



THIRD QUARTER 2010

Doctors and Lawyers Join Forces to Improve Health

PLS EXPANDS HEALS PROGRAM, MAKING LEGAL AID PART OF THE “TREATMENT” FOR ASTHMA

“It made me so sad. Ethan couldn’t play like a normal kid. He wheezed and gasped for air.”

Ethan’s mother Holly (names changed), a PLS client, was distraught that their moldy home made her son sick. They lived in a basement apartment with no working refrigerator, a rat infestation, and hardly any heat during the especially harsh 2010 winter.

Holly and Ethan slept in a damp bedroom that had been flooded several times. Their only source of heat was a shoddy portable heater their landlord had given them rather than repair the broken furnace.

When Holly complained to the landlord about needed repairs, he left her a handwritten eviction notice. On her limited income, she could not afford to move.

During a doctor’s visit for Ethan’s chronic asthma symptoms, Holly told Ethan’s doctor at the Mountain Area Health Education Center, about their living conditions. The doctor referred her to PLS’ Health



Five-year-old Ethan (above) is thrilled to spend the summer riding his new bike. A few months ago, he could not run and play because of asthma attacks triggered by horrible conditions in his family’s rented apartment. A doctor referred the family to Pisgah Legal Services’ HEALS program and a PLS attorney improved their housing situation. With your support PLS provides legal aid to low-income patients to improve their health.

Education and Legal Support (HEALS) Program, a medical-legal collaboration to improve health for low-income patients.

PLS attorney Mae Creadick secured a settlement for Holly in which her landlord made repairs and refunded the rent she had paid over the past year while living in substandard housing conditions.

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DID YOU KNOW?

**We helped 1,969
people in
Henderson County
last year.**

Thanks to the Best Volunteer Attorneys in the State

LOCAL BAR AND ATTORNEYS RECEIVE STATEWIDE HONOR FOR SERVICE TO PLS CLIENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

We often boast that we have the best volunteer attorneys around. In June, the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA) confirmed this, giving several of its top honors to local attorneys for their pro bono service to Pisgah Legal Services' clients.

The NCBA gave its Chief Justice Award to the attorneys of the 28th Judicial District (Buncombe) Bar and the William L. Thorpe Pro Bono Service Award to Asheville attorney Cynthia Alleman. The NCBA also recognized local attorney Louis Bissette, with McGuire, Bissette and Wood, P.A., for his exemplary community leadership.



The NC Bar Association recognized Buncombe County private attorneys for outstanding service to Pisgah Legal Services' low-income clients and to the community at large. Award winners pictured above are Louis Bissette, Heidi Stewart (accepting award for the Buncombe bar) and Cynthia Alleman. More than 300 private attorneys provide pro bono services to Pisgah Legal Services' clients through the Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyer Program.

Doctors and Lawyers Join Forces

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1, PLS EXPANDS EFFECTIVE HEALS PROGRAM

Pisgah Legal Services started the HEALS program in partnership with Mission Hospital and MAHEC in 2006. It has been a great success, helping more than 475 low-income patients in WNC.

Through HEALS we integrate free civil legal aid with health care for low-income people to address socioeconomic issues that impact their health. PLS attorneys help patients with housing problems, domestic violence, food insecurity,

and lack of health insurance and income--paving the way for improved healing.

PLS wants to provide legal aid to the most vulnerable people in our

HEALS has trained 3,000+ health care professionals and provided legal aid to 475+ low-income patients.

region. HEALS helps connect PLS with people who not only face health crises, but also struggle with many other problems of poverty.

To target our services to those who need them the most, we plan to expand HEALS to new partners, including Western North Carolina Community Health Services, Blue Ridge Community Health Services and Transylvania Regional Hospital. PLS is seeking funding for this expansion.

“HEALS provides invaluable aid for those with social and domestic issues that impact their health. As a doctor, I know that legal issues can seriously affect health. My wife Ruth and I are happy to support PLS’ efforts to help underserved and often unseen members of our community.”

- Dr. Luther Barnhardt, physician

What do a 90-year-old activist, a retired attorney, and a couple of photographers have in common?

THEY ARE ALL PLS VOLUNTEERS! THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO GIVE YOUR TIME AND TALENT TO PLS!

Volunteers have long been the lifeblood of Pisgah Legal Services. 300+ volunteer lawyers help our clients each year.

You don't have to be a lawyer to help us provide legal aid though. Here are examples of the many contributions PLS volunteers make:



PLS volunteer Leah Karpen, who just turned 90 years old, lends her talents to PLS' fundraising team.

Leah Karpen, a community activist, is a dedicated weekly volunteer helping our fundraising team organize events and communicate with donors.

Phil Kelley, a retired attorney, designed a summer internship program at PLS for law students. He also provides legal advice through PLS' pro bono legal hotline.

Michael Muller and Reggie Tidwell, two talented photographers/graphic designers, helped PLS create attractive materials to promote our work. They photographed clients, designed printed materials and created videos.



Phil Kelley, a retired attorney, created a summer internship program for law student interns at PLS. Phil is pictured above with students participating in this new internship program: Lauren Engle, Brandi Jones, Hayleigh Stewart, Anne Salter, and Stuart West.

More than 20 volunteers conduct initial phone interviews with applicants for our services to determine if we can help them.

"My work at PLS can be summed up in one word: fairness. No one should be taken advantage of because they can't afford a lawyer. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to spend my summer helping people who truly need it." - Stuart West, UNC Law Student & PLS Intern

So Many Ways You Can Help

MAKE A CASH OR IN-KIND DONATION

We are looking for:

- Bookshelves
- SLR digital camera or other digital cameras
- Digital video camera
- Digital recorders for playing 911 calls and voicemails in court
- Printer that prints envelopes on a high volume basis
- Small, round cherry-colored table to seat 2-4 people

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

We are looking for volunteers to help with:

- Photography
- Graphic design
- Video editing
- Media relations & writing
- Pro bono legal services
- Client intake

INCLUDE US IN YOUR WILL & LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

Help change the world after you are gone by including Pisgah Legal Services in your will or life insurance policy. Contact PLS for more information.

Make an online donation at www.pisgahlegal.org or contact Tina Owen at 828.210.3430 or tina@pisgahlegal.org.



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Your support helps 10,000+ low-income people meet their basic needs each year. PLS' main service area includes: Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania Counties.

What If Pisgah Legal Services Hadn't Been There?



PLS prevented homelessness for this little girl and her family.

Without help from Pisgah Legal Services...

“My kids and I would be homeless.”
(mother facing home foreclosure)

“I would probably be dead.”
(domestic violence victim)

“I wouldn't be able to get the tests my daughter needs to find out if her cancer has returned.”
(mother needing Medicaid for her child)

**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.**