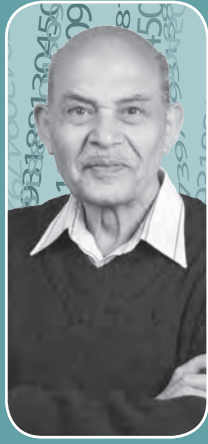


2011 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY \$269,800 SECURITY HEALTH SAFETY \$18,845,714 CIVIL RIGHTS



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Real People Behind the Numbers



SHelter



\$11,081,958 1,096 WELLBEING \$560,000 FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE





Combined Records of Service 2011

These numbers do not include the additional thousands of people who have benefited from materials and information found on our website; pro bono legal assistance clinics; attendance at community legal education presentations and trainings; continuing legal education presentations for lawyers; and, outreach visits to homeless and domestic violence shelters, senior centers, health clinics, nursing homes, and migrant labor camps.

30,133
requests for help

14,868
cases worked on

15,689
closed cases

40,895
persons helped

\$18,845,714
total monetary awards for clients*

* obtained benefits and awards in areas of child support, spousal support, unemployment compensation, supplemental security income, debt write-off, disability assistance, food stamps, and damages.



Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality, Inc.



Legal Aid of
Western Ohio, Inc.®

2011 Report to the Community

ABLE and LAWO are law firms for low-income people who cannot afford a lawyer. We work together with our many partners and supporters to ensure that the disenfranchised and vulnerable in our communities have equal access to our system of justice.

The economic slowdown has taken a harsh toll on the 32-counties served by LAWO and ABLE, with thousands of hard-working people living in poverty. Those who come to us for help are in crisis, with most facing financial emergencies and struggling to meet life's basic needs. The numbers of people living in poverty is staggering – one in eight across the U.S.

Behind the numbers are real people – our friends and neighbors – who are striving for genuine and lasting improvement in their quality of life. The pressures of poverty, driven by housing and medical costs, lack of adequate government safety net programs, and poor educational opportunities, are what bring people to the breaking point.

As lawyers and advocates, we make a dramatic difference in the lives of our clients. Every day we approach our work with urgency and intensity necessitated by the dire circumstances of our clients and the communities in which they live. Our attorneys and other advocates join with clients in their fight against poverty, injustice, and disparity to ensure that they will not be an afterthought in the wake of the nation's economic recovery.

ABLE and LAWO are dedicated to empowering people to rebuild their lives and become independent and self-sufficient. Our work combines community outreach, education, litigation, and policy advocacy – all designed to make a tangible difference in our clients' lives.

Together, we are making a significant difference in the lives of our clients and our community. Together, we do the community justice.



Working to make breathing easier for Nicholas and his grandparents.

Born prematurely, Nicholas weighed two pounds, nine ounces at birth. Like most premature infants, his lungs were under-developed and he needed a machine to help him breathe. His grandparents understood that premature babies have a higher risk of getting very sick, especially if they contract a virus known as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). This virus poses a significant risk to children with under-developed lungs, causing chronic pulmonary complications and sometimes even death. Nicholas' pulmonologist prescribed Synagis®, a medicine that helps prevent children like Nicholas from contracting RSV. Because Nicholas was covered by Medicaid, his grandparents didn't think twice about following the doctor's orders; however, when they scheduled Nicholas for his shot, the state denied their request for the shots.

Not willing to risk their grandson's health, they pulled together what resources they could and paid the \$1,800 for the first of two doses Nicholas would need before the RSV season was over. They then joined a group of other parents of premature infants represented by Legal Aid who filed a complaint on their behalf against the state for illegally and arbitrarily placing exclusions on federally mandated Medicaid coverage for the physician-recommended treatment for preventing illness caused by RSV.

The Legal Aid attorneys working on this case were able to secure a settlement under Ohio's Medicaid Program and Nicholas was approved for the shots he needed. This legal victory means that Nicholas, and other babies like him, will not be denied the medical care necessary to keep him healthy.

Medical Legal Partnership for Children

The Toledo Medical Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC) is a unique program in which doctors and lawyers work together to provide legal services to pediatric patients and their families on a broad range of issues that affect child health and wellbeing. Patients served by the MLPC are the most vulnerable in our community – children living in poverty.

The MLPC is a collaborative partnership among LAWO, ABLE, Mercy Children's Hospital and Mercy Family Care Center, and University Pediatrics at the University of Toledo Medical Center. In 2011, the MLPC assisted 367 people, including adults and children – and secured \$45,000 in financial benefits for clients. MLPC staff and advocates participate in a wide range of community coalitions and work with a number of community partners to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children. In the course of providing legal assistance to clients, MLPC attorneys have identified systemic education advocacy and healthy homes advocacy as significant areas of need.

367
people assisted

\$45,000
financial benefits
for clients

Mobile Benefit Bank Project

The Mobile Benefit Bank continues to identify both benefits for clients and client legal needs in a holistic approach to service delivery. Using mobile technology, AmeriCorps members reach out to community members to provide access to public benefits to populations who are eligible, but for one reason or another, are not accessing them.

1,742
clients
enrolled

\$1.6
MILLION
in nutrition
assistance

\$269,800
in tax
refunds

Through an increase in funding from the Toledo Community Foundation, the model originally developed in Lucas County was expanded to Wood County. Since the inception of the project in 2009, 1,742 clients have been enrolled providing assistance to almost 3,000 household members. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), prescription assistance, Healthy Start, Healthy Families, and Medicaid assistance are among the benefits procured. Nutrition assistance totaling \$1.6 million in annual allotments have been obtained for 535 households. More than \$269,800 in tax refunds and credits have also been obtained for clients.

LAWO and ABLE Advocacy

Homeownership Preservation and Foreclosure Rescue Scam

ABLE and LAWO provide assistance to homeowners at risk of losing their home to foreclosure through a Homeownership Preservation project. Attorneys provide a high volume of representation in foreclosure cases and on developing and litigating cases to accomplish systemic change and produce relief for a large number of homeowners. In addition, LAWO and ABLE were the recipients of a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant that allows attorneys and advocates to focus on foreclosure rescue scams. Advocacy in this area includes outreach to community groups and collaboration with fair housing agencies to identify individuals who may have been targeted by scam rescue operations. Typically these scams involve the homeowner paying the scam operators to help them avoid foreclosure. In reality, the operators abscond with the funds and do little if anything to assist the homeowner.



