

TOGETHER, WE WILL RISE

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friend.

Just as this Annual Report went to press in early March, our world as we knew it changed almost overnight. As we are all aware, COVID-19 (coronavirus) is impacting millions of lives, around the world and here in Western North Carolina.

We are sharing the report with you now, as we always do at this time of year, so that you will be encouraged and uplifted by the progress we've made together. You'll find inspiring stories of how people have overcome hardships, and the impact that you've had by supporting the work Pisgah Legal Services does to promote access to justice. For the people who turn to Pisgah

Legal when no one else can help, justice means safety from domestic violence, stopping an unfair eviction or saving a home from foreclosure, keeping children safe from abuse and accessing affordable health care.

Here are a few highlights of 2019:

- Providing free legal aid and other services to protect the basic rights and improve the lives of 18,858 people from across the region. That's 2,000 more folks helped than in 2018.
- Expanding to provide comprehensive legal aid to people with low incomes in Mitchell, Yancey and Avery counties. We are opening an office in the Highlands/

Cashiers area in 2020 to serve people in Jackson and Macon counties.

- Enrolling people in Affordable Care Act health insurance in 11 WNC counties.
- Filing free tax returns for lowincome folks who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit and putting more than \$160,000 back in the pockets of working individuals and families.
- Advocating reform of the sexual assault laws in North Carolina and championing stronger statewide policies that increase safe, affordable housing.

William "Bill" Wolcott, III
Board President

- Building organizational structure and management capacity by adding staff and appointing attorney Jackie Kiger as PLS' first Chief Operations Officer.
- Increasing access to civil legal aid by adding online applications and screening applicants by phone in real time.

Our strength lies in what we do together, for the safety and well-being of our community. Together we will rise and continue to stand for justice and dignity for our neighbors here in Western North Carolina. As always, we thank you for your steadfast support.

James A. Barrett Executive Director



The Justice Gap and Need for Free Legal Aid

71%

OF LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN THE U.S. EXPERIENCE A CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEM IN A YEAR.

THE RATE IS EVEN HIGHER FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT (97%); PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 (80%); AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (80%).*

Pisgah Legal Services: 2019 Results for People in WNC

\$24,518,513

Secured in quantifiable benefits for our clients. With a budget of \$5.2 million that's a

4:1 return on investment.

13,837

Positive case outcomes in closed cases

Success Rates for Clients (Cases Closed in 2019 with Pisgah Legal Representation)



97% obtained/enforced protective order against abuser



secured or maintained custody of children



97%
prevented or
delayed eviction





obtained, preserved or increased Social Security benefits

Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence

"Olivia" lived in constant fear of her husband. The worst nights were when he came home drunk. She and the children would hide in the bedroom while he raged, breaking dishes and screaming at them. "Eventually I would come out to keep him from attacking the children," she says. "If I did, he would beat me instead of them."

One night she came home from work early to find him sexually abusing their daughter. Olivia picked up the only weapon she could find – a frying pan – and fought back. Her husband fled the country, hiding from the authorities for years, but in 2019 he called Olivia, saying he was coming back to kill her and take the children.

Olivia reached out to the police and a local domestic violence shelter, who then connected her with Pisgah Legal Services. Attorney Madeline Offen guided Olivia through obtaining a restraining order, divorcing her husband and securing sole legal custody of the children. Now Olivia is working with Pisgah Legal's immigration team to gain permanent legal status. "I'm terrified of being deported, of being separated from my children and then being sent to Mexico where he is."

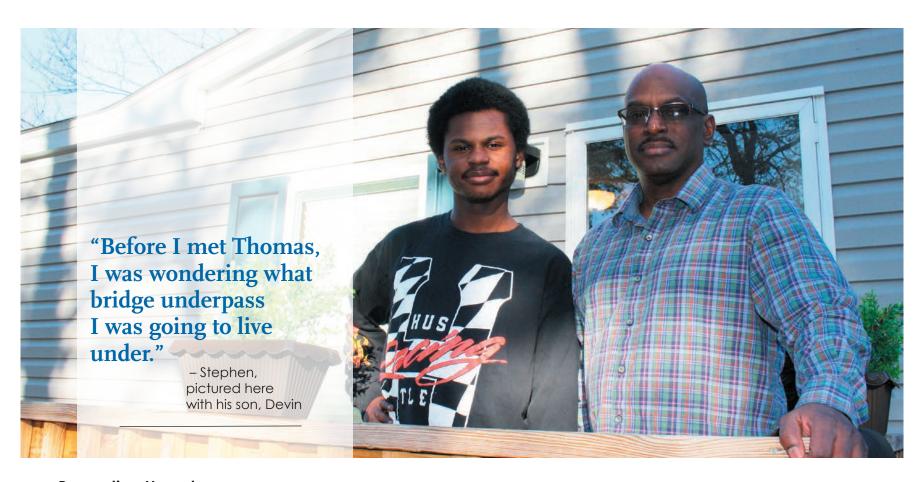
"I suffered for 14 years of my life. I don't want anyone else to go through this."

