Dear Friends:

2015 was an exciting and positive year for Legal Aid. First, our Change a Life, Strengthen the Community Campaign was successfully completed in record time. We salute all who contributed and all who participated on the campaign committee. Thanks to you, we surpassed our $1 million dollar goal by almost 20%!

Contributions to the campaign will enable us to sustain our key partnership programs: Education Advocacy: Supporting School Success, Clearing Legal Hurdles to Employment, Veterans’ Assistance, LawLink: Family Safety & Stability, and Child HeLP.

Legal Aid received more than 26,000 requests for assistance in 2015, and we were able to help over 15,000 clients in new and ongoing cases. In addition to resolving individual client needs, Legal Aid’s advocacy continues to have broad positive impact for our community. In this report, we highlight activities that are improving living conditions for over 1,000 families, and the safety of their neighbors. We also feature a multi-faceted approach to improving educational opportunities that is transforming one of our largest suburban school districts.

Child HeLP, our groundbreaking partnership with Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, was recently named an Outstanding Medical-Legal Partnership in the nation. Also, the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati awarded Legal Aid its 2015 Distinguished Service award. These tributes are the result of hard work and generous support.

Thank you to all of our donors, funders, volunteer attorneys, and partner organizations. With your help, Legal Aid is making a difference in the lives of our clients and in our communities.
Legal Aid conducted the *Change a Life, Strengthen the Community* major gifts campaign to sustain our innovative collaborations, all of which have significant, measurable impacts on individuals and our community. Our goal for this campaign was $1 million in unrestricted funds for our key partnership programs: Child HeLP, Clearing Legal Hurdles to Employment, Veterans’ Assistance, Education Advocacy: Supporting School Success, and LawLink. Through them, we help people resolve major obstacles and give them the opportunity to help themselves regain economic and family stability.

Campaign Co-Chairs Daniel J. Buckley and Deborah P. Majoras reported that we exceeded the goal by almost 20% thanks to strong support from law firms, individuals, corporations, and our board and staff! Our final total reached $1,190,000. Our campaign committee devoted considerable time and energy to achieve this great success. We are extremely grateful for their commitment to our mission and thank them for a job well done.

The generosity of the over 150 contributors to the campaign make it possible for us to continue to assist the most vulnerable in our community. Ms. Majoras remarked, “I feel fortunate to be part of a (legal) community that understands that access to justice is integral to a free society.”

Thank You to all our wonderful contributors!
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Legal Aid Holds Landlords Accountable

Legal Aid’s goal is for low-income families to have affordable housing in safe, stable neighborhoods. In 2015, we partnered with the City of Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition to address the deplorable housing conditions affecting over 600 families in six apartment buildings owned by an out-of-state landlord. The roof caved in on one building, forcing all the tenants to move. Legal Aid, representing three of the affected buildings’ tenants associations, moved jointly with the City to ask the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas to declare the properties a public nuisance and for the appointment of a receiver to manage the properties. Our clients and the City received a favorable ruling on both counts.

The receiver is replacing and repairing the roofs, windows, and elevators and has proposed a budget of about $4 million for other needed repairs. Legal Aid will continue to closely monitor the progress.

And Preserves Affordable Housing for Hundreds of Families

Members of Legal Aid’s Housing Team continue to represent tenants in 19 apartment buildings in Avondale and Walnut Hills to ensure the properties are maintained in safe, livable condition. Several years ago, Legal Aid intervened to protect the buildings’ residents when the properties went into foreclosure, utilities were shut off, and families were facing vacate orders. The buildings were sold to new owners who received significant grant funds to renovate the properties.

However, after a promising start, conditions in these properties are still bad. The new owners have been cited for 463 housing code violations and fined more than $20,000. The buildings still require significant improvements to come up to code. Legal Aid attorneys are working on behalf of the tenants to compel the owner to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the almost 700 families who live there and to ensure that these prominent buildings help revitalize their neighborhoods.
Legal Advocacy is a Catalyst for School Discipline Reform

In September 2015, a team of representatives from the Northwest Local School District, Colerain Township Police, Hamilton County Juvenile Court, and Legal Aid attended the week-long School-Justice Partnerships Certificate Program offered by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University. Their agreed-upon goals were to reduce racial disparities in school disciplinary actions and reduce school referrals to the juvenile justice system through development of a year-long “capstone” project. The Team developed a 3-tiered system of strategies to achieve the goals.

