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Elizabeth lives in an Alpine Woods Resort trailer that has holes in the floor, sporadic running water, no central heat, and no smoke alarms. Blankets cover the doors and windows for insulation. Her rent is \$690/month. Elizabeth is shown here with retired attorney and PLS volunteer Ray Reiser.



**Did you know that
approximately
one-third of Pisgah
Legal Services'
work is dedicated
to helping people
with housing
issues?**

**Find out more at
www.pisgahlegal.org.**

Where the Living Is Anything But Easy

PISGAH LEGAL WORKS TO HELP RESIDENTS OF HENDERSON COUNTY TRAILER PARK WHO ARE LIVING IN DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS AND ARE STRUGGLING TO FIND SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

The sign at the entrance reads "Alpine Woods Resort," but it has come to be known as "the last resort" for low-income people who need housing in Henderson County.

Eighty dilapidated mobile homes or campers occupy the wooded area. Running water or working sewer has been sporadic or non-existent for months. It is difficult to tell which trailers are occupied and which have been condemned. The landlord says he is making improvements, but residents tell another story.

Pisgah Legal Attorney Tom Gallagher and retired attorney and volunteer Ray Reiser tromp through mud and raw sewage that runs throughout the "resort," knocking on doors and talking with residents.

Many folks don't answer the knocks, suspicious perhaps of strangers, or scared they might be evicted if they talk with PLS.

Finally, we meet a familiar face. Annie has lived at Alpine Woods for more than four years.

Continued on page 2

Anything but easy continued from cover...



(Top left) Volunteer Ray Reiser walks from trailer to trailer with a volunteer who brings food and water to people who live in the park.
(Top right) Reiser meets with Annie (center), a four-year veteran of Alpine Woods, and Amanda.
(Bottom left) Amanda and her baby are looking for a way out of the park.
(Bottom right) An Alpine Woods trailer.



Annie welcomes us with open arms and a big smile. Her trailer has been without water and sewer and has other problems like mold and defective wiring.

Reiser sits down with Annie in the living room to review her papers, updating her on the lawsuit that has been filed for her against Alpine Woods. If successful, Annie and other participating residents could recoup some of their rent money, making it easier to leave Alpine Woods.

We also meet Amanda, a young mom who is staying with Annie temporarily. She is saving money and hopes to move soon. “I knew it was a bad place to live before I came here,” she admits. “But I just didn’t have a choice.”

As we leave, Annie gives us more hugs and says, “God bless you for helping us.”

A number of agencies are working together to address the situation. They include: the City of Hendersonville, Henderson County, Henderson County Health and Social Services Departments, Henderson County Schools, The Salvation Army, Homeward Bound, United Way, Blue Ridge Community Health Services, and Pisgah Legal Services.

“I knew it was a bad place to live before I came here, but I just didn’t have a choice.”

Henderson County and the City of Hendersonville have now filed suit to declare the property a nuisance, which could lead to a judgment shutting down the trailer park.

“The sad truth is that Alpine Woods can’t be closed down immediately because the people who live there don’t have anywhere else to go,” said PLS Attorney Tom Gallagher. “There just isn’t another option that

can accommodate 80 low-income households with decent, affordable housing.”

According to a recent study, vacancy rates for apartments in a four-county area — Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania — are at one percent. Some residents face a waiting list of up to eight years for subsidized housing in WNC.

“The average income of a PLS client is less than \$900/month,” says Gallagher. “Try finding a decent place to live on that. It’s not easy.”

Pisgah Legal has filed multiple law suits on behalf of tenants and more are expected. PLS also continues to work with local agencies to find better housing alternatives for the residents.

Your Gift Makes a BIG Difference!

*Please give today
using the enclosed envelope or give online at www.pisgahlegal.org.*



Help a senior remain independent

\$50 provides legal advice to a senior to manage her limited resources and live independently



Secure health care

\$100 helps a disabled individual secure access to health care



Prevent homelessness

\$150 helps a disabled veteran start a new life off the streets



Stop domestic violence

\$250 helps a victim of abuse rebuild her life

Save a home from foreclosure

\$500 helps a struggling family stay in their home

Thank you for your support!

Thank You, ACA Navigator Volunteers!

THESE TERRIFIC VOLUNTEERS WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND TO HELP LOCAL PEOPLE SIGN UP FOR HEALTH CARE THROUGH THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) AND NORTH CAROLINA'S HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE

Understanding health insurance options under the Affordable Care Act and NC Health Insurance Marketplace can be a daunting task, but our Navigator volunteers have made it their mission to guide local people through the process to understand their choices for affordable health insurance.

More than 40 people volunteered during the most recent open enrollment session, and others continue their work year-round at Pisgah Legal Services.

Volunteers must complete rigorous federal training of more than 20 hours to become certified navigators. Navigators offer unbiased and knowledgeable advice and are not compensated to recommend any plan or insurance company over another. Their goal is to help consumers understand their options for affordable health insurance and navigate through the health insurance marketplace – no strings attached.

For open enrollment between November 2014 and February 2015, Navigator volunteers helped Pisgah Legal Services make over 1,000 consumer appointments in 20 different locations around WNC in both Spanish and English. They logged over 2,500 hours of volunteer time in offering navigation appointments, plus over 100 hours of volunteer time in outreach activities to spread the word to hard-to-reach populations. Navigators were on hand to help mornings, afternoons, evenings, weekends and holidays.



