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The past year has reminded all of us that the world can be a challenging place even when you have a lot going for you. At the Legal Aid Justice Center, we serve a population with fewer things going for them than most. To begin with, our clients lack financial resources. In addition, they have experienced one or more specific setbacks that have led them to seek our help: a job loss, a child’s illness, a dispute with a landlord, a problem at school, or lack of appropriate health care.

Yet the clients who make their way to our doors are just the tip of a great iceberg. The vast majority of our neighbors in poverty and many of those hovering at the edge are just one unfortunate life event away from needing outside assistance. This fact is why the Legal Aid Justice Center’s devoted advocates seek to address systemic problems as well as individual client needs in order to improve conditions for all low-income Virginians.

In the pages that follow, you will find examples of how the attorneys, community organizers and paralegals at the Legal Aid Justice Center extend the help we provide to our clients “from one to many,” influencing our communities in a multitude of positive ways.

When we seek reform of Virginia’s dysfunctional unemployment insurance system, we aim to ensure that those who most need these benefits to survive the vagaries of the job market can access the compensation to which they are legally entitled. When a team member from our Child Health Advocacy Program helps a doctor advocate for necessary benefits to support a special-needs child, we create a knowledge base among medical providers to meet future patient needs effectively. When we raise community awareness through campaigns like JustChildren’s Don’t Throw Away the Key, focused on rehabilitating rather than abandoning juvenile offenders, we seek to influence public policy so that forgotten populations are treated fairly and our neighborhoods are safer in the long run. And when we help a local long-term care facility obtain grant money to improve its nursing care and reduce staff turnover, we promote improved quality of life for the elderly and produce a model for other care providers.

Ultimately, you are the reason that the Legal Aid Justice Center is able to better the lives of individual clients and address systemic problems in the process. Without the loyal support of our donors and the communities we serve, none of this work that touches so many Virginians would be possible. As we head into 2010, with your help we look forward to continuing the advocacy that makes a difference for each one of our clients and for many, many others.

Alex R. Gulotta
Executive Director
The Legal Aid Justice Center represents low-income Virginians in a variety of civil legal matters from offices in Charlottesville, Falls Church, Petersburg and Richmond. Our mission is to ensure access to justice for individuals who might otherwise have none. Our commitment is to give voice to the voiceless in all the communities we serve.

The advocates of the Legal Aid Justice Center work each day to uphold equal justice under the law for all who live and work in Virginia. Our unique combination of local roots and statewide reach gives the Legal Aid Justice Center an uncommon perspective and ability to pursue systemic change with our clients.

**Charlottesville**
- Serves the city of Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson, as well as the surrounding communities.
- Founded by local attorneys in 1967 as the Charlottesville-Albemarle Legal Aid Society, is currently staffed by 17 attorneys, a senior paralegal, a community organizer, a legal assistant and the organization’s three administrative staff.
- Provides services through the Civil Advocacy Program, JustChildren, the Immigrant Advocacy Program, the Elder Law Initiative, the Child Health Advocacy Program and the Virginia Institutionalized Persons Project.
- Hosts clinical programs conducted in concert with the University of Virginia School of Law in the areas of housing, employment, child advocacy, elder law, mental health, immigration, public benefits and nonprofit administration law.
- Receives substantial support from the city of Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle and Fluvanna for its vital services to the region’s residents.

**Falls Church**
- Serves the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Stafford; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the town of Herndon; and surrounding communities.
- Opened in 2001 by the Immigrant Advocacy Program to assist immigrant workers with employment issues, the office now comprises four attorneys, two community organizers and two legal assistants, as well as a pro bono attorney working under a fellowship from the University of Virginia School of Law.
- Services expanded in 2009 to include assistance to immigrants in the areas of housing, consumer protection, and access to other government and community services, in addition to employment and wage claims.
- Bilingual staff members serve the region’s community of low-income immigrants without regard to immigration status.
• Serves as a local base from which to pursue advocacy with statewide and national impact, and to collaborate with partner organizations based in Northern Virginia and Washington, DC.

