



LEGAL AID
— OF THE —
BLUEGRASS

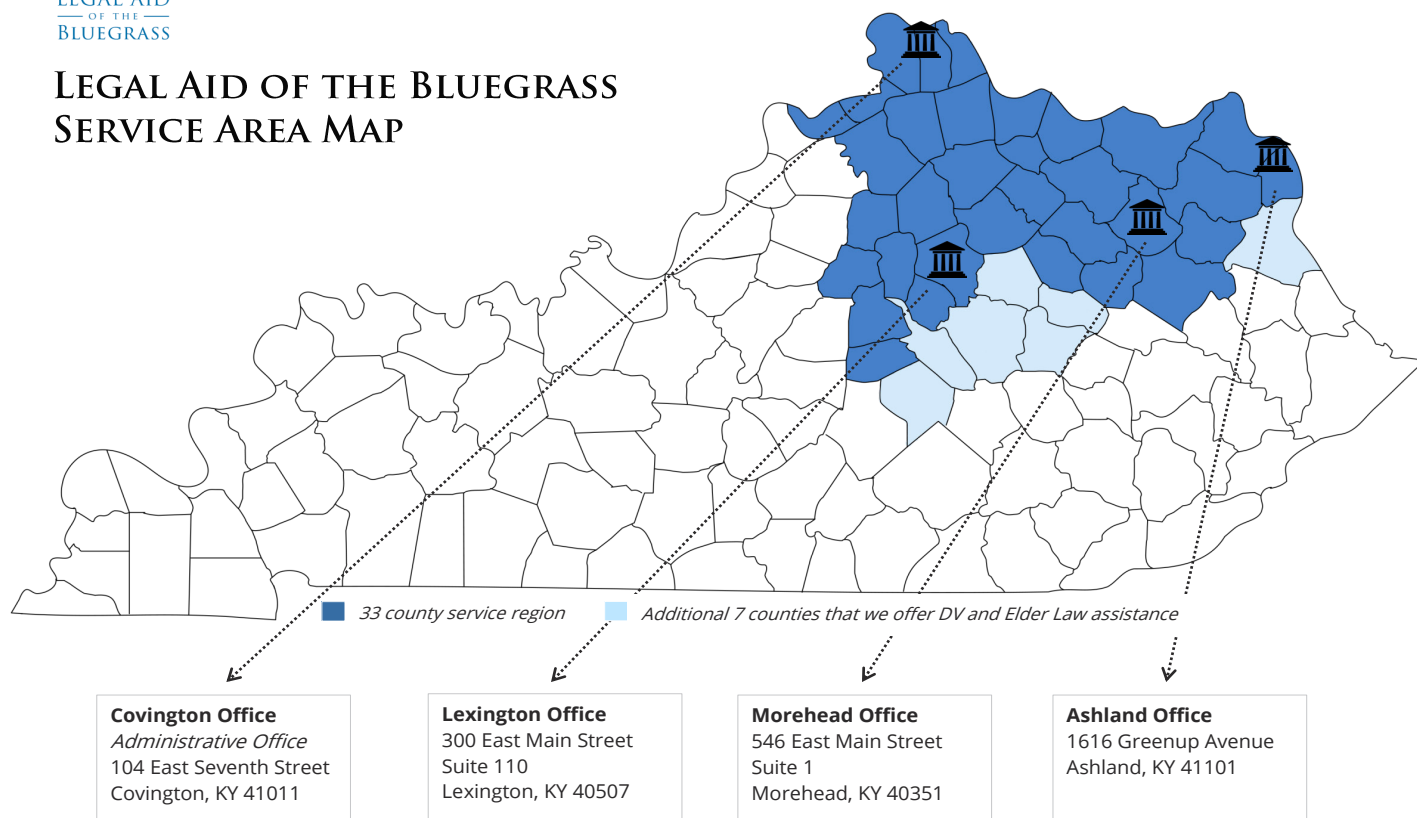
2016

ANNUAL REPORT





LEGAL AID OF THE BLUEGRASS SERVICE AREA MAP



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Dear Friends and Supporters,

During this time where there exists much contention in our society, it is essential to remember those constants that keep us moving forward. For Legal Aid of the Bluegrass that means focusing on those who inspire our work and those that hold the torch to ensure justice for all. The strength of our clients motivates us to work harder, and their victories are our greatest reward. LABG's volunteers, generous donors, supporting organizations, board of directors and staff make up the team that fight for these victories and are just as important to our success as an organization as they are to the ideals established by the Constitution.