Advocacy on Behalf of Mental Health Consumers

An overwhelming number of people with mental disabilities are living in poverty and have poor physical health. LAWO and ABLE's experienced attorneys and advocates assist mental health consumers on housing issues, consumer debt matters, SSI/SSD questions, Medicaid problems; secure food stamps, and other government benefits; and, legal matters. We help secure supplemental security income or social security disability income, and we represent individuals who are unable to work due to a disability. The assistance we provide is critical to help consumers become self-sufficient, to escape or avoid homelessness, and to receive the treatment they need. In 2011, legal assistance was provided to 112 mental health consumers. Our advocates secured more than \$560,000 for consumers in the form of benefits and other awards.

112
mental health
consumers assisted

\$560,000
in benefits and other
awards secured

These figures included lump sum awards, monthly awards, and the value of Medicaid benefits. ABLE and LAWO, along with other support services play a critical role in long-term stabilization for those with mental health problems.

Legal Aid Line A2J Author™ Online Intake Interview

Legal Aid Line, our telephone and online client application system, continues to focus on eliminating literacy, language, and geographic barriers to access to legal assistance. In 2011, Legal Aid Line's partnership with LAWO resulted in the completion of the Spanish language version of the A2J Online Intake application – a project made possible through a Legal Services Corporation Technology Initiative Grant.

The Spanish language version of the online intake application provides equal access opportunities to the Spanish-speaking Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population in our 32-county service area. Online intake continues to account for approximately one-third of all applications. Close to 7,000 online applications were submitted in 2011.



Frail Elderly Advocacy

In the Dayton area, with the support of Human Services Levy (HSL) funding, LAWO is an active participant in a multi-agency coalition that addresses the needs of the frail elderly, many of whom do not have the ability to leave their homes to access services. Caseworkers from senior social services agencies turn to LAWO when their frail elderly clients need legal assistance to address barriers to health, safety, and security.



Through education, cross-trainings, referrals, advocacy, and individual legal representation, LAWO has been successfully addressing legal issues such as domestic violence, elder abuse (including financial exploitation), housing problems (including landlord/tenant and foreclosures), consumer/financial problems, access to Medicaid, wills, and durable powers of attorney. With HSL funding, LAWO can provide assistance to clients with household incomes above its usual 125% of poverty guideline, making it possible to assist many more elderly individuals who would not have access to a private attorney.

Prisoner Re-entry Legal Needs Project

For the past several years, LAWO and ABLE have partnered with several community organizations in the Toledo area to assist re-entering prisoners with legal issues focused on housing access and barriers to employment. As part of the coalition, ABLE and LAWO have recruited volunteer attorneys and law students to assist with the clinics and legal work.

144
inmates
helped

\$27,000
in fines and court
costs waived

53
bench warrants
suspended

In 2011, teams of LAWO attorneys and volunteers worked with 144 inmates inside Northwest Ohio prisons at least six months prior to their release. This six-month head start allows the legal team to proactively identify and solve legal issues that otherwise would prevent successful re-entry. The project also established a program where attorneys represent inmates via video conference before the Toledo Municipal Court. Through this program, the Court suspended 53 bench warrants, terminated two participants' probation, dismissed 10 active cases, and suspended or waived more than \$27,000 in fines and court costs, making it possible for reentering individuals to return to the community with fewer impediments to obtaining their drivers license and employment.

Civil Legal Assistance Services (CLAS)

During the sixth year of the CLAS program, LAWO continues to provide services to low-income litigants in the Toledo Municipal Court in housing and debt collection cases.

In 2011, the CLAS project received 128 new applications and continued providing services to 104 clients with cases opened before the period. Of the new cases, CLAS staff provided comprehensive representation in 82 cases; brief counsel and advice in 30 cases; and referrals to other sources of assistance and general information about the program in the remaining cases. More than \$174,683 in monetary benefits was secured for clients in 2011. These benefits include debts that were reduced or eliminated in debt collection cases, and awards of damages.

128
new
applications

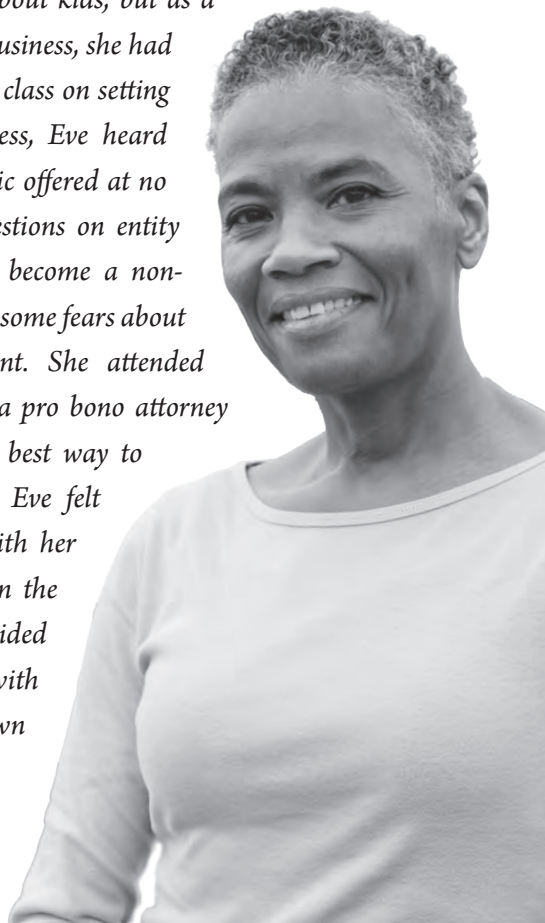
82
comprehensive
representation cases

\$174,683
in monetary
benefits secured

The CLAS staff also successfully stopped debt collection activity in 34 cases, reduced the debt or judgment against clients in nine cases, helped clients avoid a garnishment or levy in two cases, prevented evictions in 37 cases, and delayed evictions in 18 cases, giving the client time to find alternative housing.

