

Foundation Focus

from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation
Spring 2015

Did You Know?

A donation of just \$25 to AAH provides \$125 worth of food to local families in need.

Your Time and Money Feeds the Hungry



Attorneys Against Hunger volunteers served a special Valentine's Day Brunch at Rainbow Kitchen in Homestead. Thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who participated in outreach events this winter.

2015 AAH Campaign Results are In

This year, our Attorneys Against Hunger Campaign raised over \$107,500 which will be distributed to 17 different hunger agencies in Allegheny County! Special thanks to our Lead Sponsor Steidl & Steinberg and Supporting Sponsors Gleason & Associates and the Honorable Raymond A. Novak. AAH also is supported by a generous challenge grant from Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, the Rita M. McGinley Foundation, and the McGinley family members of the bar.

Thank you!

Attorneys Against Hunger

Young Lawyers Division Aims to Strike Out Hunger



The Public Service Committee of the ACBA Young Lawyers Division hosted the first Strike Out Hunger fundraiser on March 8 at Latitude 360, raising approximately \$4,000 for Attorneys Against Hunger. More than 120 guests enjoyed a family-friendly afternoon of bowling, food, and auctions. Thanks to the YLD Public Service Committee for spearheading this awesome event!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to AAH co-chairs **William Stang** and **Mary McGinley** on being selected by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Highmark and BNY Mellon as 2014-15 Jefferson Award recipients for their instrumental work on the AAH Campaign!

Join
the
Conversation

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 www.acbf.org



Your Gifts Help the Community's Most Vulnerable



Thanks to the generous gifts of our Fellows, grants totaling \$40,000 were awarded this year to six local organizations that provide legal services to low-income citizens. Here is what our Fellows are helping these organizations accomplish:

- Recruitment of additional volunteers, and acquisition and implementation of technology will allow Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh to **increase access to legal help for those in the community who otherwise could not afford it.**
- Education Law Center – By expanding the pool of pro bono attorneys, and recruiting, training, supporting, and working collaboratively with them, the Education Law Center will **help students and parents with legal issues pertaining to public education.**
- Low-income individuals and families who need assistance with legal documents, such as **wills, powers of attorney, and health care directives**, will continue to receive services from Focus on Renewal.
- **Unaccompanied minors seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile status** will be helped by pro bono attorneys trained by Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh.

- Staff, pro bono attorneys, and law students will **help 120 people with bankruptcy proceedings** so they can pursue a more stable financial future, thanks to a grant to Neighborhood Legal Services Association.

- Victims of **intimate partner violence will obtain safety, autonomy, and restoration** with the aid of the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

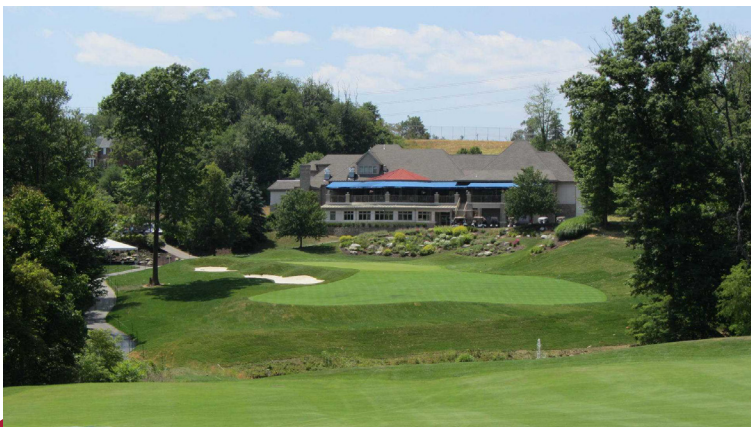
In addition, the Military Veterans & Elderly Fund awarded \$19,360 in grants. The Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force will use its grant to **provide special programming that is relevant and appropriate to the growing number of elderly individuals with HIV/AIDS-related concerns.** The Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania will **increase Veterans Justice Outreach services** for veterans involved in Allegheny County's criminal justice system.

These programs are able to reach out to even more people who would not have access to justice because of your generous gifts.

Thank you!

35 years and growing!

The ACBF turns 35 this year!
Stay tuned for details on a special anniversary celebration set for Spring 2016!



Monday, July 20, 2015 | Diamond Run Golf Club
Sponsorship opportunities available!
For more details, contact Erin Rhodes at
412-402-6641 or erhodes@acba.org.

Save the Date –
23rd Annual ACBA Golf Tournament &
3rd Annual Bocce Tournament

“I left because [my husband] was very emotionally and abusive, once physical. My attorney called me and told me the best news ever! She said ‘congratulations you are divorced.’ Thank you!!!”

– Amanda C.

