





# EVERYONE deserves access to justice.

We are Pisgah Legal Services, a nonprofit law firm that provides free civil legal help to thousands of people in the mountains of Western North Carolina who cannot afford an attorney. We believe that being poor should not restrict a person's rights or access to our justice system. We work with a network of more than 300 volunteer attorneys to provide the following services:

14,000+

PEOPLE FROM ACROSS
THE MOUNTAINS
HELPED BY PISGAH
LEGAL IN 2014

- ASSIST CHILDREN IN CRISIS
- STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- PREVENT HOMELESSNESS
- PROTECT SENIORS

- ADDRESS FRAUD/PROTECT CONSUMERS
- ACCESS HEALTH CARE
- SECURE ESSENTIAL BENEFITS
- ASSIST IMMIGRANTS

We believe we can fight poverty and pursue justice for those who have nowhere else to turn. Please join us!



PLS Executive Director Jim Barrett (L) with Sister Simone Campbell and PLS Board President Tom Siekman shown here at the annual Poverty Forum held last October.

The Constitution of the United States guarantees free legal representation to anyone charged with a crime, no matter their ability to pay. People with civil legal problems are not afforded the same rights and privilege. Thus, local attorneys and other supporters started and sustain Pisgah Legal Services.

Here at Pisgah Legal Services, we believe that everyone should have fair access to our legal system. We are committed to providing legal expertise to the people of WNC who have nowhere else to turn and need legal assistance to meet basic needs and improve their lives. These include survivors of domestic violence and child abuse, families on the verge of homelessness, people in need of health care, and senior citizens who have become the victims of fraud.

In the past year, you, our generous donors and supporters, made it possible for us to reach our fundraising goals even in these tough times of increasing cuts in government funding. **Thanks to you**, we met our challenge gifts and grants, raised significant funds from other sources, and continued to provide services to those who need it most.

Pisgah Legal Services consists of dedicated attorneys, staff and volunteers. We are part of a comprehensive network of volunteer attorneys, nonprofit and government agencies working together to better serve low-income people across our region. Legal remedies bring much-needed resources, provide protection and change lives for the better.

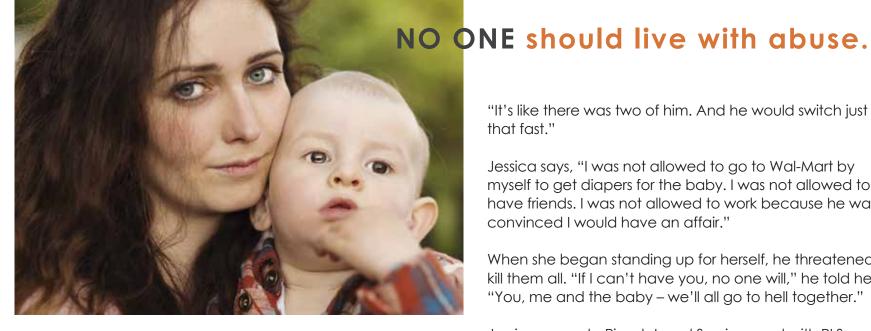
We are also planning for the future by building an endowment that will provide a stable resource for generations to come. We need your help to make this dream a reality.

We continue to believe in the pursuit of justice for the most vulnerable people in our mountains. Thank you for believing in us.

James A. Barrett
Executive Director

Thomas C. Siekman Board President

Thomas C Sichura



4,046

**VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THEIR** CHILDREN HELPED IN 2014 "Jessica's" relationship with her boyfriend was wonderful in the beginning, but later he became controlling and abusive. After the baby was born it got worse.

"In public he was perfect," she says, "but he was different behind closed doors. One minute I was the best woman in the world, the next minute he was calling me a whore."

"It's like there was two of him. And he would switch just that fast."

Jessica says, "I was not allowed to go to Wal-Mart by myself to get diapers for the baby. I was not allowed to have friends. I was not allowed to work because he was convinced I would have an affair."

When she began standing up for herself, he threatened to kill them all. "If I can't have you, no one will," he told her. "You, me and the baby – we'll all go to hell together."

Jessica came to Pisgah Legal Services and with PLS Attorney Faith Foote's help, she was awarded a restraining order and full custody of her son. "I was panicking," she said. "Then I started working with Faith. She reassured me and said she would be right by my side."

Jessica says she now feels relieved. "You know those people that accomplish things? Now I'm one of those people. I feel like I can handle anything now."