Empowering Eve to be a successful business owner.

Eve is considering opening a neighborhood community center in the inner city that would focus on providing after school activities, mentoring, and tutoring. Eve knows a lot about kids, but as a minority female starting a new business, she had a lot to learn. While attending a class on setting up and running a small business, Eve heard about a small business legal clinic offered at no cost by Legal Aid. Eve had questions on entity choice and whether she should become a non-profit organization. She also had some fears about interacting with the government. She attended the clinic and after speaking to a pro bono attorney who talked with her about the best way to structure a non-profit business, Eve felt empowered to move forward with her plans. Affirmation that she is on the right track with her ideas provided Eve with the courage to stick with her dream of establishing her own organization.



Microenterprise Legal Assistance Project

ABLE's Microenterprise Legal Assistance Project is a community development initiative that serves entrepreneurs and small business owners in Lucas County. The Project is designed to facilitate economic empowerment in low-income and minority populations in Northwest Ohio, bringing wealth to communities, creating jobs, and broadening economic equality for historically disadvantaged groups. ABLE attorneys provide both brief advice and extended legal services to entrepreneurs who cannot afford an attorney. Pro bono attorney volunteers also provide free legal advice through business legal clinics held in the community. Since its inception, the Project has served more than 120 individuals with brief advice or extended service cases and close to 300 others through outreach and education.

Through the generous support of pro bono attorneys in the Toledo area, the Project has provided legal assistance that includes advising a community group on incorporation and how to obtain federal non-profit status, drafting a gallery contract for a stone sculptor, providing intellectual property advice for a student with a technology start-up idea, and helping a bicycle rickshaw company obtain city licensure. The Project, also involves an initiative to create a community-based microloan program for Lucas County entrepreneurs. A Toledo Microlending Advisory Council has been created to explore the creation of a Toledo-based microlending institution.

ABLE Advocacy

Long-Term Care Ombudsman/ Nursing Home Advocacy

ABLE's Ombudsman Program promotes and protects the rights of residents of long-term care facilities and services. With a focus on empowering residents to become self-advocates and improving the quality of life and care for residents, the Ombudsman Program documented more than 4,000 hours addressing issues of wrongful discharge and evictions from facilities, unattended or unnoticed symptoms, denial of a resident's right to exercise choice, denial of civil and consumer rights, misadministration of medications, incidence of accidents or injuries of unknown origins, lack of dignity and respect by staff, and insufficient care plans. Staff opened a total of 507 cases, received 589 requests for assistance that were not cases or complaints, and closed 401 cases. Overall, 1,096 individuals were assisted by the Ombudsman Program.

589
requests
for assistance

401
closed
cases

1,096
individuals
assisted

Licensed Volunteer Ombudsman Associates are critical to the success of the Ombudsman Program. In 2011, associate ombudsman contributed nearly 3,000 hours advocating on behalf of consumers of long-term care services.

2011 Certified Ombudsman Associates

Dave Allman	Doris Fauble	Sylvia Manson-Righi
Linda Apling	Evelyn Feiger	Helen Martaus
Barbara Applebaum	Mary Franks	Jerry Matheny
Marie Aubry	Emily Fry	Marilyn Miller
Timothy Barker	Linda Gamber	Phyllis Morton
Sheila Beck	Angelo Gangas	Sharon Musch
Stephanie Beckman	Rebecca Ganske	Patricia Nyler
Kathy Bednarski	Howard Goldman	Julie Otterson
Jill Bixlera	Marcy Gregory	Dorothy Pettaway
John Bombrys	Anne Guiberson	Elaine Roy
Susan Borkovich	Sandy Hamilton	Colleen Ryder
Melissa Burke-Skoney	Peggy Hancock	Peter J. Seniuk
Annette Churchill	Priscilla Harrison	Sandi Sparks
Irene Csayni	Carol Hayes	John Stevenson
Donald Cummings	Lynda Humbert	Nancy Stevenson
Glenda Cummings	John Jacobs	Therese (TJ) Symons
Jeanne Dempsey	Frank Kohler	Janet Tadsen
Marie Fallon	Sue Lange	Cathy Taylor
Barbara Falls	Rita Lessentin	Jennifer Wagner
	Sheri Luedtke	