ACA volunteers and staff are pictured here with the "Get Covered America" bus that rolled into Asheville on February 3rd.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 VOLUNTEERS

Debbie Aiton
Calvin Allen
Kathryn Alonso
David Anderson
Ann Banks
Michael Beech
Elyse Bernstein
James Bingham
Tom Blanford
Laura Bochner
Carl Bredahl
Diane Caldwell
Pat Call
Terry Call
Jim Carillon
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Bernie Filipiak
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Claudia Hawkins
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Michael Holcombe
Sydney Idzikowski
Marlene Jacoby
Julie Johnson
Gene Keil
Lucy Keil
Marianna Kennedy
Kathie Kline
Jillian Krupp
Mary Ann LaMantia
Dick LeDuc
Les Long
Bill Mance
Jo Marcus
Preston Maulsby
Marilyn McKay
Marianne Mooney
Lucy Mullinax
Rick Nathan
Ladene Newton
Glenda Overbeck

Kathleen Patten
Becky Pitts
Marian Plaut
Tom Plaut
Catherine Potts
Phillip Pritchard
Betty Ramsey
Margaret Reed
Elaine Robbins
Kitty Schaller
Christina Schwartz
Susan Senko
Meagan Singer
Paul Smith
Jeanne Stillson
Mary Lou Surgi
Ames Tryon
Terry Van Duyn
Jane Vasica
Leslie Wagenfeld
Milt Warden
William Weaver
Katie Winchell
Alice Windham
Deborah Worley
Jacob Yochem

JOIN US!

The next ACA open enrollment period begins Nov. 1, 2015.

If you are interested in becoming a Navigator volunteer, contact Shannon Cornelius at (828) 210-3439.

For more information, visit us online at pisgahlegal.org.

Raising the Bar for Pisgah

ATTORNEYS ASK OTHERS TO JOIN THEM BY LEAVING A LEGACY AND
MAKING A GIFT TO THE PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES ENDOWMENT FUND



(L-R) Ann Young, Dave Hillier, Jack Stevens, Kerry Friedman, Shelley Brown, and Doug Wilson have all made planned gifts to support the PLS Endowment.

A dozen attorney leaders, including those pictured here, have joined together to build an endowment for Pisgah Legal Services. “Grant funding is uncertain. It comes and goes unpredictably and funding cuts threaten Pisgah Legal’s critical work in this region. We must grow the PLS endowment so that we have revenue we can rely on,” explains Ann Young, General Counsel at Mission Health and PLS board member.

***“We must grow the endowment
so that we have revenue
we can rely on.”***

Jack Stevens, Roberts and Stevens, P.A., notes, “Our legal community’s donations of time and money over so many years have made Pisgah Legal the strong and effective organization it is today. We are asking that Pisgah supporters, and especially our fellow attorneys, make a legacy gift to PLS. There are many ways to do this – a bequest, a cash gift to the endowment or make PLS a beneficiary of your 401K, IRA or life insurance. There are financial benefits to you and your family. Your legacy gift will make a difference for generations to come.” **For more information, contact Jim Barrett at 210-3408 or jim@pisgahlegal.org or go to www.pisgahlegal.org.**

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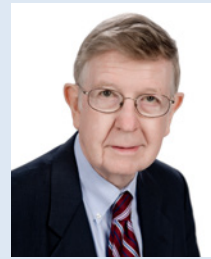
Jazz for Justice

Hundreds of friends of PLS gathered for our Jazz for Justice celebration on March 17 where three long-time supporters were honored: Kitty Schaller, Jane Swafford and Ed Hay, who is shown here as David Gantt (L) presents him with the 2015 Roy Davis, Jr. Award. Thanks to all our sponsors and guests for a wonderful evening.



Photo by Jesse Kitt

IN MEMORIAM



***Roy Walton Davis, Jr.
1930 - 2015***

Roy Davis, an accomplished attorney and dear friend to Pisgah Legal Services, passed away in April.

Davis was a graduate of Davidson College and the UNC School of Law. In 1960, Roy joined The Van Winkle Law Firm and began a long career practicing law. He was president of the 28th Judicial District Bar, president of the NC State Bar, vice-president of the NC Bar Association, member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association, and a member of the NC Board of Law Examiners from 2002-2014.

Roy Davis was the first PLS Board President to serve three years in that capacity. He also co-chaired the PLS Capital Campaign that was successful in spite of the recession. In 2001, PLS created the Roy Davis, Jr. Award to honor him and others for providing civil legal aid to people in need in WNC.

By his unique reputation in the Bar and community, Davis added immeasurable gravitas, credibility, and community support to PLS’ mission.

Roy Davis will be greatly missed.



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You can make a planned gift with Pisgah Legal Services that will benefit generations to come. Contact Jim Barrett at (828) 210-3408.

Fun Events, Great Cause

SUPPORTING PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER OR MORE ENJOYABLE. JOIN US FOR:



Beer & Bites

Wicked Weed Brewing, Asheville

May 21st: Noon - 2pm



Paddlers for PLS

Hosted by ASTRAL

The Bywater, Asheville

May 28th: 5:30 - 7pm



urban
ORCHARD
cider co.

Cider Tasting

Urban Orchard Cider Bar, Asheville

June 10th: 5:30 - 7pm

The Malpass Brothers Concert on the Quad

Sponsored by Will Morris

UNC Asheville Quad

June 29th: 7 - 8:30pm

For more information, visit www.pisgahlegal.org.

Attorneys Give Back

AREA ATTORNEYS ARE HONORED FOR THEIR PRO BONO SERVICE TO HELP PLS CLIENTS



Did you know that each year more than 300 WNC attorneys volunteer their time and talent to assist clients of Pisgah Legal Services?

In April four of these outstanding attorneys were nominated by the 28th Judicial District Bar and PLS for annual awards for pro bono service sponsored by the NC Bar Association. Shown left to right are: Perrin de Jong, April Burt, Dale Curriden, and Nicki Applefield.

Thank you for your tremendous generosity and selfless work to help others!