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Be an opener of doors.
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

A door to safety.
A door to health care.
A door to a changed life.
The Legal Aid Society successfully opened the doors of justice in 97% of the cases completed during 2007.
Message from the President of the Board

Dear friends and colleagues:
2007 marks a year of transition for the Legal Aid Society. We welcomed a new executive director, Gary Housepian, upon the retirement of Ashley Wiltshire, whose 31 years of leadership was as inspirational as it was tireless. This passing of the reins of leadership marks a new era for the Legal Aid Society.

It also marks a new beginning and a recommitment to the goal of equal justice for everyone. The support from many legal community members and other friends in the communities we serve have helped make Legal Aid Society a shining example for legal services providers around the country.

It is an honor to serve the Legal Aid Society in its vital mission. This report illustrates the dedication and determination of the staff and volunteers to provide equal access to justice for low-income people.

Thank you all for your part in this noble mission.

Kathryn Reed Edge
President of the Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director

Dear friends of the Legal Aid Society and Nashville Pro Bono Program:
My first few months with the Legal Aid Society have been a learning experience. I’ve learned that the dedication, passion and professionalism of the staff and volunteers are seemingly limitless. I’ve met with clients who tell me that without the help provided by the Legal Aid Society, they would have lost their home, their livelihood, or their hope. And hope should never be in short supply.

I’m proud of the work our staff and volunteers have accomplished this year and as these pages will reveal, we have gone the extra mile to expand our reach and provide services to people who have nowhere else to turn.

It would not be possible without the support of our donors. Thank you for opening your hearts to those less fortunate. We hope you enjoy reading about the great things your support has helped accomplish.

Sincerely yours,

Gary D. Housepian
Executive Director
The end of June marked the end of an era at the Legal Aid Society with the retirement of Ashley Wiltshire. Ashley joined the Legal Aid Society in 1970 as a summer clerk while he was a second-year law student at Vanderbilt University. He became executive director in 1976 at the age of 35. He oversaw the growth of the organization from a group of five lawyers in the Stahlman Building in downtown Nashville to the largest non-profit law firm in the state. As a tribute to his inspiring leadership, The Wiltshire Fund was created to underwrite emergency assistance to Legal Aid Society clients.

In July, Gary Housepian, former managing attorney for Disability Law and Advocacy Center of Tennessee, Inc., joined the Legal Aid Society as executive director. Gary began his legal career working with Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program and joined Knoxville Legal Aid Society as a staff attorney in 1978. He then spent a year in the State Attorney General’s office as an assistant attorney general before joining the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation as general counsel. From 1990–91, he served as general counsel for the Tennessee Department of Human Services, after which he worked in private practice for five years. Gary became the managing attorney of the Murfreesboro office of the Legal Aid Society in 1997 and staff attorney for the Tennessee Justice Center in 2001.

With a three-year grant of $120,000 from Ingram Charities, Inc., the Legal Aid Society initiated a Medical-Legal Partnership with the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt University. Through this innovative collaboration, the Legal Aid Society and pro bono attorneys from across our service area will address legal problems that affect the medical outcomes of children receiving treatment from the hospital. The partnership is the first of its kind in Tennessee and is based on the success of more than 80 similar projects across the United States.

The Nashville Pro Bono Program began a corporate outreach effort that included working with the in-house legal department at Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation, whose members staff clinics at Renewal House to help with wills and powers of attorney.

The Clarksville office, which serves Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, and Stewart counties, received an 18 month grant for $115,000 from the Departments of Defense and Justice. This grant enables the Legal Aid Society to hire two additional staff people to provide legal assistance for several new domestic violence initiatives with a special emphasis on collaboration with Ft. Campbell and coordination of services between the military and neighboring civilian communities in Kentucky. This is one of two national pilot projects of the Department of Defense and Justice to address the issue of domestic violence in military families. This grant is recognition of the Legal Aid Society’s leadership in this field.

The Montgomery County Board of Commissions authorized a Victims Assistance Assessment Fund for the exclusive use of the Montgomery County Child Advocacy Center, the Clarksville office of the Legal Aid Society, and the District Attorney General for Montgomery County. The Clarksville office will use the funds for an attorney to help victims obtain Orders of Protection and other legal assistance.