Everyday, Legal Aid of the Bluegrass works to **ensure fairness, protect families and change lives**. This slogan is more than just buzz words strewn together; it is a motto by which our team operates. When people turn to Legal Aid of the Bluegrass for help, they are in desperate situations. Our legal staff and advocates offer solutions and hope that resolve issues immediately and create a framework for a better future. Our clients and supporters share an important value: an expectation of justice.

Throughout this report, we will emphasize how our slogan propagates the ideals of our organization and the other ways we pave the road to dignity and justice for all. In the past few years, we have taken **BOLD** steps to remain effective in our mission by: taking on a new look and refreshing the way we talk about our work, remaining relevant through our use of our social media and our updated website, being creative with our community outreach, and making sure that the work we do continues to serve those it is intended.

We depend on the generosity, goodwill, and sense of fairness of people to provide us with the resources to represent the interests of those in poverty. This is a thank you letter to all of you – our clients, our supporters, and our friends throughout the Commonwealth. Thank you for your commitment to equal justice which guides Legal Aid of the Bluegrass even in times of uncertainty.

"Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the façade of the Supreme Court building; it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. It is one of the ends for which our entire legal system exists... it is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status." – Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

Sincerely,



Joshua B. Crabtree
Executive Director



James R. Kruer
President, Board of Directors



2016

The Year in Review & A Look Ahead



LABG Advocacy Director, Glenda Harrison was presented the 2016 Donated Legal Services Award by the Kentucky Bar Association. She has worked for Legal Aid for over 40 years.



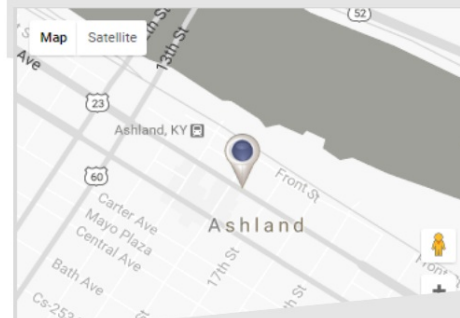
Hundreds of community outreach events in 2016 including expungement and wills clinics and education on our services and programs.



4 Legal Aid University events provided free training to 32 NKY attorneys and law students in exchange for participation in LABG pro bono and pro se programs.



Conducted Legal Needs Assessment with 1,127 surveys and 6 focus groups. Based on results, LABG will expand its consumer law unit and develop an environmental justice project.



The Ashland Office moved to 1616 Greenup Avenue and is now located near public transportation, local courthouses and other service providers.

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

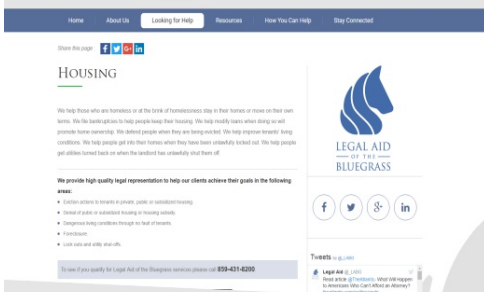
\$561,991 Direct Service Benefit
\$6,275,167 Long-Term Outcome Benefit

REPRESENTATION FOR ABUSE

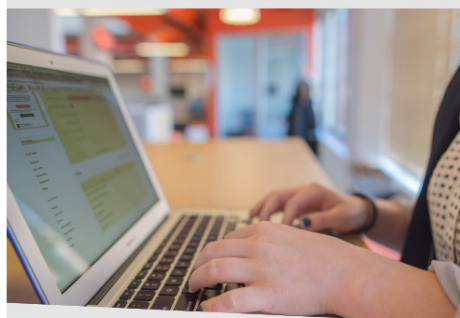
\$2,702,600
\$3,326,000 Outcome

SECURING PUBLIC IT

Legal Aid Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment Analysis completed to measure financial value created through delivery of services. The study found that for every \$1 invested in LABG, an average of \$7.45 was returned to the community.