• Receives substantial support from local governments that recognize the value of outreach and education efforts that empower immigrants to understand and exercise their legal rights.

Petersburg
• Serves the cities of Petersburg, Hopewell and Colonial Heights; the counties of Dinwiddie, Charles City, Prince George and Surry; and surrounding communities.

• Founded in 1977 as Southside Virginia Legal Services, the office merged with the Charlottesville-Albemarle Legal Aid Society in 2001 to form the Legal Aid Justice Center.

• Currently staffed by five attorneys, a community organizer and a legal assistant.

• Provides services primarily through the Civil Advocacy Program, JustChildren and the Child Health Advocacy Program.

• Acts as an integral part of the revitalization of downtown Petersburg and receives substantial support from local foundations and governments.

• Staff members collaborate with attorneys in other offices on issues of statewide concern, particularly in the areas of housing and education reform.

Richmond
• Serves the city of Richmond and counties of Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent and Powhatan, as well as surrounding communities.

• Opened in 2001 as part of a statewide reorganization of legal services, currently home to six attorneys, a community organizer and a legal assistant.

• Provides services primarily through the Civil Advocacy Program, JustChildren and the Child Health Advocacy Program.

• Just blocks from Virginia’s capitol, serves as the nerve center for our statewide legislative advocacy work in the General Assembly on behalf of all low-income Virginians.
In the legal aid realm and beyond, we are known nationally as an innovator that takes a broad and systemic approach to addressing the problems faced by our neighbors in poverty. At the heart of our work are the clients.

We take great pride in the fact that our clients are at the center of our approach to advocacy. As a result, each of our local offices has a distinct focus based on serving the most pressing and unmet legal needs of the low-income individuals in the surrounding community.

Our first priority is to provide guidance, wise counsel and a voice in the justice system for individual clients who require our assistance. Without a thorough and intimate understanding of the challenges our clients face on a day-to-day basis, we could not pursue the broader advocacy goals that produce positive changes benefiting all low-income Virginians. We speak with and on behalf of our individual clients in local and state agencies, in hearings and in courtrooms, and before legislative bodies as we seek to make a difference in the lives of many.

In 2009 our flagship programs—the Civil Advocacy Program, the Immigrant Advocacy Program and JustChildren—continued their tradition of providing first-rate legal services using an effective combination of advocacy strategies. These strategies range from providing individual representation to pursuing impact litigation to promoting policy advocacy that benefits all low-income Virginians. Our three newest projects—the Elder Law Initiative, the Virginia Institutionalized Persons Project, and the Child Health Advocacy Program—made tremendous strides toward addressing emerging issues that both clients and community members have identified as critical needs.

By producing outstanding results for clients for more than 40 years, the Legal Aid Justice Center has developed a national reputation for excellence. This reputation enables us to attract and retain exceptionally talented attorneys,
In 2009 we again maintained our record of attracting top-notch young attorneys funded by prestigious and competitive public-interest fellowships. As a result, we now have six fellows working in our four offices.

Our high-caliber professionals are mission-driven in approaching their work, make insightful connections among our initiatives with clients, and continually act to improve both the organization and our provision of services to low-income Virginians. The legal directors of each of our three major practice areas received prestigious honors in 2009. Claire Curry, legal director of our Civil Advocacy Program and founder of the Elder Law Initiative, was awarded the Toby S. Edelman Legal Justice Award from the National Citizens’ Coalition for Nursing Home Reform for her extraordinary efforts to achieve justice for residents of long-term care facilities and their families. Tim Freilich, legal director of our Immigrant Advocacy Program, won the first David Carliner Public Interest Award from the American Constitution Society for his work on behalf of Virginia’s immigrants. And Andy Block, legal director for JustChildren, received the Virginia Bar Association’s first Robert Shepherd Jr. Award for excellence in child advocacy.
The Civil Advocacy Program is central to the Legal Aid Justice Center’s practice. Every day low-income individuals encounter problems related to housing, consumer protection, employment, public benefits and access to mental health services. We help clients navigate the complicated government bureaucracies that many people find confusing. Our help can range from simple advice to representation at administrative hearings or in court.

