


In the courtroom.
In the community.



LEGAL AID SOCIETY
2018 ANNUAL REPORT

A group of diverse people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are smiling and looking towards the camera. They are dressed in professional or business-casual attire. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent text box containing three paragraphs of text.

Legal Aid Society is a critical part of our social safety net. Legal Aid staff can be found in nearly every courtroom and every corner of our community.

With over 177,000 individuals living in poverty and qualifying for our services in our fifteen county service area, it has never been more important for Legal Aid Society to be visible and ready to serve.

The first step to justice is access. If our clients can't find us, we can't help them. That is why we have established strategic partnerships and created multiple points of access. From dedicated legal hotlines, like our Custody and Visitation Hotline, to clinics with community partners like Goodwill Industries of Kentucky and the Shively VA, Legal Aid Society staff and our volunteers are the not-so-hidden heroes putting equal justice into action.



Long time Legal Aid attorney Ron Marstin (pictured here with his wife Ellen), retired in 2018 after twenty-seven years of service. We dedicate the 2018 Annual Report to the thousands of clients Mr. Marstin helped through out his career and the donors, volunteers, and partners who made his work possible.

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4,373 total cases closed in 2018

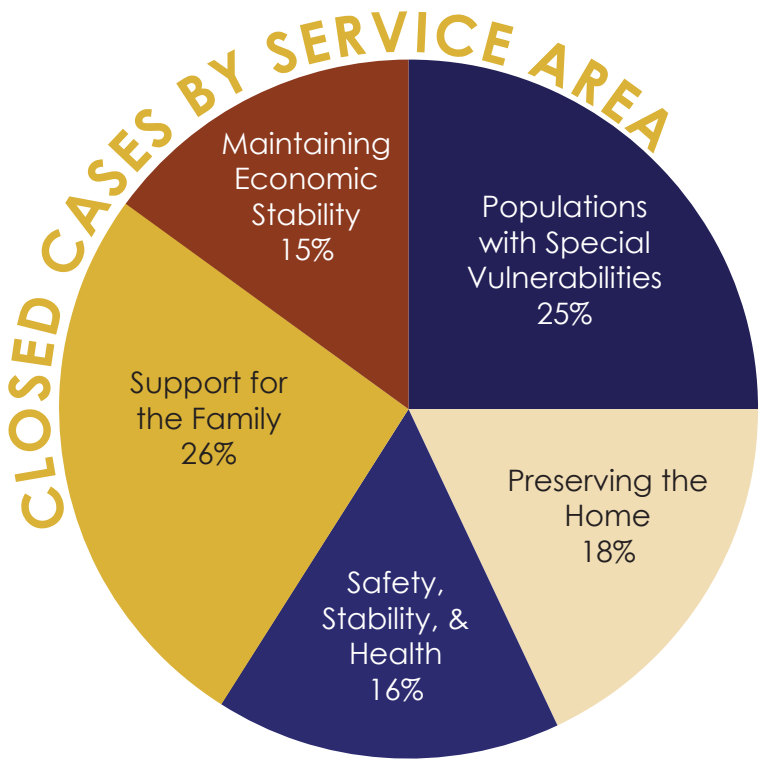
4,044 clients

4,372 children

696 seniors

323 Veterans

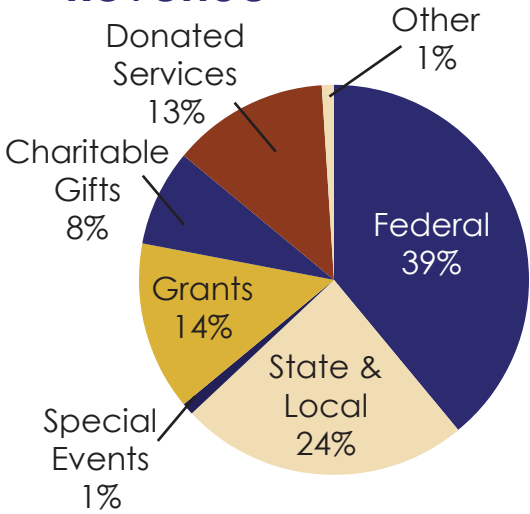
3,238 volunteer hours



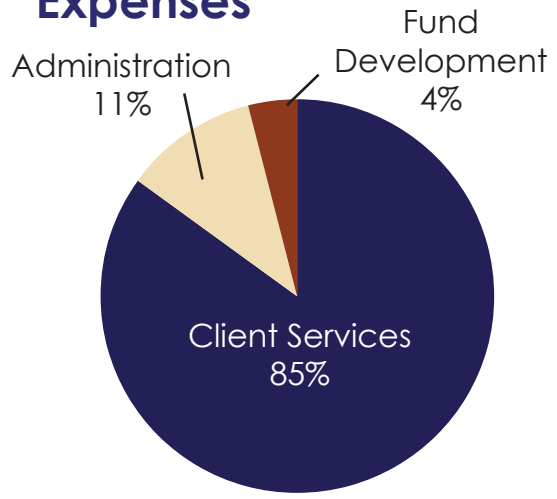
FINANCIALS

Total Revenue: \$4,614,074 | Total Expenses: \$4,581,462 | Total Assets: \$3,484,137

Revenue



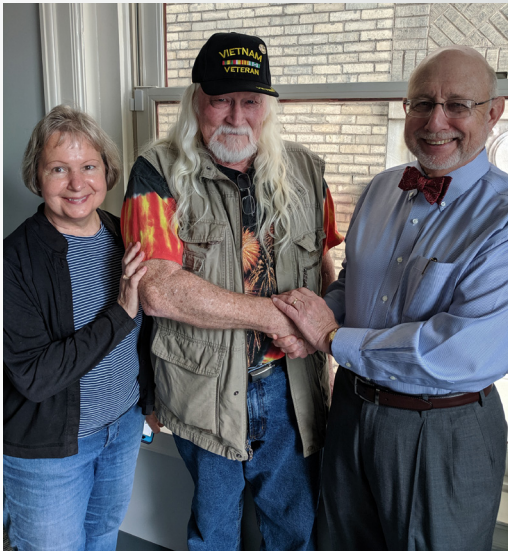
Expenses



Welcome home,

For Richard Lewis, it had been fifty years since he served in Vietnam, but the war was not over.