What started as an adversarial situation with complaints made to the US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, concerning discipline of minority students and children with disabilities, and a civil rights lawsuit against the Northwest Local School District, has developed into an innovative joint venture leading to policy changes that will affect the entire district.

The team has already launched a new group, the Student and Family Engagement (SAFE) Council, created to resolve truancy concerns by increasing supports and proactive engagement with students and their parents. The SAFE Council convenes several times a month for an informal docket, held in the township hall, which is presided over by a Juvenile Court magistrate. Within the first few months, Northwest already reported improved attendance by students who came before the Council and a reduction in formal truancy referrals to Juvenile Court.

Another tier of the project involves the creation of single points of contact among agencies involved in the lives of Northwest students so that the school district is better able to intervene to support students who are at-risk of academic failure, school discipline, or other issues that may affect them in school. The third tier involves comprehensive reform of policies and practices to reduce disciplinary removals and improve school climate, by the fall of 2016.
New Managing Attorney Leads the VLP

Anne Lucas was appointed managing attorney of the Volunteer Lawyers Project in December 2015, succeeding Virginia Conlan Whitman, who retired. Anne joined Legal Aid in August 2007, practicing in the areas of family, immigration, and education law, frequently representing children in abuse and neglect cases. She is a 2002 graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where she completed the joint law and women’s studies master degree program. Anne then moved to Connecticut to work as a Staff Attorney for Connecticut Legal Services and also worked as a court mediator for the Connecticut Judicial Department. “I hope to build on Ginny’s efforts and continue to create new opportunities for volunteers to address clients’ legal needs,” remarked Anne.

Volunteer Lawyer of the Year Award

The Volunteer Lawyers for The Poor Foundation is pleased to award the 2015 VLP Lawyer of the Year to Nancy Brewer! Ms. Brewer is a solo practitioner who specializes in employment discrimination. Since signing up for the VLP five years ago, she has accepted 34 cases in the areas of divorce, custody, consumer, and unemployment compensation. In 2015 alone, she accepted five cases and achieved positive outcomes for her clients. Her VLP case successes reflect her hard work and commitment both to pro bono work and to her clients. Congratulations and Thank You, Nancy!
Key Partners Share Perspective on Legal Aid’s Impact

The Legal Aid Board and Staff benefited from a unique opportunity to hear insights from three of our partners at our 2015 annual meeting. Peggy Zink, CEO of Cincinnati Works; Rob Kahn, MD, MPH, Associate Director of General and Community Health, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and Co-Director of Child HeLP; and Theresa Singleton, Director, Protection from Abuse Programs at the YWCA shared their thoughts on the importance of Legal Aid’s services and on the effectiveness of our joint programs. They are pictured with the Legal Aid attorneys who lead the collaborative programs.

Legal Aid honored with 2015 Distinguished Service Award

Mary Asbury, Legal Aid’s Executive Director, accepted the award from the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati. She is pictured with immediate past president, John M. Williams and BLAC president Donyetta D. Bailey.
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- The William P. Anderson Foundation
- American College of Bankruptcy Foundation
- Area Council on Aging District 7, Inc.
- Butler County Court of Common Pleas
- Butler County Public Defender Commission
- Case Western Reserve Center for Evidence-Based Practice
- Catholic Charities
- The Chemed Foundation
- Cincinnati Bar Foundation
- Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center
- City of Cincinnati
- City of Middletown
- Charles F. Dater Foundation
- Equal Justice Works
- The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- The George Gund Foundation
- Hamilton County Juvenile Court/Reclaim Program
- IRS Low Income Taxpayers Clinic
- The Andrew Jergens Foundation
- Legal Services Corporation*
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation/AmeriCorps
- The Mayerson Foundation
- Metropolitan Sewer District
- The Louis and Louise Nippert Charitable Foundation
- Ohio Office of Attorney General-Move Ohio Forward
- Ohio Office of Attorney General-Victims of Crime Act
- Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
- The Pepper Family Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- The Procter & Gamble Fund
- PNC Community Development Foundation
- The Helen Steiner Rice Fund
- John A. Schroth Family Charitable Trust/PNC Bank, Trustee
- SC Ministry Foundation
- Scripps Howard Foundation
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- University of Cincinnati College of Law
- US Bank Foundation
- Volunteer Lawyers for the Poor Foundation

*Legal Services Corporation supports only the activities of the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati.