In addition to assisting individuals with specific problems, we conduct outreach and provide education to both community members and social service workers in order to increase community capacity for solving these problems. We help people learn about their legal rights and responsibilities, and supply the information they need to receive fair treatment. We also work with other service organizations and collaborate with private attorneys, law schools and social service agencies. The goal of these relationships is to develop and implement policies that promote equity in the systems that affect low-income Virginians.

The Civil Advocacy Program gave rise to three specialized practice areas that now serve groups with distinct needs. The Elder Law Initiative addresses the legal needs and care of the low-income elderly, with a focus on nursing home advocacy in collaboration with the Community Partnership for Improved Long-Term Care. The Virginia Institutionalized Persons Project works to improve conditions for persons confined in the state’s prisons and mental health institutions. And the Child Health Advocacy Project partners with local health centers, medical schools and law schools to serve low-income families with children receiving medical attention.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Recovered nearly $300,000 in one-time payments and more than $360,000 in annualized monthly benefits for clients, and helped save them nearly $400,000 in one-time and recurring expenses.
- Helped achieve a $190,000 judgment after a decade long battle on behalf of a client who was sexually harassed by her former landlord.
- Celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Richmond Housing Unit, which has represented nearly 8,000 clients with the pro bono assistance of hundreds of private attorneys.
- Recovered a client’s home for two-thirds of the amount owed after an unscrupulous lender illegally attempted to evict him, his wife and his four children.
- Recovered the home of a mentally ill client whose brother attempted to evict him unlawfully.
- Successfully advocated for state legislation imposing a fiduciary duty on mortgage brokers.
After ongoing problems with getting paid, Lagal Agee-Hill reluctantly left her job as a caregiver. Although Ms. Agee-Hill worked as many as 60 hours per week caring for an elderly client, she received no pay during her first six months on the job. Even after she received a long-awaited lump sum payment, eight of her next 20 paychecks were late. Pushed to the brink, she resigned. Another six months passed before she received the unemployment benefits for which she was eligible—which took an incredible toll on her and her family.

Initially the Virginia Employment Commission did not consider constant insecurity over payment for work performed to be a sufficiently compelling reason to leave a job. To receive unemployment benefits, the VEC insisted she prove that she had pursued “every available alternative in order to correct the problem.” Fortunately Ms. Agee-Hill was a meticulous record keeper. She produced copies of her timesheets, written correspondence, and a two-page list of the names and numbers of the people from whom she sought assistance before finding her way to our office. Represented by an attorney and students with the Family Resource Clinic, a joint project of the Legal Aid Justice Center and the U.Va. School of Law, Ms. Agee-Hill won her claim on appeal and received benefits back to the date of her resignation.

Virginia’s unemployment rates in 2009 were double those in 2008. And June’s rate of 7.3% was the highest recorded since March 1983. Even before the depth of the crisis, in 2008 just 26% of unemployed Virginians received any unemployment insurance benefits. Only four other states extended benefits to fewer unemployed workers than Virginia.

The Legal Aid Justice Center has been deluged with clients seeking only the benefits to which they are legally entitled. In response, we have held group education sessions for clients so that they can successfully pursue their own claims. We have trained private attorneys to represent clients with unemployment cases on a pro bono basis. We have met with state officials to discuss the systemic problems that present a barrier to thousands of unemployed. And we continue to petition the General Assembly on unemployment insurance reform.
Virginia’s largest children’s law program, the JustChildren Program seeks to ensure that the commonwealth’s most vulnerable young people receive the services and support they need to lead successful lives in their communities. Program staff members provide free civil legal representation to low-income children who have problems with the education, foster care or juvenile justice systems. While the children we represent have a wide variety of needs, our primary objective is to protect their rights to stay in their communities, to remain in their schools, and to live in safe situations.

