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In North Carolina there are currently more than 10,000 children in Department of Social Services (DSS) custody. Sometimes children are forced to sleep on the floors of social services offices due to the lack of foster care homes.

Taking on the Foster Care Crisis

THE DUKE ENDOWMENT FUNDS AN INNOVATIVE THREE-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM FOR PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES TO KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

Thanks to a generous three-year grant from The Duke Endowment, Pisgah Legal Services is partnering with DSS organizations in Rutherford and Henderson counties to launch an inventive approach to address the foster care crisis.

The pilot program, **the first of its kind in the state**, will provide holistic civil legal services so that families with low incomes can avoid losing their children due to issues of poverty, such as poor housing conditions, loss of public benefits, lack of income or domestic violence.

Pisgah Legal Chief Operations Officer Jaclyn Kiger says, **“We are excited to explore this ‘upstream’ approach, to resolve critical issues before children are separated from their parents** by bringing a host of services and resources to these at-risk families and avoiding trauma caused by unnecessary family separations.”

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to The Duke Endowment! We will keep you posted with updates as this program progresses.



SAVE THE DATE!

Oct. 10th
Justice Forum
featuring social justice leader and Distinguished Immigration Scholar **Marielena Hincapié.**
pisgahlegal.org/justiceforum

Jerry and Marlene Sternberg Make Generous Gift

“TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT” MADE TO PURCHASE PROPERTY, ENSURE FUTURE GROWTH



Inset photo: Long-time Pisgah Legal supporters Jerry and Marlene Sternberg. Larger photo: Jerry Sternberg and Executive Director Jim Barrett discuss possible uses for the .576-acre property.

Thanks to the generosity of philanthropists Jerry and Marlene Sternberg, Pisgah Legal Services has purchased land at 52 Orchard Street, adjacent to the nonprofit’s main Asheville office location on Charlotte Street.

Barrett remarked, “Thanks to Jerry and Marlene’s extraordinary generosity, this transformative gift meant that we did not have to divert funds from our operating budget which is already under pressure due to cuts in federal funding.”

Jerry Sternberg remarked, “Marlene and I are proud to help Pisgah Legal Services. It’s one of the most productive nonprofits in the community. Pisgah Legal has become a totally necessary service in our Asheville community and surrounding counties.”

Sternberg continued, “Their activities, large and small, can make a tremendous difference in the lives of people who have no access to legal assistance. **You can’t continue to grow the services if you can’t continue to grow the infrastructure.**”

PLS Executive Director Jim Barrett said, “Jerry’s expertise in commercial real estate investment caused him to see the wisdom in Pisgah Legal owning this adjacent property which will allow us to address our immediate need for more office space and parking.”

*“We could think of no better choice than to purchase the land which is ideally located and works well for clients to access ...and it’s located on the bus line.”
– Jerry Sternberg*

“This gift will ultimately allow us to serve more people and explore other mission-driven development options. We are thrilled and grateful for their kindness and foresight,” said Barrett.

Sternberg added, “We could think of no better choice than to purchase the land which is ideally located and works well for clients to access by expanding parking, and it’s located on the bus line.”

He emphasized, **“I encourage others to support Pisgah Legal, and, once a plan is in place for the property, help make sure that this important work continues.”**

Free Legal Services for Ukrainians

CLINIC ASSISTS MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE HERE IN WNC, ALLOWING THEM TO REMAIN IN U.S. LEGALLY



Many Ukrainians are starting over in America after fleeing the Russian invasion. Volunteer attorneys Ben Scales and Tim Tyson shown here with the Shykov family.

In May, Pisgah Legal Services partnered with Lutheran Services Carolinas and Catholic Charities to host a legal clinic to assist 52 Ukrainians living in WNC after fleeing from the Russian invasion in 2022. We recruited and trained 16 volunteer attorneys to help adults and children apply to renew their “humanitarian parole” status, a temporary permission that allows them to remain in the U.S.

Many thanks to the volunteer attorneys, administrative volunteers, interpreters, friends who prepared and donated food, and to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church for providing space for the clinic.



Celebrating Terrific Pro Bono Attorneys

The Buncombe County Bar and Pisgah Legal recently honored six attorneys for providing outstanding services at no cost to our clients. (L-R) Hannah Michalove, Bob Pitts, Sheila Lambert, Linda Kane, Kerry Friedman and Dale Curriden. **THANK YOU for your kindness!**

YOU MAKE GIVING FUN!



Jesse Kitt Photo

This year’s **Kids Deserve Justice** event on May 21st was a big success – raising over \$50,000 for our **Children’s Law Program** – thanks to hundreds of supporters, families and sponsors who contributed to this wonderful cause.

Guests enjoyed live music, face painting, and a silent auction at Rabbit Rabbit in Asheville.

You make it possible for Pisgah Legal to assist thousands of children and families in need of stable housing, protection from abuse, health care and more. Learn more or make a gift at **pisgahlegal.org**.



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**“Often when you think you’re at the end of something,
you’re at the beginning of something else.”**

– Fred Rogers

Celebrating Jim’s 40+ Years, Incredible Impact

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION HONORING OUR INSPIRING LEADER

Accolades and awards are mounting for Pisgah Legal Executive Director Jim Barrett as he prepares to retire.



Bar President Matt Roberson presented Jim with the **Buncombe Bar’s 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award**

at their luncheon on June 5th (right).

The North Carolina State Bar plans to recognize Jim’s exemplary service to the legal profession with **The John B. McMillan Distinguished Service Award**, to be presented later in the Fall.

We hope you will join us for **Jim’s Retirement Bash** on July 18th. **The event is free** thanks to our generous sponsors, but registration is required. **Don’t Wait!** Sign up today – details at right.

Pisgah Legal Presents

Jim Barrett's Retirement Bash

July 18, 2024 — 5:30pm

Highland Brewing Co., AVL

More info at pisgahlegal.org/jim