

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



Legal Services
of NORTH FLORIDA
HOPE. JUSTICE. FOR ALL.

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MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

2021 continued Legal Services of North Florida's opportunity to respond to the pandemic crisis brought on by COVID-19 and the resulting economic harms to so many in our communities. The end of government moratoria that helped people stay housed brought a surge of needs from clients ranging from eviction defense, domestic abuse, family safety, access to benefits, collections, and human trafficking.

These community challenges are not new to LSNF while many of those facing these challenges had never faced such hurdles before. The fear faced by so many in these new times came with them when they asked Legal Services for help – a fear that impacted their ability to move forward, to work, and to support their families. LSNF remained at the ready to help more than 7,000 families take on this challenge and alleviate the fear that kept them from moving forward.

Each day, LSNF staff help those in our community who face some of the worst and most unimaginable circumstances, bring them stability, keeping them from falling further, and giving them opportunities to succeed.

Through our advocacy and, in some cases, simply being an ear to listen and a voice to guide through the fear, LSNF helped those in need weather the pandemic and will continue this good work in the coming year.

Legal Services also held this opportunity to grow, as we added new staff to support our response to the increasing civil legal needs in our community, expanded our partnerships to improve access to help was easier for those in the most need, and continued enhancing our technology to better serve.

IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS, LIES GREAT OPPORTUNITY. – ALBERT EINSTEIN.

This quote embodies the culture and mission of Legal Services of North Florida. We thank each of our partners, volunteers, and supporters for helping LSNF to continue this mission and bring an Opportunity for Justice to all throughout the Florida Panhandle

NICK YOUTZ

LSNF BOARD PRESIDENT

LESLIE POWELL-BOUDREAUX

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUR MISSION

“

To provide an opportunity
for justice for eligible
residents through
representation conducted
efficiently and comparable
in quality to that of the
private bar, and through
other forms of legal
assistance designed to
provide a full range of civil
legal services to those in
need.

”

LSNF LEADERSHIP

LSNF is guided by a 21-member Board of Directors,

Seven of whom represent low-income client groups or are low-income clients. The remaining members include an accountant and volunteer attorneys appointed by local voluntary bar associations and the Florida State University College of Law.

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WHO DO WE SERVE?

Clients are normally limited to an adjusted income of 125% of the federal poverty guidelines, with several of our grant sources having other income guidelines. All cases must be civil in nature and adhere to our priorities.

Helped

1,617

families stay in their homes.

40%

Cases directly helped children.

Provided housing advice to

1,522

people.

453

Wills & advanced directives prepared.

ALICE has watched her daughter struggle with a drug addiction for years. Although Alice's daughter tries to make a safe life for her and her daughter, her continued struggle makes it difficult. Alice's daughter is also estranged from her granddaughter's father, limiting childcare options. Alice has taken care of her grandchild for years, but was unable to make important medical decisions for her. After asking for help from LSNF, Alice secured guardianship of her granddaughter so that she could take care of her basic needs.



7,329

Cases Handled
in 2021

17,315

Children & Adults Assisted



HELP PROVIDED

LSNF serves thousands of people each year across 16 counties.

Each of our 5 offices manages hundreds of cases at a time, ensuring eligible clients receive professional and adequate legal assistance.

OF LSNF'S CLIENTS

72% were women



\$3,142,319

in one-time benefits
awarded to clients

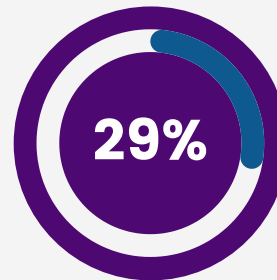
\$233,950

in annualized benefits
for our clients



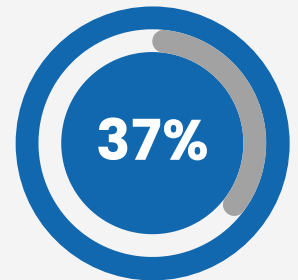
550

clients facing
housing issues
were provided legal
assistance through LSNF
beyond advice only.



CLIENTS

Had housing
cases



CLIENTS

Had family law
cases

ADDITIONAL LEGAL SOLUTIONS PROVIDED

- ✓ Provided specialized service to veterans experiencing homelessness.
- ✓ Obtained critical financial assistance for residents of public and subsidized housing.
- ✓ Resolved tax controversies for low-income taxpayers.
- ✓ Recovered social security benefits for clients with disabilities.
- ✓ Represented children in the foster care system.
- ✓ Helped victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, or human trafficking find safety away from their abusers.