Through coalition building, policy advocacy and litigation, we make lasting improvements for all children in Virginia. To strengthen community support for children, we produce widely read and valued training materials. Our attorneys and community organizers travel throughout the state training parents, lawyers and other child-serving professionals to become informed and skilled child advocates. We also support local organizing efforts and coalition building, such as helping parents and community members to improve children’s educational opportunities. We seek local and statewide legal and policy reforms to improve the systems that our children depend on.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Engaged more than 1,000 households in Petersburg in local school reform through door-to-door canvassing and a strategic direct mail campaign.
- Successfully established a new community group in Richmond to advocate for better educational opportunities.
- Initiated and secured the passage of legislation outlawing the common practice of suspending students for truancy violations.
- Secured the passage of legislation that protects educational opportunities for foster children who receive special education services.
- Signed a contract with the Virginia Department of Social Services to train foster care workers across the commonwealth on education advocacy.
- Authored *Don’t Throw Away the Key*, a comprehensive report on juvenile transfer reform that drew extensive media coverage throughout Virginia, including in *The Washington Post* and the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. 
Early one morning in September, a passionate seventh grader named Ian Christian testified before members of the Virginia State Board of Education. His comments focused on the Board’s plan to cut funding for support staff in public schools throughout the commonwealth. While Ian attends public school 30 miles away in Petersburg, he traveled with his father and grandmother to the capitol to speak because decisions made in Richmond have a huge impact on Ian and his classmates. Ian wanted state officials to know that the proposed funding cuts would cause greater harm in Petersburg than in more-affluent school districts. In short, he wanted Board members to hear a voice that all too often gets ignored: that of the students themselves.

Several weeks after Ian spoke, Petersburg parent Angela Williams took the morning off work in order to make the same trip up I-95 to Richmond. Her mission: to tell the Virginia State Board of Education that it should not lose sight of the goal of providing a high-quality education for all children in the state—particularly because Petersburg still has a long way to go. Ms. Williams’s voice was strong and much-needed in a conversation that at times has seemed intent on glossing over the school system’s significant challenges.

As those in attendance at the sessions can attest, both Ian and Ms. Williams made a powerful impact with their public comments. Thanks to their efforts and the efforts of JustChildren staff and others, the Board of Education recommended that the General Assembly not cut funding for support staff.

Yet such extraordinary efforts by ordinary people do not happen accidentally or overnight. Ian and Ms. Williams are part of Petersburg Advocates for Children, or PAC, a community group that JustChildren helped establish in 2004 and continues to support. With generous support from The Cameron Foundation in Petersburg, JustChildren organizers and attorneys have spent five years supporting grassroots leaders and individuals developing advocacy skills in the city. PAC and others, including many young people, now represent a growing contingent of courageous and committed Petersburg residents whose involvement is essential to improve their schools.

“I’m glad I had a chance to be heard on behalf of my fellow classmates. We deserve an equal education.”
—Ian Christian
The Immigrant Advocacy Program supports low-wage immigrant workers in their efforts to find fair treatment in the workplace using direct legal representation, education, community organizing and advocacy. With a special focus on day laborers and migrant farmworkers, we seek to stop unjust employment practices and assist hard-working immigrants throughout Virginia who face discrimination and exploitation. Over the past 10 years our clients have won judgments and settlements totaling more than $3 million. In most cases, this is money that the workers earned but were not paid by their employers.