(Client's name and image have been changed to protect her safety.)





## in access to safe and affordable housing.

On a freezing cold day in February, more than 30 residents of the Rodeway Inn in Brevard discovered their home had been sold without any warning or notice. Their water had been turned off and the electric utilities were soon to follow. These low-income residents had month-to-month leases with the Inn. Many had already paid rent for the coming month; some for even longer. Most did not have the resources to move elsewhere, yet they couldn't stay without heat or water.

PLS Staff Attorney Tom Gallagher and retired volunteer attorney Ray Reiser met with worried residents that very day. PLS secured a temporary injunction in court and ultimately kept the utilities on for all residents for more than 30 days, giving them weeks instead of days to find new places to live. Local groups including United Way, the Haven and DSS got involved. As a result of the work by Pisgah Legal and the extraordinary efforts of these organizations, each and every resident was successfully relocated.



PEOPLE HELPED TO SECURE HOUSING AND AVOID HOMELESSNESS IN 2014

One tenant, Gayle, (above left) said, "Usually people like us with no power are not listened to. When Pisgah Legal Services showed up people paid attention. You got us into court and protected us."





## in health care for all.



PEOPLE HELPED TO ACCESS HEALTH CARE THROUGH THE ACA IN 2014 This year marked the second Affordable Care Act enrollment period in which Pisgah Legal Services helped local people sign up for health insurance.

Last year more than 350,000 people throughout NC got insurance through the ACA. Pisgah Legal Services has been a leader in helping people in WNC navigate and access these resources through outreach and with trained staff and volunteer navigators who met one-on-one with people from across our region.

During the enrollment process, we learned that one of our volunteers, Julia Horrocks, pictured above left, signed up for care through the ACA just before she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer.

Julia has been speaking out and encouraging others to sign up, even if they believe they are healthy. This young attorney never dreamed she would get cancer, but is thankful to have the care she so desperately needed. She tells others, "Sign up now because you just never know when you will need it."

In 2014 the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce presented Pisgah Legal Services with the "Good Health Good Business Award" for this important work.

## we work well TOGETHER.

In addition to providing direct services, Pisgah Legal also works collaboratively to improve programs and promote effective policies that impact low-income people.



# Improving Access to Services for Domestic Violence Victims and Preventing Possible Homicides

PLS partnered with multiple agencies to create the Henderson County Family Justice Center in October 2014. The Center provides a single location for victims of violent crime to access the services of different agencies and improves collaboration among victims'

services organizations, law enforcement, the courts and other government agencies.

Pisgah Legal, along with many other partner organizations, is collaborating with the Buncombe County Government in the Comprehensive Plan to Address Domestic Violence.

This plan includes establishing a "High Risk" Team to identify and prevent potential domestic violence homicides, improving coordination between victim services agencies and utilizing electronic monitoring of offenders to better protect victims. As part of the work of this team, agencies involved have begun the process of creating a Family Justice Center in Buncombe County in 2015.

### **Securing Child Care Resources for Families**

With community partners, Pisgah Legal Services successfully advocated for state policy to improve the way child care subsidy funding is distributed and reduced the impact of drastic funding losses in mountain counties. Despite this strong advocacy, the NC General Assembly reduced eligibility, impacting almost 12,000 children across the state. PLS and our partners will continue to advocate for affordable child care for working families.



### **HEALS: A Medical/Legal Partnership**

Because sometimes people need more than medicine to get well and stay well.

In 2006 Mission Hospital and Pisgah Legal Services created the Health Education and Legal Support Project (HEALS), making it the first medical-legal partnership in NC to help low-income patients meet their basic needs and improve their health.

Through HEALS, health care professionals and poverty law attorneys work together to help patients secure benefits, escape abusive relationships, avoid homelessness and stop predatory lenders.

Over the years HEALS has also educated thousands of medical and human service providers about legal remedies for economically disadvantaged people throughout WNC with the goal of improving health and reducing costs.

# in accountability and responsible stewardship.

#### 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT

## Major Foundations & Other Funders (Grants of \$10,000 or more)

Beattie Foundation
The Chaddick Foundation
Charles M. and Mary D. Grant Foundation
Community Foundation of Henderson County
The Community Foundation of Western
North Carolina

Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
Mission Healthcare Foundation
Mission Healthcare System
Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian
Church (USA)
Sisters of Mercy of N.C. Foundation

Wells Fargo Foundation William Randolph Hearst Foundation Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

#### **Donations**

Includes contributions from individuals, faith-based congregations and family foundations

#### IOITA

NC Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts

PLS also leveraged \$745,068 in pro bono legal services in cases closed in 2014.

