

We are Pisgah Legal Services,

a nonprofit law firm that provides free civil legal aid to thousands of low-income people in our mountains to:

- STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- ASSIST CHILDREN IN CRISIS
- PREVENT HOMELESSNESS
 - ACCESS HEALTH CARE
 - SUPPORT VETERANS
 - ASSIST IMMIGRANTS
 - PROTECT SENIORS
 - ADDRESS FRAUD AND PROTECT CONSUMERS
- SECURE SUBSISTENCE INCOME

We need your help. Please join us!





Justice for all, not just those who can afford it.

In these uncertain times, Pisaah Legal Services (PLS) continues to stand for what we always have stood for: ensuring justice for people who cannot afford legal help.

Legal remedies exist for many of the crises affecting our neighbors. Pisaah Legal's staff and volunteer attorneys use the law to stop domestic violence, help families avoid homelessness, and secure health care, subsistence income, and food. Thanks to your support, last year we helped more than 15,000 people.

In 2016 we embarked on new endeavors:

- Using our legal and advocacy skills to promote job creation and affordable housing development.
- Taking on more custody cases for parents of children who have been abused.
- Starting a new program with VAYA Health to move institutionalized people into more appropriate housing in community settings. This is better for clients and society: community housing is far less expensive than institutional placements. (See page 7)
- Opening a new branch office in Madison County only two buildings away from the courthouse. Pisgah Legal Services now has five offices in our mountain region.

 Launching a pilot Veterans Law Project to help vets secure stable housing and meet their basic needs. Pisaah Legal currently serves more than 200 veterans and their families each year.



We have 20 full-time attorneys and 300⁺ volunteer attorneys devoted to meeting the needs of thousands of individuals and families to alleviate poverty in our mountain region.

With your help, compassion and commitment to fairness, we will continue to stand for justice for the people of Western North Carolina.

Thank you for your support!

James A. Barrett

James a. Banut

Executive Director

Sarah V. Corley **Board President**

Harah V. Corly

children and families in crisis.

"Ben" has survived more trauma than any child should have to.

Ben never knew his real father. He was physically and sexually abused by one of his mom's boyfriends. Then, when he was only five years old, his mom died of a drug overdose.

After three years of living with his grandmother, Ben's health was failing. He hadn't gained weight, and was battling Crohn's disease and mental health issues.

Ben's uncle and aunt stepped in to care for him. He gained 13 pounds in the first three weeks of living with them.



Ben was improving, but he needed more medical treatment. They came to Pisgah Legal Services.

"We needed help to get legal and physical custody and a medical power of attorney in order to get him both the physical and mental health care he needed." said Ben's aunt.

Pisgah Legal Attorney Sara Player helped the family gain custody and a health care power of attorney. Ben's Crohn's disease is now under control, and he is also getting mental health care.

Ben's aunt continues, "Please know that the support you give Pisgah Legal Services is changing the lives of children and families that would not otherwise be able to get the legal help they need to keep kids safe and healthy!"

Last year, PLS assisted more than 5,600 children – including Ben – with free legal aid.



Marie refused to endure the slaps, punches and shoves anymore. But when she ended the controlling and abusive relationship with her children's father, she didn't have a formal custody agreement.

One day after the kids went to their dad's, he refused to return the



children to Marie, and he wouldn't tell her where he had taken them. She didn't even know what city they were in. This went on for months.

Sometimes their father would agree to bring them back, only to change his mind or not show up at the designated meeting place. Marie didn't have money to hire an attorney. "It was hell," she says. "I cried all the time."

Marie came to Buncombe County's new **Family Justice Center** where she met with Pisgah Legal Attorney Julia Horrocks, as well as advocates from other agencies, to get support for reuniting with her children.

With Pisgah Legal Services' help, Marie now has primary custody. She and her children are thrilled to be together again.

In 2016, Pisgah Legal Services helped more than 5,700 people escape domestic violence and abuse.

initiatives that make our WNC communities stronger.



The Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Going into the fourth Open Enrollment Period under the ACA, Pisgah Legal continued to lead enrollment and outreach efforts in WNC.

In 2016 we secured more than \$7 million in premium tax credits for people signing up for coverage with PLS ACA Navigators. The ACA team has presented best practices at national and statewide conferences, garnered media

attention to promote coverage and trained 38 volunteer navigators.