Bev Adcock, community educator [Nashville] and Rachel Moses, attorney [Cookeville], revised the Legal Aid Society guide titled, “What You Need To Know About Special Education,” due to major changes in the law. This was a joint project of the Legal Aid Society and Possibilities, Inc. The guide is distributed free. Volunteers from Dell, Inc. helped to prepare the guides for distribution.

Dell, Inc. donated four desktop computers to the Gallatin office after the office was struck by lightning and existing equipment was destroyed.
The **Murfreesboro office** began a new project to help victims of traumatic brain injury (TBI). Many TBI victims experience difficulty communicating, coping with stress, and adjusting to daily tasks. Some qualify for federal disability benefits and health coverage but cannot navigate the complicated systems alone.

**Barbara Futter**, managing attorney [Murfreesboro], dedicates 20% of her time to providing representation and advice to TBI victims.

For the past year, attorneys in the **Nashville office** have been engaged in a pilot project through which the **State of Tennessee** pays the Legal Aid Society to help gain Supplemental Security Income benefits for low-income, disabled persons who received Families First benefits. As a result of the project’s local success, it has been expanded throughout the state. The new contract provides important new services for low-income families, offers a new source of payment to Tennessee’s four legal aid providers, and saves the state money.

The **Oak Ridge office** received a grant from the **United Way of Anderson County** to establish an Education-Legal Partnership with a Family Resource Center serving high-risk children in Oak Ridge Schools. Oak Ridge attorneys address legal problems that destabilize the family and interfere with the ability of children to succeed in school.

The **Oak Ridge office** has entered into an innovative agreement with **Anderson County and Claiborne County Juvenile Courts**. Under the written agreements, the courts will appoint (and authorize payment for) Legal Aid Society attorneys as Guardians *ad Litem* for children whose cases raise complex issues relating to special education or TennCare services.

During 2007, the **Legal Aid Society** expanded the number of grant requests submitted and grants awarded. Of the grants awarded for 2007, ten represent support from funders that were
new to the Legal Aid Society, including: American College of Bankruptcy; Baptist Healing Trust; Cal Turner Family Foundation; Center for Nonprofit Management; Dandridge Trust; Dell Foundation; Ingram Charities, Inc.; Middle Tennessee Electric Customers Care; Regions Bank and Tennessee Department of State.

Staff members from the Legal Aid Society actively engage in over 180 collaborations through client referral agreements, participation on community- and state-wide coalitions, and joint projects. By working closely with other providers, advocates, and decision makers, the Legal Aid Society can more effectively and efficiently serve its clients.

The Community Education staff, along with the help of other Legal Aid Society staff, provided 222 educational presentations with 6,494 participants and distributed 174,092 brochures.

Honoring Good Work

The Legal Aid Society won two Center for Nonprofit Management Salute To Excellence Awards this year, sweeping both categories in which the organization was nominated — and marking only the second time in the history of the event that two awards were bestowed on one organization in a single year.

The Legal Aid Society was given the Excellence in Communications Award and Ashley Wiltshire was named CEO of the Year.

Russell Overby, attorney [Nashville], received the Ashley T. Wiltshire Public Service Attorney of the Year Award from the Tennessee Bar Association.

The Legal Aid Society hosted a reception to mark the retirement of Ashley Wiltshire, who served the Legal Aid Society for 37 years, with 31 of those years as executive director. More than 200 friends, colleagues and civic leaders attended the reception to pay tribute to Ashley’s outstanding leadership and commitment to the cause of justice. A fund in Ashley’s honor was established.

New Staff

Joining Legal Aid Society this year were attorneys Andrae Crismon, Gallatin; James McWilliams, Clarksville; and Chay Sengkhoumany, Nashville.

Also joining the staff were Bethany Brown, Legal Assistant/CCR Advocate – Clarksville; Homer Ferguson Intake Worker – Nashville; Lauralee Haynes Pro Bono Administrative Assistant/Paralegal – Nashville; Joan Lillard, Receptionist – Clarksville; Helena Ortegon, DV Advocate – Nashville; and Krista Scruggs, Legal Intake Specialist – Gallatin.
by the staff of the Legal Aid Society to provide emergency assistance to our clients; donations can be made to this fund. The Tennessee Bar Association also honored Ashley by naming its Public Service Attorney of the Year Award in his honor.

