

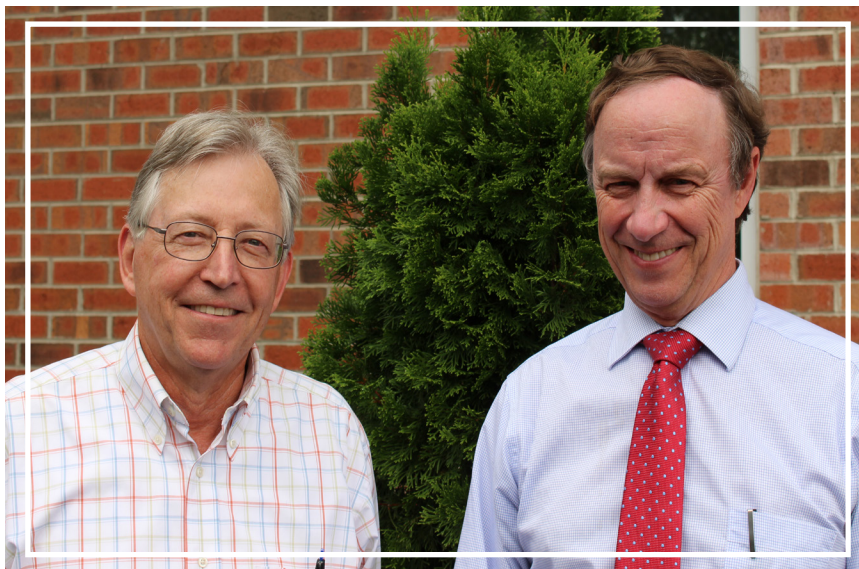


JUSTICE RISING

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

THANKS TO YOU, JUSTICE IS RISING

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Back in 2007, when Pisgah Legal Services (PLS) launched its capital campaign to move from the historic Gudger House in Asheville to the more modern and larger office on Charlotte Street, then Board President Don Locke set an admirable yet lofty goal:

double the number of people we served to 20,000 in 2020.

At the time, assisting 20,000 people annually was hard to imagine, and yet looking back on 2019 PLS increased access to justice for 18,858 people. That aspirational goal is now within reach thanks to selfless volunteers, dedicated staff members and generous supporters like you.

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 having access to affordable health care.

Justice in Western North Carolina is rising. 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. Plans are underway to open 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 low-income 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.

- 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.

Thank you for helping Pisgah Legal serve people who need us most, strengthening mountain communities and advocating for more just laws for our entire state.

Together we will continue to advocate justice for everyone, not just those who can afford it.


William "Bill" Wolcott, III
Board President


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 Cases Closed with Pisgah Legal Representation



97%
obtained/enforced protective order against abuser



99%
secured or maintained custody of children



97%
prevented or delayed eviction



97%
obtained legal status for immigrants



83%
obtained, preserved or increased SSI benefit

*According to the 2017 Justice Gap Report, with research by Legal Services Corporation.

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."

