2011–12 was a difficult year for low-income people and for legal aid programs, including Virginia Legal Aid Society, that serve them. VLAS funding was reduced 20% as Congress cut our federal money and revenue from the Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Account program declined to a trickle. As a result, we could not afford to fill two vacancies in our attorney staff. One of those vacancies was in our one-lawyer office in Emporia, where we are closing our full-service office of 35 years and will operate only a satellite office with an intake phone and lawyers driving from distant offices when a case requires them to be present. With two fewer lawyers and one less office, VLAS can help fewer clients with extended-service problems; we continue to give legal advice to almost everyone who needs it, but many applicants need more than advice.

The two bright spots in this picture are the courage and hope displayed daily by our clients, and the generosity displayed by our funders and donors. Strong local funding enables us to keep three full-time lawyers in Lynchburg and the same in Suffolk, where we just received an important grant renewal from the Obici Healthcare Foundation for our Medicaid Access Project. Such local support keeps our work and our programs serving more people and allows our skilled lawyers to keep developing long-term solutions for the toughest problems in our clients’ lives.

We thank you again for continuing to make this work and these results possible.

**ABOUT VIRGINIA LEGAL AID SOCIETY**

Virginia Legal Aid Society (VLAS) is a nonprofit law firm that provides legal information, advice and representation in civil cases to low-income individuals and families. Since 1977, VLAS has been the only institutional provider of such services in Central, Southside and Western Tidewater Virginia. VLAS attorneys and paralegals use legal skills to solve problems in health care, public benefits, housing, family relations, advance directives, consumer, education, and employment. Our mission is to resolve serious legal problems of low-income people, promote economic and family stability, reduce poverty through effective legal assistance, and to champion equal justice.
**VLAS OFFICES**

**DANVILLE**
Serves Danville, Martinsville, Henry, Patrick, Pittsylvania
519 Main Street, Danville, VA 24541
434-799-3550
Donna Allen, Financial Freedom Coordinator
Jeannise Galloway, Staff Attorney
Greg Hairston, Managing Attorney
Renee Purvis, Chief Secretary

**EMPORIA (Satellite Office)**
412 S. Main Street, Emporia, VA 23847
434-634-5172

**FARMVILLE**
Serves Amelia, Prince Edward, Nottoway, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Charlotte, Buckingham, Mecklenburg, Brunswick
104 High Street, Farmville, VA 23901
434-392-8108
Pam DeCamp, Managing Attorney
Pam Fortune, Senior Attorney
Pat Torrence, Chief Secretary
Jessie Woodson-Johnson, Paralegal

**LYNCHBURG**
Serves Lynchburg, Amherst, Appomattox, Campbell, Halifax
513 Church Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504
434-846-1326
Debby Hudgins, Pro Bono Coordinator
Mina Ingraham, Senior Attorney
Amber Jordan, Senior Attorney
Gloria Robinson, Chief Secretary
Jeremy White, Managing Attorney

**SUFFOLK**
Serves Suffolk, Franklin, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Emporia, Sussex, Greensville
155 E. Washington Street, Suffolk VA 23434
757-539-3441
Amy Disel Allman, Managing Attorney
Kathy Bicking, Paralegal
Teresa Daley, Staff Attorney
Rennae Sebastian, Chief Secretary
Anna Jane Zarndt, Senior Attorney

**ADMINISTRATION**
Serves entire service area
513 Church Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504
434-528-4722
Rhonda Knight, Director of Development
Kelly Morris, Accountant
David Neumeyer, Executive Director
Angie Shepard, Director of Communications
Kate Sigler, Director of Administration
Angie Smith, Administrative Manager

**LAWLINE INTAKE AND ADVICE HOTLINE**
Serves entire service area
866-LegALAid (866-534-5243)
Gail Braxton, Paralegal in Farmville
Daphne Clark, Paralegal in Danville
Leslie Dodson, Supervising Attorney in Farmville
Sherri Loftis, Paralegal in Danville
Melody Martinez, Paralegal in Lynchburg
Larry Nordick, Managing Attorney in Lynchburg
Karen Wood, Paralegal in Farmville

**VLAS Service Area**
Our service area includes twenty rural counties and six small cities encompassing 10,200 square miles and an eligible population, at 125% of the federal poverty level, of approximately 129,000. VLAS serves this area through a network of five service offices, one administrative office, and a toll-free intake and advice hotline, known as LawLine, serving the entire area.
“Don,” a 57-year-old Brunswick resident, had worked his entire life until November 2011, when he had to have brain surgeries on two occasions due to an ongoing medical condition. Complications followed the surgeries resulting in two strokes, leaving Don with extreme cognitive impairments and rendering him permanently disabled. He no longer had the means to support himself and meet his housing expenses, food, or medical coverage.

