

CHANGING LIVES


LEGAL AID FOUNDATION
OF COLORADO

HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023

OUR MISSION

The Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado promotes equal access to justice by raising funds to provide civil legal services for low-income people in the state of Colorado.



YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION:

A Colorado Legal Services (CLS) client feared she and her son would be evicted because she struggled to make rent. Her husband recently passed away and her son was unwell. She helped care for her son while sorting through her husband's affairs. CLS negotiated on her behalf with her landlord's attorney to allow her to remain housed while she caught up on her rent. CLS also helped her apply for emergency rental assistance, so she can remain housed and continue to focus on caring for her son.

DEAR FRIENDS,

How does it feel to change someone's life? You should know. You do it every day, through your support of the Legal Aid Foundation.

- You did it for Leesa, a young mother, who, with the help of legal aid, was able to take advantage of the protections in the new Mobile Home Park Act to defend against an illegal eviction.
- You did it for Marcos, a formerly homeless veteran, who, with the help of legal aid, was able to secure rightfully earned and absolutely essential benefits.
- You did it for Sandy, who, with the help of legal aid, achieved welcome relief from her crushing medical debt.

For the hundreds of low-income Coloradans facing a life crisis on any given day, justice is not an abstract ideal. Justice is food, shelter, and safety. It is necessary medical care and freedom from financial exploitation. It is the difference between being housed and homelessness; the difference between children being fed or being hungry; the difference between hope and fear, or even despair.

The bottom line is that expert legal assistance at a critical juncture changes lives for the better, and you help make that happen every day across Colorado, through your ongoing support of legal aid.

On behalf of Leesa, Marcos, Sandy, and all the others whose lives you've changed, thank you.

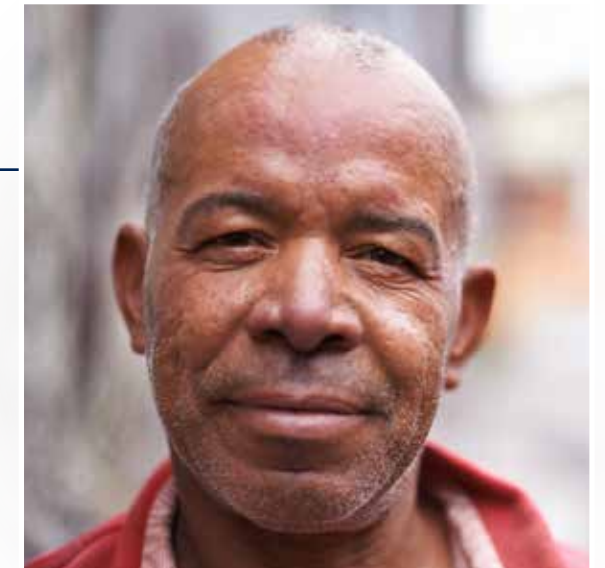
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COLORADO LEGAL SERVICES 2022

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

Contributions to the Legal Aid Foundation support the work of Colorado Legal Services, the only program in the state that provides legal help in civil matters to indigent clients in every Colorado county.

-  **8,358** closed cases
-  **17,019** low-income Coloradans benefited
-  **2,399** pro bono hours provided by attorneys
-  **18,735** referrals made
-  **\$3,970,000** in awards and benefits for clients
-  **261,187** unique web site visitors for self-help legal information

-  **229** outreach events
-  **4,537** individuals received legal information or education
-  **84** CLS attorneys
-  **5,391** intakes conducted
-  **228** legal information or education presentations
-  **4,596** individuals received one-on-one legal information or education

AREAS OF SERVICE

Housing	51%
Domestic Relations & Domestic Violence	20%
Employment, Health, Individual Rights & Misc.	15%
Consumer	10%
Income Maintenance	4%

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Male	2,706
Female	5,574
Other / Not Disclosed	78
0-17 years	28
18-35 years	2,684
36-59 years	3,493
60+ years	2,153



Introducing Matt Baca, New CLS Executive Director

In March 2023, Matt Baca succeeded Jon Asher as the Executive Director of Colorado Legal Services (CLS). Matt, who previously worked as a staff attorney in CLS’s Migrant Farm Worker Division, returned to CLS after serving for four years as Director of Community Engagement for Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser.

“We could not be more pleased,” said Tina Smith, Chair of the CLS Board of Directors. “Matt is passionately dedicated to the provision of legal services to those who need them most, and has the ability to inspire that vision in others. He is truly a rising star on the Colorado scene, and we’re fortunate to have him at CLS.”