### Statements of Financial Position

#### 2015 Operating Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Revenue</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation</td>
<td>$1,687,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Services Corporation*</td>
<td>$1,640,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants &amp; Contracts</td>
<td>$2,121,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>$468,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$462,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>$744,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Income</td>
<td>$227,913</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$477,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,831,031</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2015 Functional Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; Consumer Program</td>
<td>$1,271,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment &amp; Benefits Program</td>
<td>$1,369,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family &amp; Domestic Violence Program</td>
<td>$1,915,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; Education Program</td>
<td>$1,366,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Civil &amp; VLP</td>
<td>$466,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$679,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$112,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Property</td>
<td>$254,771</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,437,857</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$644,524</td>
<td>$767,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash held in trust for clients</td>
<td>$10,798</td>
<td>$56,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$2,768,433</td>
<td>$3,117,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in grants and contracts receivable</td>
<td>$378,221</td>
<td>$385,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable, net</td>
<td>$1,088,496</td>
<td>$549,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>$3,497,291</td>
<td>$3,518,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$119,048</td>
<td>$70,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,506,811</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,465,990</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liability</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$89,191</td>
<td>$45,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued annual leave</td>
<td>$289,418</td>
<td>$282,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets held for others</td>
<td>$10,798</td>
<td>$56,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term debt</td>
<td>$1,527,820</td>
<td>$1,619,608</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other accrued liabilities</td>
<td>$225,856</td>
<td>$216,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,143,083</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,221,027</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Operating</td>
<td>$3,177,570</td>
<td>$3,582,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board designated</td>
<td>$1,081,313</td>
<td>$1,129,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>$1,437,187</td>
<td>$887,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>$667,658</td>
<td>$645,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,363,728</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,244,963</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
<td><strong>$8,506,811</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,465,990</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati and its affiliate the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio, LLC provide civil legal services in seven southwest Ohio counties: Hamilton, Butler, Clermont, Brown, Warren, Clinton, and Highland. Legal Services Corporation supports only the activities of the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati. The Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati provides staff support for the Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP). This Annual Report provides information about both Legal Aid Societies and the VLP.*
Our Clients

Services Provided

Household Income

- 52% Below $10,000
- 28% $10,001 – $20,000
- 14% $20,001 – $30,000
- 2% $40,001 & above
- 5% $30,001 – $40,000

- 25% Securing Housing and Helping the Homeowner
- 27% Helping People Obtain and Maintain Employment and Healthcare
- 34% Helping Children and Families
- 4% Protecting the Consumer
- 11% Other Types of Assistance

Ethnicity

- 43% African-American
- 37% Caucasian
- 6% Unknown
- 1% Multi/Other
- 1% Latino/Hispanic

- 6% African-American

Individual Case Services January – December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>Requests for Service</th>
<th>Sent Written Materials</th>
<th>Made External Referral</th>
<th>LAS Case Open</th>
<th>VLP Case Open</th>
<th>Pending LAS &amp; VLP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BROWN</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUTLER</td>
<td>3,690</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>1,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLERMONT</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLINTON</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAMILTON</td>
<td>17,521</td>
<td>1,281</td>
<td>2,666</td>
<td>3,066</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>2,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGHLAND</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WARREN</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSPECIFIED</td>
<td>1,401</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>26,062</td>
<td>2,024</td>
<td>4,454</td>
<td>4,696</td>
<td>1,433</td>
<td>4,635</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati/Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio, LLC/Volunteer Lawyers Project
Our Staff