William Bush, attorney [Cookeville], was awarded a fellowship from the American Bar Association’s Employment Law Section. The fellowship is designed to train attorneys in the latest developments in employment law.

Jean Crowe, attorney [Nashville], was appointed liaison to the American Bar Association Committee for the Delivery of Legal Services.

Theresa-Vay Smith, attorney [Oak Ridge], was named to the Editorial Committee of the Clearinghouse Review, a national publication of the Shriver Center on Law and Poverty.

The Gallatin office of the Legal Aid Society received three awards from the United Way of Sumner County: the Chairman’s Elite Club Award for Outstanding Company Campaign; the Silver Award for Outstanding Services to the People of Our Community; and The James W. Hawkins Award for 100 Percent Participation in Employee Giving Campaign.

The National Board of Directors for Legal Services Corporation met in Nashville for the first time in 2007. The board heard presentations on the Legal Aid Society’s Tennessee Taxpayer Project, community education efforts and the outstanding collaborations within the legal aid community in Tennessee.

The Nashville Business Journal named four Legal Aid Society leaders to the “Best of the Bar.” Katie Edge, president of the Legal Aid Society Board of Directors, was listed in the category of banking and finance law. James Weatherly, a member of the Legal Aid Society Board of Directors, was listed in the category of criminal defense. Andree Blumstein, a member of the Nashville Pro Bono Program Board of Directors, was listed in the category of appellate practice. Gif Thornton, 2007 Campaign for Equal Justice chair and former member of the Board of Directors, was listed in the categories of government relations law and insurance law.

In 2007, the Legal Aid Society helped 223 families keep their homes or obtain affordable housing.
VICTORIA EDWARDS
Financial Exploitation of the Elderly

Victoria Edwards is an 82-year-old woman who was living in an unlicensed boarding home. The boarding home owner convinced Ms. Edwards to add his name to her checking account and to give him power of attorney over her finances. The owner charged Ms. Edwards $500 per month to live in the house. He gave her very little food and only allowed her to take cold showers. She was rarely allowed out of her room. The owner wrote several checks out of Ms. Edwards’ account for items unrelated to her care and for his own benefit.

Advocates of the Legal Aid Society helped Ms. Edwards revoke the power of attorney, got her out of the boarding home and got her moved into a comfortable nursing home.

“Ms. Edwards was so excited to get a nice warm bath and a hot meal,” said Carmen Craft, a paralegal who worked on the case. “I have never seen someone so happy to go to a nursing home. She said she loved it there and never wants to leave.”

SPREADING THE WORD

Gary Housepian, executive director, began a blog to document and highlight the work of the Legal Aid Society. The blog, located at http://legalaidsoociety.blogspot.com, features client stories and personal anecdotes about the work of the Legal Aid Society.


Jean Crowe, attorney [Nashville], contributed to the Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking in Civil Protection Order Cases published by the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence. She also published a commentary in the Tennessean titled “With Sufficient Legal Services, Domestic Victims Break Cycle of Abuse.”

David Ettinger, attorney [Nashville] serves on the board of directors of the National Organization of Social Security Claimants’ Representatives (NOSSCR). NOSSCR’s 6th Circuit Region sponsored a training session in Nashville to teach lawyers how better to navigate the social security appeals process, and David helped organize the event.

Jim Hawkins, managing attorney [Gallatin], continued to write a weekly legal information column. “Legal Notes” is distributed to community newspapers throughout the Legal Aid Society’s 48-county service area. By the end of 2007, Jim had written more than 115 columns.

Attorneys and staff have participated in the Legal Aid Society Podcast, which is available at the Legal Aid Society web site, www.las.org. Topics this year included what to do if you cannot make a house payment, Medicaid and nursing home costs and special education in Tennessee. The Legal Aid Society’s website received more than 144,000 hits in 2007.

In 2007, the Legal Aid Society established a speakers bureau, offering speakers to civic clubs and organizations throughout the service area. The speakers bureau includes more than 20 attorneys, staff and volunteers. They spoke to 12 civic groups in the first four months.