Don contacted VLAS, with his son’s assistance, for help in obtaining Social Security Disability benefits. VLAS obtained assessments from Don’s neurosurgeon explaining the severity of his impairment, as well as testimony from his son regarding his inability to adequately care for himself. With our assistance, Don was able to obtain disability income. Don currently receives $698 a month in Social Security Income benefits. He will receive back benefits from November 2011 for income lost during this time period. He is now eligible for Medicaid, which will ensure his continued medical coverage. VLAS’s intervention ensured Don remained in his home and will have his medical needs taken care of because of the Medicaid coverage obtained.

Client’s name and picture changed for confidentiality.
Danville residents “Fred and Jackie Dunn” moved in with Fred’s grandmother in order to care for her increasing health needs. Fred continued to work to provide for the financial needs of the household, as well he and his wife assuming the primary caregiver roles for his grandmother. After some time of residing with his grandmother, she passed away. Payments were still being made on the home at the time of her death, in the grandmother’s name. Fred and Jackie worked out an arrangement with the bank allowing them to continue paying on the loan and stay in the home.

The Dunns continued making payments on the home, until Fred lost his job and was unable to continue the payments. When the Dunns received their tax return, they sent the bank a check in an attempt to catch up on the payments. The loan was not in Fred and Jackie’s name and the bank returned the check.

Fred and Jackie feared losing the home and contacted VLAS. Our attorney attempted to contact the bank to clear up the misunderstanding, but foreclosure proceedings had already been initiated. In the meantime, Fred found a new job. VLAS filed an action in Circuit Court asking for the foreclosure to be stopped and for the bank to allow the Dunns to place the loan in their names. The foreclosure of the home was ceased the morning it was scheduled to be sold, because of VLAS’s intervention and action. We were able to negotiate a settlement with the bank that allowed Fred and Jackie to assume the responsibility of the loan, allowing them to keep the home.

Client’s name and picture changed for confidentiality.
VLAS serves clients whose household incomes are below 125% of the federal poverty level, currently about $23,900 annually for a family of three, or below 200% of the federal poverty level if the households have health- or work-related expenses.

VLAS serves clients with legal problems in the following areas:

- **Public Benefits**: Social Security Disability & SSI, Unemployment Insurance, Food Stamps (now called SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- **Health Care Benefits**: Medicaid, Medicare, FAMIS, private health insurance
- **Housing**: landlord disputes and evictions, subsidized and public housing, mortgage foreclosures, hazardous conditions
- **Family**: divorce, child custody and visitation, child support, domestic violence appeals
- **Consumer**: collections and repossessions, garnishments and exemptions, illegal or unfair sales practices, consumer credit violations, utilities, payday and car title lending, car warranties
- **Education**: special education rights, student discipline
- **Advance Directives**: simple wills and living wills, general powers of attorney, medical powers of attorney

Donna Smith and daughters YiKima and YiKia, a VLAS client family.
LawLine provides screening, assessment, referrals, information and legal advice to most applicants during their first contact with VLAS. Six paralegals and two attorney supervisors provide this service from 9:00 am–3:30 pm M-Tu-Th-F every week. Callers needing extended service, such as drafting a document or filing a lawsuit, are referred to a local VLAS office. All areas.

Housing Improvement and Preservation (HIP) provides advice and representation in evictions, foreclosures, correction of hazardous conditions, and renovation or construction of affordable housing. Lynchburg and Danville offices; funded by United Way of Central Virginia, Lynchburg Retail Merchants Foundation, and the City of Danville CDBG Program.

Strengthening Families with Children (SFC) strengthens low-income families with children by increasing and preserving financial resources, maintaining or obtaining safe and affordable housing, increasing access to health care and education, and increasing stability for families in transition. Lynchburg, Emporia, and Suffolk offices; funded by Franklin-Southampton Charities, Greater Lynchburg Community Trust, Cities of Lynchburg, Suffolk & Emporia, Camp Foundations, Pruden Foundation, Suffolk Foundation and Community Action Coalition of Virginia.

Crisis and Income Protection (CIP) assists families and individuals in cases that increase or preserve income, or provide crisis relief related to housing and domestic violence. All areas; funded by Walmart Foundation, United Way of Danville-Pittsylvania, Dominion Resources and the Beazley Foundation in Suffolk.