Pisgah Legal continues to advocate for Medicaid expansion. An estimated 500,000 low-income, working people are trapped in a coverage gap because North Carolina has not expanded Medicaid.

Buncombe Upstream: Community Centered Health Home

Pisgah Legal is working in partnership with MAHEC and Children First/ Communities In Schools of Buncombe County to integrate communitycentered health into a model of upstream practice and clinic change that will improve women's health. Funding is provided by the BlueCross BlueShield Foundation of NC.



Improving Services for Survivors of Abuse and Violence

In 2016 the Family Justice Center (above) opened in Buncombe County, a place where survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault can access a variety of services under one roof: law enforcement, legal services, safety planning and emotional support and counseling. Pisgah Legal Services has full-time staff working at the FJC.

Promoting Affordable Housing and Jobs Creation

Pisgah Legal was awarded a substantial grant to advocate for and assist with affordable housing development and job creation strategies. After years of advocacy by PLS, this year Buncombe County created a zoning density bonus to incentivize the construction of affordable housing units.

WNC Early Childhood Coalition

PLS is a member of a local coalition advocating to promote access to quality, affordable early child care and child education opportunities in WNC. In partnership with Southwestern Childhood Development Commission, Children First/Communities In Schools of Buncombe County, Verner Center for Early Learning and Children & Family Resource Center of Henderson County, significant progress has been made to evaluate alternative market rate methodologies and understand how best to ensure access to quality, affordable early child care settings through the Child Care Subsidy Program.

independence.

This year, VAYA Health began contracting with Pisgah Legal Services to provide legal assistance to clients who have been institutionalized, when in fact they should have more flexible housing options.

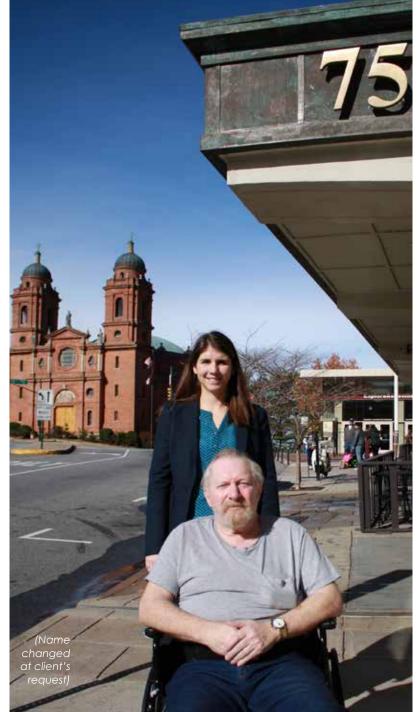
"**Frank**" grew up in North Carolina, enlisted in the Army, and fought in the Vietnam War. After returning home, Frank became a truck driver.

One day, while riding a motorcycle, he collided with a deer at 70 mph. After a year in the hospital, Frank's savings and house were gone. He could no longer walk and was coping with depression and PTSD.

Frank spent years living in a nursing home, but he didn't need that level of care. He longed for more freedom and independence.

Pisgah Legal Attorney Anne Salter helped Frank (right) move from a nursing home to an apartment complex in downtown Asheville. Frank was initially turned away, but thanks to Anne advocating on his behalf, Frank now has a wheelchair-accessible apartment. Frank is thrilled to be able to get out on his own and visit the library and local restaurants.

"I'm so grateful for the help," Frank says.
"My life has improved 100 percent."







affordable health care.

Christopher's farm isn't going to make him wealthy, but he's happy surrounded by his crops, dogs, sheep and chickens.

This self-described "pretty savvy computer guy" has signed up online for health insurance every year since the Affordable Care Act made it available in 2013. But this year he had trouble, so he came to Pisgah Legal Services for a free session with a trained Navigator who resolved the issue. Christopher signed up on December 15, just in time for coverage that began on January 1.

The morning of January 2 he awoke in terrible pain. A trip to the hospital confirmed he had a burst appendix. After two emergency operations and an eight-day stay in the hospital, Christopher's bills will likely exceed \$100,000.

But because Christopher got covered he'll pay only his insurance deductible instead of being financially devastated.

"You shouldn't lose everything you have just because you get sick," he says.



