

PD-OR-3117
987 Duane St.
Po Box 690
Astoria, OR 97103
503.325.1990 direct
503.325.9785 fax
800.USBANKS 24-hr service

Kevin M. LaCoste
Regional President
Columbia Pacific Region
kevin.lacoste@usbank.com



usbank.com

October 10, 2013

Lori Bashor-Sarancik
Director
Cowlitz & Wahkiakum Counties Legal Aid
1338 Commerce Ste C
Longview, WA 98632

Dear Lori Bashor-Sarancik:

On behalf of the U.S. Bancorp Foundation and Columbia Pacific Region, I am pleased to enclose a check for \$1500.00 in support of the self-help plus program.

I have enclosed a receipt for tax certification purposes—please sign and return in the enclosed envelope. Identification of our contribution should read: “U.S. Bancorp Foundation.”

We very much appreciate the opportunity to partner with you. Please accept our best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Kevin LaCoste
Regional President
Columbia Pacific Region

Lisa M. Waldvogel
2808 Cypress
Longview, WA 98632
February 3, 2013

RE: Letter in support of Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Legal Aid's City of Longview CDBG grant request

CDBG Review Team:

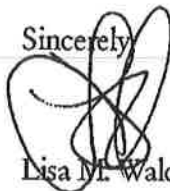
I am a lawyer practicing in Longview, Washington and I have been both a board member of Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Legal Aid and a volunteer since 2007. In that capacity I have learned that there just are not enough family law lawyers to go around. Family law cases, be they dissolutions of marriage, custody, paternity or non-parental custody, with or without domestic violence, are complex to handle and sometimes not possible to navigate when a person is representing themselves. Many litigants are disabled, have limited education or even have a primary language other than English. Litigating any type of court case, particularly one where personal details must be exposed to all is stressful and many self-represented persons flat out cannot handle it, and this is only worsened when there is an attorney or an abusive partner on the other side of the case. Our community has dedicated attorney volunteers and a dedicated legal services program, Northwest Justice Project, but there are still way too many persons who go unrepresented, who need counsel.

Consumer cases are also challenging to navigate without an attorney. Often, Longview residents either become overwhelmed or don't seek legal help because they do not realize there are legal protections to help them manage their debt dilemma. This can lead to the predictable cycle of going into further debt to pay off earlier debts, often jeopardizing housing security.

Finally, there is a dearth of resources available for local veterans. Many veterans become marginalized because they lack the proper status to obtain benefits. They lose their own quality of life and needlessly 'burden' local systems, because they aren't able to work their way through either the Veterans Benefits Administration or the Veterans Health Administration. There are not enough lawyers trained to assist so in some regards it is 'the blind leading the blind.' Hopefully as more lawyers realize the need for this service and develop the expertise, more veterans will get the help that they need.

I strongly urge you to consider Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Legal Aid in making grant decisions.

Sincerely



Lisa M. Waldvogel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LISA WALDVOGEL
AMY WADE
MIKE ROTHMAN
CHRISTINE GREIG
CHELSEA BALDWIN
DARRYL COLMAN
HEIDI THOMPSON
SUE BAUR
ANN MOTTET
KAREN TITUS

ADVISORY BOARD

THE HON. C.C. BRIDGEWATER
(RETIRED)

THE HON. MARILYN NITTEBERG
HAAN

KEVIN RAHN, ATTORNEY/CPA

STAFF

LORI SARANCIK
EVA BARKER

1338 COMMERCE AVENUE
LONGVIEW, WA 98632-0173
PHONE: 360-425-2579
FAX -- : 888-234-4665
WWW.CWLAP@LIVE.COM



February 3, 2014

Councilmembers
Julie Hourcle
City of Longview
1525 Broadway
Longview, WA 98632

Dear Council-members and Ms. Hourcle,

This letter will serve as a certification that the only source of Government funding involved in the Self Help Plus program will be the funds allocated from the City of Longview CDBG Grant, if approved.

No other sources of government funding are part of our agency or this project.

All sources of funding come from Foundations: The Legal Foundation of Washington, The Washington State Bar association, The United Way, private donations and the Cowlitz Wahkiakum Bar Association.

Sincerely,

Lori Bashor-Sarancik
Program Coordinator
Cowlitz Wahkiakum Legal Aid
1338 Commerce, Suite C
Longview, WA 98632
360-425-2579



Our Programs

Self Help

Our services provide materials, workshops, advice, a review of your documents by a licensed attorney and as much coaching as you need to prepare your case for self-representation. Many of our clients do an excellent job in court and have very favorable outcomes because of their preparation.

Full Representation

Some of our clients, those with significant barriers to self-representation, receive full representation from one of our volunteer attorneys, or some kind of limited representation.

