPAL CASES MAY HAVE MULTIPLE CHARGES.

TOTAL CIVIL CASES CLOSED	4,534
TOTAL KCMO MUNICIPAL COURT CASES	8,525
TOTAL 2018 CLOSED CASES	13,059

# 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 40 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 seven 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 off-site at an Eastside Kansas City location.

**St. Joseph:** St. Joseph’s staff of twelve includes six 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.

# OUR SERVICE AREA

Legal Aid serves a 40-county area where 295,000 people live in poverty.



## 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



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SHAUNA WOODY-COUSSENS  
BRAD YERETSKY  
  
KATIE BARNARD - ADVISOR  
MARGARET MAY - ADVISOR

LEGAL AID STAFF

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JAMIE BLOOD  
SHELLEY BOSTON  
SARAH CANADA  
AUTUMN DEER  
SHANNON MCKINNEY  
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EDNA CALDERA  
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KAREN CUTLIFF  
JOE DANDURAND  
CRISSY DEL PERCIO  
JANET DOBSON  
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DANIELLE ELAM-JOBE  
MEAGAN FISHER  
ANGELA FITLE  
ADRIAN FITZMAURICE  
JULIA FRANTZE  
CHRISTINA FROMMER  
LISA GARZA  
JESSICA GOATLEY  
LINDSEY GRAHAM  
DICK HALLIBURTON  
KARA HARMS  
VINCE HAYES  
WARREN HAYTER  
CHARITY HOLLIDAY  
KATHLEEN HOLMES  
ALICIA JOHNSON  
KAREN KARNES  
SUSAN KEPHART  
REMI KESSLER  
SELINA KHAN  
SANDRA KINCAID  
LISA KIVETT  
CAROL KLINKENBERG  
SARA KOSMICKI  
JULIE LARSON  
RYAN LAUDERMILK  
EDDIE LORENZO  
PAT LUKENBILL  
LAURA MCFARLAND  
SAM MCHENRY  
SUSAN MCRILL  
DALE MEYER  
MIKE MILLER  
ANNABELLE MONA  
BECKY MORRISON  
JOSH MURPHY  
TRACIE NEWMAN  
MICHAEL O’GORMAN  
LANA PARTRIDGE  
KATE PAVLICA  
MADISON PEAK  
MEGAN PIERRE  
LARRY PITTMAN  
KATHALEEYA PLUNGKHEN  
ERIC QUALLS  
DAYANNE REYES  
TERRY RINEHART

STEVEN ROWE  
CODY RUSSELL  
SILYA SHAW  
CORI SMITH  
JAMES SMITH  
WAYNE SMITH  
GWEN SOWDER  
PERLA TAPIA  
RIVER TEMPELIN  
EVAN THOMPSON  
CLAUDIA TRUJILLO  
MEGAN VANAUSDALL  
WARREN WADE  
MAURA WEBER  
MOLLY WILLIAMS  
JANE WORLEY  
KIM WRIGHT  
  
WEST OFFICE-KC  
BRENDA ROMO ALBA  
DENNIS CHANAY  
ANA VICTORIA DE JESÚS  
MICHAEL DUFFY  
JENNIFER WIEMAN EARLES  
KAYLA HOGAN  
MERIDETH HOGAN  
DIANE JIMENEZ  
ABBY JUDAH  
KATIE KILLEN  
CHRISTINE LADNER  
BRANDON MASON  
DEMETRIA PARKS  
EDWIN SAGASTUME  
JOSH WALBURN  
  
**ST. JOSEPH OFFICE**  
JAMES BOYCE  
JANICE DYDELL  
ELISA HAMM  
KAILEE JACKSON  
JOHN KEIFFER  
DEBBIE MOORE  
JOSEPH PORRELLO  
TIFFANY SADLER  
KENISHA SANDERSON  
ERIN STAGGENBORG  
JEFF STEPHENS  
  
**WARRENSBURG OFFICE**  
KELSIE BARNES  
KIM BASINGER  
DAVID BREON  
SUSAN HANRAHAN  
CINDY LOWRY  
SHERRY SCHIERENBECK  
BILL SHULL  
JESI STANLEY

