In 2008, the Community Law Center provided legal services and technical assistance to grassroots organizations, nonprofits, and small businesses to improve the quality of life and economic viability of Maryland's communities. CLC | '08

Types of Clients Represented

- Neighborhood
- Housing & Community Development
- Education, Youth & Family
- Other
- Health & Substance Abuse Treatment
- Small Business
- Consumer
- Arts
- Environment & Animal Welfare

Types of Cases Handled

- Vacant Property Acquisition & Rehabilitation
- Nonprofit Formation & Reorganization
- Nuisance Abatement
- Contracts
- Zoning
- Youth Entrepreneurship & Small Business
- Research & Analysis
- Liquor Board Appeals
- Environmental
- Other
Dear Friends:

Thank you for being important partners in the work of the Community Law Center.

The Community Law Center helps groups that would otherwise be unable to afford the legal assistance needed to get started, protect their legal rights, or achieve their missions. The Community Law Center is the only legal services organization in Maryland providing direct legal services solely to organizational clients. Many of our clients have supported and contributed to our work for many years, and we deeply appreciate your belief in, and support of, our work.

The current state of the housing market is creating an ever-growing supply of properties with the potential to be problems for their neighborhoods. We tackle this work from all sides: working to stop predators from disrupting the honesty of property transactions, facilitating the redevelopment of abandoned property, and organizing communities against the blighting influences present in their neighborhoods.

In 2008, the Community Law Center was called on by partners from neighborhoods, nonprofits, and government agencies to bring to bear our experience and expertise on issues affecting our community. We have collaborated with members of the City Council and the state legislature in their efforts to rebuild a viable real estate market. We have helped community leaders build bridges to their local law enforcement officials. We have represented many neighborhoods before the Zoning Board and the Liquor Board. And, we have represented nonprofits of all sizes across Maryland in their work to achieve their missions. Our collaboration with regulators, real estate practitioners, community development organizations and others through the Enforcement Committee of the Baltimore Homeownership Preservation Coalition was recognized with the first-ever Collaboration Award from the Maryland Asset Building and Community Development Network.

In 2008, the Community Law Center staff and volunteer attorneys handled 404 cases and experienced a 70% increase in opened cases from July – December 2008 as compared to the same time period in 2007. We also had more than three times our previous number of calls for brief advice or referrals over 2007. We attended over 100 community meetings or board meetings of community and nonprofit organizations last year to provide presentations on the legal tools available to them or to give brief advice. And, we began a regular schedule of workshops on topics of interest to community and nonprofit organizations, such as Stop Trashing My Community, How to Start and Maintain a Nonprofit Organization; How to Protest a Liquor License; Zoning 101: How to Spot a Real Estate Scam; and Cleaning and Greening Your Community.

The Community Law Center works every day to make our community stronger, safer, cleaner, and more prosperous. This would not be possible without you. Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,

Mark Hughes
President & Executive Director
2008:
Audited Financial Statement

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

PUBLIC SUPPORT RECEIVED DIRECTLY

Contributions........................................... $ 724,728
Contributed professional fees....................... 379,609
Contributed rent....................................... 5,948

1,110,289

Grants from governmental agencies................. 121,440

OTHER REVENUE

Fees.......................................................... 37,238
Miscellaneous............................................ 7,681

44,919

Total revenues, gains and other support........... $ 1,276,648

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Legal assistance........................................... 1,059,271

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management and General Service .................. 108,663
Funding .................................................... 60,569
Total supporting services........................... $ 169,522

Total expenses.......................................... $ 1,228,793

Change in net assets—beginning of year .......... 209,690

Change in net assets—end of year................... 257,545

Change in net assets—end of year ................... $ 257,545

2008 | ALOCCATION OF FUNDS

Program 86%

Management & General 9%
Funding 5%

“Due to the dedication from the Community Law Center’s staff attorneys, many of our member organizations have become more organized … This work has energized our communities and given them the confidence to keep fighting to make their streets safer!”

JENNY WIND, PRESIDENT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

“Ours attorneys accepted a very difficult and time-consuming case because they cared about the work that we were doing in our community. We would not have our neighborhood service center without them.”

LINDA TOMA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PROJECT T.O.O.U.R., INC.