



FOURTH QUARTER 2010

What if you couldn't give your child what she needed?

WITH YOUR SUPPORT PLS HAS HELPED MORE PARENTS PROVIDE THEIR CHILDREN A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS, SAFETY FROM ABUSE, AND DESPERATELY-NEEDED MEDICAL CARE THIS YEAR.

Bradley, Erica and Grace had enough to worry about. Shortly after their father died, their mother Janice was in a near-fatal car accident and spent months in a coma.

Yet, when Janice finally came home after almost a year in the hospital and a rehab center, she and her children worried they could soon become homeless and have no money for other basics.

Despite crippling injuries, Janice was denied disability benefits. Her children pitched in, earning money by caring for the neighbor's dogs.

Pisgah Legal Services' attorney Robin Jacobs successfully appealed Janice's denial of benefits, giving the family the security of at least a subsistence income.

Bradley, a high school sophomore, says he can finally focus on doing well in school so he can get into a nursing program someday to help patients like his mother.



Janice's children sat by her hospital bed for months as she lay in a coma after a horrible car wreck. When she finally came home, the family didn't know how they would make ends meet. PLS secured disability benefits so that they at least have money for the very basic essentials. PLS helps thousands of children and families in crisis each year.

Each year Pisgah Legal Services helps thousands of families in crisis as a result of illness or injury, unemployment, domestic violence, and housing problems.

As the recession drags on, more people are seeking civil legal aid to meet their most basic needs. We are stretching our resources to serve as many people as possible.

PLS has served 13% more clients so

far in 2010 than in the same period of 2009. We expect to help more than 11,000 people this year.

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PLS helps secure basic needs for more than 4,000 children each year.

“I didn’t realize how essential legal help can be.”

PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES’ BOARD PRESIDENT DON LOCKE EXPLAINS WHY PLS IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR HIM

“I knew Pisgah Legal Services was doing important work, but when I became a board member and heard so many powerful stories of how people are helped, I was blown away.”

At Pisgah Legal Services the numbers are impressive and show that PLS is one of the most critical non-profits in our area. This agency:

- helps more than 10,000 people each year;
- secures more than \$32 million in quantifiable benefits for clients -- a 13: 1 return on investment; and



Pisgah Legal Services’ Board President Don Locke and his wife Marjorie say they give to PLS because they know we are helping “real people with real needs and making real change in their lives.”

- addresses pressing issues—housing, health care, domestic violence, child abuse, fraud against seniors and many more.

“When I see these numbers and hear the stories about the people in devastating situations whose lives are turned around with legal aid, I feel great about being involved.”

PLS helps more families in crisis this year than ever

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Though unemployment rates have begun to fall, few low-income families are feeling much relief from financial strain. Twenty-two percent of N.C. children lived in poverty in 2009.

Pisgah Legal Services’ numbers reflect the problems faced by many local families. This year we have seen:



- a 35% increase in cases to address all housing problems;

- an 18% increase in cases to prevent homelessness;
- a 53% increase in cases to prevent foreclosure and preserve home ownership;
- a 59% increase in emergency help for domestic abuse victims.

PLS is stretching its resources to serve as many people as possible.

“We are helping parents who are so courageous and determined. They’re doing everything in their power to provide for their children in tough times. They just need an advocate sometimes. As a parent myself, I think I would just crumble under the pressures our clients experience.”

- Mae Creadick, PLS Staff Attorney

You can help give children a better future

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR THOUSANDS OF DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

The parents we serve come to us distraught that their children are homeless, sick or abused.

With your support and the help of our attorneys, PLS clients are improving their children's lives:

- "Donna" escaped an abusive marriage and created a safe, peaceful home for her daughter "Emma."
- Marcela secured medical care for her daughter "Jenny," whose cancer she feared had returned.
- Alexis moved her sons Anton and Travis, ages 3 and 4, into an apartment after months of living in their car.

Your gift to Pisgah Legal Services helps children like these.



"Emma"



"Jenny"



Anton & Travis

For the cost of going out to lunch you can make a big difference.

Make a Monthly Gift

\$8.33/mo = \$100

\$20.83/mo = \$250

\$83.34/mo = \$1,000

Ways to Give

Make a secure donation at www.pisgahlegal.org.

Set up a monthly bank draft.

Make a gift of stock.

Mail in a gift using the enclosed envelope.

Contact us at 210-3444.

PLS receives funding to address foreclosure crisis

PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES WILL HIRE TWO NEW STAFF TO HELP FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES

For "Patricia," a grandmother who struggles with heart disease but still works so that she can provide for her granddaughter, losing her home to foreclosure would mean losing the roof over their heads and all of her life savings—more than \$50,000 in home equity.

Foreclosure is devastating to families. They not only lose the stability of having their own home, but for many losing their home equity means losing all of their savings and jeopardizing their financial future.



Attorney Tom Gallagher joined PLS' foreclosure prevention team in November.

With three staff attorneys, as well as volunteer attorneys, focused on foreclosure, Pisgah Legal Services is helping 235 families like

Patricia's to prevent foreclosure and preserve home ownership (Jan - Oct, 2010). Yet, as foreclosure rates reach record numbers, with an increase of 11% in N.C. this year, many more families need our help.

PLS is thrilled that new funding from the N.C. Commissioner of Banks allows us to hire a third attorney and a legal assistant to help an estimated 100 additional households prevent foreclosure annually. PLS recently hired Tom Gallagher to fill the new attorney position.



This holiday season give a gift to PLS to help more than 4,000 local children annually meet their most basic needs.

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“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.” -Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa

Your support prevents homelessness, stops abuse or secures health care for 4000+ local children!



After Grace’s mother Janice was in a near-fatal car accident that left her crippled, Pisgah Legal Services helped secure disability income to provide for their most basic needs. So many more children and their families need our help.

Please make a gift today!

All donations made by December 31, 2010 will be matched dollar for dollar by generous donors.

Our clients face serious crises and need an attorney to resolve their problems.

Won’t you help us serve more families in need?

Go to www.pisgahlegal.org to learn more or to make a donation.