Toledo's Old South End Project

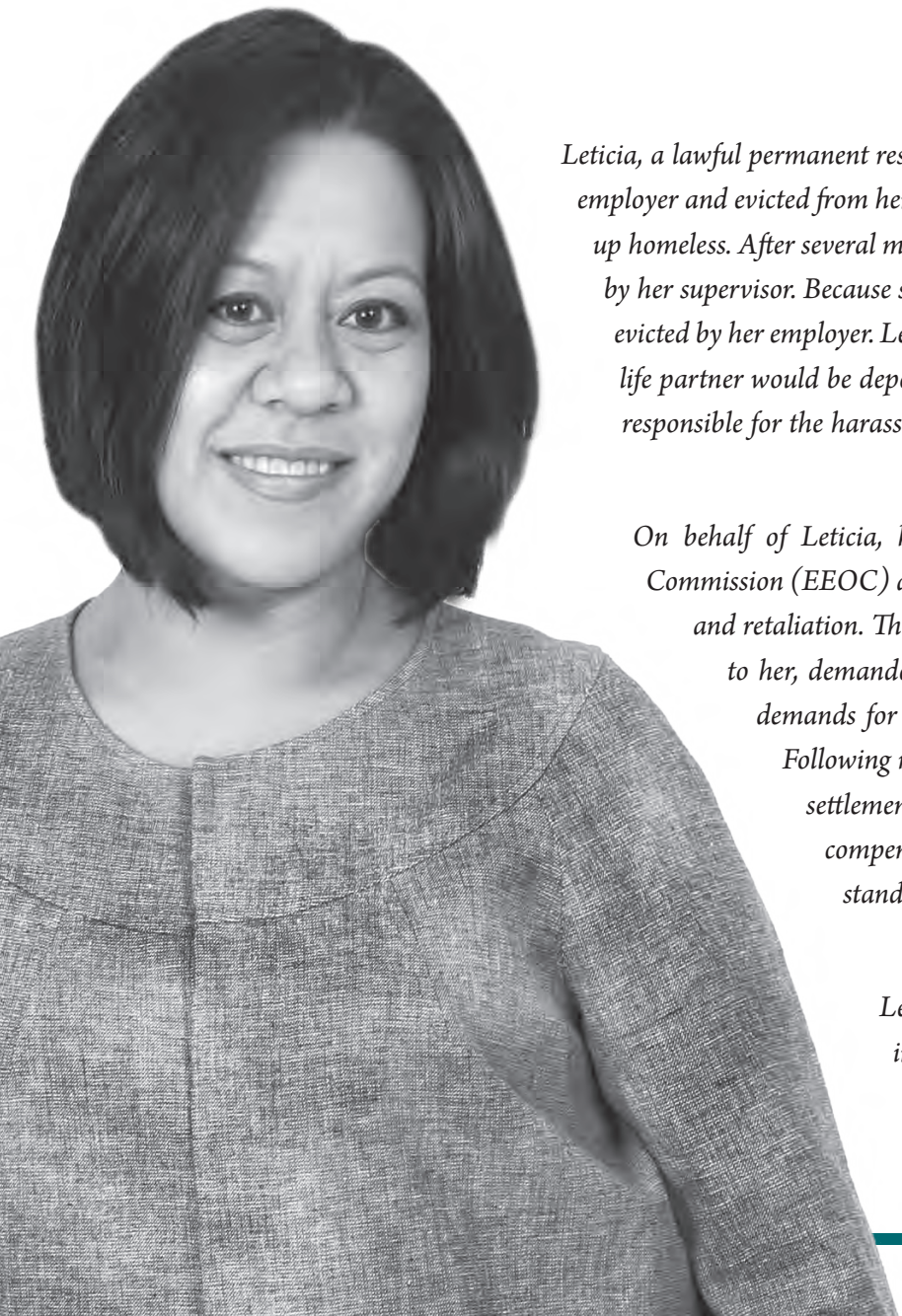
In September 2011, ABLE began a project to address problems associated with poverty and a lack of economic opportunities in one of Toledo's struggling neighborhoods. Known as the "Old South End," the area suffers from declining housing stock, increased crime and other problems associated with escalating poverty. Attorneys with the project work with community-based groups to plan for long-term solutions, specifically on housing-related matters, looking to create practices that can be applied to other struggling communities. By learning about the history of the Old South End – how it has reacted through time to economic forces and residential patterns – combined with insight into current problems such as lack of economic enterprise, foreclosures and vacant properties, ABLE works with community groups to identify critical areas of concern that, if properly addressed, may lead to supporting broader positive change in the community.



Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic

Now in its tenth year, ABLE's Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC), provides Federal income tax information and advice to ESL (English as a Second Language) taxpayers in thirty-two counties in northwest and west central Ohio. The ABLE LITC also provides assistance to undocumented ESL taxpayers with tax controversies that primarily arise out of their attempts to adjust their immigration status or out of their attempts to file tax returns using Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers.

ABLE advocates also continue to work with non-filers needing to file returns as a prerequisite to adjusting their immigration status, and to address identity theft and worker misclassification issues. Outreach is coordinated through ABLE's migrant farmworker program. Outreach materials and educational events cover topics including worker classification, earned income credit, child tax credit, ITINs, the availability of LITC services, audits and examinations, notices of deficiency and the right to file in Tax Court, making work pay credits, and collections (liens and levies).



Assisting Leticia in finding fairness and freedom from harassment.

Leticia, a lawful permanent resident who worked as a migrant farmworker, contacted Legal Aid when she was fired by her employer and evicted from her grower-provided housing. She came to Legal Aid because she was afraid that she would end up homeless. After several meetings, however, her Legal Aid attorney determined that Leticia had been sexually harassed by her supervisor. Because she refused her supervisor's advances, he retaliated by having her wrongfully terminated and evicted by her employer. Leticia was reluctant to report the abuse because she needed her job and she was afraid that her life partner would be deported. She was also afraid that the migrant community where she lived might think she was responsible for the harassment. What Leticia didn't know is that there are laws to protect her – sexual harassment is discrimination.







On behalf of Leticia, her attorney filed charges of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC). The charge alleged discrimination based on sex and retaliation. The charges stated that Leticia's supervisor groped her, kissed her, touched her, exposed himself to her, demanded that she perform sexual acts on him, and punished her for refusing to comply with his demands for sex. The OCRC organized mediation sessions between Leticia's attorneys and the grower. Following months of negotiations and while the OCRC investigated the claims of the discrimination, a settlement was reached between the Leticia and her former employer. Leticia was awarded monetary compensation and a letter of reference from the employer stating that she always met her production standards while employed at the farm. In addition, the grower was made to implement a bilingual anti-harassment and anti-retaliation policy.

Leticia is grateful to her Legal Aid attorney for the settlement made on her behalf; equally important, she is proud to be a part of educating and encouraging others to speak out against discrimination and harassment.

This report is related to ABLE and LAWO's combined operations budget and does not include revenue or expenses related to the Campaign for the Center for Equal Justice or the Legal Aid Foundation of Western Ohio.

2011 Operating Revenues & Expenditures






Support & Revenue

	Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (OLAF)	3,869,047
	Legal Services Corporation (LSC) (LAWO)	2,948,876
	Other grants and contracts	3,251,141
	Fundraising and special events	315,357
	Miscellaneous income and gain on investments	394,980
	Application of reserves and transfers from Legal Aid Foundation of Western Ohio	302,557