Approximately 20 million
Americans now have health
insurance thanks to the Affordable
Care Act. Pisgah Legal staff and
trained volunteers continue to
help local people across WNC
understand their options and sign
up for plans. Nine out of 10 North
Carolinians participating in the
NC Marketplace are receiving
money-saving subsidies.

PLS continues to serve as a local leader in the effort, providing more than 1,000 free appointments and working with other ACA partners in the WNC region. A total of 14 sites in six mountain counties offered free appointments for those who needed help signing up.

Dozens of volunteers generously gave thousands of hours of their time to assist local people who needed help navigating the NC Marketplace. We sincerely thank each of them!

Debbie Aiton
Tia Allen
Michael Beech
Karen Cadwell
Patricia Call
Terry Call
Jim Carillon
Esther Cartwright
Jeff Dektor
Juan Manuel Diaz Juarez
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Les Long
William Mance
Jo Marcus
Ellen Marion
Lynne Meacham
Marianne Mooney
Ira Naiman
Becky Pitts

Marian Plaut
Tom Plaut
Debbie Roundtree
Kitty Schaller
Ali Schuetze
Ruth Slawson
Tom Snow
Jeanne Stillson
Meg Trowbridge
Jane Vasica
Katie Winchell
Jake Yochem

we stand for

safe and stable housing.

Elizabeth and Dwayne were paying a lot of money to rent a house with serious problems, including a bathtub that was falling through the floor. When they tried to

negotiate for repairs, the landlord moved to evict them, a practice Pisgah Legal attorneys see all too often.

The family came to Pisgah Legal Services. **Attorney Molly Maynard stopped**



the eviction, gave them time to find a better place to live and helped them avoid homelessness.

"There was no judgment towards me or my family because of our income," says Elizabeth. "Pisgah Legal is an organization that truly does care about people and their problems."

2016 Financial Report

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

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

- North Carolina
 Women for Women Givina Circle
- Southwestern Child Development

Commission
Federal Bar Association Foundation
Hispanics in Philanthropy
Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
Mission Healthcare Foundation
Mission Healthcare System
NC Bar Foundation
Sisters of Mercy of N.C. Foundation

Vaya Health

Z. Smith Revnolds Foundation

Donations

Includes contributions from individuals, faithbased congregations and family foundations.

IOLTA

NC Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts

United Way

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

Competitive Federal Sources

Community Development Block Grant

- City of Asheville

Family Violence Prevention and Services

- NC Council for Women

Home and Community Care Block Grants NC Department of Justice

US Dept of Health and Human Services

- Legal Aid of NC

- Victims of Crime Act
 NC Governor's Crime Commission
- Family Justice Center (Buncombe)

Violence Against Women Act

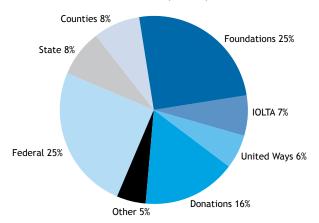
- US Department of Justice
- Mediation Center

Local and State Governments

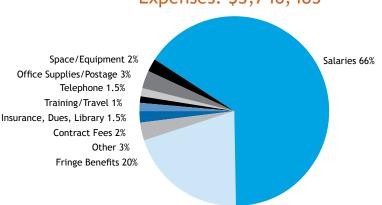
Buncombe County City of Asheville Henderson County Madison County Transylvania County State of North Carolina

PLS also leveraged \$656,200 in pro bono legal services in cases closed in 2016.

Revenue: \$4,012,554



Expenses: \$3,746,483



These numbers are based on information available as of February 28, 2017. A few items, such as depreciation and contributions to the PLS Endowment, are not included. Excess revenue over expenses in 2016 is restricted for expenses in 2017.

Pisgah Legal Services'

impact on mountain communities:

Pisgah Legal Services is the primary provider of legal aid in our six-county service area: Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania counties.

We provide limited free civil legal help in an additional 11 WNC counties and have five offices in the region.

Madison

Madison

MacDawell

Haywood

Rutherford

Polk

Rutherford



PEOPLE ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS
WERE HELPED BY PISGAH LEGAL IN 2016

10,859

VOLUNTEER HOURS
CONTRIBUTED TO PLS
LAST YEAR





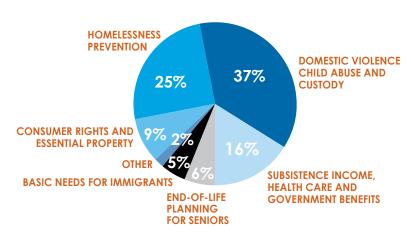
19.2 MILLION SECURED IN QUANTIFIABLE BENEFITS TO OUR CLIENTS

That's more than a 5 to 1 return on your investment in Pisgah Legal Services!