LEGAL AID’S SPECIAL PROJECTS

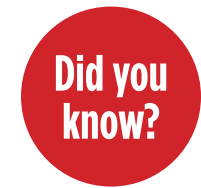
ADVOCATES FOR FAMILY HEALTH  
GUARDIANSHIPS FOR MINORS AND INCAPACITATED ADULTS  
HEALTHY HOUSING (MOAIC LIFE CARE- ST. JOSEPH)  
LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC  
MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP WITH KANSAS CITY CARE CLINIC  
MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP WITH MOAIC LIFE CARE- ST. JOSEPH  
MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS PROJECT  
MIGRANT FARMWORKERS PROJECT  
NEIGHBORHOOD ATTORNEY PROJECT  
PROTECTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES PROJECT (PROTECTIVE ORDERS)  
VETERANS RELIEF PROJECT

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROJECT SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

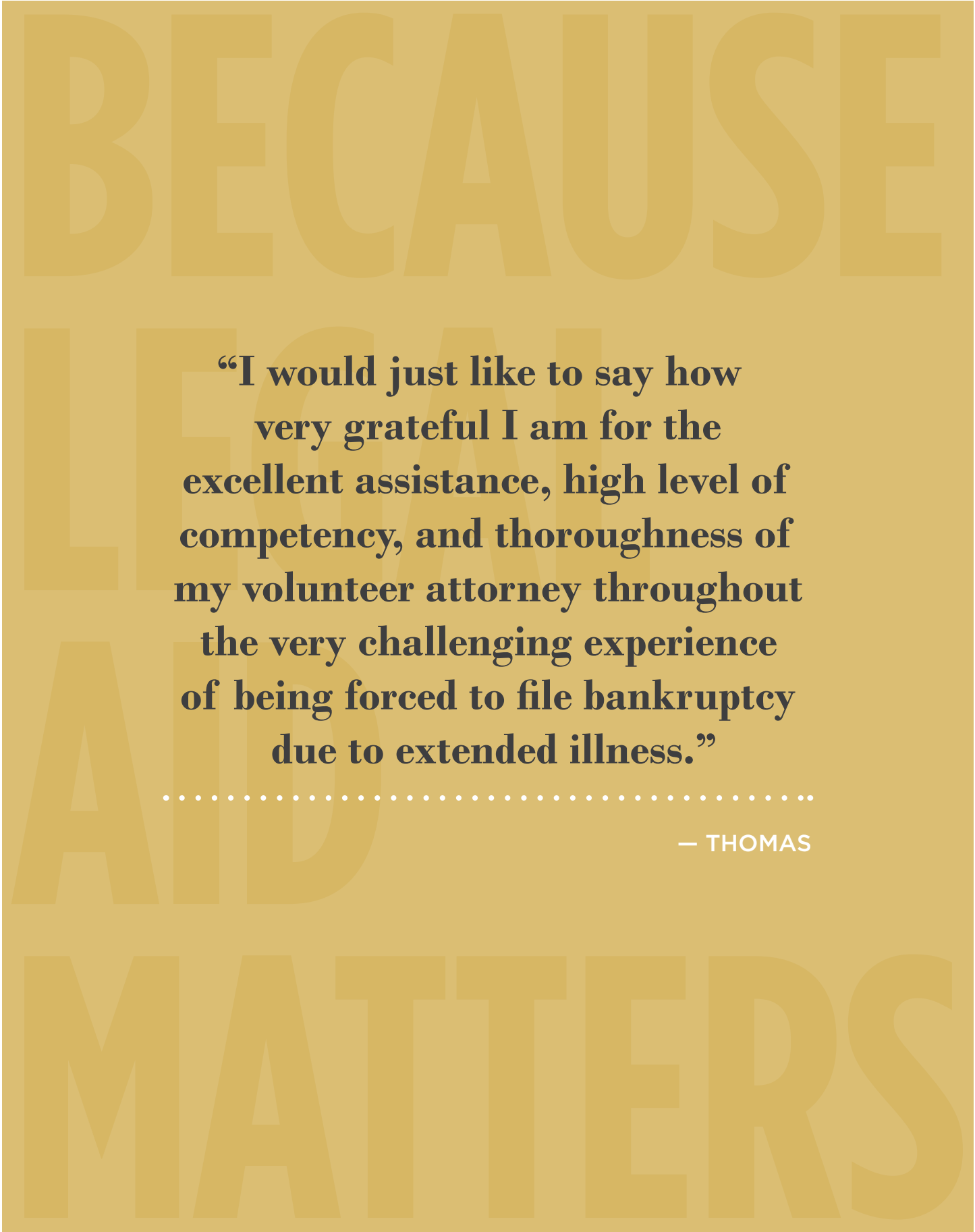
- ADOPT-A-NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT
- EDUCATION PROJECT
- JUSTICE IN THE SCHOOLS (JACKSON COUNTY)
- LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC ATTORNEY PANEL
- PRO BONO PROGRAM FOR BANKRUPTCY LITIGATION
- PROJECT CONSENT (GUARDIANSHIPS)
- PRO SE DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE CLINICS
- SECOND SEASON AT LAW PROJECT
- TRANSACTIONAL LAW PROJECT

SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS WITH KANSAS CITY MUNICIPAL COURT:

- DRUG COURT
- MENTAL HEALTH COURT
- VETERANS’ TREATMENT COURT



Civil legal aid helps keep our poorest neighbors from falling further behind and needing more costly social services. By keeping low-income Missourians in their homes, securing their incomes, and protecting their rights to health care and other benefits, we work to break the cycle of poverty.



**“I would just like to say how very grateful I am for the excellent assistance, high level of competency, and thoroughness of my volunteer attorney throughout the very challenging experience of being forced to file bankruptcy due to extended illness.”**



**— THOMAS**

# 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 2018 VAP attorneys closed 453 cases representing more than 8,014.23 hours of legal representation \$1,602,846 worth of legal services. The following attorneys accepted new VAP cases in 2018.

<b>KANSAS CITY</b>			
COREENA ABERNATHY	CATHERYN M. BROOKS	JAY DEHARDT	SARA WEILERT GILLETTE
ROBERT ABERNATHY	DANIEL R. BROWN	SHERRY DEJANES	JORDAN GLASGOW
TODD ABPLANALP	JOHNATHAN BROWN	TIMOTHY DENKER	GRETCHEN GOLD
JOHN C. AISENBREY	LEE BRUMITT	JORDAN DILLON	ROBERT E. GORDON
SHAUNA ALEXANDER	MATTHEW BRUNKHORST	JONATHAN DILLY	SHANNON GORDON
KATHRYN ALSOBROOK	FREDERICK BRYANT	CYNTHIA DODGE	CHARLES W. GOTSCHALL
COLLIN ALTIERI	MEGAN BUI	BRIAN DOHERTY	HUNTER GOULD
RACHEL ALVEY	BRETT T. BURMEISTER	JACOB DOLESHAL	GENE GRAHAM
JASON AMERINE	DEANNA BURNS	ERICA A. DRISKELL	STEPHEN OWEN GRIFFIN
CONRAD AMIROF	SAMUEL BUTLER	PRESTON DROBECK	VINCE GUALTIER
CHRISTOPHER J. ANDERSON	RYAN CALLAHAN	MICHAEL DUBE	ANGELA HABEEBULLAH
DAVID ANDERSON	JOSEPH CAMBIANO	ELIZABETH DUFF	JENNIFER HAGGERTY
TERESA L. ANDERSON	CHRISTOPHER T. CAMPBELL	MCKINLEY DUKE	SCOTT HAINES
DWIGHT C. ARN	JEFFREY CAREY	STEVEN EFFERTZ	BRIDGET HALBUR
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LEGAL AID MATTERS FOR CHARLES

Charles was interested in rehabbing a debilitated, vacant property in his neighborhood. He was able to locate and contact the property's owner, and they made an agreement: in exchange for \$100 cash, the owner would grant Charles permission to occupy the premises and rehab the property to avert the demolition. The owner also promised Charles a deed to the property in exchange for \$2,500.

Satisfied with this agreement, Charles then got to work on the project. He spent his own money and hundreds of hours of labor to bring the property into compliance with municipal standard. Months later, the City filed a written release of the dangerous building certificate and its demolition order based on the repairs Charles made to improve the condition of the property.

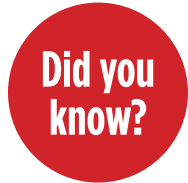
Charles moved into the house and continued to renovate the property. Five months later, the owner entered into a written contract with Charles to sell the property. However, shortly thereafter, the owner refused to convey the property or accept additional payments and threatened to evict Charles.

Immediately, Charles contacted Legal Aid. A Volunteer Attorney Project attorney agreed to help Charles resolve a contract dispute. The attorney filed a Verified Petition for Specific Performance, Quiet Title to Real Estate and Damages in Circuit Court.