LABG launched a new website in July 2016. The site received 29,516 views from July-December.



The LABG page on the kyjustice.org website that provides information on all Kentucky Legal Services programs received 180,064 views in 2016.



LABG ended 2016 with 547 Facebook page likes and 257 Twitter followers.

LABG produced 4 community newsletters reaching 2,729 readers

Pro Bono Awards event series

Northern Kentucky Volunteer Lawyers

October 4, 2016

Celebrating 38 Years of Access to Justice



Pictured Left: David MacKnight with Law Student of the Year award winner, Jennifer Pruitt and James Dressman with DBL. Pictured Center Top: Nick of Time awardee, Jennifer Gatherwright, with NKBA Executive Director Julie Jones. Pictured Center Bottom: Pro Bono Attorney of the Year winner, Irene L. Rachlinski. Pictured Right: Director Emeritus Dick Cullison presenting the Third Annual "Justice for All" award to Michael J. O'Hara.

Fayette County Bar Association Pro Bono Program

Celebrating 31 Years of Access to Justice

October 25, 2016



This event also sponsored by Judge Glenn E. Acree and Judge Laurance B. VanMeter. Pictured Left: Pro Bono Coordinator, Joshua Fain, Judge Lucinda Masterton, Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, Ann D'Ambruoso with her mother and LABG Executive Director, Joshua Crabtree. Pictured Right Top: Keynote Speaker, Supreme Court of Kentucky Deputy Chief Justice Mary Noble. Pictured Right Bottom: Oscar H. Gerald, winner of the Access to Justice Award. Not pictured: Kristen Gordon, Outstanding Lay Volunteer and Trinia Clemons (19??-2016), Friend of Pro Bono awardee.



Lawyers Mutual
www.lmick.com

ENSURING FAIR

LABG ensures fairness in the civil justice system for the most vulnerable members of our community. While individual rights found in the Constitution are sweeping in their promises, these rights are not self-enforcing.

Every day, LABG attorneys fight for rights of low-income Americans with little fanfare and enormous dedication. They pursue work that makes our legal system more fair, equal, and just for all, irrespective of wealth or status. Access to justice is a core principle of the rule of law. Failure to provide such access to our legal system undermines confidence in the fairness of our justice system, and the founding values of our nation.

As the late Justice Antonin Scalia powerfully declared at the Legal Services Corporation's 40th Anniversary conference in 2014:

“The American ideal is not for some justice, it is as the Pledge of Allegiance says,

‘liberty and justice for all,’ or as the Supreme Court pediment has it, ‘equal Justice.’

Can there be justice if it is not equal? Can there be a just society when some do not have justice? Equality, equal treatment, is perhaps the most fundamental element of justice.”

SHINKLE V. TURNER

Renting is the reality for many low-income families. Preserving affordable rental housing is important in keeping families stable. Loss of income due to lack of work, medical issues, or other unexpected expenses such as fixing a car, can result in a family being unable to timely pay rent. When non-payment of rent occurs, the

process of removing a family from the rental property, otherwise known as eviction, begins. Ensuring that families are given proper notice to prepare for relocation of their home can make all the difference.

In 2016, LABG obtained a significant victory for families who rent their homes. The Supreme Court of Kentucky in Shinkle v. Turner, 496 S.W.3d 418 (Ky. 2016), held that the time specified in the notice to vacate given to the tenant must pass before a landlord is entitled to possession of the rental property. Until the landlord is entitled to possession, the tenant cannot be “forcibly detaining” the property, and no eviction should be filed until that time has passed. The premature filing of forcible detainers was all too commonplace with many landlords filing well in advance of the notice period passing.

The rule of law established in Shinkle v. Turner, 496 S.W.3d 418 (Ky. 2016), provides guidance to tenants and landlords alike on the proper way of conducting an eviction. It allows families to maintain stable housing for the time specified by law, safeguards their due process rights in the eviction process, allowing families time to make a smooth transition to new housing. As important, it has ignited a timely conversation on why landlord-tenant law should evolve to meet the needs of individuals who rent property and individuals who rent their homes.

