

JUSTICE IN FOCUS

2021 | ANNUAL REPORT

When justice is in focus, extraordinary transformation occurs. In 2021, civil legal services took center stage as an integral solution to moving Ohio forward, an effort led by the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation and its grantees.

Together, we formed new partnerships with courts, nonprofit organizations, and community groups that recognized legal services as a linchpin to helping Ohioans recover from the pandemic. Through the work of Ohio's legal aid organizations, Ohio Legal Help, and the Ohio Justice Bus, thousands of Ohioans accessed civil legal services to avoid eviction, pursue job opportunities, transform their neighborhoods, and achieve better health outcomes.

When justice is in focus, Ohio thrives.



WHEN JUSTICE IS IN FOCUS, OHIOANS AVOID EVICTION.

Keeping Ohioans in Their Homes

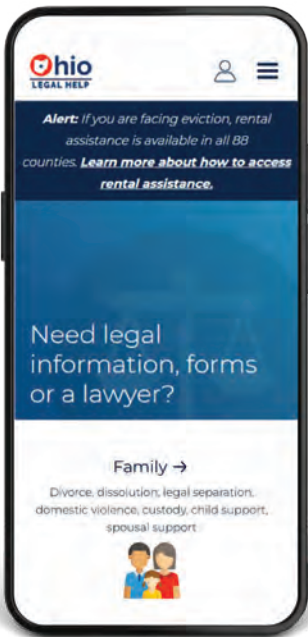
Legal aid helped thousands of Ohioans stay safely housed during the pandemic. In addition to providing advice and representation for tenants facing eviction, legal aid also collaborated with Community Action Agencies to connect renters and landlords with millions in dollars of rental assistance.

“Legal aid helped us distribute rental relief faster and more efficiently. Their partnership is invaluable.”

– Randy Smith, Miami Valley Community Action Partnership



ohiolegalhelp.org



Ohio Legal Help Provides Eviction Information and Resources



Helping a Family Avoid Eviction

Jill Stewart* is a proud member of the National Guard and a foster mom to three children she is adopting. During the pandemic, Ms. Stewart and her partner struggled to find steady employment and eventually fell behind on their rent. When Ms. Stewart’s landlord filed an eviction against her, she contacted legal aid for help.

Legal aid helped Ms. Stewart access Ohio’s rental assistance program. As a result, Ms. Stewart could pay her entire back rent; make her landlord whole; and the eviction was dismissed. Because of legal aid, Ms. Stewart and her growing family have stable housing and are thriving.

**Name and photo have been changed to protect client privacy.*



In 2021, legal aid helped **11,539 Ohioans** facing eviction.

WHEN JUSTICE IS IN FOCUS, MORE OHIOANS JOIN THE WORKFORCE.



Reinstating Ms. Miller’s Driver’s License

Janelle Miller* longed to have her driver’s license reinstated to be able to attend her medical appointments and better provide for her family. Ms. Miller had not had a valid driver’s license for 16 years because of several suspensions. Ms. Miller had tried to resolve the suspensions on her own but was unsuccessful.

Through a new partnership with the public defender’s office, Ms. Miller’s public defender referred her to legal aid’s Justice for All Fellow Julia Lauritzen. As a result of Julia’s work, Ms. Miller currently has a temporary permit and is just a few steps away from having a valid license, which means both her and her family’s quality of life is vastly improved.

**Name and photo have been changed to protect client privacy.*

“It is a privilege to help people like Ms. Miller every day.”
– Julia Lauritzen, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

In 2021, legal aid helped **2,144 Ohioans** seal or expunge their criminal records or reinstate driver’s licenses to improve employment prospects.