THE 2007 CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE

Thanks to the generosity of many in our 48-county service area and the hard work of many volunteers, the Campaign for Equal Justice once again exceeded its fundraising goal. In 2007, the campaign raised $711,213, surpassing the goal of $710,000.

2007 Campaign Chair
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Large Firm Co-Chairs
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Oak Ridge Chair
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Tullahoma Chair
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Williamson County Chair
Judy A. Oxford
Victoria Edwards*

Financial Exploitation of the Elderly

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“Ms. Edwards was so excited to get a nice warm bath and a hot meal,” said Carmen Craft, a paralegal who worked on the case. “I have never seen someone so happy to go to a nursing home. She said she loved it there and never wants to leave.”

*not her real name

In 2007, the Legal Aid Society won over $929,000 in annual social security and associated medical benefits for people with disabilities.
Aimee Luna was very professional in her job yet very understanding. She explained all the details we needed to know to reach our goal. In the future if I were to need help of this nature, I would hope I can get someone like Aimee Luna. —R.B. Sanders, Tullahoma

Volunteers

The following people have donated their time and talents to help further the mission of the Legal Aid Society. We thank them for their dedication and assistance. Please accept our apologies for any omissions.

Clarksville
Volunteer Attorneys
Barnes, Tim
Bowman, Rodger
Christopher, Steve
Moyer, Rob
Poland, Reid
Pugh, Michael
Runyon, Jay
Runyon, Ray
Smith, Charles

Additional Volunteers
Bergen, Charles
Denehy, Kathy
Durant, Cynthia
Nealous, Chonta
Stone, Heather

Columbia
Volunteer Attorney
Leonard, John

Cookeville
Volunteer Attorney
Craig Fickling

Additional Volunteers
Boles, Dean
Brown, Jody
McFly, Marty
Mayberry, Jean

Gallatin
Volunteer Attorneys
Allman, Andy
Amonette, David
Boyers, Thomas
Carter, Mike
Chamberlain, James
Cothren, Lisa
Crowell, Amanda
Davis, Tim
Detring, Wayne
Dishmon, Debra
Dunigan, Brian
Ehmling, Allen
Frazzelle, Debra
Frazzelle, Terry
Hall, Jean Ann
Hamilton, J. Robert
Harsh, Joseph
Harsh, Nathan
Henderson, Mark
Highers, William Bart
Holliman, Debbie
Holmes, David
Ingrum, Jay
Jones, William P.
Kelly, Philip
Lawrence, David
Lincoln, Curtis
Linnville, Sharon
Lucas, Randy
McBrien, Shawn
Merry, Susan
Parke, Susan
Pruitt, Penny
Rowland, Julie
Siddle, Roger
Smith, Gwynn
Smith, Mark
Stubbs, Walter
Takacs, Tim
Trull, Vickie
Vance, Robin
Wells, Jon
Williams, Gary

Additional Volunteers
Brennon, Jim
Craft, Carmen
Hancock, Tracy
Hawkins, Betsy
Hawkins, Jimmy
Ilott, Pam
McEuen, Adrienne
Mumford, Roland
Pruitt, Penny
Scruggs, Chasitie
Stewart, Maria

Murfreesboro
Volunteer Attorneys
Baker, John
Beasley, Gary
Blankenship, John
Blalock-Hower, Michelle
Bullock, Don
Downard, David
Hogan, Tim
Hornby, Brad
Kidwell, Dicken
Knox, Kerry
Mansfield, Rick
Sellers, Ewing
Shannon, Mitch
Trail, Sandra
Tucker, Bonita