Self Help Plus

After evaluation by a volunteer attorney, an attorney-contractor fully represents our most vulnerable clients including Veterans, Domestic Violence Victims and in custody matters with issues of safety for children.



OUTCOMES AND GOALS FOR LEGAL AID

Case Statistics

Average number of unique new cases opened per year: **300**

Typical types of cases: Family law, wills/estates, consumer protection, landlord/tenant, trusts/deeds

Number of hours donated by local attorneys to help low income clients in 2013: **489 hours**

Approximate value of time donated by attorneys each year and provided to low income clients for no charge: **\$120,000**

Savings to Taxpayers

242 - # of clients attending clinics in 2013

119 - # of clients attending workshops in 2013

57 - # of clients attending consultations in 2013

418 - total clients receiving advice and service

\$250 - estimated costs for one court appearance

\$104,500 estimated savings if we reduce by one court appearance

\$143,450 estimated value of volunteer attorney hours

\$247,950 - estimated value of services to taxpayers

DIRECT PHONE NUMBER

360-425-2579

FAX NUMBER

888-234-4665

Financial Stability:

Our organization experienced a 20% growth in income in 2013 and a 10% reduction in overall expenses. We have approximately 5 months of operating expense on deposit in savings. Our organization was supported by 3 new grant-funders in 2013, The Healthcare Foundation, The Washington State Bar Association and US Bank. We employ 2 part time staff and one attorney contractor.

Collaboration in the Community

Our staff and board are active in the legal community and the community at large. Our members serve on several local boards and volunteer time and resources to improve our community as a whole..

Partnership with The United Way

Our partnership with The United Way give us so many benefits and we are constantly connecting to their events and resources.

Board of Directors

Our board consists of: 2 Judges, 9 attorneys, 1 attorney/CPA, one paralegal, and one guardian.



Who uses our services?

Women: Domestic Violence Victims and other women faced with broken families and no income to afford anything other than basic housing and subsistence.

Seniors: Their economic security and health care may be in jeopardy.

Disabled Citizens: Significant barriers can exist in the legal system.

Families: They may be at risk of losing their income, housing and stability.

Consumers: Bankrupted by predatory lenders and trying to find options to pay.

Immigrants: Working and facing legal barriers in our community.

Veterans: Clients facing denial of VA benefits, drivers license issues, public benefits and child support issues.

Legal help is especially important for people who are poor or nearly poor, people whose basic survival depends on being able to stay in a home, secure health care or food, keep their families together and protect their sources of income. Unresolved legal issues can multiply, tearing families apart and driving them further into poverty.

1338 Commerce Suite C, Longview WA 98632 www.cwlap.org



A proud partner agency of the Cowlitz Wahkiakum United Way



Equal Access to Justice and the Courts, regardless of income.

Local attorneys volunteer to provide pro bono legal help to vulnerable, low income clients who face civil legal barriers to self-sufficiency or are challenged to provide a safe and stable home for children.



OUR APPROACH IS CONSULTATION, ADVICE AND COACHING

- Clients are referred from several local agencies for services: CAP, The United Way, The Emergency Support Shelter, The Ethnic Support Council, Head Start, The Court System, Local members of the Bar, CPS and DSHS, The Housing Authority, The VFW and through Northwest Justice Project and many others.
- Clients call the CLEAR Hotline for intake and referral to our agency.(1-888-201-1014)
- Local volunteer attorneys donate time to see clients on a Pro Bono basis and our staff schedules clients to see them during these donated hours. During an appointment with an attorney, our clients usually receive advice, document review and coaching on how to be successful through the process of self-representation. Many clients attend multiple appointments with attorneys as they prepare their cases.
- Our staff also provides free legal resources, workshops, legal forms, and access to documents on file at our county clerk's office.
- For clients with significant barriers to self-representation, our staff attempts to place these cases with volunteer attorneys for full representation.
- We also partner with volunteer attorneys to provide educational events on various legal topics for the public.

PROFILE AND HISTORY

- Cowlitz Wahkiakum Legal Aid was started in 1999 by a small group of local attorneys with a strong belief in giving back to the community by helping low income clients on a pro bono basis.
- At the time, Evergreen Legal Services, a local poverty law center had experienced a decline in funding and was closing their office which left a gap in services for low income citizens in our community.
- Funding from The Legal Foundation of Washington was sought and the office was opened in the CAP Building with a single part time staff member to create and implement the program.
- Significant achievements since that time include relocating to a larger location to provide more access to services, the acquisition of new office equipment to improve efficiency and reduce expenses for copying and office supplies, hiring of our first contract attorney to provide full representations for Military Veterans, consistently opening over 300 new cases per year, diversification of funding sources with three new grant funders in 2013.