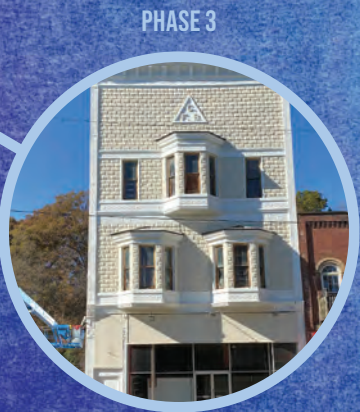


Revitalizing Neighborhoods to Support Rural Business Growth

Legal aid partnered with the Glouster Revitalization Organization (GRO) in Athens County to transform a historic building into a business hub to fuel job growth and economic development in rural Ohio. Legal aid helped GRO navigate the legal paperwork and sale of the building, which will house a business incubator for local entrepreneurs after a full renovation.

“Lucy Schwallie [at legal aid] has helped our community-based, all-volunteer organization avoid legal pitfalls. Her guidance and expertise have enabled GRO to serve our mission.”

– Jane Cavarozzi,
Glouster Revitalization Organization



Photos courtesy of Glouster Revitalization Organization

WHEN JUSTICE IS IN FOCUS, DISENFRANCHISED COMMUNITIES BUILD ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.



Keeping Seniors Stably Housed

In 2020, residents of the historic Alexandra Apartments in the Walnut Hills neighborhood in Cincinnati learned their building was in foreclosure and that they were going to be forced to leave. With the help of legal aid, the residents, mostly low-income seniors and people with disabilities, formed a tenant council and were able to arrange for a new owner to buy the building. In 2021, the Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation bought the Alexandra, ensuring that the tenants can remain, the building will be renovated, and rents will stay affordable.

Alexandra Apartments tenants, legal aid attorneys, and housing coalition advocates outside of the Alexandra building.



Alexandra Apartments photo by Greg Hume. CC BY 3.0, <https://bit.ly/3nY48IP>



“It’s important to add affordable housing in Walnut Hills so we end up with a neighborhood that is good for everybody.”

– John Schrider, Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio

“We worked hard to collaborate with Alexandra residents and our partners like legal aid. It took a big team to save the building.”

– Samantha Reeves, Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation

WHEN JUSTICE IS IN FOCUS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HAVE BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES.



Legal aid attorney Ashley Socha and client Deqa Mohamed.

“Now, my daughter is always smiling. That means the world to me. I have peace of mind knowing that my daughter is safe and secure.”

– Deqa Mohamed



WATCH
MS. MOHAMED'S
STORY

Addressing Legal Needs to Improve Health Outcomes

Deqa Mohamed’s ten-year-old daughter struggled to participate in activities with her family. Her daughter has cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus and needs extensive care. During mealtimes and family game night, Ms. Mohamed used a baby highchair to support her daughter at the table. Her daughter’s medical team warned that the baby highchair was unsafe, and that her daughter needed an activity chair, a special piece of medical equipment to provide proper safety and support.

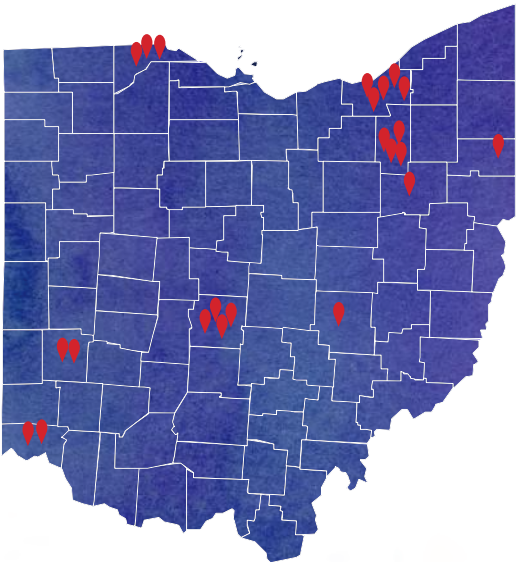
Through a medical-legal partnership, the pediatric team connected Ms. Mohamed to legal aid. Legal aid helped Ms. Mohamed explain the need for the activity chair to her health insurance provider. Thanks to legal aid, the provider approved the activity chair, ensuring that Ms. Mohamed’s daughter now has the medical equipment she needs to safely participate in family activities.