Senior Citizens Legal Assistance provides advice and representation to senior citizens in social or economic need. All areas but Emporia, Greensville and Sussex; funded by Piedmont Senior Resources, Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia, Southern Area Agency on Aging, and Lake Country Area Agency on Aging.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Program recruits volunteer accountants and creates clinics at which low-income Virginians eligible for the EITC can receive assistance in preparing their tax returns. Lynchburg.

Private Bar Involvement (PBI) Program involves approximately 180 attorneys in providing pro bono representation to VLAS clients, most often in divorces and advance directives. All areas.

Financial Freedom, a financial budgeting and consumer awareness project presented as a series of classes, and through one-on-one mentoring, to educate low-income individuals on making good financial decisions. Danville; funded by the Danville Regional Foundation.

Community Legal Education provided by VLAS involves regular presentations by attorneys and paralegals to community groups, senior nutrition sites, tenant organizations, inmates, and service clubs such as Kiwanis and Rotary chapters. All areas.

Health, Education, Advocacy, Law (HEAL) Project is an innovative medical-legal collaboration designed to ensure that families’ and individuals’ basic needs for food, safe housing, income, nutrition, family stability, and health insurance are met so that physicians can be more effective in preventing and treating health problems. The project trains health care providers to identify poverty-based barriers to maintaining a patient’s health; connects medical and legal professionals in jointly solving obstacles to improved health outcomes; and provides direct, proactive legal assistance to patients experiencing problems. Lynchburg; health partner, Lynchburg Family Medicine Residency.

Medicaid Access Project (MAP) is a project to assist disabled adults to quickly obtain Medicaid coverage. We focus on adults who have not applied for federal disability benefits or have not been denied in the last twelve months, and assist them to qualify for Medicaid benefits within 90 days of application using a little-known state process. Most disabled adults who obtain Medicaid or Medicare do so through the federal disability benefit process, which normally takes two to three years. Suffolk; health partners include Sentara Obici Hospital and Western Tidewater Free Clinic. Funded by Obici Healthcare Foundation.
In 2011–12, the following attorneys provided legal services to our clients without charging a fee. We thank them for their time, effort and skill!

**Lynchburg Service Area**
John R. Allford, Jr.
Mark Arthur
George Bagwell
M. Kevin Bailey
Philip B. Baker
Bernard C. Baldwin III
David B. Bice
Gary M. Coates
Gregory P. Cochran
Theodore J. Craddock
Joel Cunningham, Jr.
Richard P. Cunningham
Jonathan E. Davies
Jordan B. Davies
Peter H. Davies
G. Edgar Dawson III
P. Scott De Bruin
Henry C. Devening
Pavlina Dirom
Grady W. Donaldson, Jr.
Spencer C. Drake
B. Leigh Drewry, Jr.
Mark B. Dunevant
J. Johnson Eller, Jr.
David D. Embrey
Debora Cress Embrey
Stephen R. Eubank
Paul J. Feinman
Ron Feinman
R. Mitchell Garbee
Alison Gobble
Robert Golcheski
Alan Gravitt
Carol B. Gravitt
Eric E. Harrison
Ronald D. Henderson
Leighton S. Houck
Floyd Isenhour III
Royston Jester IV
Eric Johnson
Hugh J.M. Jones III
M. Marcy Jones
James P. Kent, Jr.
Norman A. Kinnier
Scott W. Kowalski
Thomas S. Leeblick
Stephen C. Martin
Margaret B. McNamara
James Midkiff
Chad A. Mooney
Brian Moore
Amanda Morgan
Frank W. Morrison
Cary P. Moseley
J. Randolph Nelson
John J. O’Keeffe, Jr.
Brandon S. Osterbind
Mark J. Peake
Andrew P. Pearson
John M. Perry, Jr.
Betsy H. Phillips
Joy Lee Price
William F. Quillian III
James R. Richards
John F. Richards
Aubrey J. Rosser, Jr.
Lisa L. Schenkel
Wm. Tracey Shaw
David W. Shreve
Kristine L. Thornhill
Holly B. Trent
Seth E. Twery
Samuel F. Vance IV
Peter O. Ward
James Frederick Watson
Melissa K. Waugh
Darryl D. Whitesell
Robert C. Wood
Frank A. Wright, Jr.
Wanda Phillips Yoder