- "Olivia"(Name, photo and some details changed to protect client)





Pisgah Legal partners with domestic violence shelters, advocates and law enforcement across the mountain region. Thanks to Women for Women for supporting our advocacy work!



Preventing Homelessness

When Stephen and his wife separated, he became the sole caregiver of his son, Devin, who has special needs. Unable to leave Devin alone at night, Stephen changed jobs, earning less than half his previous salary. He fell behind on his mobile home's mortgage and lot rental and received an exiction notice.

Scared and alone, Stephen made his way to the courthouse. There he met Pisgah Legal Attorney Thomas Lodwick just outside eviction court. Thomas and Stephen negotiated with the landlord and mortgage company to stop the eviction. Together, they also reached out to community groups that helped Stephen catch up financially.

The father and son remain in their home, and Stephen found a better job working at Devin's school. Stephen says, "I prayed for a miracle. Sometimes God brings a stranger into your life to help you."

In 2019, more than 325 people avoided or delayed eviction due to PLS' program that positions staff and volunteer housing attorneys inside the Buncombe County Courthouse.



When Lisa (right) was diagnosed with cancer, she had no choice but to retire after 29 years of working as a nurse. Together, she and Leah Yetter, a Pisgah Legal health advocate who works with Hot Springs Health Program, secured health insurance for her, her husband and her son, all previously covered through Lisa's work.

Fortunately, Lisa is now in remission, and she still comes back year after year to renew her family's ACA health insurance with Leah.

Pisgah Legal works in medical-legal partnerships with MAHEC, RHA Health and Hot Springs Health Program to address "social determinants of health," conditions in the places where people live, learn, work and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.

These partnerships resolve legal issues that impede health and train providers to screen patients for health-related social needs by identifying and addressing socio-economic problems – such as substandard housing and domestic violence – problems that harm health and can reduce the effectiveness of treatment plans.

Increasing Access to Health Care

Despite attacks on the Affordable Care Act, Pisgah Legal staff and volunteers persist, explaining options in easy-to-understand language and signing local people up for comprehensive, affordable health insurance.

During the seventh annual Open Enrollment Period (Nov. 1- Dec. 15, 2019), we completed 984 appointments to serve 1,500 family members. 79% of appointments ended with enrollment, renewal or post-enrollment assistance, our highest yet.

Consumers with household incomes under 400% of the Federal Poverty Level may qualify for the Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC) to help lower their monthly premium costs and make health insurance more affordable. Our consumers qualified for an average of \$881/month, making the total saved for a year \$9,298,308.

This vital assistance is offered year-round, helping people outside Open Enrollment get and keep health insurance coverage. In 2019, we completed a total of 1,547 appointments, an increase from last year of 29%, to serve 2,325 family members.

Special thanks to the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust for continuing to champion PLS' health justice work, to the RHI Legacy Foundation for supporting this work in Rutherford County, and to the many dedicated volunteers who are making coverage a reality in our mountain region.











"You took the time to correctly understand our situation, help us correctly answer the questions...

You were friendly, patient, efficient and thorough.

And we left so relieved!" - Lisa and Kraia

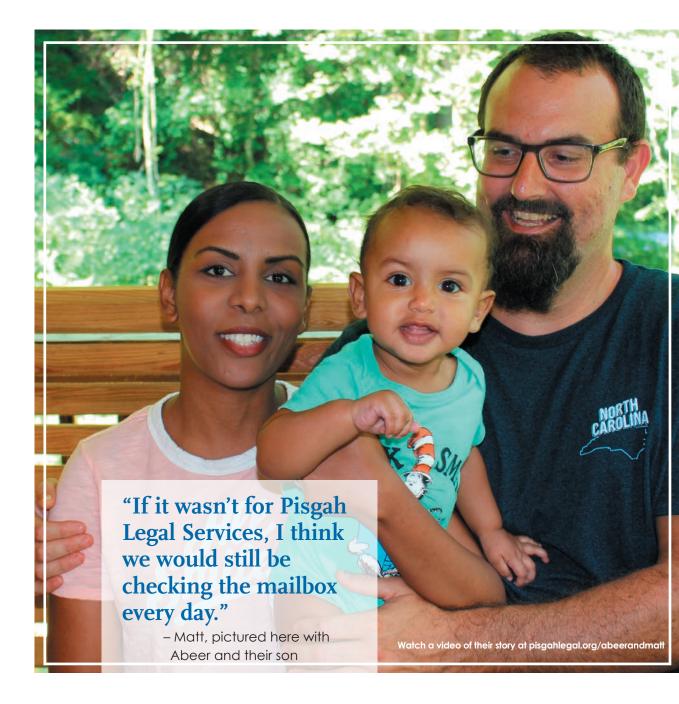
Assisting Immigrants

Abeer was living in the U.S., a refugee from war-ravaged Yemen, when she met and fell in love with Matt. After they married, Matt was sure they would have no problem obtaining Abeer's citizenship.