**Read the Supreme Court of
Kentucky Opinion at**

<http://opinions.kycourts.net/sc/2015-SC-000039-DG.pdf>

RNESS



DEFENSE FOR ERIC C. CONN CLIENTS

LABG ensures fairness for individuals by helping those who have been denied benefits to which they are entitled and providing assistance when those benefits are reduced or terminated. In 2016, LABG worked in conjunction with other Kentucky civil legal aid programs to defend over a thousand Eastern Kentucky residents who were facing termination of their Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability benefits through no fault of their own.

After a lengthy federal investigation, attorney Eric C. Conn was indicted and later pled guilty to theft of government money and payment of illegal gratuities to a federal judge. Most, if not all, of the individuals were unaware of Mr. Conn's fraudulent activities and were legitimately seeking disability benefits. Initially, the federal investigation halted benefit payments for all in question. Families were thrown into turmoil and despair. After legal intervention and advocacy by Rep. Hal Rogers, benefits were allowed to continue until administrative hearings could be conducted for each person whose benefits were in question.

Representation for these vulnerable Eastern Kentucky people was vital to their success in maintaining Social Security disability benefits. Working in collaboration with legal aid attorneys, pro bono attorneys from across the state volunteered their time to represent people whose legitimate disability cases had been compromised by the unlawful and unethical acts of Conn.



EXPANSION OF EXPUNGEABLE OFFENSES IN KENTUCKY

In 2016, Kentucky passed legislation allowing certain non-violent class D felonies to be expunged. Criminal record expungement will remove significant barriers to employment and housing which are critical to achieving financial independence and family stability. In addition to sharing information about the expansion of expungable offenses through outreach events, LABG conducts clinics offering one-on-one assistance to eligible Kentucky residents.

For a list of all eligible class D felonies visit:

<http://lablaw.org/sites/default/files/Eligible%20Class%20D%20Felonies.pdf>

PROTECT

When the stability of a family is disrupted by the loss of safety, housing, or benefits which help them meet basic needs, LABG can identify legal solutions that improve client's lives. Although our family law work primarily focuses on assisting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking achieve safety and independence; all LABG services have a positive impact on our clients and their families. For example by helping a low-income mother fight a reduction of SNAP benefits, we ease the financial burden of the whole family and preserve access to healthy food for children in the home.

LABG attorneys, advocates and volunteers combat civil legal problems that threaten the strength of a family's foundation. Our work to keep families safe reaches every person in the household, young or old, man or woman, able-bodied or disabled. When we stabilize a family we strengthen our community.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Survivors of violence face many barriers to reaching self-sufficiency. Legal Aid of the Bluegrass sets priorities so that those most at risk get access to legal services. Victims of violence living in poverty, and/or rural areas, experiencing homelessness, those who speak a language other than English and those whose sexual orientation or gender identity limit traditional services, are among those clients with unique impediments to obtaining safety. LABG attorneys help survivors enforce their rights and provide a path to dignity and independence.

LABG advocates represent survivors of domestic violence and interpersonal violence in protective order hearings which offer

immediate protection for our clients and their children. We help survivors with other legal problems like divorce, custody, housing, etc. if it relates to helping free them from violence. When legal aid attorneys represent victims in protective order hearings, they are 85% more likely to receive a properly framed protective order with custody, child support, etc. than when unrepresented (Mary A. Kernic, Ph.D., M.P.H., "Final Report of the "Impact of Legal Representation on Child Custody Decisions among Families with a History of Intimate Partner Violence Study" Document No.: 248886, May 2015). LABG also works with shelters, rape crisis centers and other aid organizations to assure that services to survivors are comprehensive.

INTERPERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS

As of January 1, 2016, Kentucky's domestic violence laws expanded to extend civil protections to sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking victims. Interpersonal Protective Orders (IPO) offer immediate safety to victims who previously had only criminal protections available to them. Although still in its infancy, the expanded Kentucky domestic violence laws provide much needed relief to victims in brutal situations.

Legal Aid of the Bluegrass advocates remain intimately involved in educating the community on these expanded protections so the intended utility and effectiveness can be fully realized.