Pisgah Legal Services secured \$19,264,764 in quantifiable benefits for our clients in 2016 with a budget of \$3.7 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
- Tax credits for consumers buying through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace

PERCENTAGE OF CASES CLOSED BY ISSUE AREA IN 2016



we stand

together.





Volunteer attorneys are an incredible resource for Pisgah Legal Services' clients. Last year almost 300 private attorneys generously volunteered their time to help 3,132 low-income people in our community.

Attorneys contributed 2,624 hours of pro bono service, valued at \$656,200, through the Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyer Program (MAVL).

(Above) MAVL Attorney Justin Sigmon (R) helps PLS client, Dennis, fill out legal paperwork at his home.

The 28th Judicial District Bar and Pisgah Legal recognized four outstanding attorney volunteers (L) at a 2016 Pro Bono Celebration: Evan Dewandler, John Noor, Ana Prendergast, and Kevin Radey (not pictured). We are grateful to all of our MAVL attorneys who are helping people in need! **Thank you!**

2016 VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

Listed by hours donated in closed cases

300+ Hours Bryant D. Webster

100+ Hours R. Walton Davis Denise Lockett

Ben Scales 50+ Hours

Cynthia L. Alleman Leah M. Broker Anna R. Hamrick D. Rodney Kight Benson T. Pitts Kevin Radev Justin Sigmon

20⁺ Hours

William T. Biggers April M. Burt Steve Carruthers William H. Christy Alan Coxie Evan Dewandler James M. Ellis Cindy Eller Holly J. Fairbairn Jake Farrar Robert A. Freeman Victor Garlock Natalie Grav Brian Gulden Larry Harris Joshua Harrold Evlyn Jackson Diane McDonald John Noor Julie Northup Lorin Gabriel Page **Eleanor Powers** Ana Prendergast Matthew Roberson Kathleen Roburg Natalie Teague William F. Wolcott

All other attorneys

who donated time Steven T. Aceto Stephen P. Agan Nicole (Nicki) **Applefield** Garrett Artz Jannice Ashlev Andrew Atherton Lora Baker T. Kent Baldwin James W. Balev Wade Ballard Frederick Barbour Shannan Barclay Tuorto Wm. Michael Bealey Peter Best Edward Blevnat Moraan Bryant Adam Bull Christopher Z. Campbell Robert (Bo) Carpenter Walter C. Carpenter Susan Ciaravella **Eva Clement** Stanford Clontz C. Page Collie Sarah Corley Samuel Barber Craig **Brent Conquist** John Crotts Dale Curriden John S. Curry Katherine Dare

Charles Davis

Barbara Davis

Perrin de Jona

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Dustin Dow Erin Dunnuck Joanne Dykes Eric Edgerton James Edmonds Cynthia Eller Anderson Ellis David English Kerry Friedman John Frue Jason Gast Ben Gilbert Heather Whitaker Goldstein Alex Gomes George Goosmann James Gorsuch Tikkun Gottschalk Jacaueline Grant Thomas Grella Robert Haggard **Edward Harrelson** Edward Hay Peter Henry David Hillier Robert Hogan E. Thomison Holman Murphy Horne Fletcher Ann-Patton Hornthal James Hugenschmidt Kenny Hunt Robin Jacobs Martin Jarrard Don Jones John Kelso Barry Kempson Meredith Fields Kidd **BJ** Kilgore Caroline Knox Mark Kurdys

Scott Lamb

Sheila Lambert Kathy LaMotte Gordon Langer Tod Leaven Delia Ledesma Susan Lewis Eugene T. Linkous Harris Livingstain Margaret Lollis Brittany Long **Doris Loomis** Jack Lyda David MacKusick Richard Maita Candace Mance B.B. Massagee Michael McEnery Peter McGuire Mariah McKinney Eileen McMinn Megan Medley W. Carleton Metcalf Amy Mody Jennifer Moore Ron Moore Rhonda Moorefield Elizabeth Newman John Olesiuk Robert Owen Jonathan Parce Andrew Parker Adam Peoples Robert Pitts Jack Poisson Michael Pratt James Rice Noman Riddle Thomas Roberts Mary Robinson Robert Robinson