They filed the paperwork, paid thousands of dollars in fees and traveled to Greenville. Morrisville and Charlotte. They hired an attorney, contacted public officials, and made countless phone calls to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. But more than two years later, they still had no answers. Matt says, "They have all these different departments. and no one takes any responsibility. In the meantime, Abeer couldn't get a job or drive or have a bank account. I was mad."

They came to Pisgah Legal Services where Immigration Law Advocate Noele Aabye discovered the couple needed to re-submit Abeer's medical exam. Soon after doing so, they received her green card.

In 2019, generous donors gave more than \$80,000 to support PLS' work with immigrants.





Securing More Money for Working Families

Working folks, particularly those with families, may be eligible for tax refunds of hundreds or even thousands of dollars, even if they are not technically required to file due to lower incomes. Through the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**, families can receive up to \$6,000 per year. The average yearly household income of a Pisgah Legal client is only \$13,955, so an EITC can be an incredible benefit for struggling families.

In 2019, Pisgah Legal staff and volunteers filed 165 tax returns for clients that resulted in \$160,445 in tax refunds. Of that amount, \$68,157 was in EITC. Our free service also saved clients more than \$36,000 that would have otherwise been paid to tax preparers.



Did you know that Pisgah Legal has assisted 20+ area nonprofits with start-up support since we began in 1978?

Creating Permanent Affordable Housing

Pisgah Legal is spearheading a new effort to create permanently affordable housing through a community-based nonprofit called the Asheville-Buncombe Community Land Trust (ABCLT). After more than two years of careful research and planning, ABCLT has hired an executive director, and construction on new housing begins in 2020. Find out more at abolt.org.



Expanding to Meet the Needs in WNC

In 2019, a new Pisgah Legal office opened to serve the people of Avery, Mitchell and Yancey counties thanks to support from the Samuel L. Phillips Family Foundation, the AMY Wellness Foundation and The Fund for Mitchell County. PLS Attorney Olivia Williams (left) is one of the staff attorneys who works in these counties.

In 2020, PLS will open a Highlands/Cashiers office to serve folks in Jackson and Macon counties. This is made possible by a dynamic group of local residents

who are raising the necessary funds, along with support from churches and local foundations, including the Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation and affiliates of CFWNC and NCCF.

Thanks to the WNC Bridge Foundation, Pisgah Legal is also expanding the Elder Law program to serve more seniors across the mountain region.

LEGAL AID PROGRAMS

PROVIDED BY PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES



Children's Law Helps disadvantaged children avoid homelessness, escape abuse and access essential services, such as medical care and education.

Consumer Law Defends consumer rights, addresses fraud and stops predatory lending practices by protecting clients' limited income and resources from unfair collection.

Health Justice Promotes access to health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including understanding options for Medicaid and Medicare.

Elder Law Helps seniors live independently in their homes for as long as possible. Protects seniors from financial or physical abuse or harassment, and assists with end-of-life planning.

Homelessness Prevention Prevents families and individuals from losing their homes to eviction or foreclosure and improves existing housing conditions.

Veterans Law Assists homeless or otherwise vulnerable military veterans by obtaining or maintaining stable housing, securing disability benefits and accessing quality health care and health insurance.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention

Helps survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault take legal action to escape abuse and rebuild their lives and financial stability.

Medical-Legal Partnerships Helps medical patients address legal issues that impact "social determinants" or issues that impact their health, such as domestic violence, housing, or crushing debt.

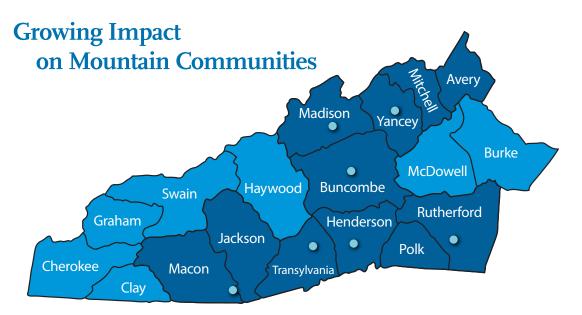
Income Security Obtains and protects public benefits for low-income people, including SNAP, SSI/SSDI, Social Security and others.

