

# Why Give to Legal Aid?



Every day, Missourians are denied the basic rights to which they are entitled under the law simply because they can't afford an attorney.

- Without your support, thousands of Missouri's most vulnerable would have no access to an increasingly complex justice system.
- With your support, we make the justice system one step closer to being accessible to everyone.
- When you give people access to justice, it changes every aspect of their lives. It gives them opportunities that stretch far beyond the benefits of free legal aid.

## **Give A Future**

Michael lives in Kansas City's urban core and dreams of one day becoming a teacher. That wasn't always a reality. Michael has asthma and the apartment he shared with his mom and three sisters was full of mold. With help from Legal Aid, Michael's mother convinced the landlord to let them out of their lease and the family now lives in a safe, clean home. Michael spends less time in the emergency room and more time focusing on his studies and working toward his goals. Michael was

lucky. His family got the legal help they needed.

### **Give Community**

Betty and Charles love their inner-city neighborhood and take pride in their home of 40 years. Next door, an abandoned house overshadowed the positive aspects of their block. The house attracted crime and made neighbors fearful. Legal Aid helped the neighborhood association acquire the blighted property. The newly rehabbed home now houses a young veteran and his wife. Today, Betty and Charles' block is a stable place to live and raise a family. Betty and Charles were lucky. Their neighborhood association reached out to Legal Aid.

### **Give Childhood**

At eight years old, Marla was living more like an adult than a kid. Her father was in prison and her heroin-addicted mother was in and out of rehab. Marla spent most of her time making her own meals, getting herself ready for school — and taking care of her mother. But that changed when Legal Aid helped Marla's grandparents petition for permanent guardianship. Now, Marla gets to live like a kid should. Marla was lucky. She and her grandparents got the legal help they needed.

### **Give Hope**

For years, Valerie lived in fear of her abusive husband. He controlled the money and refused to let her to work. She wanted to leave, but lacked the resources to live on her own. Legal Aid gave Valerie the fresh start she needed, but could not afford. Today, Valerie has her own apartment, a job she loves and is living free from abuse. Valerie now has the freedom to dream a little bigger. Valerie got the legal help she needed.

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Donations made it possible to help these individuals with free legal aid. Please make a donation, so we can help others in need. Your donation is tax deductible.

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Table of Contents

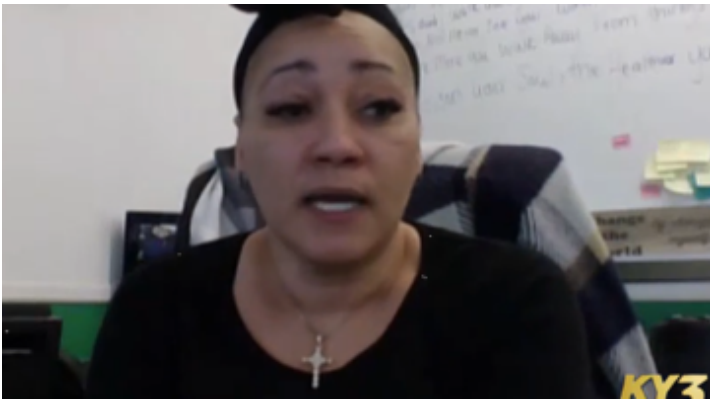
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