THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, PARTICIPANTS AND VOLUNTEERS!

35th Annual Law Day Run...

Over 1,200 individuals registered for the 2017 Law Day Run on May 6th raising more than $45,000. “The Law Day Run is a great way for us to engage our community and educate them on the importance of the programs we support, and engage our supporters,” said Kelly Johnson, Director of Development, AJFA. This year the Law Day Run was also featured on Good Things and Fresh Living to promote the event and mission of AJFA.

Standing up for what’s Right...

Safa needed to accompany her husband Nasser for a medical procedure, so she made arrangements with her brother, Aswad, to care for their mother, Lama, while they were away. Upon returning, Aswad started yelling obscenities at Lama and raised his hand to hit her. Nasser quickly stepped between them, but was shoved away by Aswad.

Nasser demanded Aswad leave, but was punched in the face in response, knocking off and breaking his glasses. Nasser immediately called the police, who referred the family to Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake to obtain legal help for a protective order. A Legal Aid attorney successfully secured a protective order on behalf of Aswad, Safa and Bibi to help ensure their safety. Lama has since shared that the protective order has successfully kept Aswad away, and that her family now longer experiences violence.

A Systemic Approach to Helping Those in Need.

The Disability Law Center provides assistance to individuals with disabilities to secure access to civil legal aid. Services range from legal advice, self-advocacy training, representation in individual and systemic cases, and policy advocacy and address matters including housing, employment, special education, preventing abuse and neglect, community integration, social security benefits and other rights granted under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Last year, the Disability Law Center opened 1,218 individual cases in the above mentioned areas. This includes 54 employment discrimination clinics by the center, from which 81 clients gained representation. Representation included: conducting negotiations with employers, filing charges of discrimination with an appropriate administrative agency then representing clients through the process, and/or filing a lawsuit and representing the client in Federal court.

The Disability Law Center also focused much of their work on systemic change. This has proven effective for effecting policy change that can be effective for thousands of individuals with disabilities. A highlight of this work led to a vindication of the rights of vulnerable persons with mental illness.

Another 2,139 were trained on advocating for themselves, their loved ones, and their clients. The DLC led a multitude of community leaders to seek out educational presentations or make sure best practices are being followed in educational settings, workplace settings as well as integration in everyday life in the community. They have also participated in stakeholder meetings with the State, educated legislators, and endorsed before the multiple legislative committees to ensure that people with disabilities were represented in all aspects of legislation.

Justice Rising Breakfast—THANK YOU!

Our annual Fundraising breakfast attracted 500 leaders from the legal community and beyond to enjoy a brief breakfast with local community leaders and learn about civil legal services in Utah. The purpose of the Justice Rising Breakfast is twofold—to increase awareness of the need for and impact of civil legal aid and to raise funds to support these vital programs.
Persistence Pays Off...

Janet’s husband committed suicide, leaving her with eight kids to raise by herself. She was able to get a job and help from social security, and moved into a house with a rent-to-own contract. She lost her job the same week she moved in and had already paid $3,000 in earnest money. No longer able to get financing, the Landlord decided he had to sell the house as soon as possible even though he had signed a lease with her. He then accused her of smoking on the property so he could evict her. The Landlord and his attorney used scare tactics and tried to bully her into moving on several occasions. They refused to refund her earnest money. No longer able to get financing, the Landlord decided he had to sell the home as soon as possible even though he had signed a lease with her. He then accused her of smoking on the property so he could evict her. The Landlord and his attorney used scare tactics and tried to bully her into moving on several occasions. They refused to refund her earnest money. No longer able to get financing, the Landlord decided he had to sell the home as soon as possible even though he had signed a lease with her. He then accused her of smoking on the property so he could evict her.

Utah Legal Services was able to get most of her earnest money back and move out at a time that worked for her and her family. By that point, Utah Legal Services was able to file a motion to dismiss and defend her eviction successfully. The landlord attempted to get a job and help from social security, and moved into a house with a rent-to-own contract. She lost her job the same week she moved in and had already paid $3,000 in earnest money. No longer able to get financing, the Landlord decided he had to sell the house as soon as possible even though he had signed a lease with her. He then accused her of smoking on the property so he could evict her. The Landlord and his attorney used scare tactics and tried to bully her into moving on several occasions. They refused to refund her earnest money. No longer able to get financing, the Landlord decided he had to sell the home as soon as possible even though he had signed a lease with her. He then accused her of smoking on the property so he could evict her.