Justice for All Helps eligible immigrants work legally and secure legal status and addresses other basic poverty needs. Provides legal documents to protect children and assets in case of family separation.

Community Economic Development Increases jobs and affordable housing through legal advocacy and in partnership with other nonprofits, church groups and local governments.

Expunction In conjunction with the Buncombe County Justice Resource Center, helps clear criminal records for minor offenses and remove barriers to employment, housing, education, and benefits.

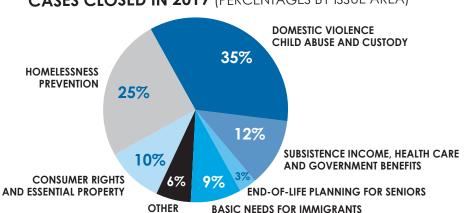
Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyer (MAVL)/ Hotline/Emeritus Attorneys Harnesses the power of volunteer attorneys by providing opportunities to serve Pisgah Legal clients pro bono.



Pisgah Legal Services provides a broad array of free, civil legal services in 11 WNC counties, and offers health and immigration law services in 18 counties.

We have six offices, located in Asheville, Burnsville, Brevard, Hendersonville, Marshall, and Rutherfordton, and we will add another in Highlands/Cashiers in 2020.

CASES CLOSED IN 2019 (PERCENTAGES BY ISSUE AREA)





PEOPLE ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS WERE SERVED BY PISGAH LEGAL IN 2019*

INCOME

•

\$13,955 average household income of Pisgah Legal client

CHILDREN



of cases, closed and pending, involved children in the household

AGE



of clients, closed cases, are 60 years of age or older

GENDER



White

of clients identified as women, 24% as men, in cases closed

70% of clients, cases closed, identified as

RACE/ETHNICITY

14% Black

14% Latinx

2% Asian, Native American, Mixed Race or identified themselves as Other

STAFF, VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS

32 Attorneys 74 Staff

119 Community Volunteers 300 Pro Bono Attorney Volunteers 1.600+ Financial Supporters

*Includes all members of households in cases closed and pending. Some helped more than once. Includes all family members assisted by ACA health justice work.

THE POWER OF PRO BONO

Volunteer Attorney Saves a Family's Home

When Ruth and Boris found a home for sale by owner, they jumped at their chance at the American Dream. They negotiated to buy the property, made a large down payment, and began making monthly payments to the sellers, never missing one. But two years later, the sellers suddenly increased the price of the house. They demanded Ruth and Boris pay up or get evicted and lose everything. When the couple refused, they were given a 10-day eviction notice.

Ruth and Boris' world was falling apart. Their daughter was killed while serving in the military, they were in danger of losing their home and had no resources to hire an attorney. Ruth called Pisgah Legal Services who connected her with volunteer attorney Bryant Webster. "I put my life in his hands," Ruth says. "He was my hope."

For four years Bryant fought multiple eviction attempts on their behalf, eventually unwinding the illegal transaction and securing a new loan with HomeTrust Bank. Ruth says, "My heart is beating again. I'm not lost. We are safe in his hands. We found the right person."

"This case will long count as one of the highlights of my legal career."

Bryant Webster (far right)
 Attorney, Stone & Christy, P.A.,
 Volunteer Attorney for PLS





Stone & Christy, P.A. was honored by the N.C. Bar Association with the statewide 2019 Law Firm Pro Bono Service Award.

2019 MAVL AND EAGLE ATTORNEYS

MAVL = Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyers and EAGLE = Emeritus Attorneys Giving Legal Expertise

Pro Bono Honor Roll 50 or more hours recorded

Jenna Blackwell Kim Brown William Christy Rob Dimitrijevich Cynthia Eller Holly Fairbairn Alex Gomes Linda Kane Robert Kaplan Gerald Kirksev John Noor Julie Northup Ben Scales Philip Smith Cynthia Strom Allan Tarleton Vann Vogel **Bryant Webster**

Pro Bono All Stars

recorded

Cynthia Alleman Leah Broker Jean Brooks April Burt Robert "Bo" Carpenter Steve Carruthers **Bob Clifford** John Crotts Sarah Corley R. Walton Davis. III John Decker James Ellis W. Perry Fisher, II Kerry Friedman C. David Gantt Jason Gast Ben Gilbert Natalie Grav

