

IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025



 **LEGAL AID
JUSTICE CENTER**

www.justice4all.org



An Evening with **Angela Davis**

A Conversation on **Justice**,
Activism, and **Social Change**

LAJC Board Chair Ted Howard moderated a conversation between legendary civil rights activist Dr. Angela Davis and LAJC Executive Director Angela Ciolfi. When asked how to balance fighting systemic injustice with addressing individuals' immediate needs, Dr. Davis captured the essence of the Legal Aid Justice Center's mission: "We do not have to choose. We can be revolutionaries and also give people the legal services they need to survive and thrive."





Letter from the Executive Director

In March, we had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Angela Davis at The Paramount Theater in Charlottesville. She told us, “We cannot be so depressed about today that we forget to fight for tomorrow.”

Last year—and every year for almost sixty years—the Legal Aid Justice Center has been fighting for tomorrow. On the pages of this annual report, we show how we pulled every lever to achieve life-changing outcomes in our longstanding campaigns, such as winning \$3 million in medical coverage for families wrongfully denied Medicaid and preventing the eviction of hundreds of public housing residents through advocacy against illegal rent practices. At the same time, we pivoted to become Virginia’s first line of defense against federal policies targeting our most vulnerable communities, providing “Know Your Rights” trainings for 2,000 people and

freeing 22 individuals from ICE detention to reunite with their families.

The opposite of tyranny is equity. And fighting for equity is woven into the fabric of the Legal Aid Justice Center’s mission. Our dual focus on individual representation and systemic reform uniquely positions us to defend fundamental rights and advance justice in Virginia.

In the pages ahead, you’ll see how we’re building the tomorrow Dr. Davis envisioned through the power of law, organizing, and unwavering commitment to justice.

Yours in the struggle,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Angela".

Angela Ciolfi
Executive Director

FILED **FOUR LAWSUITS AGAINST LARGE AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS** TO RECOVER OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN OVERTIME WAGES OWED TO WORKERS.

OUR ADVOCACY ALONGSIDE **RICHMOND PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS** FACING UNFAIR BILLING POLICIES RESULTED IN A MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RENT.

STOOD UP TO INCREASED ICE ENFORCEMENT WITH LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND ADVICE FOR DETAINED IMMIGRANTS, AS WELL AS WITH DOZENS OF "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" PRESENTATIONS AND EXPANSIVE ONLINE RESOURCES.

HELPED PASS LEGISLATION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ADVOCATES, TO **RAISE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF VIRGINIANS.**

PERSUADED CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS TO STOP AUTOMATICALLY DISENROLLING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES FOR PROLONGED OR FREQUENT ABSENCES, OFTEN DUE TO MEDICAL CARE.

SUCCESSFULLY DEMANDED THE STATE RETRAIN LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICES ON LANGUAGE ACCESS RIGHTS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR PARENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TO APPLY FOR SNAP (FOOD ASSISTANCE) BENEFITS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

HELPED PASS A BILL **LIMITING THE EXPANSION OF MASS SURVEILLANCE THROUGH AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READERS** AND PROHIBITING THEIR USE FOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT.



\$6.6 million

recovered or protected for our clients.



115

people freed from abusive debt collection.



1,500

people helped to maintain stable housing.

OVER



\$3 million

of medical debt erased through ending medicaid errors.



22

people freed from ICE custody.



\$233 million

won by the Fund Our Schools Coalition to fund school support staff by fully lifting the state's recession-era cost reductions.



91

Virginia cities and counties served.



157

people assisted with criminal record expungement.



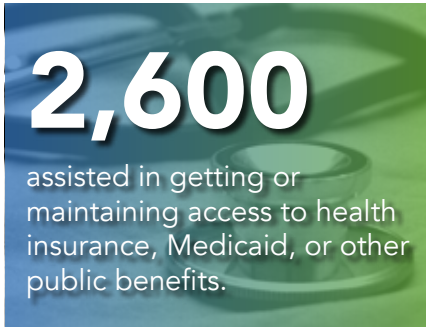
22,000 +

people viewed our immigration rapid response resources.