Virginia relies on immigrants to fill many of the toughest, lowest-paying jobs in the commonwealth. We represent low-wage immigrant workers in court and administrative proceedings, counseling them about their rights under federal and state law to be paid for their work, recover unpaid wages they have earned, and fight workplace discrimination. We reach out to immigrant communities to inform them about their rights as workers, and we work to educate other Virginians about the contributions of immigrants to Virginia’s economy and to the richness and diversity of our communities. We advocate for comprehensive federal immigration reform and work to foster relationships of trust between local law enforcement and immigrant communities.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Won judgments and settlements totaling $648,783 for 195 workers.
- Conducted outreach and education, including “Know Your Rights” seminars for more than 1,200 workers.
- Trained hundreds of service providers on a range of issues including workers’ rights, wage theft, and preparedness for raids conducted by the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency.
- Helped Virginia’s General Assembly turn the corner on issues affecting immigrants, with only six anti-immigrant bills introduced in the 2009 session, down from more than 110 in 2008.
- Hosted two screenings of the groundbreaking documentary *9500Liberty*, including our first major fundraising event in Northern Virginia.
After 12 hours of testimony and deliberation, in March a jury in Albemarle County Circuit Court convicted Todd Wells of wage theft. The case against the housing contractor marked the first time that a group of workers represented by the Immigrant Advocacy Program pursued criminal charges against an employer for stealing their hard-earned wages. This criminal conviction—under a law bolstered by support of Immigrant Advocacy staff—sends a clear message to Virginia employers: Pay your workers or be prepared to face legal consequences.

In this landmark case, the five immigrant workers contacted the Legal Aid Justice Center for help recovering wages from Mr. Wells. They reported that they were owed more than $10,000 for painting homes in Crozet. At first Mr. Wells denied ever having hired the men. When reminded that he had written bad checks to the men on his company’s account, Mr. Wells still refused to pay.

Wage theft is a serious problem in Virginia. The state agency charged with defending workers’ rights, the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, is disastrously underfunded and ineffective. On the federal level, until recently the U.S. Department of Labor showed little interest in helping workers recover wages. IAP attorneys continue to recover hundreds of thousands of dollars of unpaid wages for immigrant workers in Virginia each year, while working to combat the epidemic of wage theft on a systemic level.

During the 2006 General Assembly session, IAP staff worked to create tougher penalties for employers who cheat workers. As a result, “an employer who willfully and with the intent to defraud fails or refuses to pay wages” can be found guilty of either a misdemeanor or a felony depending on the amount of wages stolen.

With this case, the IAP and the commonwealth’s attorney demonstrated that if Virginia’s immigrant workers are victimized, they can seek justice in Virginia’s courts. The case also shows that juries in the commonwealth believe in the concept of “justice for all”—which means that if an individual puts in a hard day’s work, he or she deserves a full day’s pay.
The Elder Law Initiative combines direct legal services with a powerful community presence to enable low-income elderly persons to live their lives in safety and dignity. We provide a range of services from advice to extended legal representation to individuals on consumer issues, housing, eligibility for public benefits, wills and powers of attorney, and protection from abuse and neglect. We have special expertise helping persons who experience legal issues related to nursing home care.

Through the Community Partnership for Improved Long-Term Care, our elder law advocates work with a strong core of volunteers to promote better care for our elderly neighbors living in area nursing homes. The Elder Law Initiative also co-sponsors events that raise public awareness about how we can all work to improve conditions for the elderly in our communities. Our advocates participate at the state level to seek regulatory and statutory changes that benefit all elderly persons, and we work to promote targeted reform of the prevailing culture in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**
- Represented nearly 150 elderly clients with issues ranging from access to medical care to end-of-life planning.
- Secured $117,584 in lump sum recoveries and $59,952 in annualized monthly benefits as well as $67,723 in avoided costs for individual clients.
- Successfully petitioned the Circuit Court to remove a guardian who was not acting in her father’s best interests, helped him relocate into an assisted living facility, and secured a judgment of $33,000 against the daughter for her inability to account for her use of the client’s funds.
- With the Community Partnership for Improved Long-Term Care, helped Trinity Mission of Charlottesville obtain a $50,000 “Virginia Gold” grant to develop a pilot program aimed at improving the quality of resident care.
- Co-sponsored the Second Annual Conference on Geriatric Care, “Sharing the Challenge: Innovations in Senior Care,” attended by caregivers and long-term care professionals from throughout Central Virginia.
For nursing home residents, knowledge is truly power. In the days before Christmas, Jan St. John was told she would soon be relocated from her private room in a long-term care facility into a room with another resident due to a change in her Medicaid eligibility. Because Ms. St. John suffers from multiple sclerosis and a variety of complications, such a move represented a significant health hazard. After several unsuccessful attempts to negotiate with the facility’s staff, Ms. St. John called the Elder Law Initiative.

