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Pisgah Legal Services Attorney Erin Wilson represented Amelia (center) in court and obtained a one-year protection order, custody of her child and possession of the family vehicle. Also shown here is PLS Bilingual Immigration Advocate Thalia Hoy (left) and Amelia’s dear friend, Janice (right).



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Facing Her Fear and Finding Peace

AMELIA’S ABUSER CONVINCED HER SHE WOULD LOSE EVERYTHING IF SHE LEFT HIM. SHE WAS SO SCARED THAT SHE ALMOST GAVE UP, BUT THEN AMELIA FOUND PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES.

Amelia* was keeping a secret that could have killed her. She confided to her friend, Janice, that her boyfriend had recently beaten her with a metal chain and that he had been abusing her for years. She feared for her life and also for their young son.

Janice encouraged Amelia to get a court protection order, helped her find a new place to live, even taught her how to drive. But when Amelia’s abuser violated the order and was arrested, Amelia was terrified to go to court, even with Janice’s help.

“I was so scared that I was ready to give up before I got a lawyer from Pisgah Legal Services,” says Amelia.

PLS staff and attorneys guided her through the legal process, and Amelia’s abuser was ultimately deported. She is no longer living in fear. “I was so timid before, but today I am a different person.”

Amelia says she will never forget the help she received from Pisgah Legal and the steadfast support of Janice. “She is like my sister,” says Amelia.

*Names have been changed.

Stretching Your Donations to Serve More People

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO HELP THOUSANDS IN WNC, DESPITE DEEP FUNDING CUTS

Dear Friends,

As we close another year, we marvel at the incredible support we receive from you. **You – our donors and volunteers – make it possible for Pisgah Legal Services to help families in crisis.** Thousands call on us for help each month. Thanks to your compassion and commitment to justice, we can respond.



Our ACA Navigator Project has been recognized as a national model of excellence. During the last open enrollment period we helped more than 1,000 local people explore their options, enroll in health insurance plans and obtain cost-reducing subsidies.

Our immense challenge continues to be trying to replace funding that has been cut by the state, and Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts.

Across the state, 40 legal aid staff have been laid off. While PLS has not cut staff, we have not filled two vacant attorney positions. Our dedicated staff and volunteers are working harder than ever to prevent our level of service from dropping off. But we need your help.

This year we deepened our efforts to stop domestic violence. With new funding from the Women for Women Giving Circle of CFWNC and the Governor's Crime Commission, we are helping more women in rural communities. We are also partnering with Helpmate, law enforcement, and others to develop a Family Justice Center in Buncombe County to prevent domestic violence and to better serve victims of abuse and sexual assault.

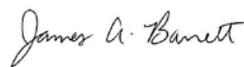
“Thanks to your compassion and commitment to justice, we can respond.”

We continue to work for affordable housing in WNC, including improving Buncombe County's zoning ordinances to encourage the development of more affordable multi-family units. This work has become more urgent because of the extremely tight rental housing market in our area.

We still have \$200,000 to raise before December 31st. With your help, we know we can reach our goal! Several donors have extended generous “challenge” gifts so that

each donation made by the end of the year will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

Thank You for Your Support, and Happy Holidays to You and Your Family,



Jim Barrett, PLS Executive Director

New Locations for PLS = More Justice in WNC

WE ARE TRULY A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED THROUGHOUT OUR MOUNTAINS



Buncombe County

In addition to our Asheville office, Pisgah Legal Services is now working out of space at the Buncombe County Courthouse, specifically assisting people facing eviction without representation. Our intervention is resulting in favorable settlements in about 80% of these cases.

Rutherford County

Pisgah Legal Services recently purchased office space in Rutherfordton, moving our offices from Spindale, and lowering the amount we pay each month for space.

Transylvania County

We have a stronger presence in Brevard in new space shared with the Mediation Center.

For more information about these locations, **and our office in Henderson County**, visit www.pisgahlegal.org.

Fall Events: Thanks for Coming!

DR. RISHI MANCHANDA SELLS OUT PISGAH'S 5TH ANNUAL POVERTY FORUM



Photos by Jesse Kitt. (Top L-R) Guests Robby Russell, Myra Grant, Betsey Bent and Doug Wilson. (Right) Dr. Rishi Manchanda.

More than 450 people came to hear Dr. Rishi Manchanda speak at Pisgah Legal Services' annual Poverty Forum on Oct. 14.

Thank you to Mission Health and MAHEC for bringing Dr. Manchanda to WNC and thanks to all our many wonderful sponsors for making this event a great success!



PLS and Mainstay hosted *Sing Out! for Justice* on Oct. 1 in Hendersonville. This benefit for the Henderson County Family Justice Center featured singer Kat Williams (Right).

Special thanks to the following sponsors: Carola & Stuart Cohn; First Citizens Bank; Vanessa's Vision; Highland Title; Southern Alarm & Security; Merrill Lynch; Morrow Insurance; Park Ridge Health; Reid & Reid Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics; Penny Insurance Agency; Creech Solution for Construction; HomeTrust Bank; and Pardee Hospital.



ATTORNEYS: Leave Your Legacy of Justice



"My husband Mike and I made a planned gift to Pisgah Legal because we want this essential community resource to be here for generations to come." – Ann Young, Founding Attorney

Make a legacy or cash gift to the PLS Endowment by March 1st, and we will honor you as a Founding Attorney. Visit www.pisgahlegal.org to learn more.

WHY I GIVE



PLS is so grateful to our supporters like Liz Button, owner of Curaté and Nightbell in Asheville.

"I support Pisgah Legal because the people who work and volunteer at Pisgah help turn lives around."

Navigating our justice system is challenging for nearly everyone, but when someone is in a difficult circumstance and lacking support, it's overwhelming.

Thankfully there is Pisgah Legal, helping people sort through some of life's adversities."

– Elizabeth Button
OWNER, CEO
HEIRLOOM HOSPITALITY
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Looking for a great holiday deal? Make a donation by December 31st, and your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar!

Do You Give to Pisgah Legal Services?

HERE ARE 10 REASONS YOU CAN FEEL GREAT ABOUT IT!

1. Justice is for everyone, not just those who can afford it. Thanks to you, our clients have an advocate.

2. Thousands of local people are helped each year. More than 14,000 people throughout WNC were helped last year alone.

3. Local gifts attract many other resources. Your donation is used to leverage dollars from the government, foundations and other funders, bringing much-needed resources to our mountain region.

4. We make the bad guys think twice. Our legal advocacy acts as a deterrent to those who otherwise take advantage of vulnerable people.

5. We see the big picture. PLS advocates for policies and laws that make our communities stronger.



6. PLS attorneys don't give up. They understand what's at stake. Our attorneys work just as hard – and harder – as they would for paying clients.

7. Our volunteers are amazing. 300+ local attorneys volunteer to serve PLS clients; office volunteers help with client intake, fundraising and more.

8. We truly care about the people we serve and offer holistic services to address the many problems of poverty that families and individuals may face.

9. We are team players who work collaboratively with other nonprofits, area leaders and law enforcement throughout WNC.

10. Your gift means everything. We need your support now more than ever! Please go online to www.pisgahlegal.org and make a gift today. Thank you!