Soon after Chett was laid off from his job of 15 years, he began showing symptoms of multiple sclerosis. He also lives with diabetes. Chett was denied Medicaid despite his diagnosis, told by the state that he did not meet North Carolina’s criteria for disability. Behind on his mortgage, unable to work, and in serious need of medical care, Chett came to Pisgah Legal Services where attorney Molly Maynard saved Chett’s home by negotiating with the lender on his mobile home’s mortgage and with the landlord to pay the lot rent he had fallen behind on.

Chett’s Story

Pisgah Legal Services is a nonprofit organization that provides a broad array of free, civil legal aid, anti-poverty advocacy and access to health care to people with low incomes in Western North Carolina.
Pisgah Legal Attorneys Thomas Lodwick and Shoshana Barton halted efforts to strip Chett of the $250/month in food stamps he receives, and successfully appealed Chett’s Medicaid denial.

Pisgah Legal Social Worker Judi Schultze transported Chett to and from his Medicaid hearings and doctors’ appointments, and brought him food and medicine. She also worked with local churches and nonprofits to clear his medical debts of $200 or less so that he could get the medical care that he needs.

Pisgah Legal’s holistic services for Chett

- Attorneys
- Social Worker
- Saved home
- Advocacy
- Secured health care
- Food, medicine, transportation

$24 million+ secured in quantifiable financial benefits

- $750,646 in benefits for people with disabilities
- $1,090,499 tax refunds secured
- $635,372 estimated in Medicaid and Medicare benefits, payable to WNC medical providers
- $8,067,163 in monetary benefits for clients, such as home equity preserved from foreclosure, child support, etc.
- $12,893,288 estimated health insurance premium tax credits
- $654,000 value of pro bono hours donated

ONLY 1 LEGAL AID ATTORNEY is available for every 8,000 North Carolinians eligible for legal services.

PEOPLE HELPED BY PISGAH LEGAL PROGRAM IN 2022

VOLUNTEER attorneys and community members donated more than 10,000 hours of their time in 2022.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE, CUSTODY 24%
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION 20%
INCOME, HEALTH, BENEFITS 5%
BASIC NEEDS FOR IMMIGRANTS 4%
CONSUMER RIGHTS 4%
END-OF-LIFE PLANNING 2%
TAX SERVICES 6%
ACA HEALTH INSURANCE 11%
NC MEDICAID OMBUDSMAN 21%
EXPUNGEMENT & DL RESTOR. 2%
MISC. 1%