Additional Volunteers
Kansari, Sepedideh
Schneider, Ryan

Nashville
Volunteer Attorneys
Aaron, Tara
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Adams, W. Justin
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Akers, Jessie Ray, Jr.
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Alexander, Patrick
Allison, Connie
Allison, Henry
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Andrews, W.
Christopher
Armstead, L. H.
Arney, Anne
Asher, Garrett
Ashworth, Gail
Aushrooms, Mary Beth
Bailey, John
Bailey, Kristen
Baker, Marnee
Baldwin, Russell
Baltz, Kevin
Barach, Andrea
Barrick, William
Barry, Robin
Bartley, Keene
Baugh, Mark
Baxter, Danny
Beakes, Jim
Beemer, Jeffrey
Beasley, Fred
Behm, Margaret
Berea, Daniel
Berry, C. Dewees
Blackburn, Gary
Bodzy, Ben
Bohn, Cynthia
Bosswest, Janice
Boyd, Brian
Branstetter, C. Dewey
Bricker, Todd
Bridge, W. David
Brinkley, Rebecca
Brothers, Kathryn
Brown, Kim
Brown, Deron
Brown, John
Brown, Martin
Bryant, John
Bryant, Karyn
Bryant, Kenneth
Buchanan, Alexander
Buckholts, Charles
Buffalo, John
Bulso, Gino
Burks, Derek
Burnett, Brandy
Burnett, L.G. “Buddy”
Burns, Ben
Burnstein, Julie
Butler, Jack
Byrse, Jean
Byrde, Jack
Byrd, Kenny
Byrd, Rebecca
Cain, Charles
Cain, Karen
Caldandrello, Joseph
Cameron, Jim
Campbell, Patricia
Canas, David
Cannon, Grayson
Cannon, John
Capparella, Donald
Carmack, Jamie
Carter, Brett
Cashion, Gregory
Casper, Brian
Castellarin, Michael
Castle, Susan
Castle, George
Caudley, John
Chan, Teresa
Chaney-Smith, Shannon
Changas, David
Chen, Mark
Cherry, Jeremy
Clayton, Terry
Clements, Kirk
Cloud, Jay
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Coles, Jonathan
Cole, Mark
Coleman, David
Collier, James
Cooper, David
Cooper, Dixie
Copple, George
Corbett, W. Lee
Corless, Catherine
Cornelius, Charles
Corts, Thomas
Cox, Stephen
Cramer, Philip
Crawford, George
Crocker, Charles
Cross, Alix Coulter
Cross, Charles
Cummins, Brian
Cunningham, Kelly
Curley, Matthew
Curtis, James III
Dance, Fred
Daugherty, Christina
Davidson, Paul
Davidson, Phillip
Davis, Ralph
De Lanais, James
Demaree, Rebecca
Wells
Denton, Joshua
deQuesada, Maria
Desai, Manisha
Dickert, Linda
Dietz, Wallace
Dinan, Jessica
Dirksen, Peter
Dixon, Jacqueline
Dobbins, Dot
Dodson, Harlan III
Doran, James
Downard, David
Downey, Bob
Downtown, Mark
Domaleski, Cole
Drake, Thomas
Dudney, Laura
Duer, Phillip
Duncan, Jimmy
Dunn, Chris
Dunlap, Blair
Eberle, Jennifer
Eckert, Joel
Edmondson, Thomas
Edwards, Derek
Eisen, Steven
Essary, Bryan
Estes, Tommy
Evans, Mary
Everett, James
Everhart, Amy
Ezell, Kenneth "Pete"

Fardon, D. Alexander
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Farmer, William
Farringer, John
Felber, Robert
Felner, Georgia
Fisher, Beverly
Flood, Ken
Forrester, Thomas
Foxman, Susan
Fraley, Mark
Francois, Mary
Francois, Renard
Frank, R. Horton
Frazier, Carey
Freeman, James III
French, Davidson
Frogge, Patrick
Fuller, Jeff
Futrell, Adam
Gabbert, Craig
Gallina, Frank
Galloway, Gregory
Gannon, John
Gardner, Michael
Garfinkle, Robert
Garland, Rebecca
Garrett, David
Gibbs, Joseph
Gichner, Jessica
Giffen, Michael
Gilbert, Harris
Gills, Angus
Gilmer, Courtney
Gilmer, Nate
Gilmore, M. Bradley
Glanton, Luvell
Goddard, Andrew
Goff, Shannon
Goodman, Claire
Goodrich, Robert
Grace, Frank
Grace, Stephen Wayne
Grant, Charles
Green, B. Riney
Green, Richard
Griffin, John
Griffith, Will
Grindon, Tonya
Grissim, Mitch
Grooms, Garry
Guest, Beth
Gupta, Suneele
Haas, Charla
Hagar, Larry
Hale, Jason
Halverstadt, Peter
Hampton, Amy
Happell, Perry
Harbison, William
Hardin, Hal
Harrington, Penny
Harris, Fannie
Harris, James
Harris, M. Taylor

