



Legal Aid Society

of Middle Tennessee & the Cumberland

Working Together. Doing Justice. Restoring Hope.

E-REPORT: BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Back-to-school days are here and many of us are already immersed in the hustle and bustle of the school year. This year, however, August arrived with a back-to-school season like never before.

Just as we began to adjust to remote work, social-distancing, and mask requirements, many of us were faced with the uncertainty of the school year and a new set of unfamiliar obstacles. Alongside navigating hybrid schedules, virtual learning, and unemployment, low-income families in Middle Tennessee are facing unprecedented challenges in the wake of Covid-19 and "the new normal".

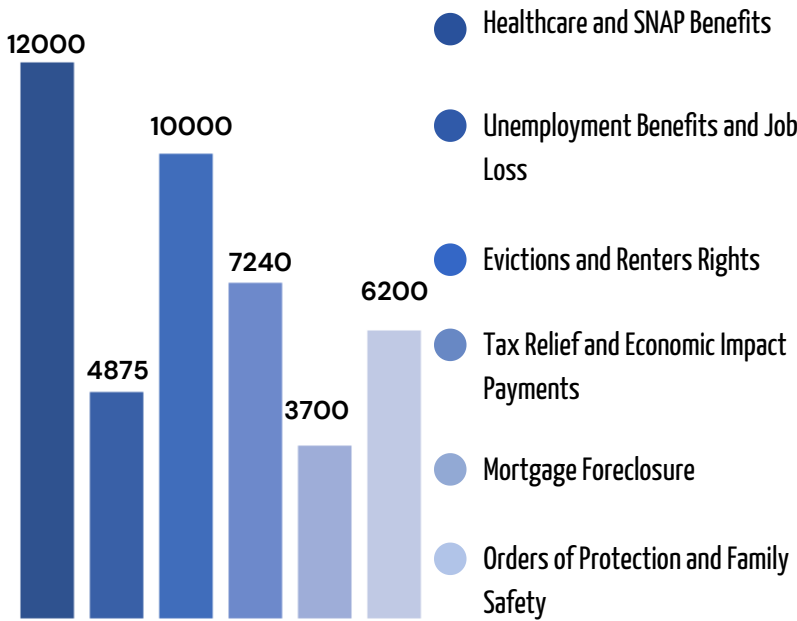
Because of you, Legal Aid Society was able to meet families where they are and provide resources regarding healthcare, housing, unemployment, family safety, evictions and tax relief via food distribution centers at schools and community centers.

OUTREACH

Combating disparity in the age of Covid-19.

Though LAS staff are working remotely, the pandemic has not curtailed outreach efforts across Middle Tennessee.

Outreach Materials Distributed



Managing Attorney of LAS' Tullahoma office, Iska Hoole, volunteers at a local food distribution center earlier in the summer.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 48% of students in Tennessee schools participate in the free or reduced lunch program. The food these children receive while at school could be their only guaranteed meal each day.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Gilbert Family Fellowship

Funded by a generous donation from long-time Legal Aid Society supporter, Harris Gilbert, the Gilbert Family Fellowship is comprised of 8 LAS attorneys who focus on a variety of civil legal issues facing at-risk children and young adults.

In the years following the fellowship's inception in May 2016, the Fellows have advocated on behalf of children who are experiencing a variety of special education and school discipline issues. In addition to securing significant victories for nearly 100 children and families, the Fellows continue to work alongside schools and community organizations to address the needs to children with disabilities and children of color.

Through the acquisition of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and other education-based solutions, the Gilbert Family Fellows are able to significantly change the trajectory of an at-risk child's future through the assurance of a positive and individualized educational experience.

"Access to the best possible education can be life-changing for our clients. That's why the work of the Gilbert Family Fellows is so important. Through our advocacy and education opportunities, we are giving a voice to the most vulnerable students in our communities."

-LAS Attorney and Gilbert Fellow, Paige H. Barbeauld

DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 5 children have a learning disability and are more likely than their peers to repeat a grade, get suspended or drop out of school.

As adults, individuals with learning disabilities struggle in the workplace and have high rates of involvement with the criminal justice system.





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LOOKING FORWARD

Keep an eye out in the coming months for these exciting new ways to become involved with Legal Aid Society!

LAS Heroes: A new monthly giving program that turns supporters into sustainers by ensuring equal justice for all through a small monthly gift.

LAS Ambassadors: A new opportunity for LAS supporters who believe in LAS's mission and are willing to share it with others. LAS Ambassadors will have unique opportunities to engage with LAS staff, Board of Directors and leadership.

LAS TAPS TECHNOLOGY FOR GREATER IMPACT

LAS Facebook Live sessions reach 69,000 people.

While the need for resources and assistance in low-income and vulnerable communities grew, the number of face to face outreach opportunities continued to decline through Spring and Summer.

To meet that need, LAS turned to weekly Facebook Live sessions to discuss topics impacting our community. Facebook Live sessions included Unemployment, TennCare and SNAP benefits, Economic Impact Payments and tax relief, mortgage foreclosure, Orders of Protection and divorce, evictions and renters rights, Powers of Attorney, and Special Education during Covid-19.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

- Erin Palmer Polly, Butler Snow
- Moziano (Trey) S. Reliford, Neal and Harwell
- Trey Whitfield, Young Leaders Council
- David Weil, Adjunct Instructor, Belmont University and Tennessee State University

Legal Aid Society

2019-2020 Leadership Cabinet

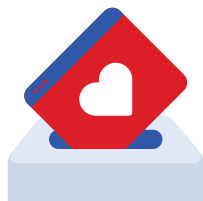
Baker Donelson
 Bass, Berry & Sims
 Berry & Tudor
 Bone McAllester Norton
 Bradley Arant Boult Cummings
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 Gullett, Sanford, Robinson & Martin
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 Pepper Law
 Sherrard, Roe, Voigt & Harbison
 Taylor, Pigue, Marchetti & Blair
 Trauger & Tuke
 Waldron, Fann & Parsley
 Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis
 Weatherly, McNally and Dixon

The Leadership Cabinet is made up of law firms and in-house legal departments which commit \$400 per attorney to Legal Aid Society. For more information on how to join our Leadership Cabinet, please contact Brittany Curry at 615.780.7121 or bcurry@las.org.

Haven't made your 2020 contribution yet?

Donate at las.org or make checks payable to:



Legal Aid Society
 1321 Murfreesboro Pike, Suite 400
 Nashville, TN 37217

Resources

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/2979-free-reduced-price-school-lunch-participation#detailed/2/any/false/1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133/any/13216,10109>

<https://www.nclld.org/research/state-of-learning-disabilities>