“Funding from the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation allows us the capacity to have attorneys build expertise and experience in the areas of law where our clients need us the most.”

– Ashley Socha, The Legal Aid Society of Columbus

Ohio has **23 medical-legal partnerships** working to address social determinants of health.



WHEN JUSTICE IS IN FOCUS, VETERANS ENJOY SECURE HOUSING AND ACCESS TO THEIR EARNED BENEFITS.

Helping a WWII Veteran Access Safe Housing

Walter Knight,* a member of the Greatest Generation and a combat veteran, proudly served his country in World War II. In his late nineties, Mr. Knight had hoped to spend his final years at a local veterans home. When the veterans home denied Mr. Knight's application because they deemed him a threat based on a 70-year-old conviction, Mr. Knight's social worker contacted legal aid for help.

Legal aid investigated Mr. Knight's conviction and found that it occurred shortly after he saw heavy fighting in the Pacific. Through legal aid's careful work, it became clear that the incident was related to the extreme trauma Mr. Knight suffered during the war. When legal aid provided the information to the veterans home, they approved his application and Mr. Knight was able to move in.

**Name and photo have been changed to protect client privacy.*



**“We really try to go
where the veterans are.
It establishes trust.”**

– Kim Adams, Community Legal Aid

**In 2021, legal aid
preserved **\$1,931,129**
in benefits for
veterans.**

Partnering with Courts to Help Veterans Achieve Self-Sufficiency

In Northeast Ohio, municipal and common pleas courts in Summit, Stark, Mahoning, and Medina counties offer special dockets to help veterans who face legal challenges. Legal aid serves as a wrap-around agency for veterans in these programs, in some cases even joining the veteran's treatment team. If a veteran has a civil legal issue, legal aid helps to resolve it and works in tandem with other community partners to ensure veterans have the supports they need to complete the court's program.



**Listen to Foundation Executive Director
Angie Lloyd on *All Sides with Ann Fisher*
discuss civil legal services for veterans.**

WHEN JUSTICE IS IN FOCUS, LIVES ARE TRANSFORMED.

Ohio Justice Bus



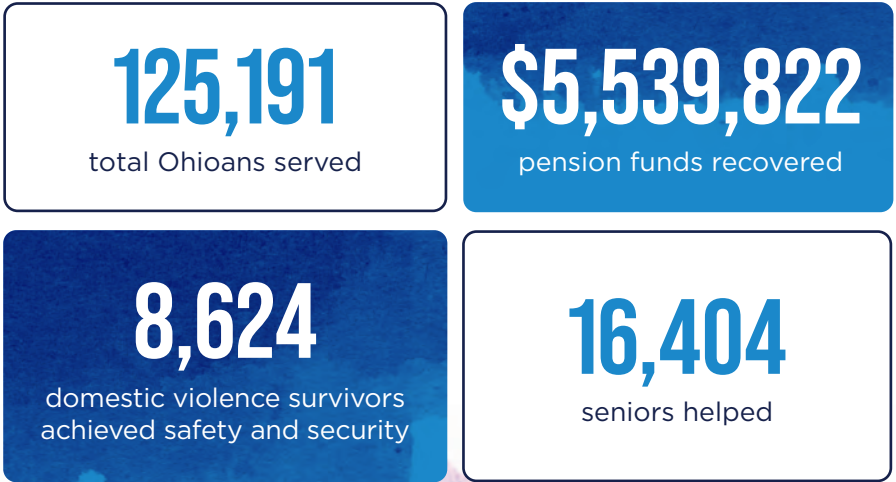
Clermont County Court of Domestic Relations partners with the Bus for a monthly on-site legal clinic.

“The Ohio Justice Bus makes access to justice a reality with its state-of-the-art computer system, wi-fi availability, office space, and most importantly, volunteer attorneys.”

– Judge Mary Lynne Birck,
Clermont County Court of
Domestic Relations



Ohio’s Legal Aids



“Legal aid has given me the support system I needed to face my abuser to obtain a civil protection order. If I had questions or if I was afraid, legal aid was there.”