ATTORNEYS AND LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- We currently have over 79 local members of the bar on our volunteer roster reflecting all levels of experience and multiple legal specialties and most of our Board members are attorneys. There are approximately 83 active attorneys in local Bar Association.



LEGAL AID



"Most Americans don't realize that you can have your home taken away, your children taken away and you can be a victim of domestic violence but you have no constitutional right to a lawyer to protect you."
Jim Sandman, President
Legal Services Corporation



15

YEARS OF SERVICE IN OUR COMMUNITY

CIVIL LEGAL MATTERS

1. FAMILY LAW

Dissolution, Custody, Visitation, Support

- Domestic Violence Situations
- What if one spouse can afford an attorney and the other does not work? Clients in these situations are at a disadvantage in court.

2. WILLS /ESTATES / PROPERTY

Probate, Medicaid, Deeds, Trusts

- Many clients inherit property but have no idea how to take legal authority.
- Special needs trusts for elder or disabled clients seeking to protect assets.

3. ISSUES WITH HOUSING

Landlord Tenant Matters

- Our clients are at a tremendous disadvantage if the opposing party is a landlord who can afford to hire an attorney.
- We can help with resources if our client is fighting to stay in their housing..

4. CONSUMER PROTECTION

Bankruptcy, Collections, Contracts

- Consultations to determine if Bankruptcy is the right answer for a client.
- Full Representation for Bankruptcy in some cases

5. GUARDIANSHIP

For vulnerable adults and children

Hundreds of thousands of war vets still waiting for health benefits

By Randi Kaye and Scott Bronstein, CNN
updated 10:04 AM EDT, Mon October 29, 2012

CNN.com

Phoenix (CNN) -- Mike Rioux can't go to the grocery store without making a list, even for a single item.

He can't drive without gripping the steering wheel so hard his knuckles turn white. And he can't stand any longer than 30 minutes because of severe back pain.

This is Rioux's life after Afghanistan, where firefights and a roadside bomb blast left him with a traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

His ears still ring from the explosions. He suffers from vertigo, headaches, insomnia and nightmares. He has terrible anxiety, evident in an interview with CNN -- Rioux could hardly sit still, and his memory loss and inability to concentrate meant questions had to be repeated at times.

"I need to discover who I am again," he said.



VA backlog 'plagues' veterans nationwide



How veteran voters could swing election



Little-known military benefits



New economic realities for military vets

As a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army, Rioux most recently was deployed in 2010 to one of the most dangerous spots in Afghanistan. There he survived firefights and blasts and witnessed much carnage in Paktia province, near the volatile Afghan-Pakistan border.

After returning home, Rioux faced a much different

battle, one that neither he nor his wife, Maggie, expected.

Confusion is 'monumental'

The Department of Veterans Affairs said it is on track to process 1 million disability claims this year.

With the war in Iraq over and the one in Afghanistan winding down, the VA is sorting through a backlog of more than 860,000 disability claims from American veterans. More than a quarter of those vets -- 228,000 -- have been waiting for a year or more.

Rioux has been trying to get his disability claim fully processed since January 2011, shortly after he returned from Afghanistan.

The litany of delays includes lost paperwork, long wait times for appointments and erroneous lab results. At one point, a doctor prescribed him medication for a bladder infection he didn't have; he'd never given as much as a urine sample.

that. But this isn't only PTSD."

She said she wants her husband to get the respect he deserves after he risked his life for his country.

"He could've been killed. Every time I spoke to him on the phone I thought it might be the last time I heard his voice," she said. But she added, "Our relationship has had to take a hit. I'm married to a different man now. I love him. Just as much as I've always loved him. But he's different."

The Riouxes said they are not looking for a handout and want to work.

"We're not a charity case, and we're not looking for sympathy," Maggie Rioux said. "We're angry about the VA. We're angry about so many things, including all of the other soldiers and veterans that are waiting longer than we have."

CNN's Nicole Boucher contributed to this report.

1565

[Comments »](#)

- [Print](#)
- [Email](#)
- [More sharing](#)

More than 2.5 million grandparents take on role of parent

By Christine Facciolo, The (Wilmington, Del.) News Journal

Updated 4/12/2012 6:19 PM

Recommend 72

59

+1 15



WILMINGTON, Del. -- These are supposed to be their golden years. They worked hard, earned a decent living and raised their family. Now it's time to relax and reap the benefits of a life well lived.

But not for those who have had to take on the responsibility of raising grandchildren. Their golden years have been put on hold as they have begun another cycle of child-rearing.

Delores and Larry Kling have been parenting their 8-year-old granddaughter, Amber, since she was an infant. The Klings' son and the child's mother abandoned their baby and have yet to remember her on birthdays and holidays.