Anna Hamrick Sam Harben David Hillier Ann-Patton Hornthal Kenny Hunt Harold Kaplan B.J. Kilgore Mark Kurdys Robert Lamb Coalter Lathrop Jessica Leaven Tod Leaven Jean Lee Meredith Lenell Harris Livinastain **Doris Loomis** Tom Lowry Esther Manheimer James Marshall Lance Martin Lucy Massagee Barrett McFatter Jennifer Moore S. Christopher Moore Elizabeth Newman Andrew Parker Will Parz Lois Penn Saul Perla Ben Pitts Robert Pitts Eleanor Powers Eric Rainey Chris Reed Matthew Roberson Kathleen Rodberg Ellen Rose L. Ashley Saville-Amtower Cynthia Schirmer Jennifer Snyder **Brad Stark** John Sutton, Jr. Scott Taylor Gabrielle Trott

Gav Vinson

Hayley R. Wells

Volunteers for Justice

Up to 9 hours recorded

Steve Agan Sharon Alexander Angie Alvarado Andrew Atherton Derrick Bailey Jillian Ballard Frederick Barbour Jack Bebber Nathan Begley Matthew Belitsos William Biggers Annika Brock Hannah Camenzind Eugene Carr, III Vincent Childress, Jr. Catherine Claussen **Eva Clement** Ryan Coffield C. Page Collie Samuel Craig Wendy Craig Elizabeth Cramer Mae Creadick John Crotts Dale Curriden Walter Daniels Rebecca Darchuk Katherine Dare Jerome Davidow Jane Dearwester Robert Deutsch Evan Dewandler **Emily Dezio** Gary Dodd Elleveve Donahue Erin Dunnuck Joanne Dykes James Edmonds Nicki Applefield Engel Paul Erickson **Woodard Farmer** Frank Fischer Katherine Fisher Johanna Fowler

John Frue Victor Garlock Allison Garren Paul Glaser Carol Goins Tikkun Gottschalk Mike Green Paul Groesbeck Daren Gum Jackson Hamilton Joshua Harrold Larry Hartley Edward Hav, Jr. Daniel Hervia Cvnthia Holman Robin Jacobs Kim Jardine Martin Jarrard Ronald Justice, Jr. John Kerr D. Rodnev Kiaht, Jr. Melody Kina Matthew Kitchens Caroline Knox Rich Kucharski Heather Lacev Scott Lamb Sheila Lambert Dennis Langhan Beth Lane Gordon Lanaer Brian Lawler Gene Leicht Richard Maita Blake Marcus Mark Martin Laura Mahr Blake Marcus Betsev Matthews Carol McCrory Patrick McCroskey Diane McDonald Michael McEnery **Dustin McIntee** Mariah McKinnev Eileen McMinn James Minick Michelle Morris

Tom Morris

Heather Newton Rosaire Nottage Janet Paduhovich Lorin Page James Palmer Jason Peltz Leonard Poe Anastasia Prenderaast Susan Taylor Rash Chris Reed Norman Riddle Sabrina Rockoff Kathleen Rodbera Ellen Rose Marc Rudow Susan Russo Klein William Saupe Norman Schaich James Siemens Glen Shults Ronald Sneed Carolyn Snipes Carole Spainhour Neal W. Stanifer Heidi Stewart Jamie Stokes Brian Stretcher Richard Tanker Doualas Tate Margaret Teich Sarah Thornbura Rachel Toth Michael Tracv **Edward Treat** Jenni Turner Elise Wahl Diane Walton Funice Ward Carter Webb Meg Sparger Westall Wiley Westall Jason Wilson William Wolcott, III John Veazev Adam Vorhis Jon Yarbrouah Terry Young

Kenneth Younablood



CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

In 2019 the Buncombe County Bar recognized four attorneys for their outstanding pro bono work (L-R): Emeritus Attorney Eleanor Powers; Natalie Gray, Westall, Gray & Connelly, PA; Lance Martin, Ward & Smith, PA; and Alex Gomes, Montford Law.

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS CONTRIBUTED 3,172 HOURS IN 2019, A VALUE OF \$792,915.

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

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND STAFE!



2019 Summer Law Clerks: (L-R): Daniel Sullivan, Appalachian School of Law; Perrin Lowrey, Cornell Law School; Anna Huntley, North Carolina Central University School of Law; Matthew Belitsos, Emory University School of Law; Anastasia Urian, UNC School of Law; and Coburn Burroughs, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law.

"The day I got legal custody of the kids, everyone in the courtroom was smiling and crying. It wouldn't have happened without Pisgah Legal Services."