**Rachael Sanford**
**Randy Sinclair**
**Robert Vaughn**

**Farmville Service Area**
James Ghee
Larry Gross
Jason Krumbein
Bruce Robinson
Ellery Sedgwick

**Emporia Service Area**
Julia Adair
C. Butler Barrett
R. Clinton Clary, Jr.

**Danville Service Area**
James Daniel, Jr.
Mark Holland
Anthony Monioudis
David Pugh

**Suffolk Service Area**
Clarence Brooks
Damian Dwyer
Amy Elliott
Robert Jones
Jeanette Ojeda
Joshua Pretlow
Frank Rawls

For providing other pro bono legal assistance to VLAS, we thank John E. Falcone, Lynchburg

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**Program-Wide Pro Bono Facts & Figures: 2011–12**

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The VLAS Pro Bono Task Force and the Lynchburg Bar Association co-sponsored a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar on Ethics in May 2012. The CLE promoted the establishment of mentor/mentee relationships throughout the service area and more than 40 attorneys participated in the seminar.

*Photo by David Bice*

Panelists from the May 11, 2012 Ethics CLE co-sponsored by VLAS and Lynchburg Bar Association: Judges R. Edwin Burnette, John Cook and Ellen White, and retired partner of McGuire Woods in Richmond, John Oakley
VLAS gratefully acknowledges the support of those who contributed to the 2011–2012 Annual Campaign for Equal Justice (July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012) or designated contributions to VLAS through United Way.

LEADER ($1000+)
Corporations & Foundations
Birdsong Peanuts, Suffolk
Carrington Properties, LLC, Lynchburg
Edmunds & Williams, Lynchburg
Gravitt & Gravitt, Halifax
American National Bank & Trust
Company, Danville

Individuals
Mary Barney & David Neumeyer, Lynchburg
William & Mary Bowman, Forest
Cal & Ruth Boyer, Farmville
Dan & Kim Carey, Lynchburg

Anonymous
Sandra Saseen-Smith & William Smith, Farmville
Pat & Tom Doyle, Lynchburg
Brian Carlton, Lynchburg

In honor of David Neumeyer
Donna & Gary Clark, Lynchburg
Jeanette Ojeda & Martin Speroni, Suffolk
Kevin & Janeen Smith, Lynchburg

CHAMPION ($500–$999)
Corporations & Churches
Fleet Laboratories, Lynchburg
Greif–Riverville Mill, Amherst

Individuals
Brian Carlton, Lynchburg
Pat & Tom Doyle, Lynchburg
Skipper & Sandy Holt, Lynchburg

In honor of Arelia S. Langhorne
Tammy & Jason Pollard, Phenix
Bill & Margaret Quillian, Lynchburg
Whitney & Ellen Saunders, Suffolk

In honor of Ira Steingold
Sandra Saseen-Smith & William Smith, Halifax

Anonymous

ADVOCATE ($250–$499)
Corporations
Roberti, Wittenberg, Lauffer & Wicker, P.A., Durham

Individuals
C. Ridley Bain, Lawrenceville
Joel Cunningham, Halifax
Jimmy & Trudy Davidson, Lynchburg
Mary R. & Eric Davidson, Danville
Tom Domonoske, Harrisonburg
Mike & Beth Doucette, Lynchburg
Earl Gee, Chesterfield

Elizabeth Gillam, Appomattox
Betty & Billy Harris, Lynchburg

In honor of Beth Doyle
Bob & Mary Herdegen, Farmville
Paul & Linda Irwin, Lynchburg
John & Kelly Morris, Lynchburg
Bruce Robinson, South Hill
Martha Saunders, Suffolk
Helene Schewel, Lynchburg
Ellery & Robin Sedgwick, Farmville
Kelly & John Shuptrine, Lynchburg

In memory of Robert Hurley & Rachael Madison
Shannon & Mike Valentine, Lynchburg
Robin & Mina Wood, Lynchburg

SUPPORTER ($100–$249)
Corporations
Beales Law Offices, Boydton
Harris, Matthews & Crowder, P.C., South Hill

In memory of Frank D. Harris
Service Printing of Lynchburg, Inc., Lynchburg

Individuals
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Alwood, Suffolk
George & Susan Bagby, Farmville
John & Alyson Ball, Charlottesville

In honor of David Neumeyer
Daryl Barclay & Marjorie Wheeler-Clark, Lynchburg
C. Butler Barrett, Emporia
Reginald & Karen Berry, Lynchburg

In honor of Randi Blumenson & in memory of Alice Blumenson
Ray & Pat Boven, Lynchburg
John and Patricia Bower, Lynchburg
Robert & Nancy Brewbaker, Franklin
Frank & Jeanne Buhler, Lynchburg