Harris, Matthew
Harris, Tyree
Harwood, Crista
Hedgepath, Richard Jr.
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Helton, Lisa
Hendron, Branch
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Hickman, John Scott
Hicks, John
Hill, Tim
Hinchion, Michael
Hodde, Bill
Hofstetter, Chris
Holden, Trevenia
Hollingsworth, Thomas
Hooper, Angela
Horn, Jeffrey
Horton, John
Hoskins, Michael
House, June
Hubbard, William
Huff, David
Huff, Margaret
Hughes, L. Wearen
Hull, Daniel
Hurd, Stephen
Ingraham, Frank
Irwin, Philip
Ishii, Timothy
Ison, Mark
Ivey, Christy
Jablonski, Jon
James, Nicole
Jennings, R. Jan
Johnson, Alan
Johnson, David
Johnson, James
Johnson, Richard
Jones, Julie
Jordan, James
Jordan, Keith
Jumper, Derek
Kaludis, Bill
Kamm, Lawrence
Kendrick, Philip
Key, Kevin
Kim, Tracie
King, Greg
King, Jeffrey
Kitch, John
Kittrell, H. Tom
Kleinfeilter, David
Kloenkemper, Joseph
Koenig, Nathaniel
Kohan, Betsy
Kolb, Sharon
Koon, Linda
Kuhn, Irwin
LaGrone, Mary
Lamb, John
Langford, Mary
Larish, Kenneth
Leader, Bill
Lee, Thomas
Lefkowitz, Steven
Levy, Jeffrey
Lewis, Sean
Li, Feng
Limon, Susan
Lipshie, Samuel
Livingston, Diana
Locklin, Jennifer
Longmire, Wendy
Lujan, Tracy
Lund, Stephen
Lyle, David
Lyle, Mary Frances
Lynch, Bob
Lyons, Philip
MacKay, Alexandra
MacLean, Bradley
MacLean, Colleen
MacLean, Nancy
Mahan, Mollie
Mann, James Terrell
Mannchen, Carol
Marchetti, Gino
Marshall, Ellis
Martin, Anne
Martin, Gerald
Martin, James
Martin, Joseph
Martin, Sean
Mathes, Peggy
Mathews, Blakeley
Maxwell, Lawrence
Mazzone, Meg
McBrayer, W. Neal
McCandless, Charles
McCaskill, William
McCune, Malcolm
McDonald, John
McDowell, J. David
McElroy, Charles
McFarland, Anthony
McGee, William Don
McKee, Todd
McLemore, John
McNally, Patrick
McNamee, Marc
McNeilly, W.
Warner III
Meekin, Jennifer
Mello, Ralph
Melton, V.A. "Bo"
Mertock, Lori
Meyer, Stephen
Miller, Mark
Mills, Paige
Miranda, Mary Ann
Mobley, Jeffrey
Monsue, Craig
Moody, William