Mark Rudow

Edna Ruffin Walker

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Adam Shealy Glen Shults Tom Siekman A. James Siemens Ronald Sneed Jane Soboleski Carole Spainhour **Andrew Strauss** Cvnthia Strom John R. Sutton Allan Tarleton Scott Taylor Michael Thompson Sarah Thornburg Margaret Toms Mark Upright Katie Valeika Cvnthia (Cindi) Vardiman John Veazey Gav Vinson Diane Walton Carter Webb Jarald Willis Susan Wilson T. Douglas Wilson Michael Wimer Mindy Wudarsky Kennth Youngblood

We do our best to keep accurate records. If you have a correction to this list, please contact Katie Russell Miller at katierm@pisaahleaal.ora.

Lach Zemp



THE POWER OF **PRO BONO**

Attorney Sheila Lambert (above. and expertise with MAVL for 23

Sheila has helped more than 100 Pisgah Legal Services' clients. donating pro bono services valued at almost \$80,000!

Pro bono attorneys enable Pisgah Legal Services to serve far more clients than we could with staff alone.

thank you

to the volunteers, community members and staff who stand with Pisgah Legal Services.



2016 Summer Law Clerks: (L-R) Alex Edge (Wake Forest); Kyle Mirabelli (Wake Forest); Sarah Sherrington (Campbell); Ning Ding (Wake Forest); Amy Leitner (UNC-Chapel Hill).

"Being able to use my knowledge to help someone obtain a positive outcome for what is usually an extremely stressful situation has been really rewarding!"

— Law Clerk Amy Leitner

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Meet One of Our Attorneys: Molly Maynard

Molly Maynard is the Children's Law Project Attorney for Pisgah Legal Services.

Since arriving at Pisgah Legal in 2012, Molly has specialized in cases that involve families who are on the verae of homelessness.

"I went to law school because I wanted to do legal services and help people who were in crisis," says Molly.



"I'm really lucky to have ended up at a place like Pisgah Legal Services where I'm able to do that for clients who wouldn't be able to afford those services on their own."

She continues, "The vast majority of our clients just wouldn't have legal representation if it weren't for PLS. And the only reason that Pisgah Legal Services is able to exist and do the work that we do is because of the donors who support us and our community. I'm incredibly grateful to the people who support Pisgah Legal Services and make that work possible for us."

Molly is a graduate of the UNC School of Law and a North Carolina native.

PISGAH LEGAL ATTORNEYS AND STAFF

Noele Aabye Mitchell Albers Liz Allen Eleanor Ashton Pablo Averza Jim Barrett Kristianna Bartow Yolanda Bopp Rhonda Brown Cecelia Colson Shannon Cornelius Flor Corral Christine Culbreth Sammy Cunningham Rupa Dave Lynne Davis Joan Dennehy Betsv Ellis Faith Foote Nora Frank Sioux Free Shoshana Fried Tom Gallagher Samantha Winn Galloway

Joanne Gaylord Beth Herrman S.J. Hightower Julia Horrocks Thalia Hov Evlvn Jackson Martin Jarrard Fric Johnson Sandra Johnson Lindsay Kazi Lucy Keil Jaclyn Kiger Nitiki Kilgore Ken Kiser Bryan Klinge Hayley Lampkin Ann Lansing Javan Lapp Barbara Many Ben Many Jo Marcus Molly Maynard Yallana McGee Brent McKnight

Robin Merrell Vicki Nichols Madeline Offen Sam Peck Sara Plaver Ashlev Porter Annie Reid Gloria Retama Nelson Reves Carol Rogers Katie Russell Miller Anne Salter Parker Smith Casev Steen Jeanne Stillson Virginia Thompson Valerie True Chris Waters Bill Whalen Evie Sandlin White Flba Willette Katie Winchell Frin Wilson Jacob Yochem



(L-R) PLS Staff Kristianna Bartow, Annie Reid, Jaclyn Kiger and Katie Russell Miller work together to coordinate the efforts of volunteer attorneys.

those with nowhere else to turn.