- Amanda, client

2019 Board of Directors

William "Bill" Wolcott, III President Shelley Brown, Vice-President Esther Cartwriaht, Treasurer Frank Castelblanco. Secretary Leslie Heywood, **Executive Committee** Member-at-Large Lee Anne Mangone, Past President Sharon Alexander Ryan Coffield Nicki Applefield Engel Judy Futch Claudia Hawkins Harris Livingstain Gwen McKinnev John Noor lindia Pearson Jorge Redmond Charlie Shanor Billy Solmson

Volunteers

Spencer Anderson Sarah Armstrona Jim Bagley William Baker Bob Barrios-Brown Matthew Belitsos Stephanie Biziewski Alexandra Bloch Connor Booher Pat Breher Kim Brown Sally Beth Brown Coburn Burroughs Morgan Burroughs Ivry Cheeks Jackie Chromey Zoe Clarke **Bob Clifford** Carolina Cole Mark Davis Ashley Dyer Sarah Eckerd Peter Eisemann

Breanna Estrada Caroline Fleming Isabelle Freirich Jacob Gabbard Fernanda Garcia Rebecca Goggans Rebecca Goodwin Madeline Greenbera



Joe Hanlon Joey Harrington Hailey Hensley Sam Herbert Jennifer Herrera Mary Jean Herzoa Anna Huntley Kristi Hettenbach Sue Hinterman Clinton Holt Fllie Hudson Susan Hunt **Dylan Jones** David Jons Olga Juarez Aidan Justus Mara Kent Jesse Kitt Gerald Kirksev Maude Kneale Rachel Leslie Sara Lewis **Eriel Lindsev** Kat Little **Emily Lopez** Perrin Lowrey Tom Lowry Marlene Lutete Emily McCarthy Carol McCrory Autumn McKinney Myles McKnight Lynne Meacham Jo Ann Merfeld Neal Meriwether Sophie Mills

Tamson Milton Clinton Montgomery Joe Mouer Amanda Narango Sydney Nazloo Kathy Norris Julie Northup Paula O'Brien Teresa Onofrio Judy Ott Be Owusu Glen Ottley Alex Peña Juan Peña Cynthia Penovi Paula Penovi Hannah Perla Marian Plaut Tom Plaut **Eleanor Powers** Teresa Price **Emily Pulley** Olga Ramos Phillip Reeder Sheila Reeves Ray Reiser Ken Richstad John Robenalt Bonnie Rockwood **Debbie Rogers** Flor Santiago Beryl Shepley Russell Shuler Tom Siekman Andrea Smith Ann Caton Smith Lowell Smith Thom Smythe Sadie Sondgerath Jeremy Stein Pat Strang Daniel Sullivan Catherine Thompson Greta Trautmann Anastasia Urian Bethany Vance Jane Verm **Eunice Ward** Linda Watt **Peggy Weaver** Rachel Weir Alice Weldon Valerie Welbourn Keturah Wilkerson Keith Wright

Committee Volunteers

Maia Baker-Collier Casev Blake Jenny Boyer Salem Coogler Sarah Corley Jason Craia Ron Curran Libby de Caetani Gerald De Land Mary Ellen Dendy Dorothy Foltz-Grav Kerry Friedman Jacaui Friedrich Nathan Garnett Andrew Gibbons Anneliesse Gormlev Ashley Gragtmans Myra Grant Mike Haislip **Edward Hav** Andrew Holcombe Luke Howe Alvsia Johnson Kerry Keihn Melanie Kemp Tara Kerr BJ Kilgore Anne Kimmel Chelsea Lassen Sue McClinton Barrett McFatter Cortland Mercer Patrick O'Cain Eleanor Owen Richard Pigossi Kristie Quinn Jon Sackson Kitty Schaller Bill Smith Pat Smith Phil Smith Jane Swafford Austin Walker Laura Webb Larry Wilson Don Woodard Ann Young Lach Zemp

Health Justice Volunteers

Debbie Aiton Katie Alexander Michael Beech Patricia Call Terry Call Jim Carillon Emily Dake Jeff Dektor Lvnda Feldman Annie Brooks-Fontaine Gilda Gatti Ben Gilbert Claudia Hawkins Marlene Jacoby Gene Keil Lucy Keil Karen Lechner Fred Littleton Leslie Long Lynne Meacham Marianne Mooney Barb Mueller **Becky Pitts** Cajes Pitts Tom Plaut Kathy Quinlan Ann Caton Smith Tom Snow Bob Sondgerath Jane Vasica Katie Winchell

Earned Income Tax Credit Clinic Volunteers

Clive Broadbent Charlotte Caplan Jim Carillon Bob Clifford Jeff Dektor Fanny Hicks Tara Kerr Jo Marcus Glenn Ottley Pat Smith Tom Snow Harvey Wechsler



The Pitts Family

Three generations of the Pitts family volunteer their time to advance the work of Pisgah Legal Services.