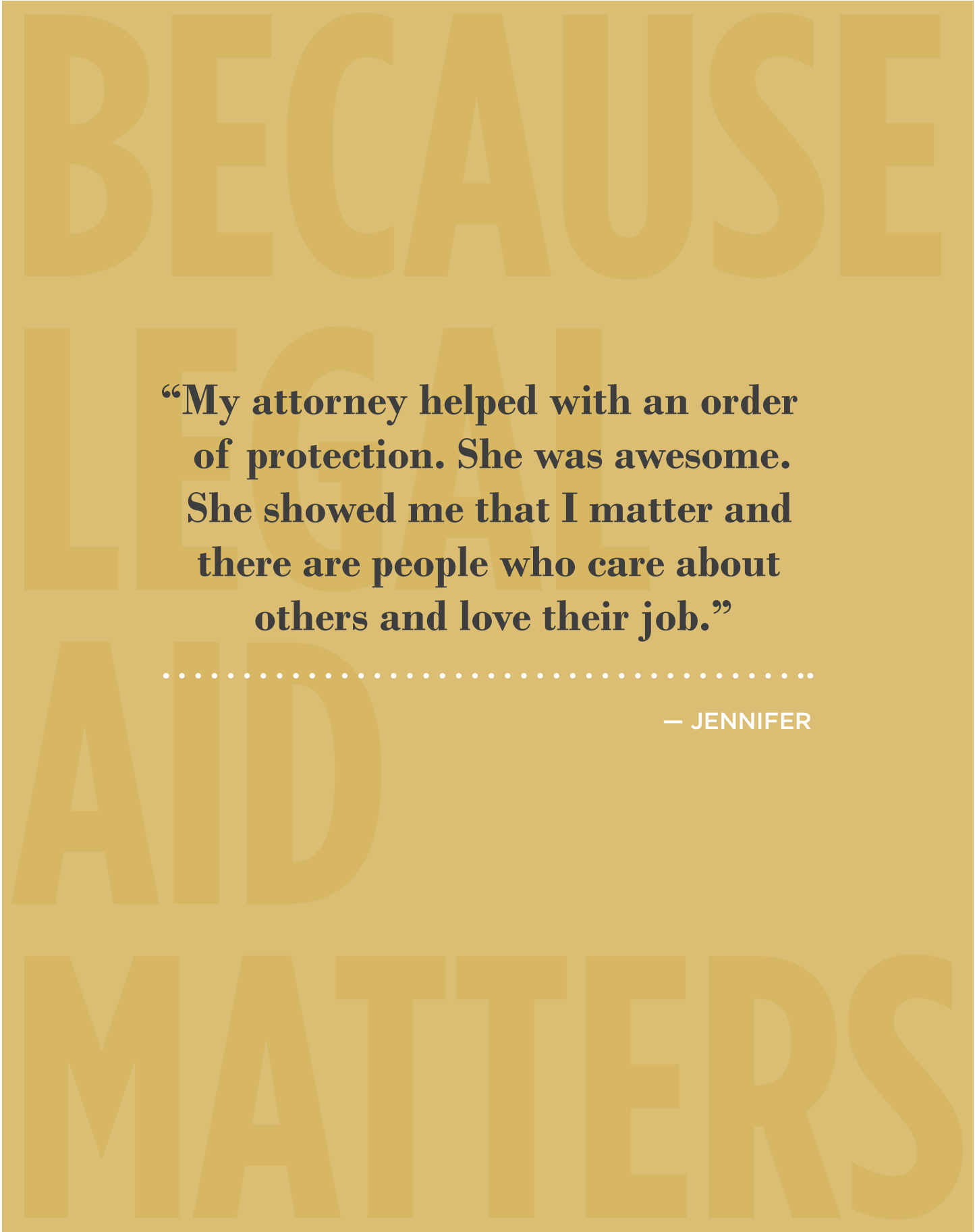
After overcoming various procedural hurdles, the attorney prevailed on behalf of his client when the court found Charles as the owner of the property free and clear of any lien, right, claim, title, or interest of encumbrances of the opposing party.



THANKS TO HIS VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY, CHARLES OWNS HIS HOME FREE AND CLEAR.



Second Season at Law Project is Legal Aid’s emeritus pro bono panel of attorneys. From advice clinics to direct representation of eligible individuals or groups, this specially designed program allows retired and semi-retired attorneys to choose when, where and in what capacity they will provide pro bono assistance.



“My attorney helped with an order of protection. She was awesome. She showed me that I matter and there are people who care about others and love their job.”



— JENNIFER

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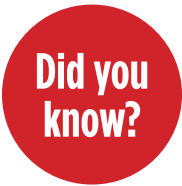
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The following individuals made direct gifts to the Legal Aid of Western Missouri Endowment in 2018. Established in 2008 to ensure the long-time financial health of Legal Aid, the Endowment currently contains pledges and gifts from over 180 donors.