PRO BONO RECOGNITION

Law Day Celebration

Keynote speaker and Executive Director of the International Bar Association, Mark Ellis, Esq. discussed how the “Rule of Law” affects not only the legal community but the communities we serve, during Law Day Celebration on May 4, 2021. Legal Services of North Florida, alongside co-hosts Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee and the Florida State University College of Law, recognized the outstanding contributions made by attorneys of the Second Judicial Circuit. Awards were presented for professional and judicial excellence to the following individuals:

The Richard W. Ervin Equal Justice Award Winner
Ben Crump, President & Founder, Ben Crump Law

The Parks & Crump, Thurgood Marshall Award for Judicial Excellence Winner
The Honorable Dawn Caloca-Johnson, Circuit Judge

Joy Aukema Taps Children’s Advocate Award
Deborah Moore, Circuit Director, 2nd Judicial Circuit, Guardian Ad Litem Program

FSU College of Law Blaise N. Gamba Outstanding Pro Bono Service, Law Student Award Winner
Genevieve Lemley | Nabeha Shaer | Sidney Van Elsberg

LSNF works closely with private attorneys throughout our 16-county service area to give legal assistance to low-income and vulnerable residents. Through the Private Attorney Involvement Program, this cooperation takes several forms including coordinating volunteer attorney resources of time, expertise, and financial support of LSNF.





PRO BONO RECOGNITION

Pro Bono Celebration

LSNF honored legal professionals throughout the week of October 25 through 29, 2021. Last year's Pro Bono Celebration week recognized the outstanding contributions made by attorneys of the First Judicial Circuit and Fourteenth Judicial Circuits. LSNF brought the 2021 Pro Bono Celebration to a new height with 4 days of virtual livestreams with judges, legal professionals, honorees, and more.

During this week LSNF also personally delivered gifts of gratitude and a Pro Bono Challenge Coin to our honorees across these judicial districts, celebrating their contributions to our community. Keynote speaker, Florida Supreme Court Justice Jorge Labarga, provided words of encouragement and praise to those local attorneys presented with LSNF's challenge coin.

“

LOVE is spelled

T - I - M - E

The Honorable Gary Bergosh

”

PRO BONO RECOGNITION & ENGAGEMENT

Over 70 pro bono attorneys served LSNF clients in need across the Florida Panhandle.

Their service provided incredible resources for low income and vulnerable populations that otherwise would not have had access to our courts.



\$433,554

LSNF Pro Bono attorneys gave the equivalent of \$433,554 worth of legal services through their time.

1,445

Attorneys gave nearly 1,500 hours of service to low income individuals across North Florida.



690

Nearly 700 clients were served by pro bono attorneys.



CHRISTA DIVINEY
1st Judicial Circuit



LYNWOOD F. ARNOLD, JR.
2nd Judicial Circuit



CECILE M. SCOON
14th Judicial Circuit

The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award Recipients

...represent members of the legal community across the entire state who are dedicated to their local communities and give their time to helping bridge the gap to justice by providing access to the courts through their pro bono work. Each year, the Florida Bar recognizes 21 lawyers for their pro bono services throughout the year. After a rigorous panel process, these attorneys are chosen. LSNF proudly nominates attorneys in our service area.

JAZZ FOR JUSTICE

Jazz for Justice 2021 brought live music back to the streets of Pensacola, after a virtual event in 2020. LSNF was excited to continue the success of this annual event, bringing in local, regional, and national artists who livened the Seville Quarter on November 14, 2021.

Hundreds of attendees from Pensacola and around the southeast joined the festivities to watch our entertaining lineup.

2021's lineup brought back many of our favorites, along with new to Jazz for Justice artists like Ft. Walton artist Nik Flagstar, Blues crooner and Mississippi native The Victrolas, and Alabama sensation Pat Whitehead. New Breed Brass Band and Tuba Skinny were 2021's sensational co-headliners!





Dancing with the Stars

After pushing back our 2020 event in an effort to ensure safety and proper planning through the COVID-19 pandemic, Dancing with the Stars landed on February 25, 2021 as both an in-person and virtual experience.

Dancer Kimmy Hogan, with Fasig Brooks, truly was a star with not only her performance sweeping the entire audience off their feet. She demonstrated an incredible love of LSNF, bringing in the most funds during her fundraising! Her determination and enormous efforts helped her succeed in winning both the People's Choice Award and the Judges' Choice Award.

Dancing with the Stars raised over \$50,000!



Akin Akinyemi



Rick Minor



Heather Telfer



Suzanne Van Wyk

Every Celebrity Dancer brought energy and excitement, while advocating for the work we do at Legal Services of North Florida!

INVESTING IN LSNF



Leave a lasting legacy by naming LSNF as a beneficiary in your will.

Sustain LSNF's services well into the future by helping our endowment grow.

Pledge or give \$5,000 or more to LSNF and you can become a Founder of Justice.

Members of The Florida Bar can meet their pro bono goal by contributing to LSNF's Partner's in Service Campaign.

Sponsor our fundraising events, like Jazz for Justice or Dancing with the Stars Tallahassee, throughout the year.

Attorneys and judges can consider designating Cy Pres Funds to LSNF.

