

ACAPE

Annual Report

Summer 2012

We are a fellowship of Christian lawyers and other volunteers who provide a free and unique combination of legal and spiritual help to the poor and instill the love of Christ in the legal community.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BANQUET

A highly acclaimed Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was held on January 27th, 2012 at the Marriott Courtyard. The banquet honored all of our volunteers for their services to the poor and homeless during 2011. Jim Roach was the Master of Ceremonies and John Robb presented the Annual Report. Billy Isidoro and Linda O'Neal provided our special music, including our theme song "You Made a Difference." Mike Carrico gave a compelling testimonial about his experiences serving at Noon Day. Our keynote speaker was the Honorable Samuel L. Winder, District Court Judge 2nd Judicial District. John Robb was honored as our Volunteer of the Year. Many volunteers told stories and gave thanks to Mr. Robb for his great service throughout the years. He is the founder of Christian Legal Aid and continues to help those in need with a servant's heart.

CONGRATULATIONS JOHN ROBB!



**Our Volunteer of the Year,
John Robb**

Thank you to all who attended this year's banquet:

Kip Vaughn and Guest
Allison Pieroni and Paul Menicucci
Dave Ring and Jill Collins
Karole Kohl
Mike and Susan Carrico
Jen and Nathaniel Meisner
Robyn Hoffman
Jessica Janet and Guest
Sherrie Trescott and Guest
Jerry and Debbie Dixon
Bill and Carole L'Esperance
Katie and Drew Lynch
Dahlia Dorman and Guest
Danny Whatley and Guest
Barbara Hegge
John and Amy Romero
Betsy Honce
Jim and Shirley Roach
Heather Roach
John Robb
Keith Franchini and Guest
Regina Moss and Guest
Jisan Lopez and Shawn Ricketts
Jenica Jacobi
Georgia and Lance Berrenberg
Mike Gallegos and Guest
Joe Werntz
Dennis and Marianne Hill
Billy Isidoro and Linda O'Neal



Special Music Provided by
Billy Isidoro and Linda O'Neal



Keynote Speaker
Honorable Samuel L. Winder,
District Court Judge 2nd Judicial District



Jessica Janet and Peter Livingston

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAM

Do you know any co-workers or fellow attorneys who are interested in volunteering with Christian Legal Aid? We have an excellent On-The Job Training Program that allows new volunteers to join active volunteers as they interview clients at each of our mission sites.

Thank you to each of our volunteers who have taken an active part in our On-The-Job Training Program. It has been a huge success in helping new volunteers feel comfortable meeting with clients.

2012 BANNER YEAR FOR NEW MEXICO CHRISTIAN LEGAL AID AND ITS SERVICE

By Chairman, John Robb

2012 was another banner year for New Mexico Christian Legal Aid on several important fronts. The year enabled NMCLA and its volunteers to reach a nearly record number of 3365 of Albuquerque's poor who were directly helped by the overall efforts of NMCLA and its volunteers. 3003 were served by the Group Preventative Law Program and 362 by individuals receiving personal assistance. 298 of the personal interviews were conducted at Noon Day Ministries and the remaining 64 at Joy Junction or Albuquerque Rescue Mission. Even more importantly we were able to achieve a historic beginning in an experimental new "audience participation" approach in the Preventative Law Group presentations which is described below.

The above number does not include the large amount of helpful answers or tips given informally to individuals at each of the interviews and the Preventative Law Group sessions. Also, not included is the much larger group of persons in the immediate and in the extended families of the clients who were affected by and benefit from the advice given to one of its members. The number of such family members are estimated to have added at least eight to ten times the above benefit total for the clients alone.

The substance of the 2012 Preventative Law Program, namely how to avoid trouble with the law, how to help and keep families together and how to obtain and avoid losing public benefits were presented for the clients of Noon Day Ministries, Joy Junction and Albuquerque Rescue Mission in two parts: Springtime and the Fall for a total of 18 sessions.

The experiment in "audience participation" in the preventative law program was presented at approximately nine of the eighteen group gatherings. It consisted of posing questions to the audience and asking for their suggested solutions as the primary approach to the group instruction. Surprisingly, nearly 50% to 75% of the questions were correctly answered. This approach was different from most of the earlier "lecture" approaches as the primary teaching method with questions largely received after the presentation. The results of the new approach was a dramatic improvement in the amount of audience attention and involvement and an increased self-confidence in their ability to address their own individual problems. This was a major step in helping to overcome their frequent condition of hopelessness and their inability to address their problems. It is our plan to encourage our presenters to expand the experiment in the next offering of the group education which starts in the fall.

The excellent presenters who assisted us and participated in this audience participation experiment were Allison Pieroni and Carole Garner in each of their six sessions. Jim Roach helped with the presentations in two of the meetings, Georgia Berrenberg, and Joe Allred also presented two. Lawyers who assisted with the interview portion of each group gathering of the Preventative Law Program were Jim Roach, Jerry Dixon, Laura Boyette, Steve Williams, Betsy Honce, Jessica Jacobi, Keith Francini, Mike Carrico, Suann Hendren and Sherri Trescott. Sherri participated in all but two of the group gatherings. Jim Roach and Laura Boyette each assisted in four. Each of our volunteers deserve a great vote of thanks and we apologize if we have overlooked the naming of any of them.



Preventative
Law
Sessions



LAW-LA-PALOOZA

One of a lawyer’s ethical duties is to provide legal services to those members of the public who cannot afford counsel. We are pleased to offer legal services with Christian Legal Aid on a weekly, if not daily, basis. The New Mexico Bar Association hosts Law-La Palooza on an annual basis to help people with their legal issues. Law-La-Palooza was held on Thursday, April 12th, 2012, from 3:00-6:00 pm at the Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center. Thank you to Karole Kohl and Keith Franchini for representing Christian Legal Aid at this year’s Law-La-Palooza.

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us as we continue studying the book of Philippians every other Thursday morning. We meet at Weck’s on the corner of I-25 and Osuna. Wecks is located at 4500 Osuna NE Suite 100. We will start on time at 7:15 and will end promptly at 8:15 am. Please join us!

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL

Joy Junction was a good experience. I think there was one person who wanted to be seen, but I explained to Kelly, the volunteer coordinator, that I couldn’t do anything involving legal counseling on my own. The afternoon was still great. They let me hang around and help with little stuff and then serve dinner. It was a great blessing.

-Patricia Payne, New Volunteer

New Mexico Christian Legal Aid

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New Mexico Christian Legal Aid

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