



2015 Annual Report

For Legal Help Call...

**STATEWIDE
ACCESSLINE®**

1-877-250-2016

SPANISH TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE

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HOTLINE**

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**NEBRASKA
IMMIGRATION LEGAL
ASSISTANCE HOTLINE**

1-855-307-6730

**BREAST CANCER
LEGAL HOTLINE**

1-855-916-4540

**ELDER ACCESSLINE®
(AGE 60 AND OVER)**

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**AUTISM LEGAL
HOTLINE**

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**DISASTER RELIEF
HOTLINE**

1-844-268-5627

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RELIGION, GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, ETHNICITY, RACE, COLOR, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, CITIZEN OR AUTHORIZED ALIEN STATUS, VETERAN STATUS, OR DISABILITY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANY OF ITS PROGRAMS.

OR APPLY ONLINE AT
LEGALAIDOFNEBRASKA.ORG

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**We Make Equal
Justice Happen For ...**

“MY LEGAL AID LAWYER TOOK THE TIME TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING. HE WAS ABLE TO GET QUICK RESULTS. HE IS VERY TALENTED, THOUGHTFUL, CONSCIENTIOUS AND A REAL BLESSING IN SO MANY WAYS. THANK YOU!”

- Legal Aid Client

EACH MORNING, in homes across Nebraska, proud yet low-income families rise and spend another day struggling to make ends meet, to keep their children safe, to protect what little they have in the world- simply to keep it all together in the face of life's curveballs and crises. It matters little whether they wake up in Omaha's urban sprawl, in communities along the Platte River, or in the shadow of Scottsbluff. Having your home taken away, losing your children, seeing your small payday disappear, or being a survivor of domestic violence always causes strife.

Legal representation with these challenges is often the only thing standing between a family's efforts to see better days, or suffer a fall into deep poverty and a loss of hope. That's the important job of Legal Aid of Nebraska.

Legal Aid is a problem solver, standing side by side with low-income, diverse Nebraskans - enforcing laws, protecting rights, all the while addressing urgent needs and shining a light on what more could be done. As the only Nebraska civil legal aid provider offering our free services in every nook and cranny, we have a singular view on the realities facing Nebraska's poor.

As such, we know this: Legal Aid

makes Nebraska a better place for everyone to live and prosper, not just a few with a bit more luck and a lot more money. That's a big job, but everyone associated with Legal Aid welcomes it.

“Legal Aid makes Nebraska a better place for everyone to live and prosper, not just a few with a bit more luck and a lot more money.”

I joined this important organization in 2015 with my eyes wide open, but the challenge is daunting. Over 17,000 requests for legal help came in our doors in 2015, and we know this is but a fraction of the real need across the state. We help people in crisis, though we are forced to triage and direct our legal expertise to the most critical needs.

In light of this reality, staff in Legal Aid's seven offices and one satellite, and multiple statewide programs concentrate on delivering a measure of justice to everyone asking for our legal help. For those we represent, we demand real, positive, and measurable results. And in the midst of this blizzard of families in crisis, our staff delivers the highest quality legal work, by many of Nebraska's best lawyers



and advocates.

Though we know Legal Aid's important work makes a real dent in poverty in Nebraska, we want our legal representation to make even more of an impact. To do this, we know we can, and should, work more in partnership with others. In 2016, Legal Aid is asking these big questions of people, leaders, and organizations across Nebraska through our “Fresh Look” initiative. Legal Aid is preparing for even more important work ahead- and we need your support.

I am honored to be a part of Legal Aid, a unique and dynamic Nebraska force for good. Because, in everything we do, for everyone in Nebraska: we make equal justice happen.

Sincerely,

Milo Mumgaard

Letter From The Executive Director

Letter From The President



On the move!

With a new, dynamic Executive Director, Legal Aid of Nebraska is poised to provide a wider range of legal services to more Nebraskans in the coming years. Here is a progress report on some exciting developments during 2015:

Disaster Relief.

The federal Legal Services Corporation recognized Legal Aid as a leader in the field by awarding Legal Aid a special disaster relief grant to enroll private attorneys in planning for directly serving low-income victims of disasters when they inevitably strike in Nebraska. Re-creating a household without important papers, ensuring access to bank accounts, negotiating insurance claims, avoiding scams, and other pressing matters will receive needed legal help as a result of this grant.