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Shenigo
Lonnie & Marian Calhoun, Farmville
Barbara Campbell, Forest
Julie Clark, Springfield
Margie Clevinger, Lynchburg
William & Penelope Cline, Lynchburg
Martha E. Cook, Farmville

In honor of Pam DeCamp
Lisa & Harry Cross, Suffolk
Devin Davis, Greta

Tom Delaney, Lynchburg
Myra & Bob Dendy, Lynchburg
Beth Doyle, Lynchburg
Rick & Sara Ducey, Bethesda

In honor of David Neumeyer
Sarah & Jim Dunstan, Lynchburg
David Embrey, Lynchburg

In memory of Peggy Burch
Anja & John Falcone, Lynchburg
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Fauber, Lynchburg
In honor of Bill Quillian, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. J. Gregory Fisher, Lynchburg
Pam Fortune, Dillwyn
Judith & Forrest Gager, Lynchburg

In honor of Herbert I. L. Field
Mitch & Patty Garbee, Lynchburg
Dr. & Mrs. T. Scott Garrett, Lynchburg
Anne Gibbons & Chris Barrett, Lynchburg

In honor of David Neumeyer
John & Sally Gilkey, Lynchburg
Sam Glasscock, Suffolk
Lolly Goins, Suffolk
Larry Gott, Chatham
Renee Greene, Suffolk
Jack & JoAnne Harris, Richmond
Robert & Nita Floe Hempfling, Lynchburg
Bill & Gisela Hendley, Hampden-Sydney
Gibson & Diane Hobbs, Lynchburg
Mark Holland, Danville
Debby Hudgins, Lynchburg
Dr. & Mrs. George A. Hurt, Lynchburg
Hilary & Jason Isackson, Sacramento
Hugh Jones, Lynchburg
Edward & Lynn Kable, Cliffords
Rhonda Knight, Forest

In honor of Bill Quillian’s 99th birthday & in honor of David Neumeyer
Gopala Krishna, Vienna

In honor of Deborah Hudgins
Tom Leebrock, Lynchburg
Stanley & Pamela Levinson, Lynchburg
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Madden, Lynchburg
John & Gail Marshall, Rapidan
Norman & Barbara Moon, Lynchburg
Herb & Pat Moore, Lynchburg
Frank & Gail Morrison, Lynchburg

In memory of Robert D. Morrison
Wil & Jean Neumeyer, Mount Pleasant
Alex & Jessica Newmark, Forest
Tom & Ellen Nygaard, Lynchburg
Geoff & Kathy Orth, Farmville
John & Gretchen Evans, Lynchburg
The Rev & Mrs. Louis C. Fischer III, Lynchburg
Bill & Angie Frank, Richmond
Allie & Carolyn Frazier, Charlottesville
Charlette Gaines, Farmville
Joseph & Kay Gant, Lynchburg
Rie & Eddie Godsey, Lynchburg
Esther Goins, Danville
Rebecca R. Habel, Suffolk
Sandra Haley, Martinsville
Katherine Hamilton, Arlington
In honor of Frank Morrison
Genny Harris, Lynchburg
In honor of David Neumeyer
Eddie Herndon, Danville
William & Mary Hibbert, Salem
Bob & Janet Hickman, Lynchburg
Lula Holland, Suffolk
Janine M. Jacob, Esq. & Robert A. Lackey, Martinsville
Patsy Joyner, Courtland
Kevin & Susan Landergan, Lynchburg
Monica Lanier, Lynchburg
In memory of V. Anne Manley
Elizabeth & Lloyd Lipscomb, Lynchburg
Thomas Lipscomb, Boydton
Bob & Joan MacCallum, Lynchburg
Charles H. Majors, Danville
Melody Martinez, Madison Heights
Robert & Susan May, Farmville
Mary McCoy, Appomattox
Joseph McCutchen, Farmville
Zoe Miles, Lynchburg
Carole Naugle, Forest
John Randolph Nelson, Lynchburg
In honor of Joan S. Jones
Larry Nordick, Lynchburg
Nettie Perkins, Suffolk
Liz Paisecki, Altavista
In honor of Marc A. Schewel
John & Julia Polk, Lynchburg
Clyde Porter, Lynchburg
Amy Reaves, Lynchburg
In honor of Johnny & Courtney Alford
Franklin Riddle, Danville
Gloria & William Robinson, Lynchburg
In memory of Mary Riley
Shanda Rowe, Lynchburg
In honor of Donna Clark
Carole Royer, Lynchburg
In memory of Richard Royer
Mary Sadler, Lynchburg
Vince & Judy Sawyer, Lynchburg
Anita Schmidt & Scott Rankins Schmidt, Lynchburg
Jack & Mary Scudder, Lynchburg
Joe & Marie Seiffert, Lynchburg
In honor of Josephine (jiggie) Holt
Martha & Paul Seuffer, Lynchburg
Holly Ann Shelton, Lynchburg
Carolyn Sherryko, Lynchburg
Antal & Gwen Solyom, Lynchburg
S. Kim Song, Lynchburg
Ira M. Steingold, Suffolk
In honor of Whitney Saunders, Esq.
Carl Stern, Lynchburg
Mr. & Mrs. Millard Stimpson, Madison Heights
Elizabeth Taylor, Lynchburg
Thornton Staples & Wayne Terwilliger, Faber
Dale Thomas, Alberta
Dick & Beverly Torode, Lynchburg
In memory of Maxwell Torode
Hope Townes, Hurt
David & Karin Truitte, Lynchburg
In honor of David Neumeyer
Delegate Roslyn Tyler, Jarratt
Leti Vance, Forest
Marie Waller, Lynchburg
Paul Whitehead, Lynchburg
Sandy Willcox, Lynchburg
Anonymous (2)
Anonymous
In honor of David Neumeyer
In memory of Theodore A. Majette
Matching Gifts
Duke Energy Foundation, Princeton
In-Kind
The following volunteers dedicated their time to the United Way’s “Day of Caring” 2012 by providing building and grounds maintenance.