\$1 million

in unpaid overtime wages to Virginia farmworkers.



2,600

assisted in getting or maintaining access to health insurance, Medicaid, or other public benefits.

"I feel like no one can do anything to me now. I'm happy with my little girl. Thank you."



Carlos with LAJC attorney
Emily Lopynski

When Carlos fled El Salvador's civil war in the late 1980s, he had no formal education and couldn't read or write. What he did have was determination to build a safe life in America.

Through a bureaucratic error, Carlos never received notice of an immigration hearing in Texas. A judge issued a deportation order in his absence. For decades, he tried to find

legal help but was repeatedly turned away.

Still, Carlos persevered. He worked tirelessly to support his daughter, born in 2002 with Down syndrome, who depends on him for everything.

Then Carlos found LAJC.

We immediately recognized what others had missed: Carlos qualified for protected status available to 1980s-era Salvadoran refugees. After more than two years of advocacy, we convinced a Texas judge to reopen his case.

The result? Carlos received protection from deportation and a green card—finally securing the safety he'd sought for 35 years.

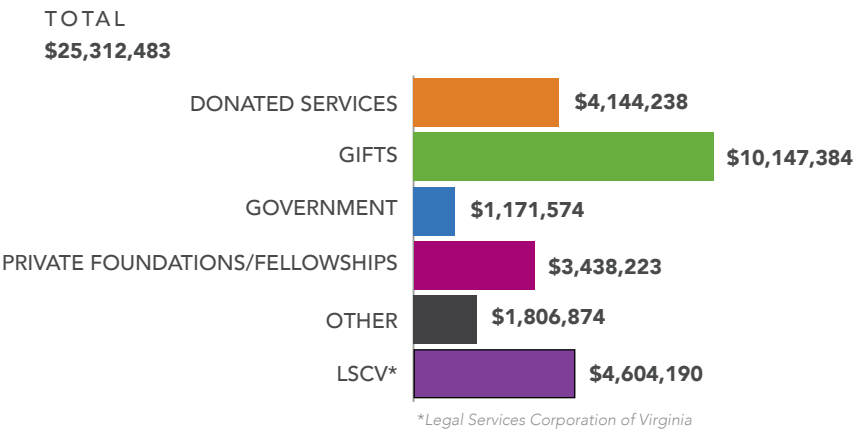
Carlos's victory represents the kind of impact LAJC achieves. During just the first six months of the Trump administration, we opened **175 new cases** across 25 counties. We also:

- **Equipped 2,000** people with "Know Your Rights" training across 33 presentations.
- **Freed 22 individuals** from detention to reunite with their families.
- **Provided 120 emergency consultations** and online resources that reached **22,000+ visitors** seeking critical immigration guidance.

Financials FY2025

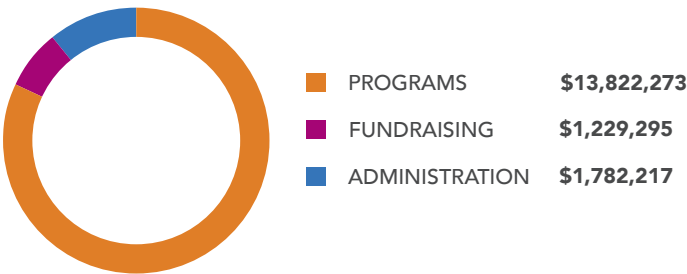
Revenue

FISCAL YEAR 2024



Expenses

FISCAL YEAR 2024



TOTAL
\$16,833,785

In February 2025, we received an extraordinary \$8M gift from longtime friends of LAJC, Sonjia Smith and Gail Munger. The goal of this gift is to expand our work rapidly in this time of crisis and the funds will be spent by 2028. In addition, the funds are offered as a matching challenge. The donors will match contributions 4:1, quintupling your gift! Join the challenge by scanning here:



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Charlottesville, VA 22903
(434) 977-0553

Richmond Area:

626 East Broad St., Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 643-1086

Petersburg Area:

237 N. Sycamore St., Suite A
Petersburg, VA 23803
(804) 862-2205



**Your Support
Makes Our
Work Possible**

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