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF GREATER CINCINNATI

Mary Asbury, Executive Director

Managing & Senior Attorneys
Regina Campbell
David Cramer
Anne Lucas
Kelly Malone
Donita Parrish
Virginia Tal lent
Virginia Conlan Whitman

Staff Attorneys
Gerry Greene
Kate Holley
Erin Tapke
Tom White
Terry Willacker
Elizabeth Zak

EJW Legal Fellow
Ashley Richardson

Director of Development & Communications
Cynthia Cole

Director of Finance
Angie MacKay

Director of Operations
Phillip Harmon

Low Income Tax Clinic Support
Hardrie Diggs

Administrative Staff
Paula Ayer
Beverly Campbell
Phillip Hagan
Joe Hornbaker
Terry Mayle
Sophia Meyers
Joe Styer

Paralegals & Legal Assistants
Nancy Blackwell
Nicole Lesn iak
David Phillips
Peggy Pleasant
Rhonda Tucker
Deanna White
Jenny Zellars

Legal Secretaries & Assistants
Tonya Dean
Dawn Finch
Vicky Gibson
Jennifer Gillespie
Sue Hix
Tracy Lott
Trisha Reece
Ron Rigby
Sandy Tyjewski
Connie Young

VLP Intern
Emily Perbix

Reception & Intake Coordinators
Natalie Brown
Sheree Brown
Blake Gibson
Nora Hernandez
Michelle Matthews
Teresa Roush
Teresa Seifert
Arelly Underwood

Law Students
Georgeanna Bien-Aime
Lindsey Burke
Caitlin Case
Adam Clark
Kristin Condor
Jordan D’Addario
Caroline Drennan
Jared Grandy
Josh Homer
Kimberly Jones
William Prest
Morgan Quigley
India Scarver
Brooke Teaford
Laura Thudium
Louise Vanden Bosch
Caitlin Wells
Rebecca Zemmelman
Zachery Zipperer

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST OHIO, LLC

John Schrider, Director

Managing & Senior Attorneys
Nick DiNardo
Lori Elliott
Maggie Fibbe
Elaine Fink
Debi Gedling
Marcheta Gillam
Mark Lawson
Stephanie Moes
Noel Morgan
Adolfo Olivas
Col Owens
Debra Rothstein
Steve Sharpe
Elizabeth Tull Laureano
Tracy Washington

Staff Attorneys
Jon Ford
Jason Fountain
Jamie Landvatter
Sarah Owens
Molly Russell
Lee Serbin-Walp
Amanda Toole

EJW Fellow
Melissa Salamon

Paralegals & Legal Assistants
Mayra Casas Ugarte
Cat Cornelius
Charles Duskin
Carrie Francis
Michelle Knox-O’Neal
Jennifer Morgan
Kate Nolan

Law Graduate
Karin Shih

Law Students
Verjine Adanalian
Matthew Dickman
Stephen Doyle
Patrick Higgins
Chelsea Hillman
Emily Papania

LISC Neighborhood Housing Specialist
Caitlin Cliff

Paralegal Externs
Jamela Chafin
Tanya Harper
Hon. Eva D. Kessler
Retired Judge, Butler County Domestic Relations Court

Rosiland King
Community Volunteer, Northwest Schools Parent Group

Donald P. Klekamp, Emeritus
Attorney, Partner, Keating Muething & Klekamp PLL

Robert F. Laufman
Attorney, Of Counsel, Gerhardstein & Branch Co., LPA

Joyce E. Lovejoy
Community Volunteer

Deborah P. Majoras
Attorney, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary, The Procter & Gamble Company

Michael A. Marrero
Attorney, Partner, Ulmer & Berne LLP

Stephen M. Nechemias
Attorney, Of Counsel, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

James T. O’Reilly
Attorney, Retired Professor, University of Cincinnati College of Law

David C. Phillips
Founder, Cincinnati Works, Inc.

Harry H. Santen, Honorary Trustee
Attorney, Retired Partner, Santen & Hughes

Diane Schneiderman
Attorney, Counsel, Affordable Living, Episcopal Retirement Homes, Inc.

Crystal Steele
Community Volunteer, Interfaith Hospitality Network

Ann Munson Steines
Attorney, Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Secretary, Macy’s, Inc.