Medical-Legal Partnerships.

This project provides direct legal services to patients when legal problems interfere with their medical treatment and health care outcomes. Legal Aid posts lawyers at various hospitals to counsel eligible patients on the effects hospitalization may have on their housing, employment, eligibility for benefits, and other matters where hospitalization may spawn legal problems. The project is expanding to Lincoln, pairing with the People's Health Center, and plans are

underway for further expansion to western Nebraska health centers and hospitals.

Strategic Planning.

Legal Aid is involved in a renewed planning process, coined "Fresh Look: Poverty and Legal Aid." The plan is to survey former and present clients, partner organizations and agencies, and community members through community meetings throughout Nebraska to gain insight into how Legal Aid can better serve those in poverty, and partner with other organizations to provide the best service to low-income people.

Internal Management.

Prompted by staff, Legal Aid has adopted a Salary Administration Plan to assist management in ensuring that all staff are treated equally, recognizing experience and special skill sets that benefit Legal Aid. The Board of Directors adopted the Plan and it has been in place nearly a year now, improving the staff reviewing process and staff morale.

Board Leadership.

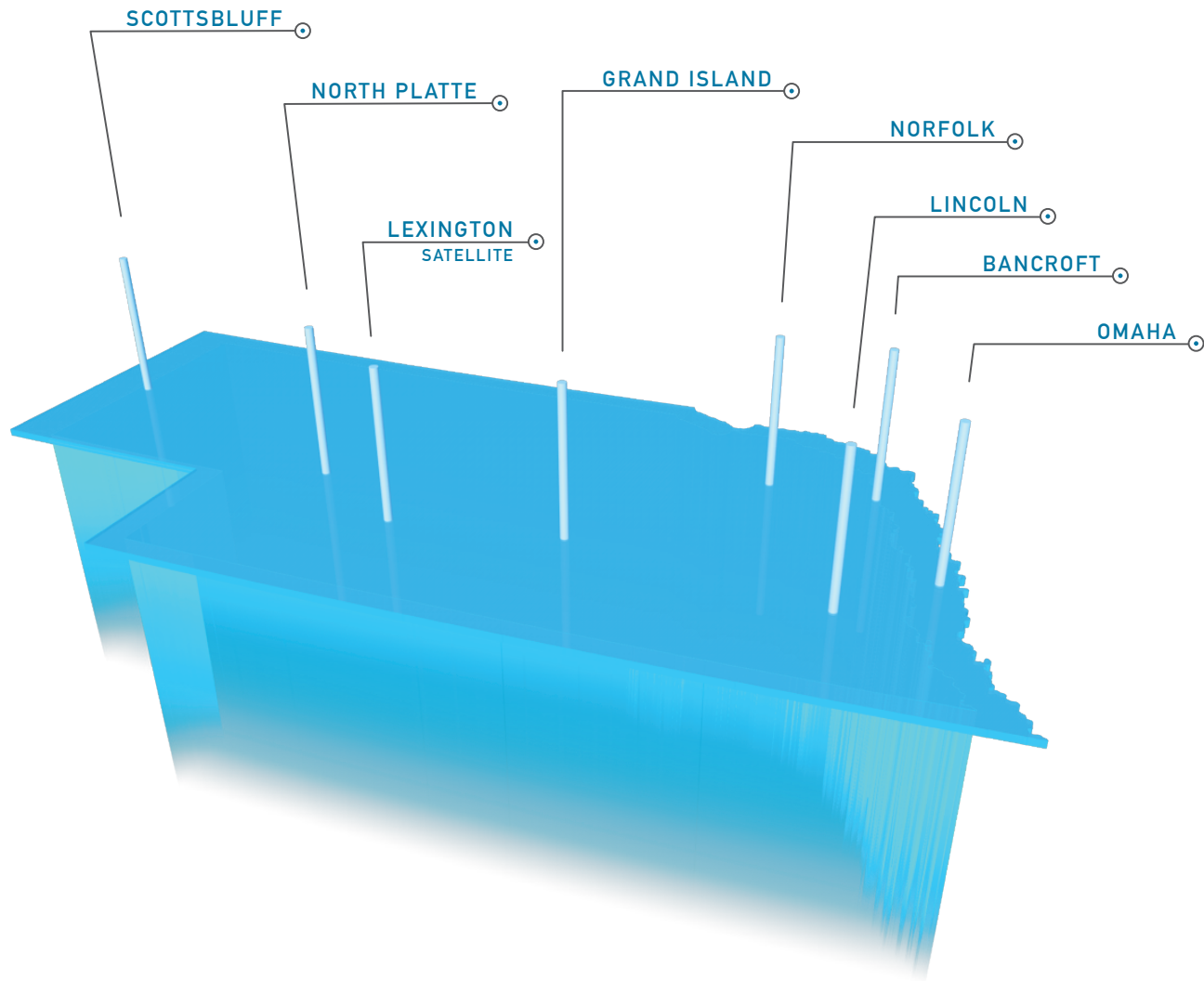
Throughout the last two years as the organization has undergone situational challenges, the Board of Directors has been actively involved in assisting staff in various functions. This involvement has lessened now with the hiring of a new Executive Director, but the board remains active in providing