TOTAL

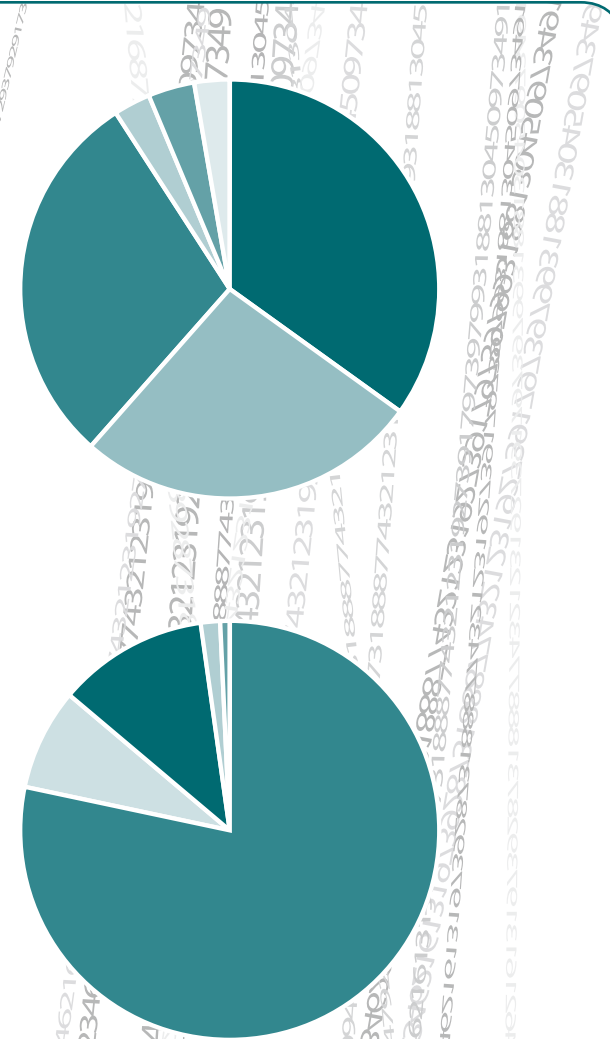
\$11,081,958

Expenses & Expenditures

	Compensation and benefits	8,680,761
	Contract services	866,171
	Operating costs	1,289,221
	Travel, support, and training	164,901
	Miscellaneous	80,904

TOTAL

\$11,081,958





2011 Annual Campaigns for Equal Justice

Access to a Legal Aid lawyer often means access to healthcare, safety, food, and shelter. The Annual Campaigns for Equal Justice raise funds to support LAWO and ABLE's efforts to help their clients gain equal access to justice.

We are very grateful to those individuals, firms, foundations, and organizations who considered the Campaigns for Equal Justice among their 2011 charitable donations. The collective impact of your donations has never been greater, nor has the dire need for your support.

TURNING LIVES AROUND THROUGH EQUAL JUSTICE

\$75,107

Amount raised during the
2011 Miami Valley Annual Campaign

\$130,474

Amount raised during the
2011 Northwest Ohio Annual Campaign

2011 Annual Campaign for Equal Justice

Miami Valley

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Christopher A. Walker
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Pacesetter \$5,000 +

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Dayton Bar Association/
Foundation

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\$2,000 to \$4,999

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Sustaining

\$1,000 to \$1999

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\$75,107

More than 8,000 Miami Valley residents called for help last year in dire need of legal services they could not afford. All contributions to the Campaign were used to help them secure equal access to justice.

2011 Annual Campaign for Equal Justice

Miami Valley

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2011 Annual Campaign for Equal Justice

Miami Valley

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Up to \$99

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Scott Young

In honor of Fran Conte

Rebecca A. Cochran

In memory of

James J. Gilvary

Robert J. Brown

In memory of

Oren Dickason

Miner O. Dickason

In memory of

Ronald Pretekin

Hon. Jeffrey E. Froelich

In memory of

David N. Triplett

Caroline H. Gentry

In memory of

J. Gordon Rudd, Sr.

Jan Rudd-Goenner
Susan Rudd

In honor of

Charles G. Andrews & Countess R. Taylor

Kelli R. Howard

In honor of

Charles Allbritain

Nicole A. Mitchell

In honor of

Countess R. Taylor

Melissa Pfahler

In memory of

Dale E. Randall

Lu Ann Stanley

In honor of

Mary Catherine Tracy

Louis E. Tracy

2011 Access to Justice Awards

Miami Valley

Award Recipients

Community Advocacy Award

Artemis Center

Community Impact Award

Dr. Robert C. Walker

Lloyd O'Hara Public Interest Law Award

Caroline H. Gentry
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Getting Deidra's son the educational help he needs to learn and develop.

Deidra's 10 year old son is diagnosed with ADHD and anxiety disorder. For several years her son struggled in school and was labeled a difficult and bad child because he couldn't focus. After his diagnosis, Deidra removed her son from private school and enrolled him in public school for the purpose of requesting a special education evaluation. She made a written request for the evaluation early in September. Her first meeting with the school was not scheduled until the end of October. By this time, her son's grades dropped and his behavior became increasingly disruptive, resulting in multiple meetings with teachers, emails, and suspensions. The school introduced some interventions, but only utilized them sporadically. Deidra, a single mom with two other children, jeopardized her job by taking a week off of work so she could spend it with her son at school in order to figure out what was happening.

On her own, she attended a session on advocating for children with disabilities where she met a lawyer with Legal Aid. With encouragement to be more insistent on getting the evaluation and meeting, she was able to finally secure an IEP (Independent Education Plan) for her son. Getting help from Legal Aid was the turning point for Deidra and her son. Not only did her attorney help her with her case, but Deidra also became more educated about how she could advocate for her son. The IEP was finally put into place, offering services and accommodations to her son. Since then, Deidra has begun helping others learn about advocating for their child's special education issues – and she gives out information about Legal Aid to everyone who needs help.