MORE: More grandparents taking on a second round of parenting

While Amber is a loving child who does well in school, her grandmother worries how much the situation with her biological parents has affected her and is seeking counseling to help them all cope.

"It's heartbreaking," said Delores Kling. "I'm sure it's on her mind all the time."

The number of grandparents who provide primary care for their grandchildren is growing. Nationwide, more than 2.5 million grandparents are taking on the responsibility of raising grandchildren in what the AARP calls "grandfamilies."

Although grandparents raising grandchildren is not new, the percentage is the largest seen in the past 40 years. "Grandparents are the new safety net and it's not going to change," said Judy Pierson, a licensed clinical psychologist from Rehoboth Beach, Del.

Grandparents are faced with the responsibility of raising their grandchildren for a variety of reasons, including parental death, substance abuse, incarceration, mental health issues, military deployment, teen pregnancy, abandonment, abuse or neglect.

The economy has also played a role. The rate of unemployment among workers ages 22 to 34 is double that of 55- to 64-year-olds.

Grandparents often assume the role of parents to keep the children safe and out of foster homes. Indeed, the 2008 federal Fostering Connections Act says states must first look to kin when a child is removed from a home because of abuse or neglect, allowing

Videos you may be interested in

More videos



Most Popular

Stories

HF Test

Videos

- Ed Baig reviews Kindle Paperwhite
- 'Pregnant man' struggles through nasty divorce
- Tennis Channel Court Report 9-30-2012

Photos

- Dramatic weight-loss success stories
- Unrest in Syria
- Editorial Cartoons

Most Popular E-mail Newsletter

Sign up to get:

Top viewed stories, photo galleries and community posts of the day

Most popular right now:

HF Test



Sign up for USA TODAY E-mail newsletters

The News Journal, Bob Herbert
Delores Kling helps her granddaughter 8 yr. old Amber Anuszewski with her homework. Amber lives with the Klings.

Sponsored Links

1 Weird spice that FIGHTS diabetes

Can this unusual "super spice" control your blood sugar and fight diabetes? diabetesreversed.com

Lifelock® Official Site

Protect yourself this tax season w/ our ID theft protection services www.LifeLock.com/protection

One-A-Day Joint Relief

Find out why these shocking joint ingredients are flying off shelves. www.beneflex.com

Buy a link here

grandparents to be considered a replacement when the family has experienced a crisis.

Being called upon to parent on such short notice creates challenges for grandparents. There may be financial constraints as many grandparents live on a fixed income. Moreover, retirement nest eggs have shrunk as a result of the economic downturn.

Behavioral problems can also be an issue. Children may act out because they don't understand why they can't be with their biological parents.

"Psychologists call it 'externalizing problems' where they're going to be resistant and really difficult to deal with," said Pat Tanner Nelson, a professor and certified family life educator at the University of Delaware.

Demands and fears

Grandparent caregivers may feel that they can't keep up with their grandchildren because they are in poor health or because the children are so active. "Kids are hard enough to raise when you're younger but when you're older ...," said the 64-year-old Kling, who lives in Dover.

Grandparents raising grandchildren must also deal with a welter of emotions, including anger, resentment and guilt. "For one thing, all of their plans for retirement go out the window," Pierson said.

They may also feel they have been robbed of the traditional grandparenting experience. "If the kids are going to grow up healthy, they have to add that additional layer (of discipline)," Nelson said. "It makes it less fun."

And grandparents may feel that they themselves have failed as parents. "They may feel a sense of shame and worry that it says something about the parenting of that (adult) child," Pierson said.

Raising grandchildren can also cause difficulties with other family members. "The other adult children may resent their parents that are putting out money and resources to take care of the sibling who is not living up to their responsibilities and they may feel that those grandchildren are more important to the grandparents," Pierson said.

Support is essential

Becoming a parent again can be an overwhelming experience, but it can also be a rewarding one with the proper support. Experts agree that grandparents can benefit from sharing their concerns and needs with others in support groups.

Experts also recommend that grandparents take care of their health and make time for themselves.

They should also reach out to family and friends for help. "Even people who live far away can do some things like make phone calls about resources or send a coupon for a massage," Pierson said.

Grandparents who assume the responsibility of raising their grandchildren have a unique opportunity to play an important role in their grandchildren's lives. "We're talking about shaping another human being's life and giving these kids a chance at having a more promising future," Pierson said.

Quick Tips

- Acknowledge your emotions and find safe ways to express those feelings.
- Take care of yourself and try to get some "alone" time every day.
- Make time for your spouse or partner.
- Consult with an attorney and financial planner.
- Set limits and rules for your grandchildren and teach them interpersonal skills. Consider counseling to help them cope with their feelings.