#### **United Way**

United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County United Way of Henderson County United Way of Madison County United Way of Transylvania County

#### **Competitive Federal Sources**

Community Development Block Grant (City of Asheville) Family Violence Prevention Funds

(NC Division of Social Services)

HUD - Housing Counseling

HUD - Safe Haven

Home and Community Care Block Grants

NC Community Care Networks

(Health Navigators)

Violence Against Women Act

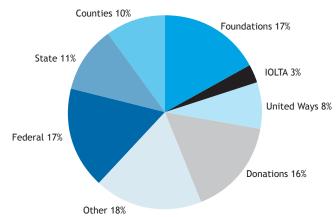
(NC Governor's Crime Commission)

Violence Against Women Act (US Department of Justice)

### Local and State Governments

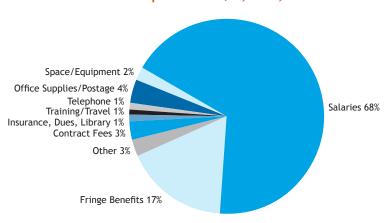
Buncombe County City of Hendersonville Henderson County Madison County Transylvania County State of North Carolina

### Revenue: \$3,781,064



Includes sale of Montford Avenue property and estate donation.

### Expenses: \$3,123,854





OUR ANNUAL POVERTY FORUM
FEATURED "NUN ON THE BUS"
SISTER SIMONE CAMPBELL
(BELOW, SECOND FROM LEFT)
WHO ATTRACTED 400+ PEOPLE.
THE EVENT RAISED MORE THAN
\$30,000. THANK YOU TO ALL OUR
SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS AND
GUESTS!



9,798

VOLUNTEER HOURS
CONTRIBUTED TO PLS
IN 2014



"I'm so grateful to have someone helping us so we aren't in this fight alone."

Daniel, one of 14,000+people PLS helped in 2014

# \$

19.1

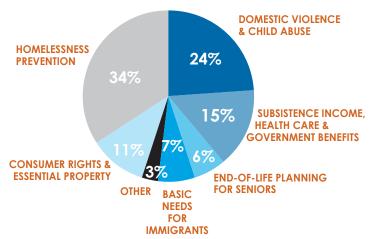
MILLION SECURED
IN QUANTIFIABLE
BENEFITS TO OUR
CLIENTS IN 2014

# That's a 6 to 1 return on your investment in Pisgah Legal!

Pisgah Legal Services secured \$19,143,378 in quantifiable benefits for our clients in 2014 on a budget of \$3.1 million, including:

- Home equity saved from foreclosure
- Child support for victims of domestic violence
- Medicaid benefits payable to local medical providers
- Subsistence income for disabled individuals
- Health insurance benefits for consumers buying through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace

### PERCENTAGE OF CASES CLOSED BY ISSUE AREA IN 2014



## in the power of giving back.







LOCAL ATTORNEYS
VOLUNTEER THEIR
SERVICES TO ASSIST
PLS CLIENTS

Last year more than 300 attorneys donated 3,725 hours of legal services, valued at \$745,068, to PLS clients through the Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyer (MAVL) Program.

Office volunteers contributed 6,073 hours of service by interviewing potential clients and assisting with legal research, administration and fundraising.

The total number of volunteer hours contributed, 9,798 hours, exceeds the value of 5 full-time staff positions.

The 28th Judicial District Bar and Pisgah Legal Services nominated outstanding local attorney pro bono volunteers (above) for annual awards sponsored by the N.C. Bar Association. (L-R) Shannan Barclay Tuorto, Joshua Harrold, Rodney Kight, Victor Garlock, and Bryant Webster.

We also recognize retired attorney Ray Reiser (above left) who volunteers each week to prevent unlawful evictions and foreclosures and helps clients with consumer issues.

Thank you, Ray, and thank you to all of our generous volunteers! You make it possible for PLS to serve thousands more people each year than we ever could with staff alone.