staff the advice, leadership, and oversight necessary to guide the firm through the coming years. It has been my pleasure to work with our outstanding board, and I look forward to positive board experiences in the future as this organization continues to be "on the move" in fighting poverty through civil legal aid across Nebraska.

Yours,

Hon. David Piester, President

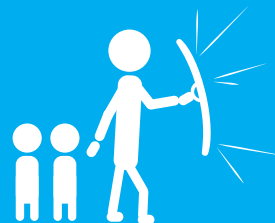




WITH SEVEN LOCATIONS, ONE SATELLITE OFFICE, AND AN EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF VOLUNTEER PRIVATE LAWYERS, LEGAL AID PROVIDES ASSISTANCE IN ALL OF NEBRASKA'S 93 COUNTIES.

8 Locations.
93 Counties Served.
1 Unified Goal.

By the Numbers



WE HELPED

NEARLY 1000 FAMILIES IN NEED OF INCOME SUPPORTS, SUCH AS FOOD STAMPS, SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME, HEALTH INSURANCE, TAXES, VETERAN BENEFITS AND UNPAID WAGES

WE SERVED

MORE THAN 1800 FAMILIES WITH CONSUMER ISSUES, SUCH AS MEDICAL DEBTS, BANKRUPTCY AND KEEPING THEIR UTILITIES ON

WE BACKED

MORE THAN 1000 FAMILIES WHO WERE FIGHTING UNFAIR EVICTIONS AND OTHER HOUSING ISSUES

WE RELIEVED

OVER 4200 FAMILIES WHO WERE FIGHTING FOR STABILITY THROUGH PROTECTION ORDERS AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE, CUSTODY OF THEIR CHILDREN, DIVORCE AND GUARDIANSHIPS

In 2015, Our Clients Were



68%
WOMEN



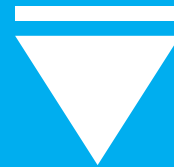
5%
VETERANS



20%
DISABLED



5%
IMMIGRANTS



30%
**LIVING IN
DEEP POVERTY***



100%
IN POVERTY

* DEEP POVERTY IS DEFINED AS FAMILIES OF FOUR EARNING \$12,150 PER YEAR OR LESS

IN 2015, LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA MADE
EQUAL JUSTICE HAPPEN FOR MORE THAN
21,000 PEOPLE, ACROSS ALL 93 COUNTIES IN NEBRASKA.

Featured Story

DIEGO SALCIDO



A TRANSPLANT SURGERY IS

only as successful as the recovery that follows. In his five short years of life, Diego Salcido had faced the enormous hardship of childhood cancer. After being diagnosed with leukemia in January, 2015 he received a bone marrow transplant, which failed.

By August, he had received and was responding positively to a second transplant.

Yet, despite the surgical success, Diego could not return home. Like many other hardworking, yet low-income families, Diego's family was forced to deal with substandard housing. Although the Salcido's home was neat and tidy, it was infested with cockroaches and bedbugs, making a healthy recovery impossible for Diego's compromised immune system.

Legal Aid of Nebraska through their Medical-Legal Partnership Project (MLPP) went to bat for Diego's family, helping them work to get out of their lease, get back their deposit, find better housing and obtain furniture necessary for Diego's health and recovery. The MLPP is a unique collaboration between Legal Aid of Nebraska and all of the major hospitals in the Omaha area. The MLPP offers free legal advice and representation to low-income Nebraskans struggling with medical/legal problems. The MLPP has helped hundreds of individuals and families in the Omaha area, sending an attorney to be on site at the hospitals

weekly to answer questions and identify legal needs.