An Elder Law attorney provided Ms. St. John with critical information: First, the facility was legally required to provide advance notice of a room change. Second, Medicaid would pay for a private room if her physician determined it to be a medical necessity. Armed with this knowledge, Ms. St. John brought the notice requirement to the facility’s attention. She then secured a letter from her neurologist who insisted that a private room was a medical necessity. As a result, Ms. St. John maintained her private room and her peace of mind.

Fortunately for Ms. St. John, her facility had previously invited an Elder Law Initiative attorney to make presentations on the rights and responsibilities of nursing home residents. Because of their outreach to family councils and concerned community members, Elder Law attorneys have helped individuals like Ms. St. John advocate for themselves, while also helping family councils address facility-wide concerns about everything from basic supplies to policies on quality of care.

Yet supporting family councils is only part of the Elder Law Initiative’s broad advocacy on behalf of the elderly. Working with the Community Partnership for Improved Long-Term Care, a grassroots group that promotes mutual support and action by residents, their loved ones, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders, the Elder Law Initiative has brought in national experts to mount educational programs on elder care, raised the profile of long-term care issues in local facilities and the media, and built consensus among caregivers and recipients about the importance of addressing quality-of-care issues for residents.
The Virginia Institutionalized Persons, or VIP, Project aims to improve conditions and protect the basic human rights of everyone living in the commonwealth’s institutional facilities, including prisons, jails and mental health hospitals.

Launched in response to a growing need identified by concerned advocates, family members and low-income community members, the program founded in 2007 is particularly focused on efforts to improve basic services such as healthcare in Virginia’s state prisons, to reform the commonwealth’s broken parole system, and to promote system-wide changes that affect many in the state’s care.

Many of the low-income clients we serve throughout our practice areas have been personally touched by the criminal justice system, either directly or indirectly through the experiences of their family members, friends or neighbors. We therefore provide outreach to families, concerned citizens, faith communities and localities to raise awareness of the issues we identify with clients, and to suggest ways to improve institutional systems. We communicate with legislators in Richmond to raise awareness about the cost of the correctional system to those who are incarcerated, their families and their communities, as well as to advocate for the adoption of best practices.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- In partnership with Troutman Sanders, worked with men and women systematically denied parole despite the fact that they were sentenced before parole was abolished to prison terms several times longer than those handed down today.

- In partnership with Wiley Rein LLP and the Washington Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, investigated the provision of healthcare by the Virginia Department of Corrections to the 1,200 inmates at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women.

- In collaboration with the Pro Bono Project of the University of Virginia School of Law, established a system to ensure that prisoners whose civil rights cases are set for trial in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia have the benefit of counsel.

- Brought together prisoners’ rights groups from around the commonwealth to launch an initiative mobilizing the families and friends of Virginia’s incarcerated.

- Attracted more than 700 community members and supporters to “Incarceration Nation” at The Paramount Theater in Charlottesville, featuring a panel discussion on the human rights crisis in the nation’s correctional systems.
When James Brown entered Virginia’s prison system at the age of 47, he was a wage-earning maintenance engineer with a manageable medical condition. When he left the system seven years later, he was in a wheelchair and paralyzed from the waist down.

Mr. Brown had long suffered from a potassium deficiency that he managed with medication. With proper treatment, he was even able to hold a physically demanding job. Once incarcerated, Mr. Brown was not provided access to his medication. Without treatment, he became confined to a wheelchair and feared that his progressive paralysis would lead to his death. Although he has since completed his sentence, Mr. Brown is now permanently disabled. He will always require some form of public financial assistance due to an arguably preventable disability.