SunTrust Bank
Martha Brooks
Lynn Drennan
Joyce Eckel
Dexter Glass
Laura Grovesen
Dennis Howard
Sherry Kinceley
Patrick Richardson
Bruce Scrivener
Lucy White
Robert White

Genworth
Sandra Allen
Shawn Casto
Constance Owuor
VLAS initiated a Bar Campaign in the Lynchburg service area in May, 2012, asking local attorneys to financially support VLAS. Pledges were made over a two year period, raising $48,547. A total of 51 attorneys contributed to the campaign.

VLAS thanks the Lynchburg Bar Campaign committee and the support of the Lynchburg Bar
Chair: Robert C. Wood III, Esq., Lynchburg
John R. Alford, Esq., Lynchburg
Michael R. Doucette, Esq., Lynchburg
William P. Harris, Esq., Lynchburg
Joseph C. Knakal, Jr., Esq., Lynchburg
David T. Petty, Jr., Esq., Lynchburg
Randall J. Trost, Esq., Lynchburg

Donors

$1,000 +
John Alford, Esq., Lynchburg
Mary Barney, Esq., Lynchburg
Donna S. Clark Charitable Trust, Lynchburg
Mike & Elizabeth Doucette, Lynchburg
Edmunds & Williams, Lynchburg
Jimmy Feinman, Esq., Lynchburg
Buffy Harris, Esq., Lynchburg
Joe Knakal, Esq., Lynchburg
Norman Moon, Esq., Lynchburg
Frank Morrison, Esq., Lynchburg
Margaret Nelson, Esq., Lynchburg
David Neumeyer, Esq., Lynchburg
Dave Petty, Esq., Lynchburg
Joseph Sanzone, Esq., Lynchburg
W. Tracey Shaw, Esq., Lynchburg
Marc A. Schewel, Esq., Lynchburg
Randall Trost, Esq., Lynchburg
Robin Wood, Esq., Lynchburg
Frank M. Slayton, Esq., South Boston
Petty, Livingston, Dawson, & Richards, PC, Lynchburg
Phillips, Morrison, Johnson & Ferrell, Lynchburg
John Nelson, Esq., Lynchburg
Overbey, Hawkins & Wright, Rustburg
William Schneider, Esq., Lynchburg
Seth Twery, Esq., Lynchburg
A. Ellen White, The Honorable, Rustburg

$100–$249
Bernard Baldwin, Esq., Lynchburg
Bell & Schneider, Lynchburg
Michael Gamble, Esq., Lynchburg
Carter Glass, Esq., Richmond
David Guza, Esq., Lynchburg
Hugh J. M. Jones, Esq., Lynchburg
Thomas Leebrock, Esq., Lynchburg
Sandra Saseen-Smith, Esq., Halifax
Shrader Law Office, Amherst
Lisa Vogel, Esq., Lynchburg
Peter Ward, Esq., Lynchburg
Wanda Phillips Yoder, Esq., Lynchburg
Anonymous (2)