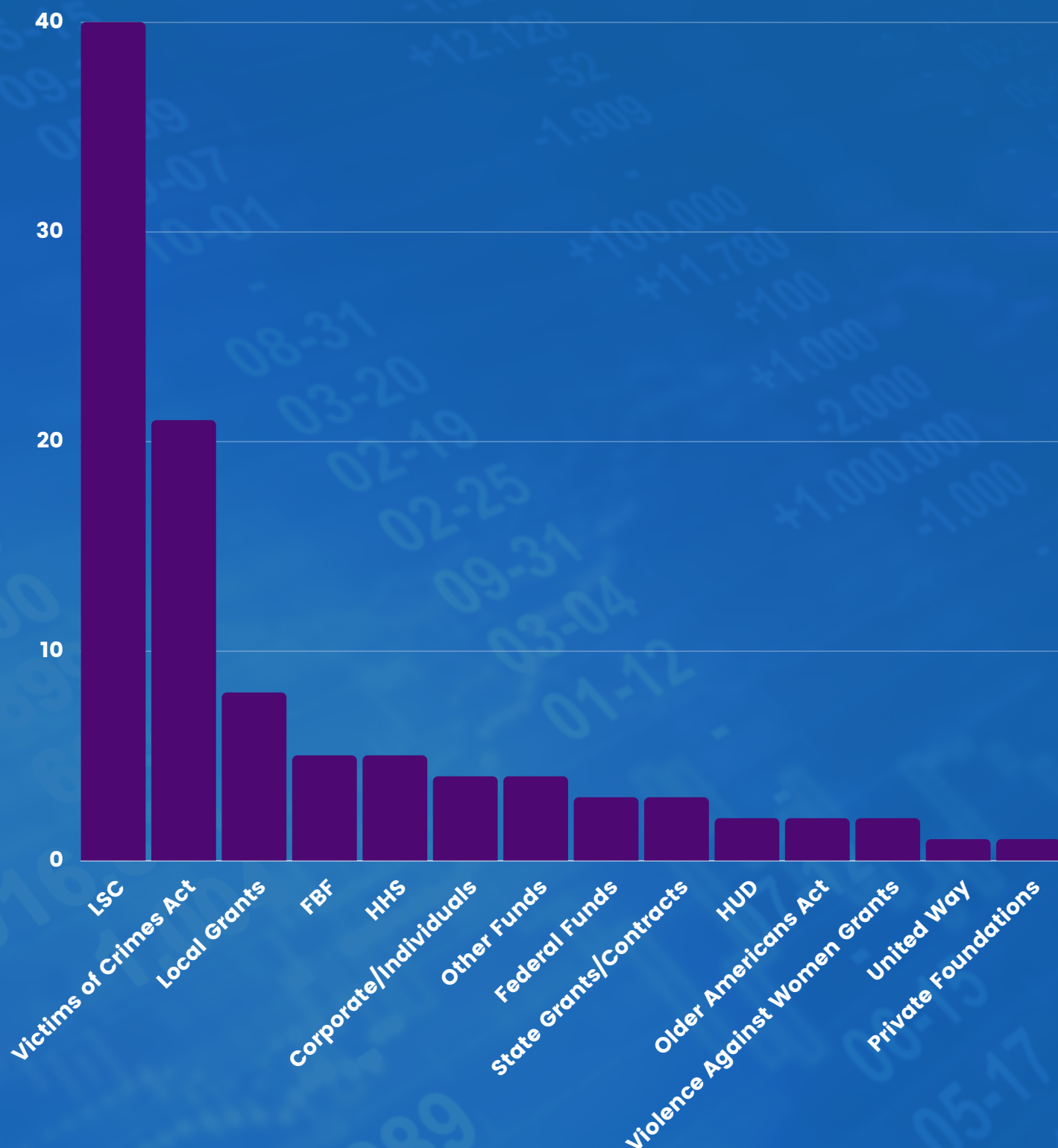
Become a sustaining donor through the Justice365 campaign.



\$130,840

Raised during the
Partners in Service
Campaign

2021 REVENUE



FUNDING PARTNERS

LSNF is grateful to work alongside so many local, state and national governmental entities,

along with agencies across the Florida Panhandle who have embraced our mission of justice by supporting our work. On behalf of all those we serve we, LSNF would like to thank our funding partners.

90Works

AARP Foundation

Advantage Aging Solutions

Bay Area Legal Services

Bay County Commission

Calhoun County Commission

Center for Disaster Philanthropy

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City of Pensacola

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Equal Justice Works

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Quincy Florida

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Florida Bar Foundation

Florida Department of Children
and Families

Florida Department of Elder Affairs

Foo Foo Festival

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Gadsden County Commission

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Internal Revenue Service

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Justice Administration Commission

Legal Services Corporation

Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee

Legal Services of Greater Miami

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Liberty County Commission

National Low-Income Housing Coalition

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Pensacola State College

Refuge House

Santa Rosa County Commission

Second Circuit State Attorney

U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services, Administration for
Community Living

U. S. Department of Justice, Office of
Violence Against Women

United Way of West Florida

United Way of Northwest Florida

Wakulla County Commission

Walton County Commission

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\$1,000+

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PARTNERS IN SERVICE

“

There is no higher calling for members of the Bar than to serve those who fall in the justice gap in our community and the state as a whole.

Suzanne Van Wyk
Administrative Law Judge

These law firms and individuals support Legal Services of North Florida by committing donations of \$350 per year as part of a partnership with The Florida Bar. Find out more about this program and see who else is part of this prestigious campaign by clicking below:

[CLICK HERE](#)

We thank you for your ongoing support of Legal Services of North Florida!



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