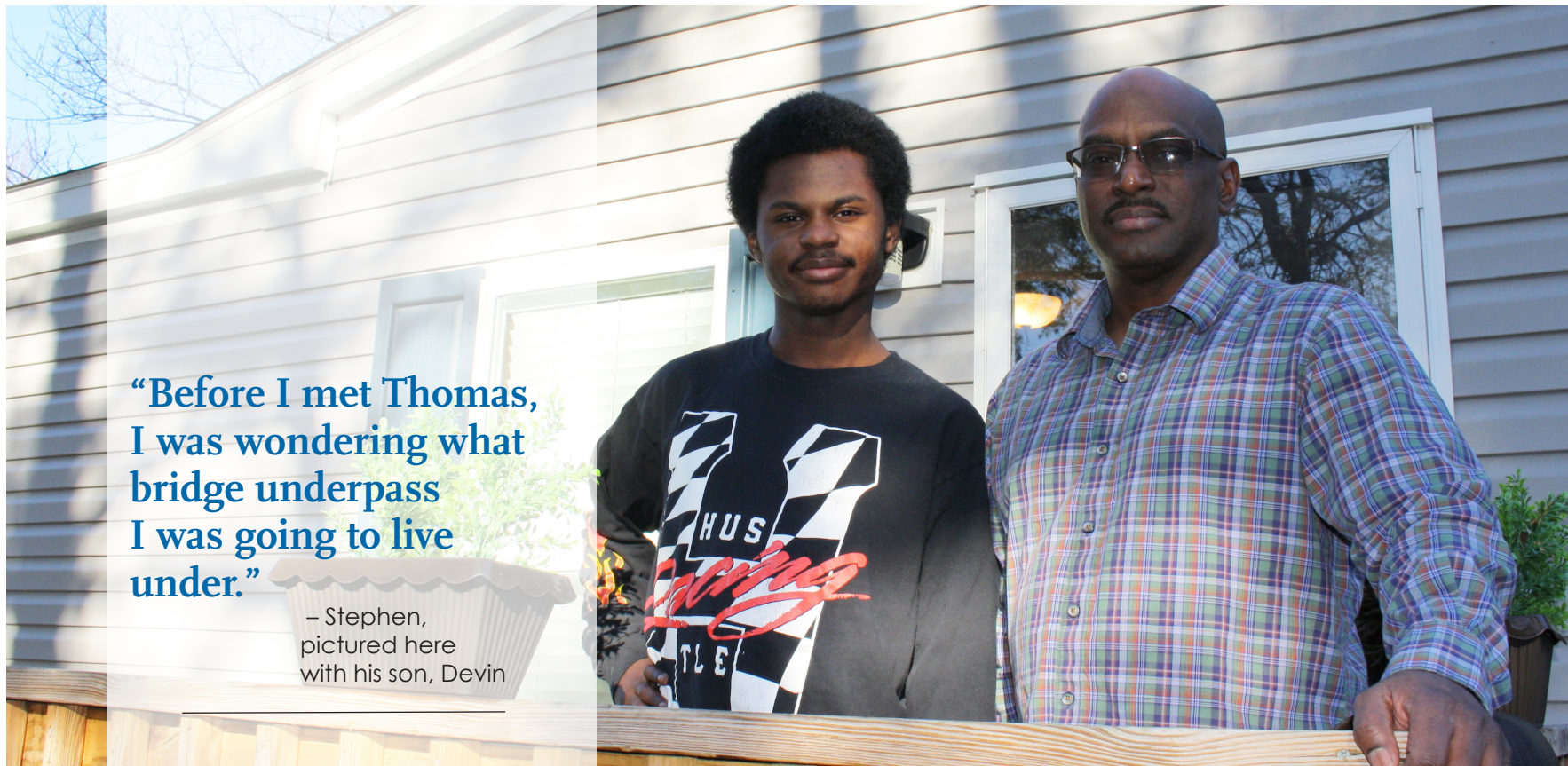
"I suffered for 14 years of my life. I don't want anyone else to go through this."

— "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 this advocacy!