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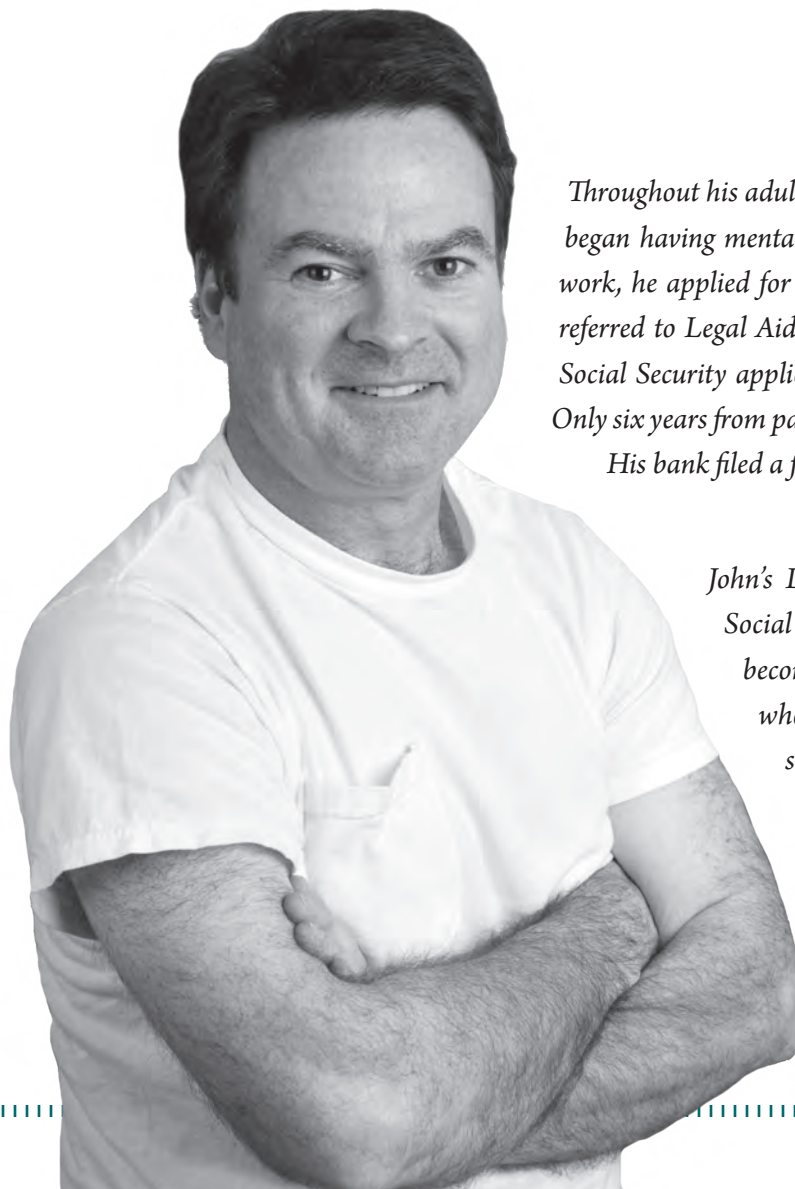
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Saving John's home.

Throughout his adult life John worked as a waiter in local restaurants. When he began having mental and physical disabilities that made it difficult for him to work, he applied for Social Security. When his application was denied, he was referred to Legal Aid for help. As his Legal Aid attorney assisted John with his Social Security application, he began to fall behind on his mortgage payments. Only six years from paying off his mortgage, John was in desperate need of income.

His bank filed a foreclosure action against him and the local court appointed a pro bono attorney to help with his foreclosure.

John's Legal Aid attorney requested an expedited hearing from Social Security based on the possibility that John was in danger of becoming homeless. A sheriff's sale of John's home was scheduled when he received a favorable decision from Social Security. The sheriff's sale was stopped and John, who is now receiving a retroactive settlement from Social Security, is working with his foreclosure attorney to save his home.

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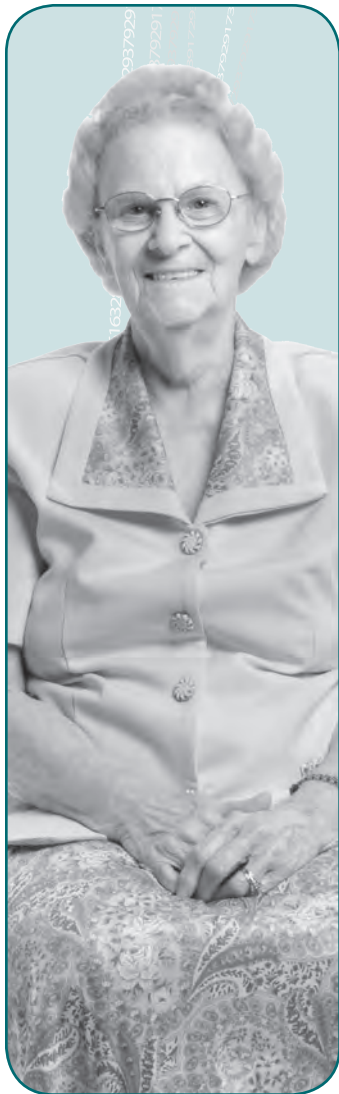
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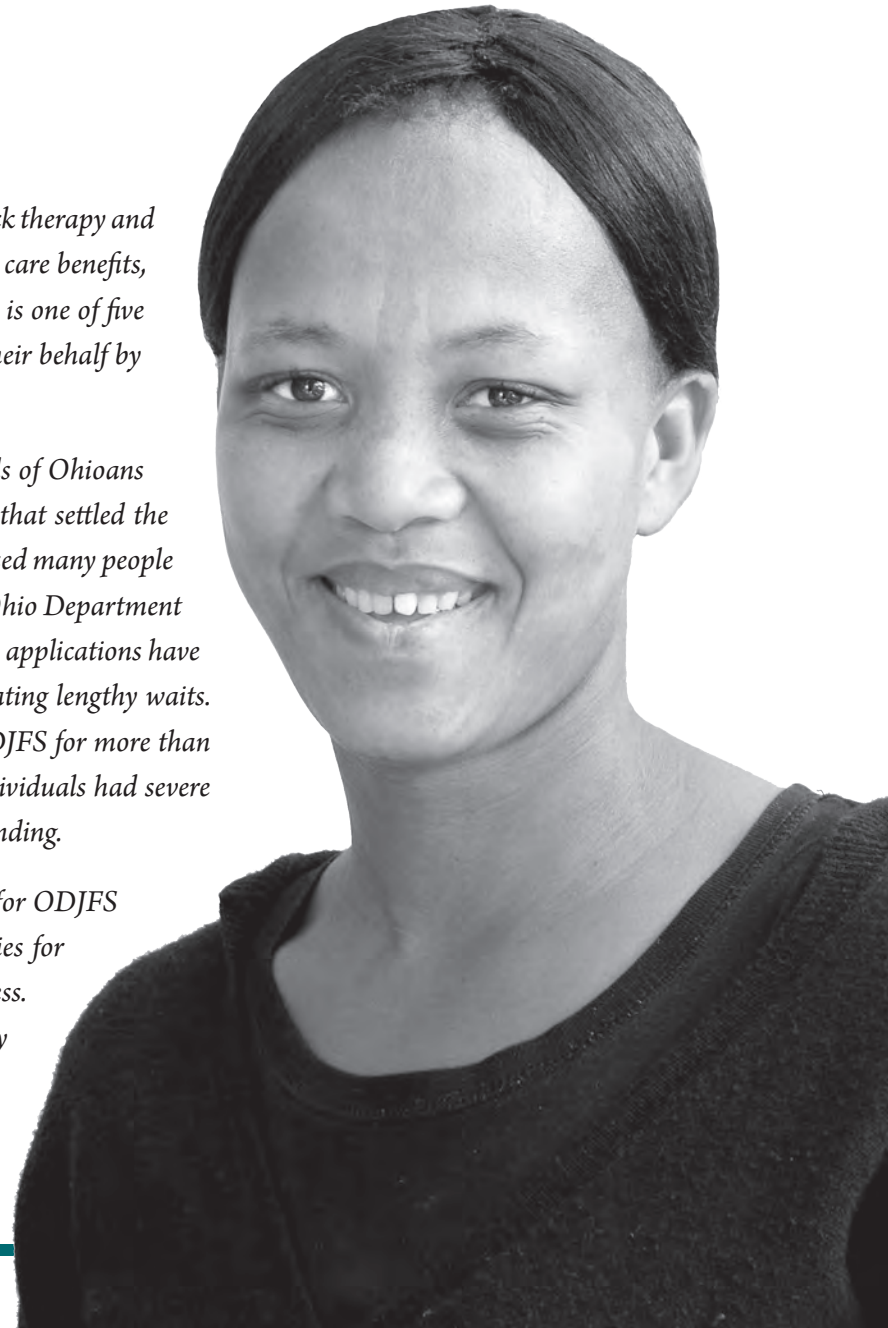
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Helping disabled adults like Debbie get health benefits they deserve.