For many incarcerated individuals with medical conditions—including physical disabilities or mental illness—who are prevented from receiving appropriate treatment, the damage inflicted during their imprisonment often extends far beyond time served. Issues of long-term public safety, taxpayer cost and respect for basic human rights generate widespread concern.

The advocates who work with Legal Aid Justice Center’s Virginia Institutionalized Persons Project believe that stories like Mr. Brown’s raise important questions about the commonwealth’s approach to criminal justice. One goal of the VIP Program is to raise public awareness of Virginia’s policies for managing the incarcerated so that decision makers will act to uphold basic human rights.

Over the past year, the VIP Project has investigated conditions inside Virginia’s prisons. Our advocates uncovered cases like Mr. Brown’s and many others for whom damaging long-term health effects might have been prevented with proper care. VIP advocates are currently working on several fronts to address this critical issue, including organizing families and friends of prisoners who share concern for the treatment and well-being of their loved ones and filing civil actions in federal court.
The Child Health Advocacy Program, or CHAP, is a pioneering medical-legal partnership among the attorneys of the Legal Aid Justice Center, medical providers at health centers, law school students and medical school students. The program operates inside the hospitals and enables healthcare professionals to refer low-income families with children receiving medical attention to the Legal Aid Justice Center for a range of legal services and supports. It also trains healthcare professionals to troubleshoot minor legal problems through consultations with Legal Aid Justice Center staff. As a result of the collaboration, we can serve more families with fewer attorneys and enable healthcare professionals to assist families facing similar issues as our clients.

CHAP is now leading an effort to build a statewide network of medical-legal partnerships to share cross-program referrals, training materials and knowledge. Now in its fifth year, CHAP operates in Charlottesville, Richmond and Petersburg.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Handled 252 referrals from medical providers for families in need of assistance with special education, housing, public benefits and other legal questions impacting their children’s health.
- Led the effort to build a statewide network of medical-legal partnerships to share knowledge, provide technical assistance, develop training materials, create statewide evaluation tools and make referrals.
- Hosted a three-day visiting professorship by Dr. Barry Zuckerman, founder of the Boston-based Medical Legal Partnership for Children, which resulted in a new CHAP initiative at the University of Virginia’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).
- Forged new ties with Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of Medicine, which approved a Medicine and Law elective for students.
- Launched CHAP’s third site through a partnership with Hopewell-Prince George Community Health Center, a federally funded clinic that serves mainly low-income families.
- Published the *Teen Health Guide*, a booklet written in conjunction with our partners at the University of Virginia, to answer frequently asked legal questions.

**CHILDREN’S HEALTH**
There is perhaps no quicker route to financial ruin than an unforeseen medical emergency. Alan Thomas* knows that fact all too well. Our client in Richmond is now on the verge of declaring personal bankruptcy after his daughter broke her arm and required a four-day hospital stay due to complications.

Before treating Mr. Thomas’s daughter, the hospital confirmed Mr. Thomas’s coverage with his medical insurance company. Unfortunately, Mr. Thomas was unaware that the fact he had recently started a leave of absence from his job would mean his insurance benefits would be terminated. Only after his insurance company received the hospital bill for more than $10,000 did this lapse in coverage come to light. As a result, Mr. Smith is now responsible for the full payment of charges he thought would be covered by insurance.

Overwhelmed by medical debt, clients like Mr. Thomas illustrate the effect of Virginia’s failure to maintain a safety net for the commonwealth’s working poor. Virginia ranks 48th in the nation in per capita Medicare expenditures, 44th in Medicaid eligibility standards for parents, and 31st in its eligibility standards for state-sponsored children’s health coverage. And the trend has gotten worse over time: Virginia is one of only 10 states with more uninsured children today than 15 years ago. Among all states, over the last 15 years the Old Dominion has seen the fourth largest decline in employer-provided health insurance coverage.