In September, the hard work of the Legal Aid MLPP team received attention at the national level. PBS NewsHour featured a story on the MLPP with special attention on Diego, and the services the Salcidos received from Legal Aid. Without the help of Legal Aid of Nebraska, Diego's family would be stuck with few options. Today, Diego is in remission, able to live without the confining restraints of life-threatening illness. The Salcido family has moved from unbearable living conditions to a home that accommodates all three of their children. Diego's family expresses incredible gratitude to Legal Aid of Nebraska, describing the MLPP attorneys as angels who helped their son obtain the possibility of leading a full and productive life.

The PBS NewsHour report illuminated the life changing work Legal Aid attorneys provide each day. The narratives may be different, but the individuals and families that come to Legal Aid are all saddled with legal barriers arising from their lives in poverty, yet with care and compassion

Legal Aid attorneys fight to make equal justice happen for families like Diego's.

Thanks to a generous grant award from the Community Health Endowment, the MLPP will extend into Lincoln at the end of 2016 to work with community health centers and continue working with families like the Salcidos.



Diego, his brother Hector, and PBS NewsHour reporter, Jackie Judd, reading together.

My Charge:



KELSIE MYERS

STAFF ATTORNEY

"GIVING POWER TO VICTIMS."

BRANCH: NORFOLK
YEARS SERVED: 4.5



IVIS HANNON

PARALEGAL

"THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING
I ADVOCATE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE
NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN, OR ARE IN
THEIR MOST VULNERABLE STATE."

BRANCH: OMAHA
YEARS SERVED: 1.5



LEA WROBLEWSKI

MANAGING ATTORNEY

"GRATEFUL CLIENTS - I FEEL LIKE
I'M MAKING A DIFFERENCE."

BRANCH: LINCOLN
YEARS SERVED: 19



CHEREE HATFIELD

STAFF ATTORNEY

"I JUST LOVE TO HELP PEOPLE
UNDERSTAND THEIR OPTIONS AND
FIGURE OUT A SOLUTION FOR THEIR
ISSUES."

BRANCH: OMAHA
YEARS SERVED: 4.5

Our Locations



OMAHA

209. S. 19TH ST, STE. 200,
OMAHA, NE 68102

EMPLOYEES: 42

FUN FACT:

"THE OMAHA OFFICE HAS A REFRIGERATOR FAIRY WHO MAKES MOLDY FOOD "POOF" DISAPPEAR."



LINCOLN

941 "O" ST, STE. 825
LINCOLN, NE 68508

EMPLOYEES: 20

FUN FACT:

"OUR MANAGING ATTORNEY WAS A RADIO DJ AND CAN STILL MAKE A RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT VOICE."



NORTH PLATTE

102 E 3RD ST, STE. 102
NORTH PLATTE, NE 69101

EMPLOYEES: 3

FUN FACT:
"TOTAL COMMUTING TIME FOR THE
ENTIRE OFFICE: 15 MINUTES
DURING RUSH HOUR"



SCOTTSBLUFF

1423 1ST AVE, P.O. BOX 1365
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69363

EMPLOYEES: 4

FUN FACT:
"WHEN WE NEED INSPIRATION AND
GUIDANCE, WE SIT UNDER THE
JOHN MILLIGAN TREE."

Our Locations



NORFOLK

214 N. 7TH ST, STE. 10
NORFOLK, NE 68701

EMPLOYEES: 5

FUN FACT:

"THE ORIGINAL NORFOLK OFFICE
WAS AT THE REGIONAL CENTER,
AND TWO OF THE STAFF ARE STILL
ALIVE TO TESTIFY TO THAT..."



BANCROFT

415 MAIN ST, P.O. BOX 325
BANCROFT, NE 68004

EMPLOYEES: 2

FUN FACT:

"WE FEED THE LOCAL STRAY CATS
OUTSIDE OUR OFFICE DOOR."



GRAND ISLAND

1811 W. 2ND ST, STE. 440
OMAHA, NE 68802

EMPLOYEES: 3

FUN FACT:
"EVERYONE IN THE OFFICE
HAS A DOG!"



...WITH MORE TO COME

Notes From Our Clients

They were wonderful and I loved everything about Legal Aid.