Your Volunteer Work Changes Lives

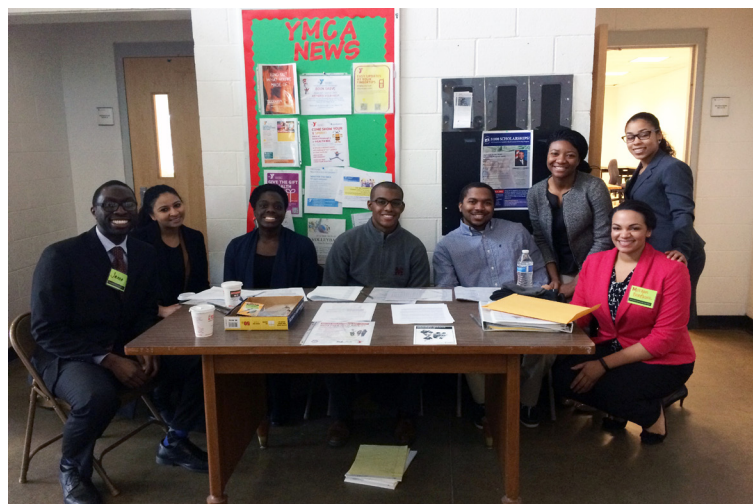
The Center’s Divorce Law Project helped 116 women and men start their lives anew in 2014 with final divorce decrees. A March 26 CLE sponsored by the ACBA trained 29 attorneys and law students to handle these cases. Law student volunteers are now earning pro bono credit by lending a hand at the DLP offices, drafting pleadings and processing applications. Your work is transforming the lives of individuals who otherwise could not manage the divorce process on their own.

Pro Bono Fair Gives Opportunity to Recruit New Volunteers



The April 15 Pro Bono Fair at Olive or Twist gave representatives from legal aid organizations and pro bono programs the opportunity to recruit new volunteers. The Public Service Committee also recognized the pro bono efforts of law students from both Duquesne University School of Law and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, who received certificates in honor of their public interest work.

Volunteers Make Community Clinic a Success



The Pro Bono Center partnered with the ACBA Homer S. Brown Division and Pitt and Duquesne law schools to bring volunteer lawyers to the Homewood-Brushton YMCA on March 28. The annual Derrick Bell Community Legal Clinic helped a dozen community members with low incomes with matters such as criminal records expungements and consumer issues.

Save the Date – “Poverty Simulation” from the Pro Bono Center

Tuesday, July 28, 2015 | 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Pro Bono Center will hold a “Poverty Simulation” for attorneys, law students, and other volunteers. The experience is designed to help participants understand what it might be like to live in a family with a very low income trying to survive from month to month. Participants assume the roles of family members and are given “play” money and fictional scenarios, and must navigate through four 20-minute “weeks,” balancing and negotiating the basic needs of daily life: food, housing, energy, employment, child-care, transportation, doctor visits, emergencies, etc. The object is to sensitize participants to the realities faced by children and families living in poverty.

Your Investment in the Future of our Profession

Summer fellowship programs back for second year

Thanks to donors like you, 14 law students will have the opportunity to work with legal service organizations and gain practical legal experience while helping low-income clients this summer through two fellowship programs.

Congratulations to these
Gismondi Certified Law Student Summer Fellows:

Jesse Exilus – Nicole Geyer
Emily Kinkead – Rebecca Laniewski

And to these
Lawyers Fund Law Student Summer Fellows:

Morgan Bonekovic – Qiwei Chen
Shane Crevar – Alyssa Federoff
Marguerite Goglia – Shea Matthew Kraft
Ana Petrella – Jade Salyards
Hannah Shaffer – Elizabeth Tuttle

Firms Continue to Give Strong Support



Thanks to all the Law Firms that have agreed to pledge another 3 years to support the foundation through the Law Firm Leadership Circle!

We welcome two new members, K&L Gates and Saul Ewing. The impact of these pledges has been phenomenal. Your support has enabled us to hire Liz Gaetani who, along with Barbara Griffin, has been able to **double the work of the Pro Bono Center** and expand much needed legal help to those that cannot afford it.

For a complete list of Law Firm Leadership Circle firms visit www.acbf.org.

Volunteer!

The Pro Bono Center is always looking for volunteer attorneys to help low-income residents of Allegheny County with civil legal matters. Contact Liz Gaetani, Esq., at egaetani@acba.org for more information on how you can help.

Donate!

Gifts of every size are important. Visit www.acbf.org/Grants/Giving-Options.asp for great ideas on how you can support the Foundation. Questions? Contact Associate Executive Director Lorrie Albert at 412-402-6640 or lalbert@acba.org.

Thank you!

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Thanks to your gifts to the ACBF, thousands of people in our community have been able to access legal help that was otherwise out of their reach, hungry people have been fed, and our profession has been strengthened. Those gifts have done so much to help people today. But have you thought about making your impact last beyond today?

Consider joining the ACBF Legacy Society, and your generosity will make a difference in the long term, too.