**“Before I met Thomas,
I was wondering what
bridge underpass
I was going to live
under.”**

– Stephen,
pictured here
with his son, Devin

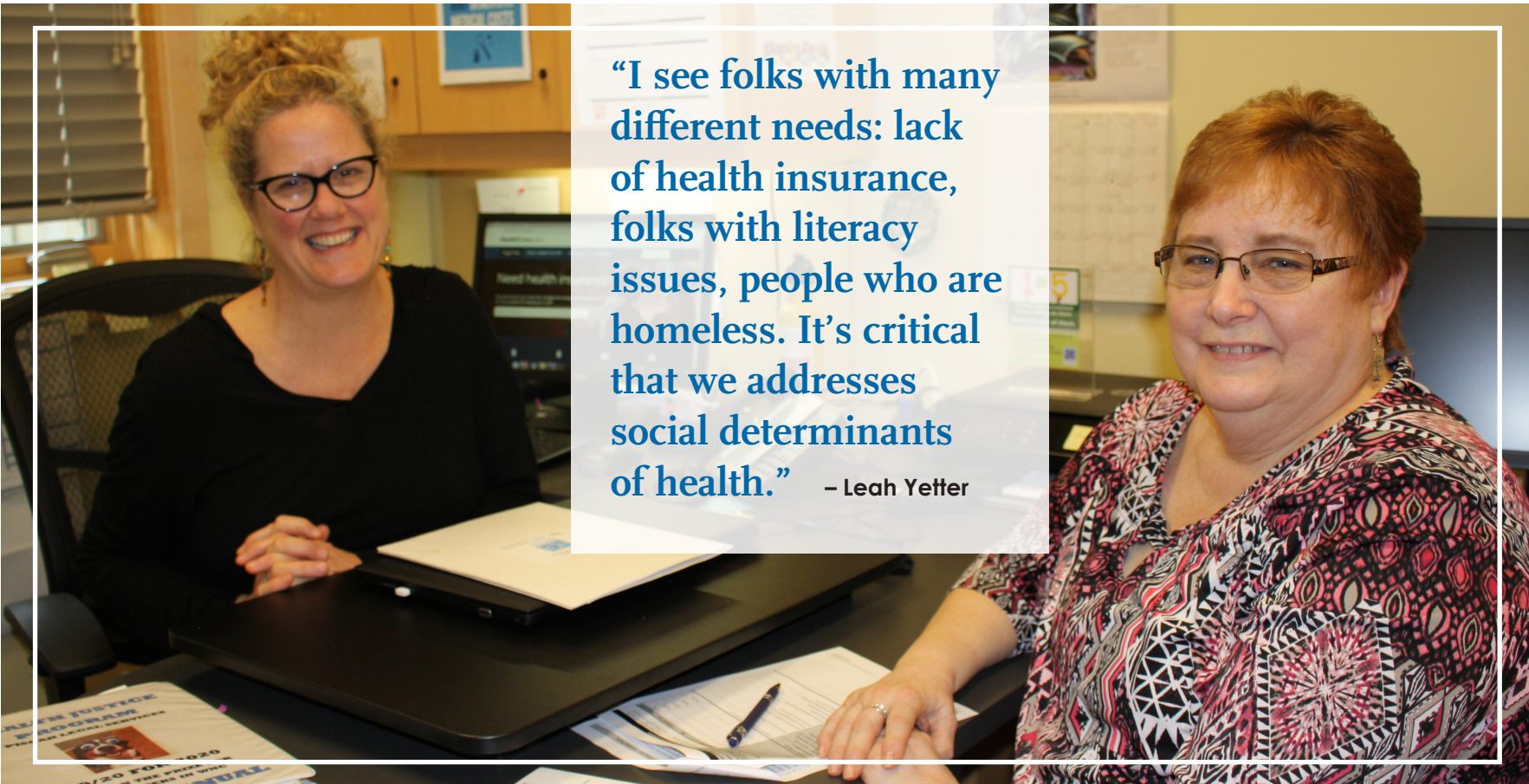
Preventing Homelessness

When Stephen and his wife separated, he became the sole caregiver to 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 eviction 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 through this program that positions staff and volunteer housing attorneys inside the Buncombe County Courthouse.



“I see folks with many different needs: lack of health insurance, folks with literacy issues, people who are homeless. It’s critical that we address social determinants of health.”

– Leah Yetter

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 who had all been 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 our 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 here 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 Kraig



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 themselves, 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, there were still 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 that 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.



"If it wasn't for Pisgah Legal Services, I think we would still be checking the mailbox every day."

– Matt, pictured here with Abeer and their son

Watch a video of their story at pisgahlegal.org.



Securing More Money for Working Families

Working folks, particularly those with families, may be eligible for hundreds or even thousands of dollars back on their tax returns, even if they may not technically be required to file due to their low incomes. Through the **Earned Income Tax Credit**, 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. We also saved clients more than \$36,000 that would have been paid to tax preparers instead of using this free service.



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, an executive director has been hired and construction on new housing begins in 2020. Find out more at abclt.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 and the AMY Wellness Foundation. PLS Attorney Olivia Williams (left) is one of the staff attorneys who works in these counties.

In 2020, PLS opens 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 regions.

LEGAL AID PROGRAMS

PROVIDED BY PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES



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

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

MAVL/Hotline/Emeritus Attorneys Harnesses the power of volunteer attorneys by providing opportunities to serve PLS clients pro bono.