$500–$999
Mary Driskill, Esq., Lynchburg
Cox Law Group, PLLC, Lynchburg
Paul Feinman, Esq., Lynchburg

$250–$499
Joel Cunningham, Sr., Esq., Lynchburg
Eleanor Dunn, Esq., Lynchburg
Bethany Harrison, Esq., Lynchburg
Stephen C. Martin, Esq., Amherst

“In America it is critical that courts be open to all citizens regardless of their ability to pay, and every lawyer should accept the responsibility to afford all citizens equal access to our courts because it is inherent to our profession as officers of the court.”
—ROBERT C. WOOD III, ESQ.
In July, 2011, Obici Healthcare Foundation awarded VLAS $75,000 to help improve Medicare and Medicaid access through the Medicaid Access Project (MAP) in Suffolk, Franklin, Southampton, and Isle of Wight.

In September, 2011, donors Noelle Prince Shear and Bill Shear entertained supporters at a “friend-raiser” at their residence in the Farmville area.

In support of the Strengthening Families with Children Program in Franklin, Southampton and Lynchburg, VLAS was awarded during 2011–12: $25,000 from Franklin Southampton Charities, $7,000 from Greater Lynchburg Community Trust, $15,000 from the Camp Foundations, $10,000 from the Pruden Foundation, and $7,500 each from the Community Action Coalition of Virginia and Suffolk Foundation.

In March, 2012, the Beazley Foundation awarded VLAS $15,000 to help fund our Crisis and Income Protection (CIP) Program in Suffolk.

In May, 2012, Lynchburg private attorney Melissa Waugh received the annual VLAS-Lynchburg Bar Association Pro Bono Award for providing exemplary volunteer services to both our clients and our Pro Bono program.

In June, 2012, VLAS was awarded a grant of $30,000 from The Walmart Foundation’s State Giving Program. The grant is designed to support the Crisis and Income Protection (CIP) Program throughout the twenty-six counties and cities in Central, Southside and Western Tidewater.

VLAS welcomed new members to the Board of Directors: Thelma Hinton of Suffolk, Robert C. Wood III, Esq. of Lynchburg, and Marc A. Schewel of Lynchburg.

VLAS attorneys and paralegals closed 4,142 cases, providing legal help to 10,082 men, women and children throughout our service area. VLAS attorneys and paralegals recovered for our clients $816,104 in benefits, claims and damages, and saved our clients $843,044 by preventing the collection of unjust claims.

2013-2017 STRATEGIC PLAN

The VLAS Board of Directors has approved a new Strategic Plan for 2013–2017. VLAS underwent an independent evaluation of its advocacy, intake, fundraising and technology services and efforts; received survey feedback from more than 600 low-income individuals; and received comments and recommendations from more than 300 professionals and community members.

More than 20 community forums were held in the service area with community leaders, social service professionals, and volunteers to discuss community needs. The new Strategic Plan is a collaborative effort by staff, board, and community members.

The 2013-2017 Strategic Plan contains three goals for VLAS:

- VLAS will provide the best legal services possible by:
  - meeting the most pressing needs of the low-income population in south-central Virginia;
  - increasing the effectiveness of our legal advocacy; and
  - increasing our financial stability.

The full plan with goals, objectives, and strategies can be found at vlas.org.
CASE STATISTICS

Number of People Helped by Case Type

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<tr>
<th>Case Type</th>
<th>People Helped</th>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>3,876</td>
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<td>Public Benefits &amp; Health</td>
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<td>Consumer</td>
<td>1,165</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Wills, Education, Employment)</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL People Helped</strong></td>
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95% OF CLIENTS SURVEYED WERE SATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY OF HELP PROVIDED BY VLAS

CLIENT QUOTES

“Your service will be of great help to my children, and knowing that I have peace of mind now.”

“It was fast and informative. I felt like a person and not a case file. Very respectful staff.”

“My lawyer continuously encouraged me and gave me hope about my rights and my case. I now know that Legal Aid really works.”

