

Annual Report 2020



COMMUNITY
LEGAL SERVICES
of MID-FLORIDA

LETTER FROM THE CEO



I continue to remain both proud and humbled by the impact our dedicated lawyers, staff, and volunteers make in Central Florida every day. In early 2020, Community Legal was able to quickly pivot our operation by leveraging our historical investments in technology to a completely remote workforce in order to remain effective despite the pandemic. We had no downtime in services as a result of this transition, and while many organizations saw a significant reduction in community impact as a result of the pandemic, Community Legal only saw a less than 3% decrease in the number of people we served. Now that offices have reopened for staff and we can assist clients on an appointment only basis, we are perfectly situated to make 2021 our most impactful year ever.

Our success, in part, is due to the tremendous support we received in 2020 from our community. In 2020, we saw record numbers of attorneys participating in legal advice clinics, and a significant increase in funding from donors and community partners. We have used this opportunity to build stronger relationships with our local and state officials as we work together to address those secondary disasters attributable to the pandemic, including families losing jobs and on the verge of becoming homeless.

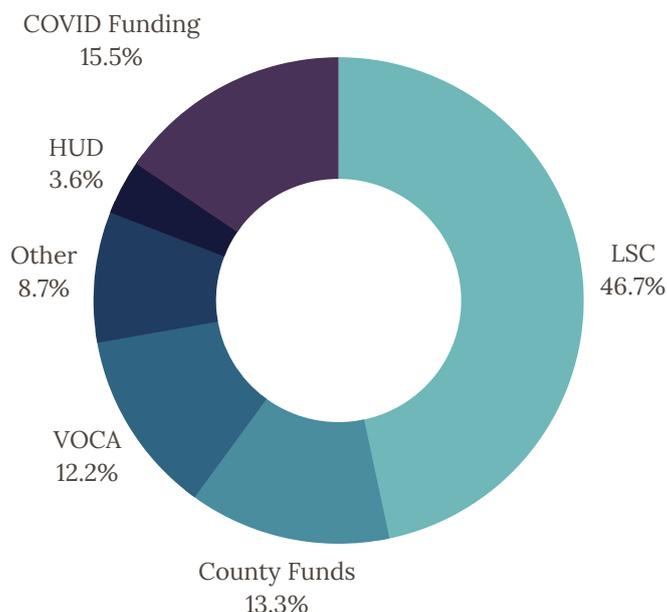
As you take some time to review our accomplishments from last year, consider reaching out to take a case, make a contribution, or both. I know that the community still needs our help more than ever, and we certainly could use yours.

With Gratitude,

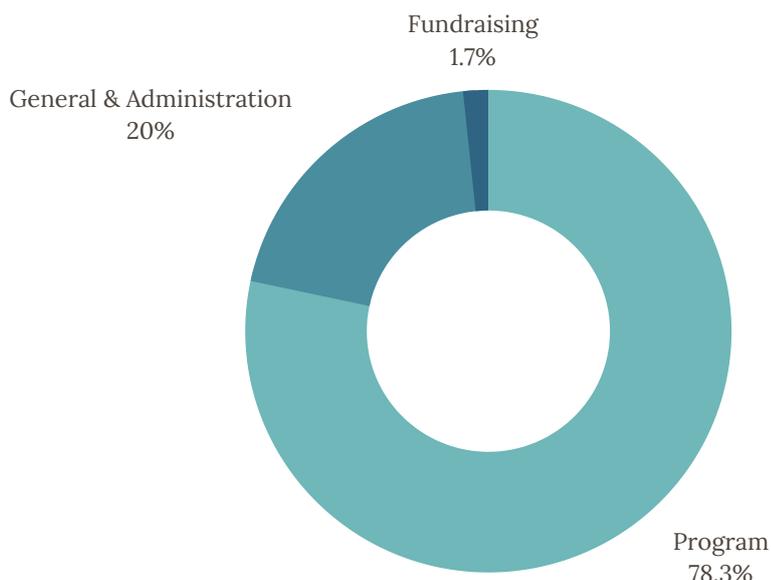
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Harvey'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeffrey D. Harvey, Esq.

2020 REVENUE



2020 EXPENSES



SERVICES

Family Law

Domestic violence injunctions, divorce, paternity, custody, child support and visitation

Community Economic Development

Small business, non-profit work as well as assist with deals for the development of affordable housing

Veterans

VA disability claims, rating reductions, discharge upgrades and other civil legal matters

Public Benefits

Cash assistance, Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security benefits, unemployment compensation, food stamps

Elder Law

Abuse issues, living wills, advanced healthcare directives, financial scams and exploitation

Housing

Landlord/tenant issues, investigation and enforcement of the Fair Housing Act, mortgage foreclosure, housing and financial counseling

Consumer Law

Sales contracts, credit issues, repossession, harassment by creditors, bankruptcy, wage garnishment

Education

Suspensions, expulsions and rights of minority children and those with disabilities

Medical-Legal Partnerships

Embedding lawyers and paralegals alongside health care teams in clinics to work collaboratively to identify and treat health harming social conditions

ASSISTING THOSE IN NEED

- **12,501** Requests for assistance answered including phone calls, online chat and online intake forms
- **9,536** People served firm wide with **10,605** legal matters
- **60,103** Number of case hours our staff spent on clients
- **25,760** Total HELpline requests
- **2,870** Cases involving Domestic Violence
- **9,733** Children impacted by CLSMF cases
- **2,048** Seniors impacted by CLSMF cases
- **606** Veteran cases involving CLSMF staff
- **2,632** Cases involving someone with a disabling condition