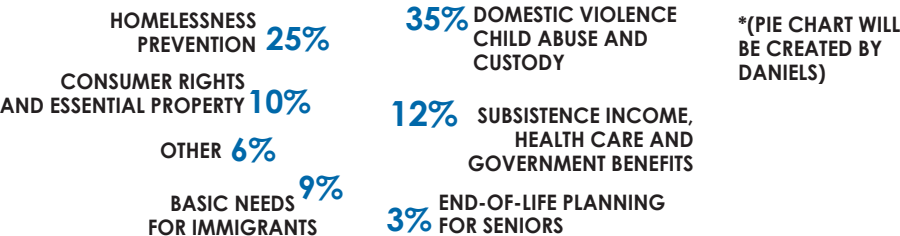
Impact on Mountain Communities



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)



18,858

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

INCOME



\$13,955
average annual
income/client,
closed and
pending cases

CHILDREN



49%
of cases, closed
and pending,
involved children
in the household

AGE

18%

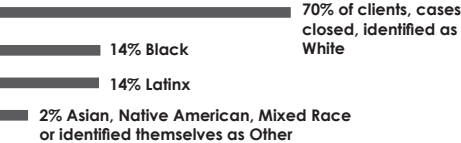
of clients, closed
cases, are 60
years of age
or older

GENDER



76%
of clients identified
as women, 24% as
men, in cases closed
in 2019

RACE/ETHNICITY



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, put \$80,000 down, 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 their down payment. 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 Dimitrijevic
Cynthia Eller
Holly Fairbairn
Alex Gomes
Linda Kane
Robert Kaplan
Gerald Kirksey
John Noor
Julie Northup
Ben Scales
Philip Smith
Cynthia Strom
Allan Tarleton
Vann Vogel
Bryant Webster

Pro Bono All Stars 10-49 hours 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 Gray
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 Livingstain
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
Gay 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 Bebbler
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 Greer
Paul Groesbeck
Daren Gum
Jackson Hamilton
Joshua Harrold
Larry Hartley
Edward Hay, Jr.
Daniel Hervig
Cynthia Holman
Robin Jacobs
Kim Jardine
Martin Jarrard
Ronald Justice, Jr.
John Kerr
D. Rodney Kight, Jr.
Melody King
Matthew Kitchens
Caroline Knox
Rich Kucharski
Heather Lacey
Scott Lamb
Sheila Lambert
Dennis Lanahan
Beth Lane
Gordon Langer
Brian Lawler
Gene Leicht
Richard Malta
Blake Marcus
Mark Martin
Laura Mahr
Blake Marcus
Betsey Matthews
Carol McCrory
Patrick McCroskey
Diane McDonald
Michael McEnery
Dustin McIntee
Mariah McKinney
Eileen McMinn
James Minick
Michelle Morris
Tom Morris

Heather Newton
Rosaire Nottage
Janet Paduhovich
Lorin Page
James Palmer
Jason Peltz
Leonard Poe
Anastasia Prendergast
Susan Taylor Rash
Chris Reed
Norman Riddle
Sabrina Rockoff
Kathleen Rodberg
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
Douglas Tate
Margaret Teich
Sarah Thornburg
Rachel Toth
Michael Tracy
Edward Treat
Jenni Turner
Elise Wahl
Diane Walton
Eunice Ward
Carter Webb
Meg Sparger Westall
Wiley Westall
Jason Wilson
William Wolcott, III
John Veazey
Adam Vorhis
Jon Yarbrough
Terry Young
Kenneth Youngblood

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



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.**

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

THANK YOU

VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF!



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

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Sarah Armstrong
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Stephanie Biziewski
Alexandra Bloch
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Fernanda Garcia
Rebecca Goggans
Rebecca Goodwin
Madeline Greenberg



Adriana Guerrero (above)

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Kristi Hettenbach
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Clinton Holt
Ellie Hudson
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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 Pena
Juan Pena
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
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Anastasia Urian
Bethany Vance
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Eunice Ward
Linda Watt
Peggy Weaver
Rachel Weir
Alice Weldon
Valerie Welbourn
Keturah Wilkerson
Keith Wright

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Casey Blake
Jenny Boyer
Salem Coogler
Sarah Corley
Jason Craig
Ron Curran
Libby de Caetani
Gerald De Land
Mary Ellen Dendy
Dorothy Foltz-Gray
Kerry Friedman
Jacqui Friedrich
Nathan Garnett
Andrew Gibbons
Anneliese Gormley
Ashley Gragtmans
Myra Grant
Mike Haislip
Edward Hay
Andrew Holcombe
Luke Howe
Alysia Johnson
Kerry Keihn
Melanie Kemp
Tara Kerr
BJ Kilgore
Anne Kimmel
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
Lynda 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
Francesca Figaro
Jodi Ford
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Patricia Furnish
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Latoya Gardner
Joanne Gaylord
James Gorsuch
Beth Herrman
Deborah Holt
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Julie Horrocks
Thalia Hoy
Jaclyn Kiger
Bryan Klinge
Katie Latino
Thomas Lodwick
Brittney Lofthouse
Ben Many
Molly Maynard
Robin Merrell
Alicia Merrill
Meghan Moran
Tom Newton
Jacob Oakes
Madeline Offen

Sam Peck
Kelley Pierce
Nelson Reyes
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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.