– Domestic violence survivor

Ohio Legal Help

“[Ohio Legal Help] helped me understand what’s going on with extended unemployment benefits going into 2021, specifically PUA. Thank you so much!”

– Ohio Legal Help user

In 2021, more than **70% of visitors** accessed Ohio Legal Help on their mobile device.

WHEN JUSTICE IS IN FOCUS, ATTORNEYS CHANGE LIVES.

Justice for All Fellows are new attorneys funded by the Foundation to develop and execute two-year projects to address urgent legal problems facing everyday Ohioans.



Rachel Barr
Legal Aid Society of
Greater Cincinnati



Nicole Cote
Advocating
Opportunity



Victoria Hamilton
Catholic Charities
Corp.



Russell Hauser
The Legal Aid
Society of Cleveland



Julia Lauritzen
The Legal Aid
Society of Cleveland



Caitlyn McDaniel
Southeastern Ohio
Legal Services



Stacy Purcell
Legal Aid Society of
Greater Cincinnati



Rebekah Tefft
The Legal Aid
Society of Columbus

Justice for All Summer Clerks are law students funded by the Foundation to support civil legal services and advance diversity in the profession.

“I was drawn to this clerkship because of the opportunity to work so closely with marginalized groups of people, most of whom I share a community with.”

- Nasir Martin, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland



Trisha Chatterjee
Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality



Tavis Daluz-Cates
Disability Rights
Ohio



Kelsay Goldsberry
Pro Seniors



Tiraj Lucas
Equality Ohio



Nabelh Manaa
Asian Services in Action



Nasir Martin
The Legal Aid
Society of
Cleveland



Alexandra Solomon
Community Legal Aid



2021 FOUNDATION HONOREES



Presidential Award

Janica Pierce Tucker, partner-in-charge of the Taft Columbus office, received the Foundation’s Presidential Award for single-handedly developing and coordinating a free legal clinic and for volunteering countless hours of service as board chair of The Legal Aid Society of Columbus.

“I have learned a lot about being a lawyer from Janica, but even more about being a good human being.”

- Dianna Parker, The Legal Aid Society of Columbus



Denis J. Murphy Award

Miriam Sheline, managing attorney of Pro Seniors, received the Foundation’s Denis J. Murphy Award for outstanding leadership and advocacy for Ohio seniors.

“Miriam’s legal work in medical debt collection and Medicaid reform has profoundly improved the lives of millions of Ohio senior citizens.”

- Michael Walters, Pro Seniors

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Ohio State Legal Services Association
\$4,239,194

Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati
\$1,975,426

Equality Ohio
\$50,000

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality
\$3,515,200

Pro Seniors
\$494,961

Justice for All Summer Clerks
\$35,000

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
\$2,336,116

Ohio Legal Help
\$352,500

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS & GRANTS:
\$15,173,650

Community Legal Aid
\$2,124,093

Legal Aid of Western Ohio
\$51,160

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2021

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	1,068,510
Accounts receivable	313,331
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	62,172
Total current assets	\$1,444,013
Investments	\$17,659,100
Property and Equipment	
Equipment	44,278
Vehicles	116,553
Furniture and fixtures	9,550
Computer software	25,100
Leasehold improvements	18,117
Less: accumulated depreciation	(101,837)
Total property and equipment	\$111,761
Total assets	\$19,214,874
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable	31,385
Grants payable	86,243
Accrued liabilities	179,633
Deferred rent	36,502
Total current liabilities	\$333,763
Net Assets	
Without donor restrictions	15,463,687
With donor restrictions	3,417,424
Total net assets	\$18,881,111
Total liabilities and net assets	\$19,214,874

Consolidated Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended June 30, 2021

