

CLSACC NEWS FOR OUR FRIENDS

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES AND COUNSELING CENTER, INC.

SPRING 2006

CLSACC

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INTERDISCIPLINARY SERVICES AT WORK

Leaving an abusive relationship takes real courage. It is even harder when you are an immigrant and afraid that without your spouse you risk deportation and with that, the loss of your children.

“Linda” came to CLSACC in just that situation. Now successfully separated from her abusive husband and in sole custody of her children, she wrote to share her story of how CLSACC’s help turned her life around.

“I was in the midst of leaving an abusive relationship, with nothing but the clothes on my back and my two children, worried about not having proper immigration papers and the thought of losing custody of my children to my abusive husband when I found my Guardian Angels, Ellen Wilbur (Attorney) and Claire Donohue (Social Worker).

Each of these people taught me that I held all the answers both legally and mentally. In a two year battle in court for the protection of my children and a divorce that was both emotional and frightening, Ellen always told me straight, whether she thought things were going to turn out good or bad. Ellen never gave me false hope. This made me face the possible outcomes and gave me a sense of what I was fighting. Claire on the other hand never told me what to think, instead she made me think about the questions and doubts I had about who I am and forget what my abuser told me I was.

Now over three years later, I have secured myself a home, gotten my children into counseling and gone back to school. Last year I completed my GED (to which Ellen and Claire attended my graduation) and am currently enrolled in a Paralegal program that I will complete in October of this year. I am confident that both Ellen and Claire will also be present at this graduation.

Not only were these wonderful people who helped me through a terribly rough time as Attorney and Social Worker, they are great friends and great supporters of MY new me.”

Linda’s story highlights the effectiveness of CLSACC’s innovative Interdisciplinary Project. A social worker and lawyer working in tandem gave Linda the firm ground she needed to leave her abusive husband, protect her children, and gain control of her life.



CLSACC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



LAURIE HALL joined CLSACC's Board in February 2006. A partner at Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge in Boston, Laurie serves as Co-Chair of the firm's Private Client Department. Her practice includes the areas of estate planning and administration, including wills, revocable and irrevocable trusts, tax planning, charitable planned giving and tax-exempt corporations and foundations. She also advises the owners of closely-held businesses on succession and other issues.



ELIZABETH POTTER joined CLSACC's Board in March 2006. Elizabeth is a partner at Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham and acts as Chair of the firm's Trusts and Estates Department, helping to maintain a high level of service to estate planning, probate and tax clients. Related areas of practice include gift planning, planning for children's education, helping elderly parents financially, fiduciary income tax, charitable giving, and adoptions.



AZIZAH YASIN joined CLSACC's Board in February 2006. Azizah is an attorney licensed in MA, NY and NJ. She established her law practice in 2000 and specializes in family law, family-based immigration law and asylum. She is a certified Children and Family Law Panelist with the Committee For Public Counsel Services and represents indigent clients at the trial and appellate levels. She serves as a Court Investigator and Guardian Ad Litem for the Juvenile Court.

MISSION STATEMENT

CLSACC provides free civil legal aid and affordable psychological counseling to low-income people. Our services combat the effects of poverty and violence by helping clients and their children meet basic human needs for safety, income, health and housing. CLSACC draws on the expertise of dedicated volunteer professionals to provide direct services to our community's most vulnerable members.

"Thank you a million times for all the hours and time spent with my family . . . It scares me to think of the many who do not know how to get help. We could not have done this without you and for that, we are most grateful."

Anonymous Client Quote

THANK YOU TO OUR NEWEST DONORS:

Boston Sand & Gravel Foundation for their gift supporting the Agency; **Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation**, for its recent grant to support CLSACC's Battered Women and Child Support Advocacy Project; **The Clowes Fund** for the award of a new three year grant to support our Immigration Project; and **Stoneham Bank** for its support of CLSACC's volunteer legal and mental health services.

PLEASE HELP US MEET OUR YEAR END GOALS!

The end of our fiscal year is fast approaching. Please help us meet our year end goals by making a tax-deductible contribution to CLSACC.

Visit www.clsacc.org and click on the "donate now" button or call CLSACC's Director of Development, Shelly McPhail at 617-661-1010. Thank You!

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to report the passing of longtime CLSACC friend and Board member Suzannah Ames of Lincoln, formerly of Cambridge, on April 7, 2006.

Sue was one of the Center's earliest supporters and advocates; she initiated the CLSACC Friends Campaign and was an avid and enthusiastic champion of our work for over three decades.

Her impact as a Board member and longtime supporter will continue to be felt by the Agency for years to come.



LESLEE KLEIN RECEIVES AWARD FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD



On May 12, 2006, CLSACC's Executive Director Leslee Klein was honored at their Annual Testimonial Dinner by The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. Leslee received their Lawyer Award. Past Guild honorees include historian Howard Zinn, legal scholar Derrick Bell, and the Honorable Geraldine S. Hines.

Leslee has devoted her 27-year legal career to civil legal aid for low-income people including promoting private bar involvement. For the past 20 years, she has served as Executive Director of CLSACC. Leslee is currently Co-chair of the Delivery of Legal Services Section of the Boston Bar Association and has served on numerous BBA committees.

All of us at CLSACC, board, staff and volunteers, congratulate Leslee on her achievement! Thank you for serving CLSACC with such passion and generosity.

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SAVE THE DATE!

EILEEN FISHER SALES EVENT BENEFITING CLSACC

The Eileen Fisher store in Copley Square will feature CLSACC at a Sales Event later this Summer. A percentage of all sales during the Event will be donated to support CLSACC's Battered Women & Child Support Advocacy Project. This is an exciting new opportunity for CLSACC.

Watch your mailbox for a postcard announcing the date later this Spring. Details will also be available on CLSACC's website at the end of May. Stay tuned to www.clsacc.org for details.

We hope you will join Eileen Fisher in supporting CLSACC during this unique sales event. Be nice to yourself and us at the same time!