After 39 years as a staff attorney for Pisgah Legal Services, Bill Whalen is retiring in 2020.

Bill's tireless work on behalf of his clients – 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

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Wells Fargo Foundation
William Randolph Hearst 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

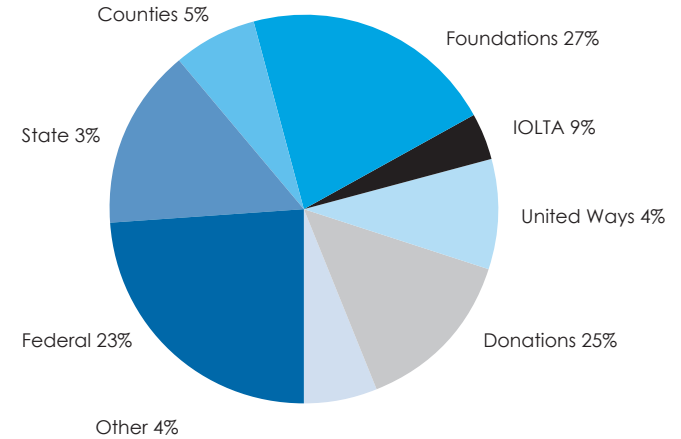
Community Development Block Grant
- City of Asheville
Family Violence Prevention and Services
- N.C. Council for Women
Home and Community Care Block Grants
U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services
- Legal Aid of N.C.
Victims of Crime Act
- N.C. Governor's Crime Commission
- Family Justice Center (Buncombe)
- Safelight (Henderson)
Violence Against Women Act
- Mediation Center

Local and State Governments

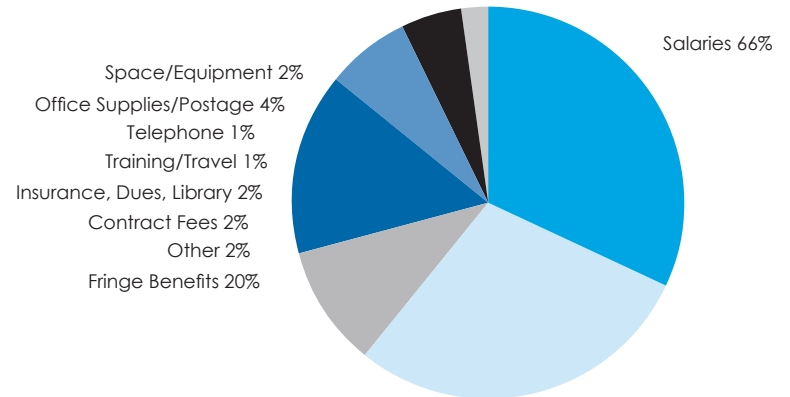
Buncombe County
City of Asheville
City of Hendersonville
Henderson County
Madison County
Rutherford County
Transylvania County
State of North Carolina

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

Revenue: \$5,611,008



Expenses: \$5,297,746



IOLTA
N.C. Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts

**NEED FROM
BRYAN/
VERONICA**

These numbers are based on information available as of March 3, 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 Licensing Branch at 888.830.4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

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- YOU MAKE JUSTICE A REALITY -

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JUSTICE 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 their "Beer & Bites" fundraiser for Pisgah Legal. Thank you for your continued support!



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

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Kate and Joe Sam Queen

"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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Photo by Jesse Kiff

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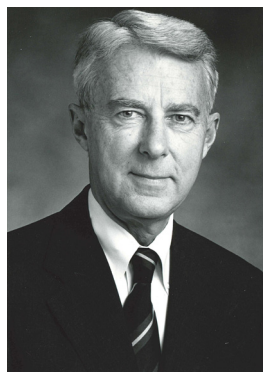
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