2011–12 SERVICES BY OFFICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Cases Closed</th>
<th>People Helped</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lynchburg Area Office</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amherst</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>329</td>
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<td>Appomattox</td>
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<td>157</td>
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<td>Campbell</td>
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<td>Halifax</td>
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<td>387</td>
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<td>Patrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pittsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brunswick</td>
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<td>Nottoway</td>
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<td>Prince Edward</td>
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<td>903</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Suffolk Area Office</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin City</td>
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<td>Isle Of Wight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suffolk City</td>
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In It For Justice: Virginia Legal Aid Society Helps Small Business Man Win The Battle For Benefits

Stanley Byrd was laid off of work two weeks before learning of his cancer diagnosis, and now he had no insurance. Two surgeries and twelve rounds of chemotherapy later, Mr. Byrd was facing mounting medical bills exceeding $1 million, and he could not afford to pay these soaring costs. He was referred to the Western Tidewater Free Clinic for continued treatment.

The Free Clinic often refers patients that may be eligible for Social Security Disability and Medicaid to the Virginia Legal Aid Society for eligibility assistance. Mr. Byrd shared his plight with Randi Blumenson, a Virginia Legal Aid Society attorney.

Armed with medical records from the Free Clinic and two denials from the Social Security Administration, Ms. Blumenson’s plan was to take the case to a judge for a decision. The judge made an “on the record” decision to approve Mr. Byrd’s application.

Byrd admits he had reservations about utilizing a “free attorney” to apply for Social Security Disability benefits and Medicaid. “I was lost and had no faith. I never thought I would get help.” However, Ms. Blumenson explained she had been helping other people in this same predicament for more than 20 years. Her background and confidence compelled Mr. Byrd to “give her a shot.”

A grant from the Obici Healthcare Foundation to the Virginia Legal Aid Society allowed Ms. Blumenson to work with Mr. Byrd from the beginning and walk him through every step of the process. For Stanley Byrd, the Virginia Legal Aid Society was a lifesaver—literally. “If not for Legal Aid,” he said, “I know that I’d have been in a homeless shelter or worse.”

When the good news finally came, both Mr. Byrd and Ms. Blumenson were overjoyed. He was able to obtain retroactive Medicaid to pay off his medical bills and receive a monthly income. Mr. Byrd was relieved to know he was no longer a burden to his family.

Though the process took a year, and the case is officially closed, Ms. Blumenson remains in touch with Mr. Byrd. Although Mr. Byrd is in remission, he still faces a long road to recovery and has Ms. Blumenson to thank for getting him to the point. “I can’t thank her enough.”

VLAS has experienced success with the MAP program in 11-12, and one success story was featured in the Obici Healthcare Foundation 2011 Annual Report.

The Medicaid Access Project uses legal skills to obtain Medicaid or Medicaid coverage at the earliest possible point for disabled adults. VLAS assists clients in two ways:

- Helps those clients who have not previously applied for disability, or have not been turned down in the last year, to apply first for Medicaid coverage through a little-used state program of Medicaid for the disabled (decisions are commonly made in less than six months) and then assists clients to apply for disability income after having applied for Medicaid.

- Assists clients who have been turned down for disability to reapply or to appeal their denials and represent them at hearings before Administrative Law Judges, if necessary.
VLAS does not charge clients any fee for legal information, advice or representation. Financial support from institutional grants and individual and corporate contributions make our services possible.

**INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS**

**Governments**
- Legal Services Corporation of Virginia, Richmond
- Legal Services Corporation, Washington, D.C.
- Amelia County
- Appomattox County
- Buckingham County
- Campbell County
- City of Danville
- City of Emporia
- City of Lynchburg
- Pittsylvania County
- Prince Edward County
- Southampton County
- City of Suffolk
- Sussex County

**Corporations and Foundations**
- Beazley Foundation
- Birdsong Corporation
- Camp Foundations
- Community Action Coalition of Virginia
- Danville Regional Foundation
- Franklin-Southampton Charities
- Greater Lynchburg Community Trust
- Lynchburg Retail Merchants Foundation
- Obici Healthcare Foundation
- Pruden Foundation
- Suffolk Foundation
- Walmart Foundation
- Wells Fargo Foundation

**United Ways and Area Agencies on Aging**
- United Way of Central Virginia
- United Way of Danville-Pittsylvania County
- Franklin-Southampton Area United Way
- United Way of Prince Edward County
- Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging
- Lake Country Area Agency on Aging
- Piedmont Senior Resources
- Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
- Southern Area Agency on Aging
- Southern Area Agency on Aging

### Revenues (July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal, State and Local Governments</td>
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<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
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<td>In-Kind, Interest, and Other Income</td>
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<td>United Ways and Area Agencies on Aging</td>
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<td>Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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### Expenses (July 1, 2011–June 30, 2012)

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,935,566</strong></td>
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Donate online through Networkforgood.org

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