Every time, **I've been grateful for the help I've received by the staff at Legal Aid.** Ms. Heaney has gone out of her way to help me end all of my issues.

I'm very happy with the results my lawyer Liliana worked for. She's efficient and very dedicated to her work. I'm so happy she was the person that helped me. People should recognize her work. She deserves it and she's a great person.

Elaine is the best! She is great at working with domestic violence survivors.

I am **very thankful.** Awesome service.

I believe **I would not have succeeded** without Scott's foresight and expertise.

I'm very happy and appreciate the time and consideration I received from my attorney.

I'm grateful that these services were offered to me at this time with my high medical needs and concerns. This **gave me some peace of mind.** Thank you.

You're the best!

Financial Summary

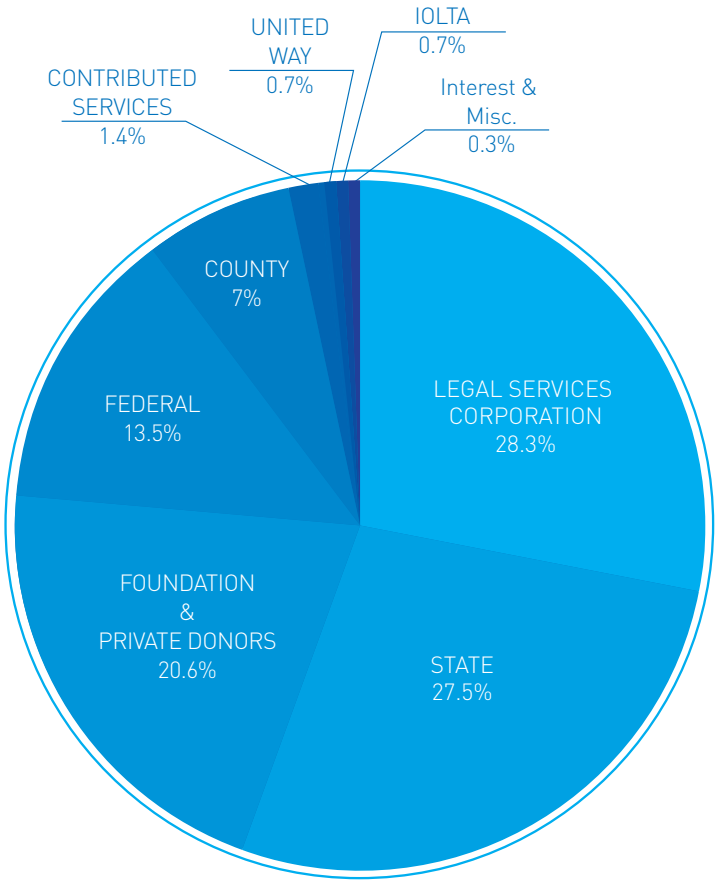
REVENUE

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION -BASIC GRANT	1,524,979
LEGAL AID AND SERVICES FUND	1,352,306
CONTRIBUTIONS	809,450
MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT	510,876
LANCASTER COUNTY JUVENILE CONTRACT	462,229
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	317,326
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION- DISASTER GRANT	240,000
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FEDERAL GRANT	239,004
ELDERACCESSLINE®	216,203
CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES FUND	211,967
NATIONAL FORECLOSURE (NLTAF)	200,000
CONTRIBUTED SERVICES	94,515
INTERCHURCH MINISTRIES OF NEBRASKA	50,000
INTEREST ON LAWYERS TRUST ACCOUNTS (IOLTA)	46,500
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT	43,058
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION -MIGRANT GRANT	42,291
NORTHEAST NEBRASKA AREA AGENCY ON AGING	34,041
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION - NATIVE AMERICAN GRANT	33,134
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND	27,224
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE - LOW INCOME TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE	21,532
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA LINCOLN - NORTH CENTRAL RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION	21,255
UNITED WAY OF LINCOLN AND LANCASTER COUNTY	20,271
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE & INTEREST	16,721
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION - TECHNOLOGY GRANT	14,000
UNITED WAY OF THE MIDLANDS	12,500
NEBRASKA HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	7,608

