Legal Aid Society Assists Trafficking Victim Find Housing

“Robin” became a sex-trafficking victim when her father sold her at the age of 8. Despite a lengthy criminal record of prostitution (over 200 charges), Robin began turning her life around in her mid-thirties. She received services at The Next Door, went through the Magdalene House program, obtained employment, and regained custody of her children. She applied to public housing but was denied admission due to her criminal background.

Robin came to Legal Aid Society to assist with her denial grievance hearing after learning about our re-entry program through a presentation given by Legal Aid Society staff at Magdalene House. Our Skadden Fellow attorney, Vidhi Joshi, represented Robin and presented both mitigation and rehabilitation evidence which the housing authority is required to consider under federal law. Robin’s denial was reversed and she secured housing for herself and her 2 teenage children.

Tullahoma Office Launches Program for Pro Se Litigants

Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands launched a new education program with the Coffee County General Sessions Court to support self represented litigants. A Legal Aid Society staff member from the Tullahoma office will provide a free, monthly presentation to self represented litigants while the General Sessions Court is in recess from its civil docket. The program will begin by focusing on eviction actions and may expand to include presentations for other case
types. The Legal Aid Society representative will provide educational materials, explain court procedures and clarify the legal rights and responsibilities of renters and landlords.

The Tullahoma News has more here.

Legal Aid Society Continues to Receive More Diversified Funding

Legal Aid Society is honored to be the recipient of a $15,000 partnership grant from MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. This year’s award marks the third year that Legal Aid Society has received support from the organization for its anti-hunger efforts. Legal Aid Society advocates tirelessly before state and federal agencies in order to secure benefits for those who need them. The grant money will go towards continuing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (formerly known as food stamps) advocacy.

The Administrative Office of the Courts, Tennessee has awarded our Tullahoma office $12,000 through its Parent Education and Mediation Fund. These funds will be used to provide legal services in divorce cases in the 12th, 14th, 17th and 31st judicial districts where one of the spouses is a survivor of domestic violence. The goal of this project is to preserve and foster the relationships between children of divorce and their parents in accordance with the Tennessee Parenting Plan law.

Staff Updates

Tabitha Faulconer has joined our staff as a Community Outreach Advocate/Paralegal. Tabitha is a graduate of Bellarmine University where she graduated with a double major in Criminal Justice and Psychology. She most recently was a paralegal with Adams Legal Group in Louisville KY and also previously worked for DeCamillis & Mattingly as a legal assistant. She will work out of our Nashville office but will provide assistance to housing attorneys in our Nashville, Gallatin, Clarksville, Murfreesboro, and Columbia offices.

Cherrelle Hooper, an attorney in our Gallatin office, has been appointed the Chair of the Children’s Issues Committee for the TN Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division for 2016-2017 (to begin this June)

Barbara Penland-LaFevers was recently awarded the International President’s Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her distinguished
achievements in fulfilling the mission of Lions' Clubs International. Barbara is currently the Zone Chair for District 12S Zone E.

Campaign Update

As of May 24, we have raised $593,256 towards our $827,000 goal for the 2016 campaign.

To make YOUR tax-deductible donation to Legal Aid Society, you can go online to www.las.org or send a check payable to Legal Aid Society to 300 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN 37201. If you would like to make a pledge to be paid later this year or have questions, please contact Cindy Durham, director of development, at 615-780-7125 or cdurham@las.org.

Upcoming Clinics

We are pleased to host many clinics across Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland Plateau. These clinics are staffed by both Legal Aid Society and pro bono attorneys. If you would like to volunteer at one of the clinics, please contact Jarod Word at jword@las.org (or 615-780-7131) or call your local Legal Aid Society office.

You can see the list of upcoming clinics, hosted by Legal Aid Society and offered by partners, here.

Shop With Amazon or Kroger? Support Legal Aid Society!

Looking for an easy way to support our work? When you shop at Amazon or Kroger, a portion of your purchases can go to support Legal Aid Society. To participate, sign up for Amazon Smile or Kroger Rewards (NPO # 98149), select Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands as your charity of choice and start shopping. A percentage of your eligible purchases will be donated to the organization at no extra cost to you!