When Debbie applied for Medicaid benefits, she was having liver problems. She also required back therapy and was unable to work because of pain. Like thousands of Ohioans who were denied timely health care benefits, Debbie waited more than two years to receive the medical help she desperately needed. Debbie is one of five individuals who joined the Ability Center of Greater Toledo in a class action lawsuit filed on their behalf by ABLE in 2010.

In late 2011, ABLE won a Consent Decree that guaranteed more timely reviews for thousands of Ohioans with disabilities who had been in limbo waiting for health-care benefits. The Consent Decree that settled the class action lawsuit included Debbie and alleged that the excessive delays in reviewing cases caused many people to be denied Medicaid services for an unreasonable length of time. The settlement required the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to automatically enroll in Medicaid any individuals whose applications have been pending more than 90 days, and directs the agency to work toward permanently eliminating lengthy waits. At the time the case was filed, there were more than 22,000 applications pending with the ODJFS for more than 90 days, with some like Debbie who had been waiting in excess of one year. Many of these individuals had severe disabilities, and were not able to obtain necessary medical care while their applications were pending.

In addition to ordering the state agency to reduce the application backlog, the settlement calls for ODJFS to hire an outside vendor to help collect medical documentation needed by the county agencies for processing applications. This addition is a major redesign in the disability determination process. The change will mean more help for applicants who need to collect medical evidence necessary for their claims.



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Helping Faith to give back to the community.

Faith is a private attorney who was looking to give back to her community. When the foreclosure crisis hit, she volunteered with Legal Aid and received training and support for pro bono cases. Her first client, a single parent with several young children, was not able to make the monthly payments on her limited income. When served with a foreclosure notice, her client had filed an answer with the court on her own and the court ruled in favor of the lender. Faith took the case and worked with several Legal Aid attorneys to determine if there was a basis for filing an appeal. As a result of key legal issues identified by the team of attorneys, Faith was able to file the appeal and then negotiate a very favorable settlement for her client.

Thanks to Faith and the expert advice provided by a Legal Aid team of foreclosure defense experts, the client and her children are able to stay in their home with a manageable payment plan.



Expanding Capacity through Pro Bono

The economic slowdown has taken its toll on the 32 counties served by ABLE and LAWO, with thousands of hard-working people living in poverty. Facing critical budget shortfalls for the past three years, LAWO and ABLE continued to rely on pro bono programs to secure volunteer lawyers. The time, hard work, and dedication of local volunteer attorneys made it possible to provide legal assistance to even more clients. Pro bono attorneys help fill the gaps for those who would otherwise go unrepresented in legal matters that affect their lives.

ABLE and LAWO maintained our long standing partnerships with pro bono legal services programs, including the Greater Dayton/Miami Valley Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) and the Toledo Bar Association (TBA) Pro Bono Legal Services Program. Both programs, along with the LAWO and ABLE Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) program recruit hundreds of lawyers each year who represent thousands of low income clients throughout our service area. The programs provide opportunities in a number of legal areas for attorneys and other legal professionals to find meaningful pro bono work. LAWO is a major funder of the VLP and the TBA Pro Bono Legal Services Program.

Volunteer lawyers also participate in outreach programs, make community legal education presentations, and co-counsel cases with other volunteers and Legal Aid attorneys.

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The Development Advisory Council is composed of professional, legal, business, and philanthropic leaders dedicated to promoting the mission and vision of ABLÉ and LAWO. The Development Advisory Council's mission is to assist the staff of ABLÉ and LAWO in securing individual and corporate gifts, trusts, and bequests

to nourish programs throughout our 32-county service area; and to serve as a resource by providing suggestions and advice on programs and activities. Members of the Development Advisory Council provide leadership for a united effort to ensure ABLÉ and LAWO's reputations as one of the nation's foremost Legal Aid firms.

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The Emerging Leaders Council is a group of attorneys who are the next generation of leaders in the northwest Ohio legal community. The ELC was created to support the work and mission of Legal Aid through professional development, pro bono participation, and other ways that will raise awareness.

Professional development and social interaction are key parts of the ELC. Highlights of the ELC's first year include: Pro Bono Assistance to ABLE and LAWO clients through Legal Aid Line clinics; organizing and presenting a CLE on Consumer and Housing Law Issues; and organizing the first ever Race4Justice 5K and One Mile Walk.

