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Anna* (above left) started with nothing when she came to the United States. Because her children were born here, they are citizens, but Anna lives in fear that immigration officials will send her back to El Salvador. "My biggest dream is to own a home and make a better future for my children."

Immigrants' Legal Needs Skyrocket

PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES HAS BEEN FLOODED WITH A 253% INCREASE IN URGENT APPEALS FROM IMMIGRANTS IN WNC WHO FEAR DEPORTATION AND SEPARATION FROM LOVED ONES.

Casey and Kelly* are as bright and carefree as any children you may ever meet. But what they don't know is that while they are U.S. citizens, their mom is not.

Anna* fled El Salvador when she was 17 years old to escape a violent country with dangerous drug wars and extreme poverty. She longed for a better life and a shot at the "American Dream."

She came to Pisgah Legal Services in 2011 when her husband was abusing her.

Pisgah Legal helped Anna get a protection order, a divorce and custody of Casey and Kelly. PLS also started Anna's legalization process, first by helping her apply for a UVisa, and now, a green card.

Anna's chances are good. She has no criminal history and has been a model employee at a local agriculture company. Still, after 14 years of living in the U.S., she is terrified she will be deported. Legal help, needed now more than ever, is scarce for Anna and others like her.

*Names changed

(Continued on page 3)



Pisgah Legal has educated 1,000+ people through "Know Your Rights" immigration events in Brevard, Sylva, Asheville, Hendersonville, Marshall, Burnsville, Morganton and Waynesville.

Generous People Make This Work Possible

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE GREAT PEOPLE WHO STAND FOR JUSTICE ALONGSIDE PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES.

Did you know that last year, local people volunteered more than 10,000 hours to help Pisgah Legal clients and assist with day-to-day operations?

We are grateful to work with such caring, talented and giving volunteers. Several were honored March 21 at the annual Jazz for Justice celebration.

Russell Shuler (top) earned this year's

Terry Van Duyn Volunteer Award for the outstanding creative work he has done pro bono for PLS, including producing videos and marketing materials. Last year's recipient, Anne Kimmel, remarked, "We consider Russell a generous soul and a valued friend."

Arnold and Bernice Green (middle, right) were recognized for their generous philanthropy. They shared with the crowd of more than 300 what sailing the world taught them about staying the course to advocate for social justice.

Former Board Chair **Tom Siekman** (bottom, right) was thanked for his contributions as an attorney, donor and volunteer, receiving the Karl H. Straus Board Member Emeritus Award.



Jazz photos by Jesse Kitt

A wonderful time was had by all attendees, and we offer sincere thanks to the **Venue, Blossoms at Biltmore Park**, and all of the generous contributing sponsors.

Volunteers rallied again on April 21 to be a part of this year's "Java for Justice," a friend-and fund-raising event at coffee shops around the mountains.

PLS Board Member and volunteer attorney Ann-Patton Hornthal (left) and her family came out to show their support at City Bakery in downtown Asheville, as did hundreds of others at shops in Hendersonville and Rutherfordton.

The good people at **Paramount Kia and Asheville Radio Group** make Java possible with their generous sponsorship.

(Bottom, left) **Nikki Mitchell**, Pisgah Legal Attorney **Tom Gallagher**,

and **Thad Monteiro** tape a Java radio spot that explains why legal aid is so important to our community. Thanks to ALL the coffee shops and sponsors!



In April, Pisgah Legal Services Attorney **Ben Many** received the Allied Professional Award at the 2017 Crime Victims' Rights Week Luncheon in Asheville honoring victims of crime and celebrating the dedicated professionals who make our community safer.

Client **Pat Norman** nominated Ben, saying, "He helped me from being forced to live on the streets of Asheville. At 81 years of age, this was a prospect I dreaded. As I am disabled, it was very difficult finding an affordable apartment. Mr. Many arranged to extend my lease by one year until I found somewhere to live. By doing so, I am now living in a beautiful building with friendly residents. He went above and beyond the call of duty to help me."

Pictured (L-R): Pat Norman, Ben Many, and Judy Young.



(Immigration story continued from cover...)

After the 2016 Presidential Election and the issue of new executive immigration orders, PLS staff and volunteers were swamped by a 253 percent increase in calls for legal guidance about immigration.

Pisgah Legal Services has only one immigration attorney, Shoshana Fried, to serve the entire 17-county region.

"Rumors are flying about raids, and our clients have been in complete panic mode," she says. "The broad language used in the executive orders is very confusing; immigrants don't understand their own personal risk." Shoshana continues, "Immigration law is complex, and each person's situation has to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis that includes when they arrived in the U.S., how old they were when they entered, and what country they came from."

Phone calls are also coming from schools, churches, bilingual volunteers, and people who just want to help. Since January, Pisgah Legal staff have travelled across WNC, holding more than 30 outreach events to offer legal advice and information.

PLS is recruiting and training volunteer lawyers to help provide power of attorney documents for parents, like Anna, whose children could be left behind without a legal guardian.

Dale Curriden, a local attorney who is volunteering his time with Pisgah Legal, says, "It feels great to be able to jump in and provide some assistance."

Generous people and organizations are also responding with resources to hire another immigration attorney. Grants have been made by The Chaddick Foundation, The Community Foundation of WNC, the Blue Ridge District of the United Methodist Church and St. James Episcopal Church among others. We also have a challenge gift of \$20,000 that we need your help to match.



More than 250 people gathered recently at Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville to hear how they can help immigrants at a PLS outreach event.