As a result, the Legal Aid Justice Center has joined “Healthcare for All Virginians,” a coalition of organizations helping to create and advocate for accessible, affordable, quality health care in the commonwealth. The coalition’s focus includes expanding insurance coverage for Virginia’s children, preserving and improving access to care for parents below the federal poverty level, and promoting adequate payment to health care providers treating patients who qualify for financial assistance through programs like Medicaid.

*Name has been changed.

“It breaks my heart to think that patients needing medical attention often forego treatment because they do not have insurance.”

—DR. DIANE PAPPAS
### UNRESTRICTED REVENUES • July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

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<td>Other</td>
<td>290,825</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,379,848</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES • July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Services to Clients</td>
<td>$3,935,210</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>308,187</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>148,993</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,392,390</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENSES BY PROGRAM • July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil Advocacy</td>
<td>$1,444,501</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JustChildren</td>
<td>1,218,468</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Advocacy Program</td>
<td>850,982</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Law Initiative</td>
<td>332,443</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Institutionalized Persons Project</td>
<td>214,532</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Health Advocacy Program</td>
<td>207,389</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; PPE</td>
<td>124,075</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,392,390</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENSES BY LOCATION • July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlottesville</td>
<td>$2,153,955</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>945,271</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petersburg</td>
<td>725,335</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls Church</td>
<td>567,829</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,392,390</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Range</th>
<th>Donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 +</td>
<td>Sonjia Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000 - $49,999</td>
<td>Anonymous, Clachan Properties, LLC, Sheila &amp; Ted Weschler, Sonjia Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead In-Kind Contributors</td>
<td>Association for Cultural Equity, Harvest Moon Catering, Payne, Ross &amp; Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,500 - $2,499</td>
<td>BB&amp;T, Elizabeth Birdsall &amp; Eric Young, Margaret &amp; Chris Block, Sumner Brown &amp; Herbert Beskin, Lee Carter, Louise Carter, Dreaming Hand Foundation, Sarah Eisenhart, ExxonMobil Foundation, Holland &amp; Knight, LLP, Cornelia Keller, Cyndy &amp; David Martin, Rozanne Oliver &amp; Robert Bayer, Shauna &amp; Karl Peet, Elizabeth &amp; Frederick Singer, Jane-Ashley &amp; Peter Skinner, Twentieth Century Fund, Betsy Woodard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mary Wagner
Nancy & William Wardle
Weissberg Foundation
Susan White
Williams Mullen
Shannon Worrell & Bill Chapman
William Wrench

$500 - $999
Kerry Abrams & Brandon Garrett
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Beverly Adams & Lincoln Lewis
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Lisa & Jason Colton

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Melissa Aikman
Alanna Alamed
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Lisa Barnett Taylor
Robin Ann Liten-Tejada & Walter Tejada
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Nisha Thirumurthy
Sally & George Thomas
Peter Thompson
Neil Tiller
Robert Tinsley
Natalie Toalson
Peter Trentman
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Advocates for Justice and Education
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Jefferson Area Board for Aging
United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area
University of Virginia School of Law

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Becky & Jim Craig
Sonja Smith

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Sheila & Ted Weschler

$25,000 ($5,000/Year)
Mary Ann Elwood
Mary Donn & Harold Jordan
Praxis Foundation
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$15,000 ($3,000/Year)
Rachel Unkefer & Dan Doernberg

$10,000 ($2,000/Year)
Elizabeth Birdsall

$5,000 ($1,000/Year)
Marian & David Fife
Shannon Worrell & Bill Chapman

TOTAL $585,000 ($117,000/Year for Five Years)
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800.578.8111 (toll-free)

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Falls Church, VA 22042
703.778.3450

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37 Bollingbrook Street
Petersburg, VA 23803
804.862.2205

Richmond
123 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
804.643.1086

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