TOTAL REVENUE \$6,568,990

NET ASSETS AT 12.31.15 \$2,022,647

2015 REVENUE BREAKDOWN BY PERCENTAGE

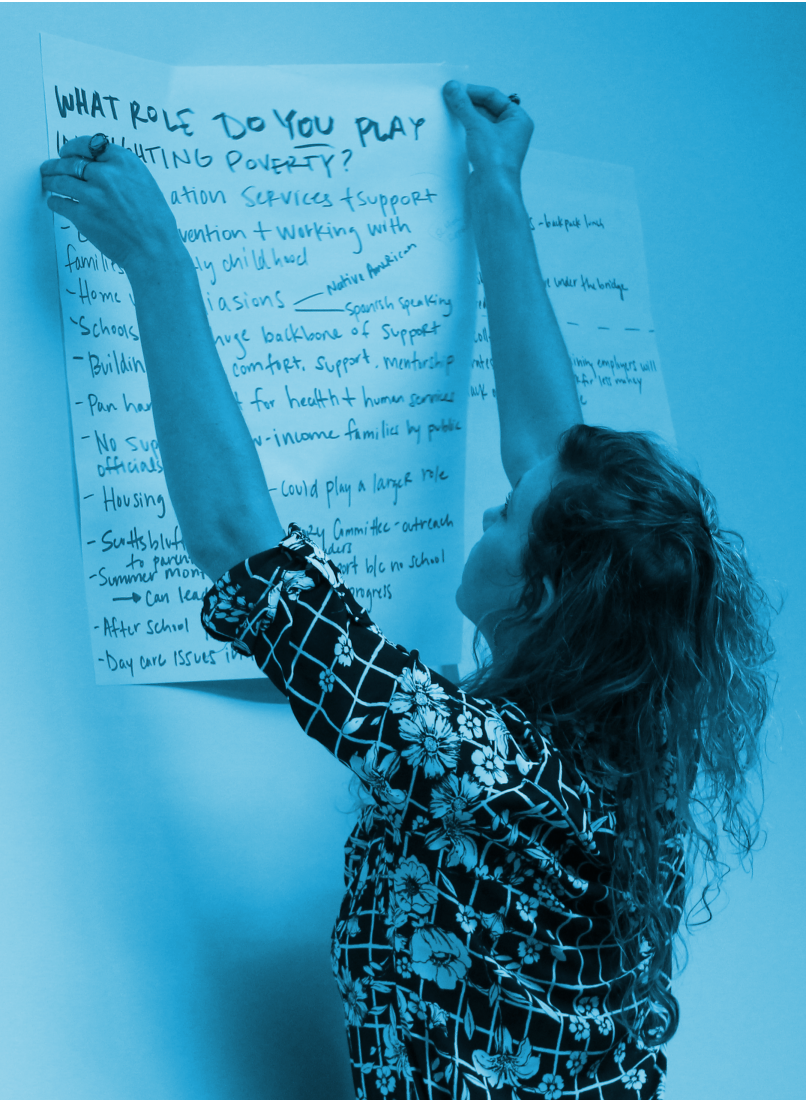


NOTE: Best practices for non-profit organizations indicate that the organization should have operating reserves equal to between 3 and 6 months operating expenses. At 12-31-15, Legal Aid of Nebraska had operating reserves of approximately 3.4 months, based on the 2016 budget.

EXPENSES

SALARIES	3,708,178
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	1,055,144
OCCUPANCY	415,134
PAYROLL TAXES	267,759
CONTRACTED SERVICES	245,971
TELEPHONE	141,830
PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT CONTRACTS	94,518
DONATED PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT	94,518
DEPRECIATION	24,689
TRANSPORTATION	105,449
DEVELOPMENT	32,708
TECH SUPPORT	104,050
INSURANCE	64,505
TRAINING	59,389
SUPPLIES	35,885
LIBRARY	44,351
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	31,661
DUES	28,827
POSTAGE AND SHIPPING	25,007
LITIGATION COSTS	5,568
MISCELLANEOUS	7,019
PRINTING	6,779
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS	8,695
RECRUITING	12,628
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,620,262

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE BREAKDOWN	
PROGRAM SERVICES	85.70%
ADMINISTRATIVE & FUNDRAISING	14.30%



2015 Volunteers and Interns

Thank you to our volunteers and unpaid interns for dedicating their time and energy to Legal Aid of Nebraska's mission.

VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

CECILIA ABBEY
ROSELLE AGDIPA
BRANDON BARATTA
ANNETTE BURWELL
JENNA BOULAS
DALE CALLAHAN
THERESA CUSIC
AARON DE LOS SANTOS
AARON EDDY
HENRY FARNAN
JAMES FARNAN
BRENDAN GERNES
MICHAEL HANSON
EMILY HARRIMAN
TAYLOR HERBERT
WILLIAM LONN
WILLIAM MESCHER
DEAN MUGGENBERG
NATE NEARY
KATHERINE POWERS
MARIANA RESENDIZ
MARY RICHTER

HEATHER MOORE
SEAMUS MONAGHAN
LINDA SANDA
ROBERT SEVERSON
PETER SITZMAN
TJ TOOLEY
RHYS WILLIAMS

GOLF SCRAMBLE

JENNY FREESE
SAMANTHA TAYLOR
EMILY GORDON
DREW MANDL

PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

JEAN AMBROSE
CHARRISSE ARTRY
GEORGE BABCOCK
DALE CALLAHAN
JOSEPH DREESEN
SCOTT HAHN
CHRIS HOYME
JERI HUNTER
JACKSON LEWIS
AL KHERKOVE

2015 Private Attorney Involvement

Under the Private Attorney Involvement (PAI) program, Legal Aid recruits private attorneys to assist clients living at or near poverty, pro bono or at reduced rate with civil legal matters in counties more than one hour's driving distance from a Legal Aid office. For more information on how to get involved with the PAI , volunteer, intern, or law clerk programs, please contact **Christine Stolarskyj** at **(402) 348-1069 ext. 248** or email **cstolarskyj@legalaidofnebraska.org**

PAI ATTORNEYS

KATY ANDERSON, SCOTTSBLUFF
GEORGE BABCOCK, OMAHA
AMANDA BARRON, FREMONT
FRANK BARRON III, FREMONT
BEN BEETHE, TECUMSEH
JOHN BEGLEY, OMAHA
LYNDSEY CANNING, OMAHA
BRUCE DALLUGE, TECUMSEH
DAVID DREW, BLAIR
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2015 Donors

FOUNDATION DONORS

SHERWOOD FOUNDATION
\$100,000

THE LOZIER
FOUNDATION
\$85,000

SUSAN G. KOMEN®
NEBRASKA \$85,000

WILLIAM AND RUTH
SCOTT FAMILY
FOUNDATION
\$55,000

PETER KIEWIT
FOUNDATION
\$50,000

WEITZ FAMILY
FOUNDATION
\$50,000

NEBRASKA LAWYER'S
TRUST ACCOUNT
FOUNDATION (IOLTA)
\$46,500

RICHARD BROOKE
FOUNDATION
\$40,000

MUTUAL OF OMAHA
FOUNDATION
\$25,000

THE HAWKS
FOUNDATION
\$25,000

DONALD E. NIELSEN
FOUNDATION, INC.
\$15,000

H. LEE AND CAROL
GENDLER CHARITABLE
FUND \$15,000

WOODS CHARITABLE
FUND
\$10,000

WOMEN'S FUND OF
OMAHA
\$10,000

LINCOLN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
\$10,000

LINCOLN FINANCIAL
FOUNDATION
\$10,000

TODD AND BETIANA
SIMON FOUNDATION
\$5,000

MID-NEBRASKA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
\$3,000

SIOUXLAND COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
\$2,500

BANK OF THE WEST
\$2,000

WELLS FARGO
\$2,000

UNITED WAY DONORS

UNITED WAY OF THE
MIDLANDS
\$25,000

UNITED WAY OF LINCOLN
AND LANCASTER
COUNTY
\$15,000

HEARTLAND UNITED WAY
\$10,000

COLUMBUS AREA
UNITED WAY
\$2,500

IN-KIND DONORS

HENDERSON'S IGA

PAY-LESS OFFICE
PRODUCTS

RAISING CANE'S
CHICKEN FINGERS

SAM & LOUIE'S

SQUARE ONE HEALTH
CLUB

DIANE WANER

2015 Donors

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$30,000 +

KUTAK ROCK

\$20,000 +

BAIRD HOLM LLP

\$10,000 - \$19,999

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\$500 - \$999

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WICKHAM P.C., L.L.O.
SILVERSTONE GROUP
AMY VAN HORNE

\$200 - \$499

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