Moore, Beth
Moore, Jolade
Morris, Aaron
Moser, Paul
Moss, Barbara
Moss, Lauren W.
Mossman, Michael
Muller, Melissa
Bradford
Murphy, Sharmila
Nave, David
Neff, Amy
Newman, Philip
Nickels, Richard
Nimmo, R. Price
Norris, Christina
Norton, William
Notestine, Robert
O’Rear, Howell
Oakley, Greg
Odle, Cynthia
Oglesby, James
Oxford, Judy
Palmer, Sue
Panther, Todd
Park, John
Parker, Paul
Parks, Brett
Parsley, D. Scott
Parsons, Will
Patterson, Mark
Patterson, Robert
Patton, C. Benton
Peak, Julie
Perrinich, Nick
Perutelli, Barbara
Pilchau, David
Phillips, Bruce
Pitt, Justin
Plotkin, Emily
Plymire, Cynthia
Podis, Mark
Pollack, Lawrence
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Porter, William
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Price, Stephen
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Pruitt, Ann
Qualls, J. Jill
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Reed, W. Casey
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Rhodes, Scott
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Rinser, David
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Roberts, Michael
Robinson, Phillip
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Roehrig, Brian
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Rose, Ben
Rose, James
Ross, A. Scott
Rothschild, Edgar
Rowland, John
Rowlett, Andy
Rubenfield, Abby
Rubenstein, Gary
Rush, Marissa
Rusnak, Joseph
Russell, Anne
Rutherford, Wende
Ryan, Robyn
Salas, Maria
Sandine, Julie
Saull, H. Scott
Saulters, Donald
Saul, H. Scott
Saunders, Anthony
Scholes, Donald
Scandinon, Frank
Schreiner-Oldham, Julie
Scott, Rhonda
Scott, David
Scott, H. William
Sebastian, Richard
Sebelist, Yvette
Sharp, Kevin
Shasteen, Molly
Shelton, Brian
Shockley, Gary
Silvas, Kimberly
Simmons, Janelle
Simmons, Steven
Simmonetti-Harris, Renee
Simons, Nick
Sims, W. Scott
Sir, Martin
Skoney, Lesa
Slocum, Keith
Small, Daniel
Smith, A. Allen II
Smith, Derrick
Smith, Gregory
Smith, Jay
Smith, Mark
Smith, Melody
Smith, Richard
Smith, Richard K.
Smith, Warren
Smith, Yanika
Smits, Kelly
Sowell, Alan
Spann, Jack
Spark, Jeffrey
Speers, Cathy
Spezia, Michelle
Spinning, Carl
Stanfill, Chadwick
Steen, Ronald
Story, Virginia
Stover, William
Street, Tim
Stringer, Corey
Swafford, Tara
Swearingen, Travis
Sveigis, Martin
Tabor, Jeffrey
Taplinger, Lisa
Tardio, Christopher
Taylor, Joel Lee
Tarpley, John
Taterka, Steven
Taylor, David
Taylor, David
Taylor, Matthew
Taylor, Todd
Temple, Gary
Tennent, Richard
Thompson, Bob F.
Thompson, David
Thompson, Sabin
Thorsen, Christopher
Throckmorton, Raymond III
Tieman, David
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**ELIZABETH BOONE**
Conquering Domestic Violence

Elizabeth Boone, a 33-year-old mother of a young child, was physically abused by her husband. He beat, shoved, burned, scratched, and choked her on multiple occasions. He even threatened to kill her. Ms. Boone turned to the Legal Aid Society and the court system to protect herself and her child. With the Legal Aid Society’s help, she became one of the first domestic violence victims to benefit from an Order of Protection under the new five-year extended time period. When her husband violated the Order of Protection, the Legal Aid Society advocate successfully helped Ms. Boone through the process; her husband was arrested and convicted for the violation. The Legal Aid Society also accompanied Ms. Boone to criminal court several times for prosecution of the still pending, underlying assault charge.

When Ms. Boone decided she needed to become legally independent from her abuser in order to be safe, a Legal Aid Society attorney helped her to obtain a divorce. In addition to the legal independence, Ms. Boone has made steps to become financially and emotionally independent. She works full-time, earning a modest living to support herself and her child. With encouragement from the Legal Aid Society advocate, Ms. Boone and her child began counseling to help heal from the trauma caused by the repeated violence. The combination of legal support and counseling has helped give them safety, peace and hope.

---

*not her real name*
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KEVIN FOWLER.

–Randall Schmidt, Clarksville

THE BENDERS were already having difficulty when
Mr. Bender lost his job and was supporting his family
on unemployment insurance. They then received notice that
the Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS)
was terminating the family’s Medicaid benefits.
Mrs. Bender called the Legal Aid Society. One of
our attorneys found that DHS was relying on a policy that
made it unreasonably difficult for families with
unemployment benefits to qualify for Medicaid, even
when their income was below the eligibility limit.

The attorney wrote DHS and pointed out that the policy
violated federal Medicaid law. DHS agreed that
the Bender family remained eligible. It also has agreed to
change its policy. Tennessee will treat unemployment
insurance as any other source of income when it determines
eligibility for both Medicaid and Families First. As a result,
hundreds of low-wage Tennessee workers will have
a much fairer chance to get critical health and
income benefits for their families.

In 2007, the Legal Aid Society helped
low-income families receive over
$475,000 in medical benefits.
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