TING FAMILIES



LINDA'S STORY

Linda was a nurse at a local hospital in the area. She had a teenage son. For a couple of years she dated Mark, who also worked in the medical field. There had been significant violence in the past where Linda had been severely beaten and threatened by Mark. Linda began distancing herself from Mark and his behavior was increasingly jealous and controlling, and Linda decided she needed to end their relationship. Mark imagined that she was having affairs with any man she crossed paths with. He was confrontational and violently jealous. She tried to maintain a friendship, but Mark's behavior became so extreme, she feared for her life and told him she wanted nothing more to do with him. Linda was afraid to stay in her own home, and stayed at a girlfriend's home, going home in the morning only to change her clothing and shower. Mark began stalking her, and one day tried to force his way into her home when she went there to get ready for work. Later that day he came to her workplace looking for Linda. He entered restricted areas, looking everywhere for her. Staff was frightened for Linda's safety and feared that Mark might be armed. Security was called and he was made to leave the premises. Linda was allowed to leave work to file for a protective order.

An LABG attorney assisted Linda with a very procedurally complex and lengthy trial. Ultimately obtaining a domestic violence order for Linda on her and her son's behalf. Mark was ordered not only to remain 500' away from Linda at all times, and 500' away from her home, but also he was ordered to stay 500' away from the hospital she worked at. Mark had tried to interfere with Linda's career and had endangered not only Linda, but placed other staff at risk by his behavior. Through the DVO we obtained for Linda, she was able to remain at her job, and ensure that her co-workers and the hospital would be protected as well.

CHANGING LIV

INTRODUCTION

Legal Aid makes a difference in the community because we change lives – helping people find their path out of poverty. We change lives - person by person, family by family, case by case.

Throughout our history, Legal Aid has seen thousands of clients – old and young, recent immigrants and long-time residents, people with an incredible variety of backgrounds, talents, and dreams for the future. The one thing they've all shared is a problem – a problem they lack the knowledge, the access or the resources to solve without help.

Jean and Edgar Cahn, in their seminal article “The War on Poverty: A Civilian Perspective,” argued that “poverty in America is not just a lack of material goods, education and jobs; it is also a sense of helplessness, a defeatism, a lack of dignity and self-respect.”

LABG fights for our veterans, our seniors and all our clients to ensure they are treated with dignity and fairness and that they can have hope for the future.

VETERAN PROJECT

At LABG, we hold United States Veterans and active military personnel in the highest regard. Yet when returning home, they often feel invisible and fall through the cracks when dealing with post-military service issues. LABG attorneys help Veterans navigate often complex legal issues like, among other things, access to VA benefits and healthcare, housing and homelessness issues, and wage garnishments and other employment barriers.

In addition to our Veterans hotline, legal clinic, counseling and other outreach, LABG supports Veteran Treatment Court (VTC) programs in our service region. This model requires regular court appearances, treatment sessions and testing for substance abuse for Veterans who are involved in the criminal justice system. Veteran Treatment Court judges are often better equipped to understand the issues a veteran may be struggling with and how they can assist veteran defendants. LABG's Veterans project attorney, Karen Ginn, attends VTC and has become an important part of restoring stability in local Veterans lives.



“Many of our justice-involved Veterans struggle with PTSD and other mental health issues, making it difficult to confront their legal concerns. Ms. Ginn’s presence in the court room makes it easier for this more-reluctant population to reach out to her for legal assistance.”

JUDGE KAREN A. THOMAS
NKY VETERAN TREATMENT COURT

YES



SERVICES FOR SENIORS

In 2010, there was 829,193 persons, aged 60 and older in the Commonwealth, comprising 18.8% of the total population. This proportion is projected to increase to 25.6% by 2030. (U.S. Census Bureau: <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/1FA4CD17-871A-435E-9750-086ABC3670C5/0/2015ReportoftheInstituteForAging.pdf>) Advancing age brings unique legal challenges that people often find difficult to navigate. Our programs impacting seniors have grown to meet the demand of our aging population.