"The current immigration situation is an extremely complicated legal landscape; a lot of good, honest, hardworking people are at a total loss of how to deal with it and move forward in their lives."

—Dale Curriden, Volunteer Attorney

You Can Help Families in Crisis!

Only \$20,000 is left to raise to meet a challenge gift by June 30th that will provide much needed resources. You can make the difference with a tax-deductible gift today using the enclosed envelope, or give online at www.pisgahlegal.org. Thank you!

WHY WE GIVE



Thank you, Kate and Ray!

"We are supporting the immigration work of Pisgah Legal Services because immigrants are an important and valuable part of the Asheville community."

They are neighbors who are contributing to the economy, who are raising their children and supporting their families and who are adding to the richness of our diverse community."

After learning how complicated, unjust and overwhelming it can be to navigate the legal system as an immigrant, we want to help expand PLS' capacity to serve immigrant communities with legal counsel."

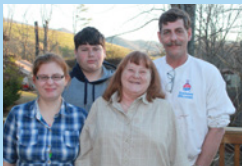
— Kate and Ray Shem

5 GREAT REASONS TO GIVE TO

Pisgah Legal Services:



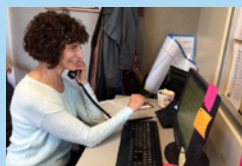
Because justice is for everyone, not just those who can afford it.
You can level the playing field for someone in need.



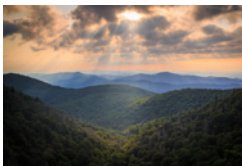
Pisgah Legal Services gets results.
15,000+ people are helped each year, with \$19.2 million secured in benefits to clients, such as home equity saved from foreclosure.



Our clients are people with nowhere else to go, such as:
Victims of domestic violence, disabled individuals, veterans, seniors, children in crisis, and families on the verge of homelessness.



We have incredible volunteers dedicated to justice.
More than 300 area attorneys work pro bono to help Pisgah Legal clients. Office volunteers and attorneys donated 10,000+ hours last year.



Your gift stays in Western North Carolina.
With five offices in the mountain region, we are focused on fighting poverty and pursuing justice right here at home.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TODAY!

Please make a gift to Pisgah Legal Services.

Use the enclosed envelope, give online at www.pisgahlegal.org
or call Betsy Ellis to discuss other giving options: 828-210-3444.



Create Your Legacy

YOU CAN MAKE A GIFT THAT WILL ENSURE JUSTICE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.



Bill and Jane Swafford of Hendersonville are dedicated volunteers and long-time supporters who give annually and who have also arranged to leave a gift to the Pisgah Legal Services Endowment.

Jane says, "There are many worthy nonprofits in Western North Carolina that provide services for low-income residences and those in crisis. But the solution may only be a band-aid: a shelter for the night, a box of groceries, or free medical treatment."

She continues, "Unfortunately, the underlying problems often require a legal solution. Only Pisgah Legal Services can provide the help needed to prevent homelessness, secure subsistence income, obtain access to health care, and stop domestic violence. Although we financially support many of these other worthwhile nonprofits, it is Pisgah Legal Services' Endowment that we have included in our estate plan."

A strong endowment will provide lasting support for this work, **but we need your help to build it.** Please join the Swaffords, and become a member of the Legacy for Justice Society today.

Leave your legacy

How will you be remembered?

By making an endowment gift, your generosity can live on and ensure that Pisgah Legal continues for generations to come.

Contact Jim Barrett at (828) 210-3408
or Betsy Ellis at (828) 210-3444.

Partners for Better Health

MISSION HEALTH AND PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE LIFE FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE.



For more than a decade, Pisgah Legal Services and Mission Health have partnered through the HEALS (Health Education and Legal Support) Project to improve patients' well-being by addressing "social determinants of health." These are conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health.

For example, a patient may arrive at Mission showing signs of labored breathing and aggravated asthma. At first, it appears to be solely a medical issue. But when the patient's living conditions are examined, mold growing in their rental home turns out to be the source of the problem. No amount of medicine will fix this health issue without also addressing the housing problem.

When it started, this medical-legal partnership was the first of its kind in North Carolina. HEALS has continued to be a successful program that Mission generously funds.

Each year, Pisgah Legal helps hundreds of Mission patients improve housing conditions, obtain protection orders from domestic violence, create healthcare powers of attorney, address debt and consumer needs, and much more.

PLS Managing Attorney Jaclyn Kiger says, "We are so grateful for Mission's support. The investment they have made in HEALS is important to the health of so many in our community who need both doctors and lawyers to improve their health and quality of life."

Thank you, Mission Health!



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www.pisgahlegal.org



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“In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same.” – Albert Einstein

Get Ready for Two Great Events

ENJOY AN OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERT WITH BRUCE HORNSBY, AND SAVE THE DATE FOR PISGAH LEGAL'S FALL POVERTY FORUM FEATURING PULITZER PRIZE WINNER MATTHEW DESMOND.



Photo by Michael Martin

AMPLIFY PISGAH AND PISGAH BREWING CO. PRESENT

Bruce Hornsby & the Noisemakers

Friday, June 16th

at Pisgah Brewing's Outdoor Stage in Black Mountain.

A portion of ticket sales benefit Pisgah Legal Services.

Get your tickets online at www.pisgahbrewing.com



Photo by Michael Kientz

Pisgah Legal Services' 7th Annual Poverty Forum
Thursday, September 28th

featuring Pulitzer Prize Winner Matthew Desmond,
Author of *EVICTED*

*Harvard University Associate Professor,
and Co-director of the Justice and Poverty Project*

Tickets go on sale in August. Details to come!