2016 DONORS

Partners for Justice \$5,000 or more

Anonymous (9) Amplify Asheville Asheville Radio Group Beattie Foundation Blossoms at Biltmore Park /Bagaie Goose Blue Ridge X-Ray Company Laura and David Bourne Brain Hooks/Fran and Russell Shuler Central United Methodist Church of Asheville **Chaddick Foundation** Corner Kitchen Catering Clannad Foundation The Daniels Group Eurosport Asheville Perry Fisher Law Firm Arnold and Bernice Green Hi-Wire Brewing Jennifer and George Hodges, Jr. Tara and Jay Kerr Lvn and Tom Leslie Little Acorn Fund - H Little Acorn Fund - M

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Justice League Members \$1,000 or more

28th Judicial District Bar

Anonymous (5)

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Thanks to you, in 2016 Pisgah Legal served more than 15,000 people, including 5,631 children.

WCQS Public Radio

Eleanor and Charlie Owen are Co-Chairs of the Children's Law Project (CLP) and long-time generous supporters of Pisgah Legal Services. Eleanor is a former Board Chair, and she helped start the CLP in the 1990s.

Eleanor says, "We must do whatever we can to stop the suffering of children who live in poverty and help them reach their potential."



New Morning Ltd.

Sarah V. Corley/ MediationWorks Carolyn and Orville. Jr. Coward John S. Curry Karen and Phillips Cutright Madeline C. Davis Maura and Walton Davis, III Jerry De Land Deutsch & Gottschalk, PA Lvnne Diehl Cassie Dillon Harry and Kathryn Durity Jennie Eblen and Rick Perkins Bridget and Richard Eckerd Dr. Bruce Elliston Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit Shirley and Ernest Ferguson First Presbyterian Church of Asheville Dorothy and Daniel Foltz-Gray Miranda and Neill Fuleihan Judy Futch and Paul Smith **Futch Foundation** Charise and David Gantt Peter and Jasmin Gentlina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Matching Gifts Program Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation, Inc. Gum, Hillier & McCroskey, PA Denise and Rick Guthy Danelle and William Hansen Lynn and Clay Harmon

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Donna and Allan Tarleton

Douglas and Sarah Tate

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Karen and John Teller

Raising awareness of and funds for free legal aid:

What a year!



More than 1,000 people gathered on October 5 to hear Marian Wright Edelman, the Founder and President of The Children's Defense Fund, at Pisgah Legal's 6th annual Poverty Forum. "Ending Child Poverty Now" was the largest event in PLS history.



Thank you to all our sponsors, friends and guests who joined us for a truly inspiring evening. (Photos by Jesse Kitt)



Special thanks to The Henderson County Bar Association and The Van Winkle Law Firm for sponsoring and purchasing (respectively) this bear, and supporting PLS with proceeds from its auction.



Amplify Pisgah and Pisgah Brewing sponsored music legends Bruce Hornsby and Ricky Skaggs (left) for a summer concert that benefited Pisgah Legal Services.

Our annual Jazz for Justice celebration honored volunteer

Anne Kimmel (shown at right with her son) and also paid tribute to George Ward Hendon (1941-2013) and Roy W. Davis, Jr. (1930-2015) for their stalwart leadership of this organization.



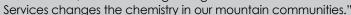


In April, Java for Justice promoted the need for free civil legal aid thanks to Paramount Kia, Asheville Radio group, Bruegger's, City Bakery, and generous participating coffee shops in our region. Attorney Leah Broker and Asheville Radio's Ken Ulmer are shown here.



Bruce and Jacquelyn Rogow have been defenders of justice and supporters of Pisgah Legal for many years. They were both Legal Services lawyers in the 1960s and 1970s, and remain passionate about helping disadvantaged people.

The Rogows have generously funded several gift challenges that raised funds to help low-income families in Transylvania County. When thinking about the role of legal aid in WNC, Bruce said, "Poverty and Justice are, like oil and water, immiscible. Pisgah Legal



Ruth and Larry Thompson Sarah and Hon. Alan Thornbura Trinity Episcopal Church Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville Jane and J. Daniel Vann, III The Venue Irene Richardson Walker Joanne and Samuel Walker Patricia and Roston Williamson Doug Wilson, Jr. and Betsey P. Bent Larry and Janie Wilson **WNC** Magazine WNC Woman Magazine Deborah and William F. Wolcott, III Ann and Michael Young

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