In 1968, Richard, along with the other members of the 82nd Airborne, was deployed to Vietnam in support of the US forces fighting in the Tet Offensive. He served 120 days on the ground amidst some of the heaviest fighting of the war, receiving recommendation for awards and an on-the-spot promotion. Twenty-one years old and two years from his draft date, Richard was notified that he was going home. Back at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Richard barely looked at his DD Form 214 (his discharge papers) and failed to notice that the form did not accurately reflect his combat service. At the time, all he wanted was to move forward with his life and leave the war behind him. For the next fifty years, the errors on Richard's DD 214 Form would impact his ability to access healthcare and other VA benefits. The error even isolated him from the comradery of veteran organizations. Richard spent decades of his life reliving the war as he appealed to the VA for a correction. In 2018, Richard, a resident of Elizabethtown, KY, sought the help of Legal Aid's Veterans Unit. It took Legal Aid attorney Roy Berwick one year of work and research, but finally Richard was issued a correction. "For all these years, I felt like I had been left behind," said Richard.



Richard, welcome home.

Photograph on the left is of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lewis and Roy Berwick. Background photograph is of Mr. Lewis in Vietnam and provided with permission.

soldier.

A black and white photograph of a young man in a military uniform sitting in front of a tent. He is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. The background shows a large tent structure in a field.

The Legal Services Corporation reports that 71% of households with Veterans or other military personnel have experienced a civil legal problem in the past year. And, like Mr. Lewis, 13% report problems specific to Veterans and their service.

Legal Aid Society's Veterans Program is generously supported by the Kentucky Bar Foundation, Texas Roadhouse, V. V. Cooke Foundation, William E. Barth Foundation, and The Wood and Marie Hannah Foundation.

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The Marshall P. Eldred Award for Excellence was established by the late Hon. Boyce F. Martin to honor his long-time friend Marshall Eldred. The award is given annually to a Legal Aid Society attorney who has demonstrated excellence in advocacy.

The 2018 award was given to Gwendolyn Horton, a staff attorney in the Housing and Government Benefits Unit.

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*Please contact Julia Leist
(jleist@laslou.org) for any listing
corrections or omissions.*



Grandparent

As our community co
epidemic, grandpare
silent victims - their g

ts raising grandchildren

**continues to struggle with the impact of the opioid
parents and caregivers are stepping up to protect the
grandchildren.**

Delores sought the help of the Legal Aid Society hoping to gain full custody of her granddaughter. Delores' granddaughter had been through a lot; her mother suffered from substance abuse and was not able to care for her the way she needed. Delores had been awarded temporary custody, but when Delores' daughter failed to comply with a treatment and reunification plan, Legal Aid Society was able to petition the court for permanent custody. Delores' granddaughter is now living full-time with Delores and once again has the full, loving attention of an adult. Delores is hoping to start the adoption process soon to create even more stability for her granddaughter.

Across the country, more than 2.5 million grandparents are raising their grandchildren. The good news is research shows that children raised by their grandparents can thrive. Compared to children in foster care with non-relatives, children raised by a caring relative have fewer behavioral problems, better mental health, and more successful long-term outcomes.

One in five grandparents raising grandchildren lives below the poverty line. Legal Aid Society is ensuring that these grandparents have the legal guardianship and rights they need so their grandchildren can access medical care, education, and other resources to ensure they thrive.

Legal Aid Society's Statewide Custody and Visitation Hotline can be accessed by calling 844-673-3470. The Hotline is free to all who are income-eligible and is generously supported by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Edward S. Bonnie Endowment Fund

The Edward S. Bonnie Endowment Fund was established in 2011 by Edward S. (Ned) and Cornelia (Nina) Bonnie as a resource for annual unrestricted funding to ensure our neighbors living in poverty always have access to civil legal aid.

In 2018, Mr. Bonnie passed away at age 88. His legacy to Legal Aid Society lives on through his wife, Cornelia, and through the Bonnie Endowment.

The fund is held at the Community Foundation of Louisville and is currently valued at over \$700,000. By 2021, Legal Aid Society's Centennial Anniversary, our goal is to increase the endowment fund to \$1 million. To make a contribution to the fund, mail gifts to the Community Foundation of Louisville, 325 W. Main Street, Suite 1110, Louisville, KY 40202.

Thank you to our Edward S. Bonnie Endowment Fund donors.

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The Fifteenth Annual Brush, Bottle, & Barrel of the Bluegrass

The Fifteenth Annual Brush, Bottle, & Barrel of the Bluegrass was held on April 28, 2018, at the corporate campus of Atria Senior Living. Stephen Reily received the Fourth Annual Brown-Forman Spirit of Justice Award for his work with the Louisville Urban League, Legal Aid Society, and the creation of the Reily Reentry Project. Chef Chad Welch of Atria Hospitality provided delicious hors d'oeuvres and purveyors of Kentucky wines, bourbons and beers provided tastings of their products.

Over \$55,000 was raised to support the mission of the Legal Aid Society.



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