### 2014 MAVL ATTTORNEYS (By number of hours donated)

#### 200⁺ Hours

Bryant Webster

#### 75+ Hours

Nicole (Nicki) Applefield Perrin de Jong Jacob Ehrmann Cynthia Holman Sheila Lambert Andrew Stevenson Jack Stewart

#### 50⁺ Hours

Shannan Barclay Tuorto April Burt Dale Curriden R. Walton Davis Carol Eubank Johanna Fowler Kerry Friedman Ingrid Friesen Heather Goldstein Tikkun Gottschalk Doris Loomis Matthew Roberson

#### 20<sup>+</sup> Hours

Cynthia Alleman Garrett Artz Andrew Atherton Steve Carruthers A. Alan Coxie Mae Creadick Brian Elston Mary Euler Holly Fairbairn Katherine (Katie) Fisher Victor Garlock Joshua Harrold Whitney Hebert Peter Henry James Hugenschmidt D. Rodney Kight Eugene Linkous Rendi Mann-Stadt Lorin Page Benson Pitts Michael Pratt Kevin Radey Philip Smith Brad Stark Cynthia Strom

#### All Other Attorneys Who Dongted Time

Steven Aceto

lle Adaramola

Stephen Agan Steven Allen Jannice Ashlev Derrick Bailey Lora Baker T. Kent Baldwin James Baley Jillian Ballard Frederick Barbour Ervin Bazzle Russell Becker Wm. Michael Bealey William Biggers Jason Blackwell Edward Bleynat Ellen Bluestone Annika Brock Leah Broker Patrick Bryan Morgan Bryant J. Chris Callahan Walter Carpenter Robert Carpenter Eugene Carr Isabel Carson Scott Carter Virginia Cartner Stephen Cash William Christy Robert Christy Susan Ciaravella **Eva Clement** Stanford Clontz D. Fred Coats Matthew Cochran Ryan Coffield C. Page Collie Eric Contre Sara Corley Timithy Cosgrove Lvnn Ćox Christopher Craia Samuel Craig Wendy Craig John Curry Richard Daniels Katherine Dare Roy Davis Barbara Davis Charles Davis Evan Dezio Gary Dodd Dustin Dow Darlene Dunn

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John Kelso

Barry Kempson Meredith Kidd Steven Kropelnicki Jeri Kumar Heather Lacey Scott Lamb Zachary Lamb Katherine Lanalev Tod Leaven Matthew Lee T. Bentley Leonard Susan Lewis Harris Livingstain Denise Lockett Margret Lollis Brittany Lona Jack Lvda David MacKusick Marjorie Maginnis Richard Maita Esther Manheimer Benjamin Many Dennis Martin Lance Martin Mark Martin Allison Mascorro John Mason B.B. Massagee Thomas McClellan Diane McDonald Dustin McIntee Joy McIver Eileen McMinn Elizabeth Miller Amy Mody S. Christopher Moore Ron Moore George Moore Jennifer Moore Kassie Moore Rhonda Moorefield Tiffany Morgan E. K. Morley Christopher Musial Emily Nenni Elizabeth Newman Patrick Newton John Noor Isaac (Ike) Northup Jule (Julie) Northup John Olesiuk Robert Owen Jeffrey Owen James Palmer Jonathan Parce Andrew Parker Amita Peltz Jason Peltz

Shannon Phillips



### RAISING THE BAR

Area attorneys are contributing to PLS in a new way: they are making bequests or other planned gifts to Pisgah Legal Services. These attorneys have supported PLS for many years and each decided they want to leave a legacy of justice in our community.

Pictured are attorney members of PLS' Endowment Cabinet: Ed Hay, Dave Hillier, Shelley Brown, and Kerry Friedman.

We are pleased that attorneys Roy Davis, Bob Deutsch, Tom Siekman, Phil Smith, Jack Stevens, Larry McDevitt, Doug Wilson, and Ann Young have also joined the Cabinet.

Robert Pitts Leonard Poe Jack Poisson **Eleanor Powers** Ana Prendergast Eric Rainev Thomas Ramer Nathan Ramsev Susan Rash Margaret Reeves Chris Reinhardt James Reynolds Cindy Rice James Rice Norman Riddle Thomas Roberts Robert Robinson Mary Robinson Arlaine Rockey Kathleen Rodberg Randolph Romeo Kathleen Rose Marc Rudow Edna Ruffin Walker George Saenger Ben Scales Norman Schaich Cindy Schirmer

Will Scott W. Bradford Searson K. Dean Shatley Adam Shealy Scott Shelton Glen Shults Tom Siekman A. James Siemens Timothy Sigmon William Slawter Roger Smith Ronald Sneed Jane Soboleski Carole Spainhour Mea Sparaer Westall Marvin Sparrow Leslie Stevens Heidi Stewart Jamie Stokes Andrew Strauss John Sutton Allan Tarleton Doualas Tate Natalie Teague Michael Thompson Sarah Thornbura Margaret Toms Tiffany Tyler

