

## Will Your Faith Community Join the Campaign for Justice?

This year, in our effort to close the justice gap, we are reaching out to our partners in the faith-based community to ask for help spreading the cause of justice. Our request is twofold:

- 1) Please join us in educating all communities about the importance of access to justice by designating one service in October to share stories about the many underserved people in California.
- 2) Then help bridge the justice gap by urging each member of your community to contribute “one dollar for justice” at the conclusion of your service.

The cumulative power of one dollar donations will go a long way in making our \$10 million fundraising campaign a grand success. More importantly, join us in the joyful work of repairing lives that have been disrupted by the lack of access to justice.

We hope you will consider our call to team up with the Campaign for Justice in raising awareness and funds for critical legal aid.

**THE  
CAMPAIGN  
FOR JUSTICE**

**CHOOSE JUSTICE. INCREASING  
ACCESS FOR THOSE WITHOUT.**

[www.CAforJustice.org](http://www.CAforJustice.org)

**For more information and to find out  
how you can participate, contact:**

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## Calling on Communities of Faith

Make a difference in the lives of people like Esther

### Esther Darling's Story

In 2011, California passed legislation to eliminate the Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) program. That put at risk the ability of 35,000 people, including Esther Darling, who rely on ADHC to live independently. Legal aid programs and volunteer counsel took quick action to challenge the proposed elimination: Esther Darling let counsel put her name on the lawsuit that resonated throughout the State. The case settled to the satisfaction of everyone, including the State, on the eve of the court hearing. As a result, ADHC will survive until it converts to a program called Community-Based Adult Services, which will provide similar center-based services.



*Esther summed up her feelings like this: “(The Center is) my home away from home. They’ve been a friend, family, all in one. And I thank everyone who’s fought for this right and for everybody at the Center, God love them.”*

### Unfortunately Esther Darling's story is the exception, not the rule

There are almost 100 nonprofit legal aid organizations in California to help people like Esther — people who need help to stay in their homes, keep their family safe from violence, help their child get an education, and otherwise avoid life threatening situations. Now these nonprofit legal aid organizations need your help. Between 2007 and 2010, the number of Californians living in poverty *increased* 32% from 4.6 million to 6 million, while at the same time severe budget cuts have greatly *reduced* legal aid funding. For example one key state funding source, Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts, dropped 62% during this time period. As a result of low funding, more than half of the civil legal needs of poor people are not being met. Please help us fill this justice gap — the gap between those who can afford access to justice, and those who cannot.

**Join the Campaign for Justice**

## The Campaign for Justice

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Without additional resources, legal aid programs increasingly will be unable to provide services at a time when demand is on the rise. The statistics are bad — according to one study, legal aid organizations turn away as many as half of the people who deserve and need their help. Behind the statistics are real people — families and children and seniors who often have nowhere to turn if they cannot get help from their local legal aid.

The Campaign for Justice seeks to ensure that all Californians have access to justice by supporting the network of nearly 100 nonprofit legal aid organizations throughout California that provide important legal services, benefiting hundreds of thousands of individuals every year. These organizations form broad and creative partnerships that leverage resources and expand critical services. The Campaign was created by a network of legal aid organizations, private lawyers, the State Bar of California, and the Legal Aid Association of California, united in a mission to spread awareness of the importance of funding for legal aid and of otherwise increasing resources to help Californians in need.

Last year, the Campaign for Justice set an ambitious goal to raise \$10 million in new funds by the end of 2013 in an attempt to close the justice gap. As you can imagine, meeting a goal of this magnitude requires broad support — your support.



*After almost losing her home, Mrs. Jackson participated in the Don't Borrow Trouble and Los Angeles Anti-predatory Loan Ordinance campaigns to help educate others in her community. Now 89 years old, Mrs. Jackson still is appreciative of how legal aid made all the difference in her life.*

### *Virgie Jackson's Story*

Virgie Bernice Jackson, a longtime resident of South Los Angeles, was a nurse at John Wesley County Hospital in the late 1940s. In 1998, at the age of 77, she came to legal aid because she was facing foreclosure on her home of 37 years. Like many senior homeowners, Mrs. Jackson had relied on her husband to handle the family finances before his death so she was an easy target for the mortgage broker who solicited and qualified her for a loan of \$70,000 by falsifying her loan application. Fortunately, legal aid lawyers were able to rescind the loan and stop the foreclosure. With a reverse mortgage, Mrs. Jackson was able to keep her home, which she continues to live in and enjoy.

**Somewhere in California tonight a family of four will go to bed hungry and cold because of a wrongful eviction. You can make sure they stay safe, healthy, and warm tomorrow night.**

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### *Garrett and David's Story*

Born prematurely to a homeless mother who used methamphetamines during pregnancy, Garrett and David had severe developmental delays. The brothers faced tremendous challenges with motor coordination and speech, and their adoptive parents struggled in vain to get them the early intervention services they needed. Fortunately, they heard about legal aid. Today, because legal aid intervened to protect the rights of Garrett and David, the boys are receiving speech, physical and occupational therapies. While they still face some challenges, they are improving at such an astonishing rate that by kindergarten these boys may no longer need any specialized services at all.



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*"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope."*

*-Robert Kennedy*

**Your support for the Campaign for Justice will make a difference.**