Matt hit the ground running, celebrating CLS’s story so far, but already beginning to work with the CLS Board and staff, its clients, and the entire equal justice community to write the next chapter together.

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Thank you to all our law firm donors including our **Leadership Law Firms** for their reliable, annual donations of at least **\$450 per Colorado lawyer in the firm. A special thank you to our Pacesetters (*)** for increasing their gifts this year to at least **\$475 per Colorado lawyer in the firm.**

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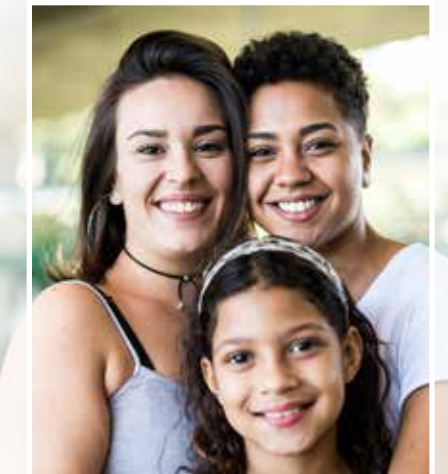
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A Legacy of Justice

David Butler (1930-2023), former Legal Aid Foundation Board Chair and longtime Trustee emeritus, made a difference. For over half a century, he devoted his time, talent, and treasure to improving and expanding access to justice for low-income Coloradans. In addition to chairing the Legal Aid Foundation Board:

- He helped found and later chaired the Board of the Colorado Lawyer Trust Account Foundation (COLTAF), another critical funding source for civil legal aid;
- He led the statewide planning group that resulted in the successful consolidation of multiple legal aid programs into the single statewide program that is Colorado Legal Services;
- He spearheaded the creation of and then served as the first Chair of Colorado's Access to Justice Commission, which serves a key coordinating role; and
- He was Treasurer of the Colorado Center on Law & Policy, continuing the full spectrum of advocacy tools for low-income Coloradans.

David's steadfast leadership and his abiding commitment to equal justice are reflected across Colorado's civil legal aid delivery system.

2022-2023 REVENUE & DISBURSEMENTS

The financial information presented here is extracted from the Foundation's books and records. An audit was performed by GC2 Professional Services PC and is available on request.

REVENUE & SUPPORT

Contributions		
Law Firms	\$1,223,060	36%
Individuals	\$1,160,844	34%
Cy Pres, Foundations and Other	\$799,028	24%
Investment Income	218,525	6%

TOTAL REVENUE \$3,401,457 100%

DISBURSEMENTS

Distribution to CLS	\$1,910,810	87%
Fundraising Activities	\$196,151	9%
Management & General	\$90,936	4%
Distribution – Other	\$5,000	<1%

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$2,202,897 100%

Thanks to the generous gifts in honor of Jon Asher and a large cy pres award, the Foundation not only made its annual, general operating distribution to CLS, but also grew its Growth & Stabilization Fund by nearly \$900,000. This Fund enables CLS to respond outside the context of its ordinary operating budget to important, unexpected and/or extraordinary events and opportunities.

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION:

Adoption is a complex legal process that can be challenging to navigate without an attorney's help. Colorado Legal Services helped a grandmother adopt her grandchildren after the children faced continued domestic violence in their parent's home and were eventually placed in foster care. The children's parent had told the Department of Human Services that the grandmother was dead. The grandmother was able to successfully adopt her grandchildren with the help of a pro bono attorney and the Kinship Adoption Program.



YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION:

A mother faced eviction from her mobile home park. Her landlord gave written notice that she needed to fix code violations on her property, and she worked with her city code enforcement to ensure she properly fixed the code violations. However, her landlord still attempted to evict her saying there were other issues that had not been included in the initial notice. Because previous notice was not given, the case was dismissed. Colorado Legal Services helped the woman and landlord discuss the issues and the landlord stated he no longer wished to remove her from the park.



YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION:

A veteran who was unhoused for several years, was unable to get a Colorado ID because he did not have a birth certificate. He tried for over a decade to obtain one. He previously had an ID from another state but lost it. Colorado Legal Services gathered records to obtain a birth certificate for him from his home state and then a Colorado ID. He was on a waiting list for housing for veterans and, because he now has identification, he was placed into housing and recertified for Medicaid and Social Security benefits.