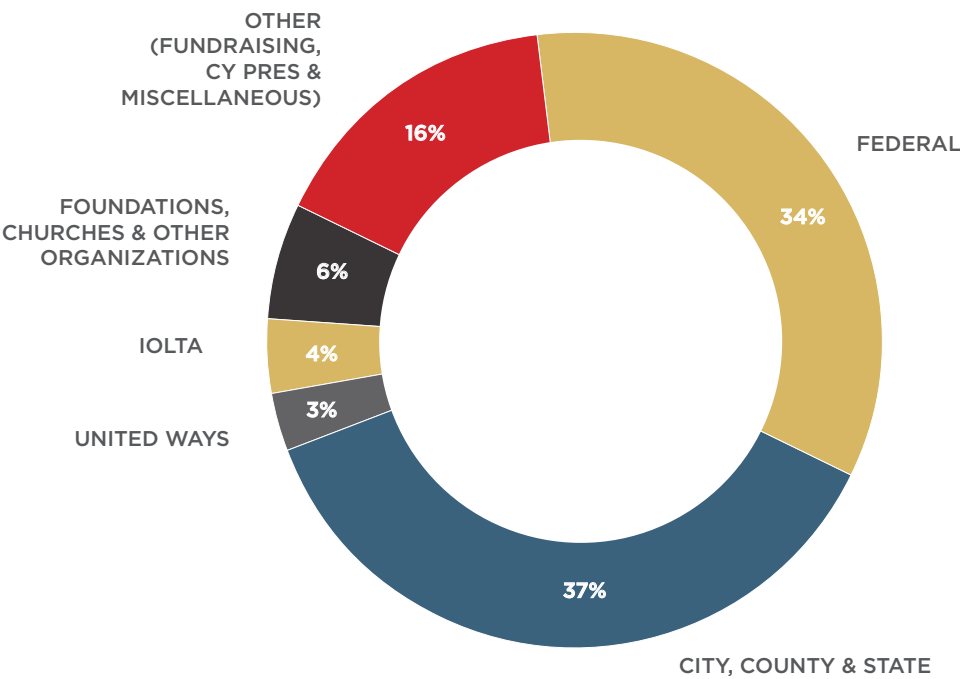
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Civil legal aid is helping a veteran access much needed benefits. It's helping an elderly widow get access to prescriptions. It's helping a victim of domestic abuse get to safety. It's helping a young family facing eviction stay in their home. Civil legal aid protects people's livelihoods, families, health, and homes.

# 2018 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## 2018 REVENUE



2018 TOTAL REVENUE = \$9,861,381

## 2018 EXPENSES



2018 TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS = \$7,837,918  
2018 TOTAL NON-PERSONNEL COSTS = \$1,669,878

2018 TOTAL EXPENSES = \$9,507,796

## STANLEY

Stanley contacted Legal Aid for assistance with his landlord. While Stanley was in the process of moving apartments, his landlord changed the locks on the door and proceeded to throw Stanley’s personal belongings off the third-floor balcony. Stanley’s landlord did all of this despite the fact that he had not obtained a court-ordered eviction against Stanley. A Legal Aid Housing Team attorney filed suit against Stanley’s landlord for an unlawful eviction and obtained a multi-thousand-dollar settlement.

During her representation of Stanley, the Housing attorney learned Stanley was disabled but was not receiving any Social Security benefits. She referred the case to Legal Aid’s Federal Rights Team and a Federal Rights attorney accepted the case. She helped Stanley properly complete a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application and ensured he provided all the necessary information. Stanley’s SSI application was approved, and now Stanley has a regular monthly income.

During Stanley’s SSI case, the Federal Rights attorney learned his Missouri HealthNet for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (MHABD) application had also been wrongfully denied, so she referred the case to Legal Aid’s Public Benefits team. They accepted the case, and a Public Benefits paralegal represented Stanley at a hearing to appeal this rejection. The paralegal’s representation resulted in Stanley receiving MHABD coverage backdated nine months from the approval date. Stanley is now able to receive regular medical treatment that he needs.

LEGAL AID STAFF MEMBERS ON THREE DIFFERENT TEAMS WORKED TOGETHER AND OBTAINED GREAT RESULTS FOR STANLEY SO THAT HE CAN LIVE INDEPENDENTLY.



On any given day,  
at any given moment,  
Legal Aid matters to  
someone somewhere.