Legal Aid of the Bluegrass provides assistance to seniors aged 60+ with a variety of issues including: legal help to draft life planning documents such as Advance Directives, Power of Attorneys and Last Wills & Testaments; providing information, counseling and assistance to seniors on Medicare through the SHIP Program; and resolving issues faced by seniors living in long-term care through our Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs.

ON THE HORIZON

While staying true to its core mission of providing high quality legal representation to low

income and other vulnerable populations, LABG engages in a rigorous process to ensure that we are meeting the most pressing legal needs of our communities as well as ensuring that we are offering services in the most innovative, efficient and effective ways.

Just one of the ways that LABG stays ahead of the legal needs of our communities is through our Legal Needs Assessment. This year's robust assessment included a Social Return on Investment study (SROI) that showed not only the value that our clients received for our services but the overall value that our communities received because of the services provided by LABG.

The LNA also led LABG to explore providing legal services that were more proactive in relation to consumer issues like predatory lending and student loans as well as to explore environmental justice issues like soil contamination and clean water: all issues that have significant adverse impact on our clients. The LNA further indicated that many in our rural counties continue to identify transportation as a barrier to receiving our services. As a result legal aid secured funding for a Justice Bus that will serve as a pop up office that will allow us to take services directly to our most rural communities eliminating another barrier for people to access the legal services they need.



2016

FOCUSED REACH



In 2016, LABG reached

36,938

of its target population through direct services or outreach

Our outreach advocacy efforts positively impacted

21,600

people

LABG legal staff & advocates provided direct legal representation and advice affecting

15,338

people



28.4%

of LABG clients are of working age



27.4%

of LABG clients are poor elderly



44.89%

of working age families have children in the household

14,833

families requested legal help from LABG

Direct legal services were provided to

7,888

families affecting

10,205

people

5,133

children

Types of Legal Issues Addressed



- Medicare and Medicaid Assistance/ Other Health- 37%
- Family- 19.7%
- Housing- 12.2%
- Protection Orders- 9.6%
- Consumer Issues/ Improving Family Income- 8.3%
- Life Planning Documents- 7.2%
- Public Benefits including Veterans Benefits- 4.9%
- Nursing Home Residents Rights- 0.7%
- Other- 0.5%

LEGAL AID OF THE BLUEGRASS.....

provided legal help to

500

VETERANS

impacting

1,145

people

promoted safety for

2,251

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

including

1,182

children

stabilized housing for

943

FAMILIES

affecting

1,624

people

A study conducted in 2016 concluded that for every \$1 invested in Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, \$7.45 of immediate and long-term financial benefit was returned to the community.

745% Return on investment

Legal Aid Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment Analysis; For the Three Years 2013-2015; Community Services Analysis LLC



Together we accomplish GREAT things. Thank you to the staff of Legal Aid of the Bluegrass that make it all possible.



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FINANCIALS

REVENUE & EXPENDITURES | 2016

REVENUE

Federal Grants	\$ 2,543,249	45.70%
IOLTA-KY Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (1)	\$ 1,647,779	29.60%
State and Local Grants & Contracts	\$ 1,030,716	18.40%
United Way & Other Contributions	\$ 292,886	5.30%
Foundation Grants	\$ 20,000	0.40%
Other Income	\$ 34,227	0.60%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 5,568,857	100.00%

EXPENDITURES

Poverty Law Program Expenses		
Personnel and related expenses	\$ 2,552,563	62.20%
Non-Personnel expenses	\$ 986,623	24.00%
Support	\$ 408,371	9.90%
Fundraising	\$ 159,919	3.90%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (2)	\$ 4,107,476	100.00%

(1) Includes \$1,528,058 from one-time Bank of America settlement.