1.1M

**QUALIFY FOR
LEGAL AID**

\$26,200

**POVERTY LEVEL INCOME
OF A FAMILY OF 4**

46%

**OF HOUSEHOLDS IN
FLORIDA COULD NOT
AFFORD BASIC NEEDS**

**OF 7.7 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS IN FLORIDA, 44% OF
HOUSEHOLDS LIVE IN POVERTY OR BELOW THE ALICE
THRESHOLDS.**

MANY SERVICES ARE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE WORK OF VOLUNTEERS

- **174** Attorneys volunteered in 2020
- **583** Pro Bono cases handled by volunteer attorneys
- **557** Clients served by Pro Bono attorneys
- **2,234** Service Hours by Pro Bono attorneys

CLIENT STORIES



Jennifer (Medical Legal Partnership)

Jennifer has numerous medical issues, was homeless, staying in a shelter, and was hospitalized multiple times before being referred to CLSMF through the Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) with Grace Medical Home. Thanks to the swift and dedicated efforts in September 2019 by the MLP team, the Social Security Administration approved ongoing and retroactive benefits by January 2020. Jennifer is extremely grateful to CLSMF for working so quickly to help her receive income and medical coverage, helping her maintain housing and stable living.

Leigh Ann (Family Law)

Leigh Ann is a 28-year-old single mom and victim of domestic violence. She was referred to CLSMF by the State Attorney's Office. The CLSMF Family Law unit filed and was granted an Injunction for Protection (IFP) on behalf of Leigh Ann. She also received an order granting 100% time-sharing of the children because the minor child witnessed the domestic violence. CLSMF is proud to work with victim advocates and community partners to keep everyone safe!



CLIENT STORIES

Danielle (Helpline)

Danielle came to us as a 19-year-old woman who did not have a proper birth certificate or identification. Although a resident of Florida now, her New York birth certificate simply stated “Baby Girl” as her name. Having gone by Danielle her entire life, she needed her legal documents to prove her identity. CLSMF helped her to obtain a legal name change; securing for her a State of Florida ID and a New York birth certificate. Danielle was able to vote for the first time in the recent Presidential election.



Fred (Helpline)

Fred is a 61-year-old Deland resident who had experienced five years of homelessness. CLSMF was able to help him apply for and receive Social Security Disability benefits, Section 8 Housing as well as Medicaid benefits. This client was grateful to have a home and medical treatment for the first time in years!

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LSC | America's Partner
for Equal Justice

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

LSC is the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans in the nation. Established in 1974, LSC operates as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that promotes equal access to justice and provides grants for high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income Americans. LSC distributes more than 90 percent of its total funding to 132 independent nonprofit legal aid programs with more than 800 offices. LSC-funded programs help people who live in households with annual incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines.



The Florida Bar Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide greater access to justice. Through strategic grant making, the Foundation funds local and statewide civil legal aid organizations and projects to improve the administration of justice and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the legal aid delivery system. The Foundation engages in catalytic philanthropy by investing in training, technology, technical assistance, assessment, and capacity-building for legal aid and works to develop and expand innovative pro bono initiatives.



Volusia-Flagler Counties

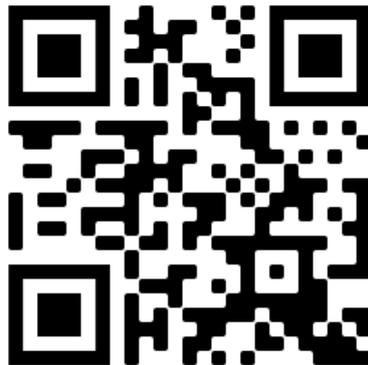
United Way is engaged in nearly 1,800 communities across more than 40 countries and territories worldwide. They are focused on creating community-based and community-led solutions that strengthen the cornerstones for a good quality of life: education, financial stability and health. United Way's focus is to identify and resolve pressing community issues and to make measurable changes in communities through partnerships with schools, government agencies, businesses, organized labor, financial institutions, community development corporations, voluntary and neighborhood associations.

PARTNERS

- Aging Network Agencies
- Aspire Health Partners
- Changing Homelessness for Volusia and Flagler counties
- Citrus County Senior Programs
- Community Action Agencies
- Consumer Advocate Groups
- County Health Departments
- Domestic Violence Shelters
- Elder Options and Elder Source
- Flagler County Senior Services Program
- Florida Legal Services
- Guardian Ad Litem Programs
- Health Care Center for the Homeless
- Homeless Services Network
- Homeless Shelters
- Housd, the Central Florida Regional Housing Trust
- Housing Authorities
- Immigrant Assistance Programs
- Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar
- Marion County Children's Alliance
- Orange County Eviction Diversion Program
- Orlando City Mayor's Veterans Advisory Council
- Osceola Council on Aging
- Salvation Army
- Services for the Blind
- Transition House
- Volunteers of America (Brevard County)
- Volunteers of America (Marion County)
- United Way
- United Way Heart of Florida
- United Way Volusia Flagler



COMMUNITY _____
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_____ *of* MID-FLORIDA



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