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ABLE and LAWO's client services are supported by public and private funding.

ABLE & LAWO Combined

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Legal assistance to senior citizens in 10 counties of ABLE and LAWO's service area.

CareSource Foundation

Support for the Medical Legal Partnership for Children.

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Support for the Medical Legal Partnership for Children.

Equal Justice Works

Support for Attorney Fellows working in the areas of neighborhood revitalization and foreclosure prevention.

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County

Advocacy on behalf of consumers within the mental health system, including outreach visits to area mental health agencies and community groups.

Ohio Community Service Council

AmeriCorps Homelessness Prevention and Housing Opportunity Project to provide legal assistance and advocacy to low-income clients and long term care residents with legal problems related to the ability to obtain or maintain safe, affordable housing.

Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation

Support of ABLE and LAWO area-wide services, Legal Aid Line, and the migrant program, as well as support for the ABLE Immigrant Detention Project and the Save the Dream foreclosure prevention project, the Equal Justice Works Fellowship, and Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellows.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Support for services to members of fair housing protected groups who have been victims of foreclosure rescue scams.

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Supports advocating for residents of nursing homes, adult care facilities, and consumers receiving in-home care services through ABLE's Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

City of Toledo, Department of Neighborhoods

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Community Shares of Northwest Ohio

Operating support through workplace giving.

Four Freedoms Fund

Support for the Migrant Farm Worker and Immigration Program's Anti-Profilng and Immigrant Detention Project.



Listed are the names of the funders and the programs they support.

Funding Sources

The Ford Foundation, Institute for International Education

Support for travel and staff development for the Migrant Farm Worker and Immigration Program

Internal Revenue Service

Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic to assist people with controversies on federal income tax matters and provide outreach and education on tax issues to English as a Second Language taxpayers.

National Center on Elder Abuse

Support for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to coordinate a multidisciplinary elder abuse prevention task force in Lucas County.

Ohio Attorney General

Victims of Crime Act funding to provide services to crime victims residing in nursing homes in 10 northwest Ohio counties.

Ohio State Legal Services Association

Support for pre-foreclosure legal assistance to homeowners.

Toledo Community Foundation

Support for the Mobile Benefit Bank Project in Lucas and Wood counties.



LAWO

Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2

Legal assistance to senior citizens in Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties.

Area Agency on Aging, PSA 3

Legal assistance to senior citizens in Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Mercer, and Van Wert Counties.

Area Agency on Aging - Ohio District 5

Legal assistance to senior citizens in Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties.

Avon Foundation for Women

Support for an Economic Self-Sufficiency Coordinator to provide services to domestic violence victims in six northwest Ohio counties.

Funding Sources

ABLE and LAWO's client services are supported by public and private funding.

LAWO (con't)

City of Toledo Department of Neighborhoods

Federal Community Development Block Grant funds supporting legal assistance in housing matters for low-income Lucas County residents.

Clark County Department of Job and Family Services

Support for legal assistance to Clark County residents with predatory lending issues.

Findlay/Hancock County Bar Association

Support for staffing of the Findlay satellite office and the AmeriCorps Homelessness Prevention and Housing Opportunity Project in Hancock County.

Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation

Support for the Legal Assistance for Victims Project in Hancock County.

Internal Revenue Service

Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic to assist people with controversies on federal income tax matters.

Legal Services Corporation

Support of LAWO area-wide services.

Lucas County Department of Jobs and Family Services

Program to remove legal barriers to employment and self-sufficiency and provide services to seniors and persons with disabilities.

Mathile Family Foundation

Support for the implementation of a Medical Legal Partnership for Children in Dayton.

Miami County Department of Job and Family Services

Support for legal assistance to residents eligible for County assistance.

Montgomery County

Support for legal assistance to frail elderly individuals in Montgomery County.

Reynolds & Reynolds Associate Foundation

Support for the implementation of a Medical Legal Partnership for Children in Dayton.

St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center

Support for the Medical Legal Partnership for Children through the Abandoned Infants Assistance Project and the Empowering Families Project.

St. Marguerite d'Youville Foundation II

Support for legal services to individuals with mental health issues in Lucas County.

Sandusky Municipal Court

Support for legal assistance to Sandusky residents.



Listed are the names of the funders and the programs they support.

LAWO (con't)

Springfield Foundation

Support of the Clark County Predatory Lending Project for services to victims and potential victims of predatory lending.

The Stranahan Foundation

Support of Medical Legal Partnership for Children, Education Advocacy Initiative.

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC)

Support for pro bono assistance to incarcerated individuals being released from correctional institutions in Toledo and Lima through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Toledo Municipal Court

Civil Legal Assistance Services Project to provide legal assistance onsite at the court to individuals with housing and consumer cases.

Turner Foundation

Foreclosure Prevention in Clark County.

United States Department of Justice

Legal Assistance for Victims Project to provide legal assistance to victims of domestic violence in 21 rural counties.

Rural Domestic Violence Project to collaborate with partners to provide coordinated community response and legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in 21 rural counties.

United Way of Defiance County

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Defiance County.

United Way of Fulton County

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Fulton County.

United Way of the Greater Dayton Area

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Montgomery, Greene, and Preble Counties through programs that assist families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

United Way of Greater Lima

Legal assistance to low-income residents and domestic violence victims in Allen County.

United Way of Greater Toledo

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa Counties.

United Way of Williams County

Legal assistance to low-income residents of Williams County.

Together, we do the community justice

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Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc.

Administrative Office

Center for Equal Justice

525 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 400

Toledo, Ohio 43604

(419) 724-0030

(419) 321-1582 Fax

(877) 894-4599 Toll-free

www.lawolaw.org

Offices in Dayton, Defiance, Fremont, Lima,
Sandusky, Springfield, and Toledo



Legal Aid of
Western Ohio, Inc.®

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.

Administrative Office

Center for Equal Justice

525 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 300

Toledo, Ohio 43604

(419) 255-0814

(419) 259-2880 Fax

(800) 837-0814 Toll-free

www.ablelaw.org

Offices in Dayton and Toledo



Advocates for Basic
Legal Equality, Inc.