Timothy Tyson Starling Underwood Mark Üpright Cynthia (Čindi) Vardiman John Veazev Alicia Veaa Gay Vinson Diane Walton R. Charles Waters Carter Webb John White Richard Williams Jarald Willis T. Doualas Wilson Susan Wilson Michael Wimer William Wolcott Robert Wolf Terry Young Kenneth Youngblood F. Lachicotte Zemp

## we can make a difference.

Pisgah's own William J. "Bill" Whalen, was selected as the recipient of the Deborah Greenblatt Outstanding Legal Services Attorney Award by the NC Bar Association. Bill (far right) is shown receiving the award from NC Bar President Alan Duncan.

The staff of Pisgah Legal Services works throughout the WNC region at offices in Asheville, Hendersonville and Spindale. Our terrific Henderson County team is pictured below.





# 2014 Board of Directors

Tom C. Siekman, President Sarah V. Corley, Vice President James Ellis, Secretary Brian Gulden, Treasurer Lora T. Baker Ron Curran Myra Grant Tom Grella Dave Hillier Ann-Patton Hornthal Lee Anne Mangone W. Carleton Metcalf **Bobby Mosely** Todd Webb Ann Young **Esther Cartwright** 

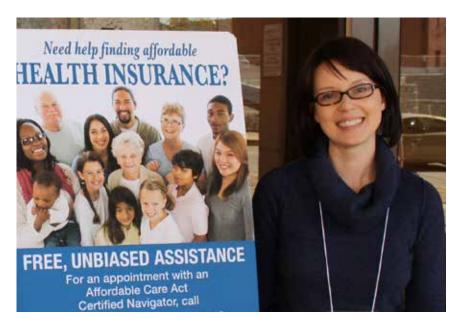
# 2014 Development Council

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Harry Durity
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Kerry Friedman
Heather Goldstein
Edward Hay
Anne Kimmel
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Heather Norton
Bill Smith
Terry Van Duyn
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### Meet PLS Managing Attorney Jaclyn Kiger

"Jackie" Kiger became a PLS Managing Attorney in the spring of 2014 and currently oversees the health and benefits law programs.

Since early 2012 she has been preparing for the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and leads PLS' ACA Navigator Program.

Jackie says, "The connection between social justice, social work and poverty law is what drew me to Pisgah Legal Services. I am very fortunate to be a part of this amazing team."

Jackie joined Pisgah Legal Services in November 2010. She holds a Master's in Social Work from UNC-Chapel Hill and Juris Doctorate from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School. Jackie has become one of North Carolina's top experts on the ACA and health insurance navigation.

#### **PISGAH LEGAL ATTORNEYS & STAFF**

Leya Alderfer Pablo Averza James Barrett Verna Bash-Flowers Tom Blanford\* Elizabeth Blass Yolanda Bopp Misty Bradley Rhonda Brown Diane Caldwell\* Tamara Carless Jim Carillon\* Cecelia Colson Shannon Cornelius Sara Coplai Christine Culbreth Lvnne Davis Ky Delaney Betsy Fedder Faith Foote Sioux Free **Aundry Freeman** Tom Gallagher

Sam Winn Galloway Allison Garren Joanne Gaylord Lucie Hartmann\* Beth Herrman Thalia Hoy Annette Hutchins Martin Jarrard Elisa Jarrin Zephyr Jost Lindsay Kazi Jaclyn Kiger Nitiki Kilaore Brvan Klinae Julie Klipp Nicholson Jillian Krupp\* Javan Lapp Denise Lockett Allison Mascorro Candace Mance Ben Many Molly Maynard Robin Merrell

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List includes employees who resigned or retired in 2014. \*Temporary employees hired for ACA work.



Congratulations to PLS Staff Member Pablo Averza who became a U.S. Citizen in 2014. Pablo first came to PLS in 2006 on a work visa. He is our database administrator and is also a bilingual screener.

# in YOU. Thank you for believing in us.

#### **2014 DONORS**

#### Partners for Justice \$5,000 or more

Asheville.com
Asheville Radio Group
Blossoms at Biltmore Park/
Baggie Goose
Brain Hooks
Chaddick Foundation
The Daniels Group
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Association
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#### Justice League Members \$1,000 or more

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#### Donors Gifts of \$1 - \$999

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