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
Revenue and Support			
Access to Justice Foundation Fund	3,124,869	–	3,124,869
Ohio Supreme Court grant	425,000	–	425,000
Other grants	1,551,837	50,250	1,602,087
Paycheck Protection Program proceeds	252,365	–	252,365
Other income and contributions	298,939	–	298,939
Investment returns, net	3,236,305	–	3,236,305
Net assets released from restrictions	1,934,407	(1,934,407)	–
Total revenue and support	\$10,823,722	\$(1,884,157)	\$8,939,565
Expenses			
Program services			
Pro bono	231,895	–	231,895
Legal services support	5,930,495	–	5,930,495
Public funds compliance	346,918	–	346,918
Ohio Justice Bus	134,273	–	134,273
Grant administration	248,175	–	248,175
Management and general	301,913	–	301,913
Fundraising	78,594	–	78,594
Total expenses	\$7,272,263	–	\$7,272,263
Changes in net assets	3,551,459	(1,884,157)	1,667,302
Net assets - beginning of year	\$11,912,228	\$5,301,581	\$17,213,809
Net assets - end of year	\$15,463,687	\$3,417,424	\$18,881,111

OFFICERS

Jennifer E. Day
President
Ohio Treasurer's Office

Paula Boggs Muething
Vice President
Attorney at Law

Mary Amos Augsburg
Treasurer
Ohio State Bar Association

Hon. Howard H. Harcha III
Secretary
Scioto County Court of Common Pleas

Kimberly C. Shumate
Past President
The Ohio State University

BOARD

Ann S. Bergen
The Law Offices of Ann S. Bergen

Sally W. Bloomfield
Bricker & Eckler LLP

Vallie T. Bowman-English
Toledo Municipal Court

Stephen R. Buchenroth
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP - Retired

Stuart F. Cubbon
Cubbon & Associates Co., L.P.A.

Christopher J. Davey
The Davey Group

Susan M. DiMickle
National Church Residences

Hon. Matthew J. Dolan
Ohio Senate

Matthew J. Donahue
Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine

William D. Dowling
Dowling Mediation

Dean Lee I. Fisher
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Scott T. Greenwood
Attorney at Law

Hon. Cheryl L. Grossman
Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

Jonathan Hollingsworth
Hollingsworth & Washington, LLC

Hon. William A. Klatt
Tenth District Court of Appeals

David A. Kutik
Case Western Reserve University School of Law
Jones Day - Retired

Gary J. Leppla
Leppla Associates, Ltd.

Sheryl C. Maxfield
Ohio Department of Commerce

John B. Pinney
Graydon

Richard W. Pogue
Jones Day

Brenda L. Rinehart
Office of Ohio Attorney General
Dave Yost

Hon. D.J. Swearingen
Ohio House of Representatives

P. Kelly Tompkins
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law
Dix & Eaton

Kathleen M. Trafford
Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP

Rev. Daryl Ward
Omega Baptist Church - Retired

William K. Weisenberg
Ohio State Bar Association - Retired

Hon. Richard P. Wright
Licking County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division

Timothy Young
Office of the Ohio Public Defender

SUPREME COURT OF OHIO LIAISON

Hon. Melody J. Stewart
Supreme Court of Ohio

EX OFFICIO

Steven J. McGarrity
Community Legal Aid

Colleen P. Rosshirt
Supreme Court of Ohio

EMERITUS

Thomas V. Chema
The Gateway Group

Hon. Ben E. Espy
Ben Espy Co. LLC

Joseph L. Mas
Attorney at Law

Hon. James M. Petro
Attorney at Law

David C. Weiner
Attorney at Law

STAFF

Angie Lloyd
Executive Director

Kiko Yee
General Counsel & Chief Operating Officer

Ty Acker
IT Director

Myrna Burga
Controller & Human Resources Coordinator

Sophia Chang
Pro Bono Director

Cindy Durham
Executive Assistant

Camille Gill
Programs & Grants Counsel

Matt Gilligan
Data Analyst

Jennifer Rieman
Communications Director

Tammy Ringhiser
Financial Services Director

Attiyya Toure
Communications & Special Projects Associate