Bob was one of several Buncombe County lawyers who assembled a legal aid startup in 1978 that grew to become Pisgah Legal Services. He has served on the Board of Directors, staffed the Attorney Hotline and continues to take pro bono cases. In 2019, PLS honored Bob with the Roy W. Davis, Jr. Volunteer Lawyer Award.

Becky Pitts became a volunteer at Pisgah Legal in 2010 as part of the first group of health justice volunteers enrolling people in ACA health insurance. Becky has volunteered faithfully for all seven ACA Open Enrollment periods. Her grandson, fifteen-year-old Cajes, joined Becky in 2019 by putting together ACA information packets.

Bob and Becky's son, Ben, started volunteering with PLS in 2008 as soon as he received his license to practice law and joined his father's firm at Pitts, Hay & Hugenschmidt. He takes pro bono bankruptcy cases, staffed the Pro Bono Attorney Hotline for nine years, and currently co-hosts the monthly debt clinic at PLS' Asheville office.

Thank you to this generous and giving family!

14,241 VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED IN 2019!

PISGAH LEGAL ATTORNEYS AND STAFF*

Noele Aabye Liz Allen Jim Barrett David Bartholomew Cindy Benitez Parris Booker Rhonda Brown Keverlee Burchett Veronica Burke Isabel Carson Shannon Cornelius Flor Corral Ruby DayBranch Joan Dennehy Sandy Devoid Justin Edge **Emily Ermer** Ben Fehsenfeld Franchesca Figaro Jodi Ford Katherine Freeman Shoshana Fried

Patricia Furnish Sam Winn Galloway Latova Gardner Joanne Gaylord James Gorsuch Beth Herrman Deborah Holt Haley Honeycutt Julie Horrocks Thalia Hoy Jaclyn Kiger Brvan Klinae Katie Latino Thomas Lodwick Brittney Lofthouse Ben Many Molly Maynard Robin Merrell Alicia Merrill Katie Russell Miller Meahan Moran Tom Newton Jacob Oakes

Madeline Offen Sam Peck Kellev Pierce **Nelson Reyes** Tara Reynolds Carol Rogers Anne Salter Dylan Simosko Parker Smith Michelle Spiegel Casey Steen Andrew Stevenson Jeanne Stillson Valerie True Kathy Walker Tracey Walker Jenna Walley Bill Whalen Evie Sandlin White Olivia Williams Ally Wilson Leah Yetter

*as of March 3, 2020



Congratulations to Pisgah Legal Attorney Anne Salter who was elected as the President of the Buncombe County Bar in 2019. Anne has been on staff at Pisgah Legal Services since 2016. For the last two years, she has been embedded at Mountain Area Health and Education Center (MAHEC), implementing a model medical-legal partnership.



- thousands upon thousands of folks assisted over his long career – has included stopping home foreclosures, fighting off predatory lenders, and advocating for debtors' rights.

For almost four decades, Bill has shared his wealth of experience and knowledge,

providing leadership and training to junior staff, summer law clerks and volunteer attorneys.

Bill initiated and led PLS' effort to develop the Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyers Program (MAVL) and served on the local Bar's pro bono committee for 30 years. Countless lives have been changed for the better thanks to Bill's passionate efforts to stand up for those who need it most. Executive Director Jim Barrett says, "Bill's contributions to the effectiveness of Pisgah Legal Services may never be matched." **Thank you, Bill!**

2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

Grants of \$10,000 or More

AMY Wellness Foundation Anonymous Foundation **Beattie Foundation**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation

The Chaddick Foundation

Clannad Foundation

Charles M. and Mary D. Grant Foundation Church of the Good Shepherd

Community Foundation of Henderson County

- Perry N. Rudnick Endowment Fund

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina

- Cashiers Community Fund
- The Fund for Mitchell County
- Henri Landwirth Family Fund
- Highlands Community Fund
- People in Need Grant
- Transylvania Endowment
- Rutherford County Endowment
- Women for Women

Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation

Hot Springs Health Program, Inc. James H. Cumminas Foundation

Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

Lake Toxaway Charities

Mission Health Community Investment

Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC)

N.C. Bar Foundation

RHA Health Services, Inc.

RHI Legacy Foundation, Inc.

Roach Family Foundation

Samuel L. Phillips Family Foundation Sisters of Mercy of N.C. Foundation

Walnut Cove Members Association

Wells Farao Foundation

William Randolph Hearst Foundation

WNC Bridge Foundation

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

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

- N.C. Council for Women and Youth Involvement

Home and Community Care Block Grants U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services

- Legal Aid of N.C.