(2) Excludes Depreciation expense \$97,284.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET | 12.31.16

ASSETS

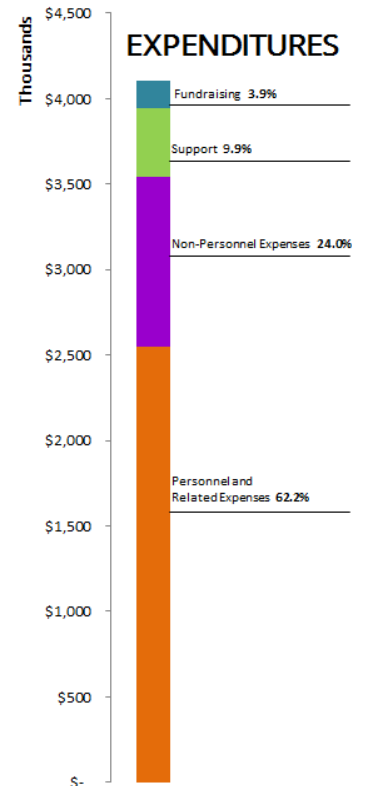
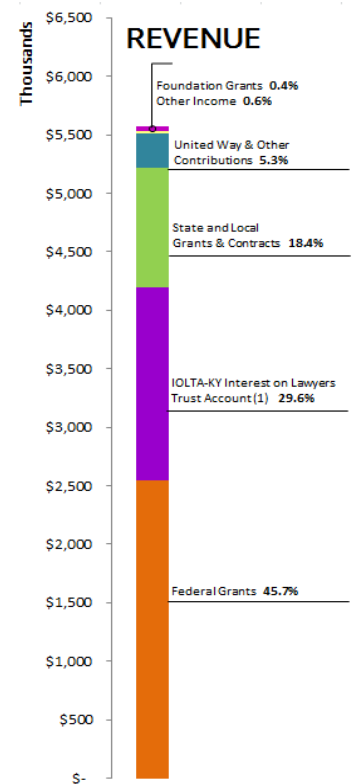
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,253,820
Accounts Receivable	\$ 853,363
Other Current Assets	\$ 49,868
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 2,157,051
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (NET)	\$ 1,458,464
OTHER LONG-TERM ASSETS (3)	\$ 816,896
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,432,411

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ 75,126
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 264,304
Notes Payable, Short-term	\$ 74,762
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 414,192
OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	
Notes Payable, Long-term	\$ 490,231
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 904,423
NET ASSETS	
Net Investment in Property & Equipment	\$ 893,471
Operations	\$ 854,251
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,747,722
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 1,780,266
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 3,527,988
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 4,432,411

(3) Includes IOLTA Bank of America one-time settlement \$1,528,272 less \$305,612 paid in 2016.

Remaining balance is to be paid in equal installments of \$305,665 over the next four years. Funds are to be used for foreclosure prevention legal assistance and community redevelopment assistance.





DONOR HONOR ROLL

Includes donations made in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Also included are those who contributed to our Covington and Lexington capital campaigns.

* denotes a donor that is now deceased.

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Cors & Bassett, LLC
Cull & Hayden PSC
Daves Bakery
Davidson Law Office
Dressman, Benzinger & Lavelle, P.S.C.
Fayette County Bar Foundation
Fowler Bell
Frost Brown Todd LLC
Graydon Head
Greater Cinti Employee Benefits Council
Greenebaum Doll & McDonald PLLC
Hemmer Pangburn DeFrank PLLC
Kellogg Foundation
Kenton Co. Attorney Office
Kentucky Bar Association
Kroger Co.
Lawrence Firm
Lawyers Mutual
Littler Mendelson PSC
Maxwell C. Weaver Foundation
McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie & Kirkland PLLC
McReynolds-Bradley Charitable Fund
Northern Kentucky Bar Foundation
Northern Kentucky University
O'Hara, Taylor, Sloan & Cassidy
Ohio Valley Foundation
Peck Shaffer & Williams LLP
PNC Josephine S Russell Charitable Trust
Rumpke Consolidated Companies, Inc.
Scripps Howard Foundation
Smith Beers Yunker & Company
Sturgill Turner
Summe & Lanter PLLC
The Butler Foundation
Thurman White & Anderson Firm Account
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
Von Lehman & Company, Inc.
Women's Crisis Center
Zell Law Firm

“ I have long thought that charitable giving should be a private affair, with a “don't let the left hand know what the right hand is doing” attitude. But I've changed my mind about that.

This year we have been inspired to be more public, in part, because of the data on what a public announcement can do to encourage others to give. When people are public about their giving, it increases the likelihood that others will give.

In fact, it was someone else's public announcement of their giving that also inspired us.”

ANDREW AND SARAH CULLISON

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