Victims of Crime Act

- N.C. Governor's Crime Commission
- Family Justice Center (Buncombe)
- Safelight (Henderson)

Violence Against Women Act

- Mediation Center

Local and State Governments

Buncombe County City of Asheville City of Hendersonville Henderson County Madison County **Rutherford County** Transvlvania County

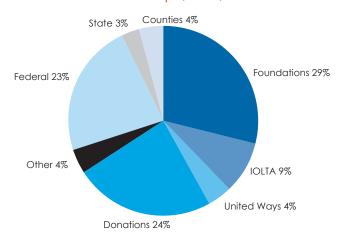
State of North Carolina

IOLTA

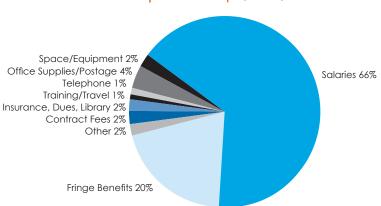
N.C. Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts

PLS also leveraged \$792,915 in pro bono legal services in cases closed in 2019.

Revenue: \$5,801,008*



Expenses: \$5,297,746



^{*}These numbers are based on information available as of March 10, 2020. A few items, such as depreciation and contributions to the PLS Endowment, are not included. Most excess revenue over expenses in 2019 is restricted for expenses in 2020. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensina Branch at 888.830.4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

THANK YOU

FRIENDS, DONORS AND SUPPORTERS - YOU MAKE JUSTICE A REALITY -

2019 DONORS

Anonymous (7)

Champions for Justice

Asheville Radio Group **AVL Technologies** Rosaire Nottage and Michael Bauer Beattie Foundation Biltmore Company Joe and Kay Bollinaer Shelley and Kirk Brown Chaddick Foundation Church of the Good Shepherd Clannad Foundation Amy and Cecil Conlee Madeline Davis Gerald De Land Fran and Allan Fedor Arnold and Bernice Green Janet and Andrew Hart Jennifer and George Hodges, Jr. Lake Toxaway Charities, Inc. Theresa and Gary Landwirth Diane and H. Ray McPhail The Paton Fund at CFHC Francella Poston Kenneth Privat Roach Family Foundation Samuel L. Phillips Family Foundation Security Camera Warehouse Susan and Charles Shanor Karen Spacek and Billy Solmson Tish and Paul Szurek Terry and Ted Van Duyn Jennifer and Vann Vogel Walnut Cove Members Association Nancy Allen and Jack Webb

Partners for Justice

Anonymous (2) Claudia Ann Baldwin Sharon Tracey Barrett and James Barrett Blue Ridae Public Radio Jennifer and Travis Boyer Barbara Campbell Central United Methodist Church of Asheville The Daniels Group Carol and Robert Deutsch Episcopal Church of the Incarnation Joe and Mariie Eubank Bob and Marjorie Feagin First United Methodist Church of Hendersonville Judy and Louis Freeman Janet and John Garrett Leslie Sladky-Hillman and Ed Hillman, III



HomeTrust Bank

W. Stell Huie (above, right)
Joel Adams, Raymond
James Financial Services,
Inc.
Katie Button Restaurants
Tara and John Kerr, Jr.
Susan and Gerald Kirksey
Lawrence Klamon
Jill and Joe Lawrence
Sharon and Richard LeDuc
Lyn and Tom Leslie
Little Acorn Fund - H
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JUSTICE IS RISING ALL YEAR ROUND - THANKS TO YOU AND THESE GREAT FOLKS -



April: Terry and Patricia Call are honored for their outstanding volunteer work at Pisgah Legal's annual Jazz for Justice Celebration.



May: Asheville Radio Group staffers Cathy Courtenay Smith and Thad Monteiro make volunteer attorney Vann Vogel feel at ease while recording a spot to promote Java for Justice.



July: Local chefs serve up their most delicious dishes at "Our Global Table," in support of PLS' immigration work. Special thanks to organizers Suzy Phillips and George Awad.



August: Presenters take a break after this Lunch & Learn event about Community Economic Development efforts and new affordable housing options.



October: Wicked Weed Brewing makes lunch a special occasion with its "Beer & Bites" fundraiser for Pisgah Legal. Thank you for your continued support!



October: Board Member Leslie Heywood (L) and Margo Gongora meet Jose Antonio Vargas, Justice Forum keynote speaker, Pulitzer Prize winner, author and filmmaker.

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"Beyond our employees and guests, Katie Button Restaurants is passionate about caring for the Asheville community and causes that support community members in times of crisis.



We find that the Pisgah Legal Services' mission to pursue justice by providing legal assistance and advocacy to help low-income people in Western North Carolina meet their basic needs and improve their lives, is unique, much needed and very close to our hearts. We admire the leadership, dedication and responsibility the PLS staff and volunteers demonstrate, and believe that their work makes WNC a better place for everyone who calls it home."

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