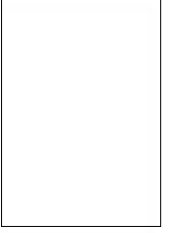




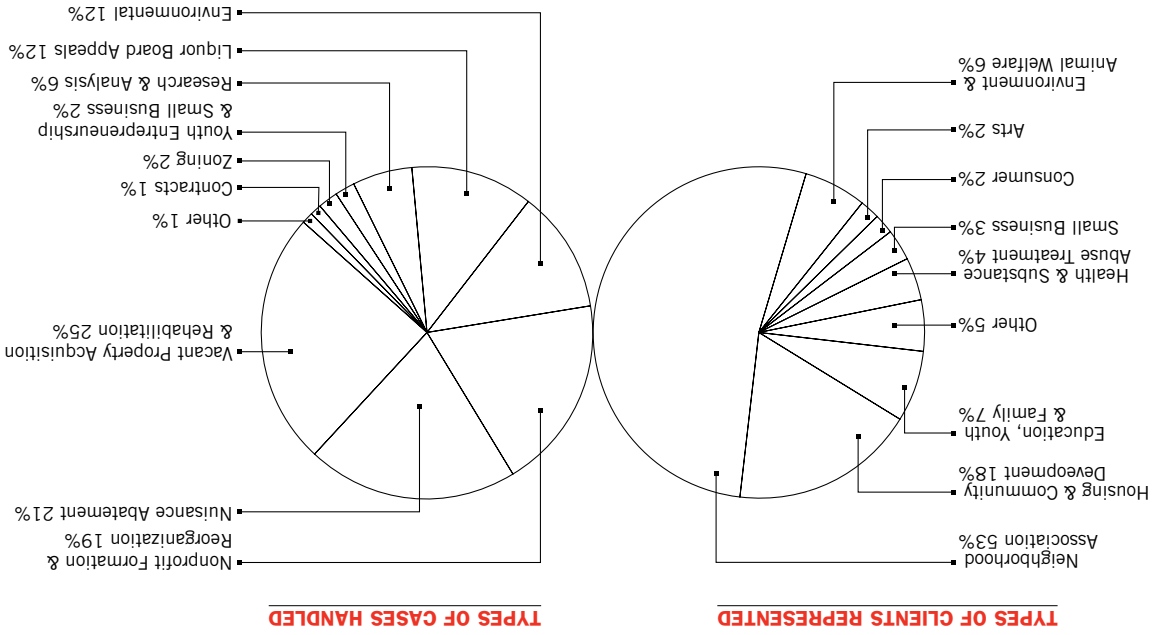
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 3355 Keswick Road  
 Suite 200  
 Baltimore, MD 21211  
 (410) 366-0922  
 www.communitylaw.org



# INSIDE: FIND OUT HOW CLC WORKS TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY LAW CENTER  
 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

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

# TO DO LIST:

**ACHIEVE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD GOALS**  
CLC provides all of the legal services your neighborhood association needs.

**GET LEGAL ADVICE**  
CLC can advise your non-profit or grassroots organization regarding issues faced when pursuing your mission.

**RAISE YOUR VOICE** • Get CLC representation to assert your neighborhood's legal rights with community benefits agreements, zoning appeals, and legislation.

**DEVELOP** • Get CLC's legal advice on financing and construction contracts when revitalizing vacant housing in your community.

**IMPROVE** • CLC can represent your organization in drug nuisance cases and Liquor Board appeals to improve the health and safety of your neighborhood.

**GET ORGANIZED** • Start up your organization with CLC's advice about drafting bylaws and articles of incorporation.

**REORGANIZE** • Get CLC's advice on restating your purposes, revising your bylaws, merging with another organization, or creating subsidiaries.

**ACHIEVE  
ACQUIRE  
ADVISE  
ANALYZE  
ASSERT  
COLLABORATE  
CREATE  
DEVELOP  
GROW  
IMPROVE  
LEARN  
ORGANIZE  
PROTECT  
REORGANIZE  
REVIVE**

**ACQUIRE PROPERTY** • CLC can provide all of the legal services your organization needs to acquire, rehabilitate, lease, and sell property.

**ANALYZE YOUR COMMUNITY** • CLC can help your organization analyze neighborhood data and provide advice towards developing strategies for housing acquisition, foreclosure prevention, and public safety.

**WORK TOGETHER** • CLC collaborates with neighborhood leaders, nonprofits, government agencies, elected officials, educators, and law enforcement agencies to realize your strategic goals.

**CREATE A CLEANER, GREENER NEIGHBORHOOD** • CLC can provide legal assistance to help your organization successfully create community gardens, clean up vacant lots, and paint public murals.

**PROMOTE GROWTH** • CLC can facilitate the development of your organization by reviewing tax-exemption applications, contracts, and leases.

**GET EDUCATED** • Attend CLC workshops designed to inform community leaders about legal strategies and learn about neighborhood stabilization and revitalization issues.

**PROTECT** • CLC's counseling on intellectual property rights, employment law, and contracts can protect your organization.

**RESTART** • Bring your dormant or lapsed organization back to life with CLC's assistance.

## GET LEGAL HELP.

**COMMUNITY LAW CENTER**  
**LAWYERS FOR NEIGHBORHOODS**  
410.366.0922 | [communitylaw.org](http://communitylaw.org)



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# Dear Friends:

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

**T**HE 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 you reading this 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 problem 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,



KRISTINE J. DUNKERTON, ESQ.  
PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



FRANKLIN M. McNEIL, JR.  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# 2008:

## Audited Financial Statement

### REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

#### PUBLIC SUPPORT RECEIVED DIRECTLY

Contributions .....	\$ 724,732
Contributed professional fees .....	379,609
Contributed rent .....	5,948
	<b>1,110,289</b>
Grants from governmental agencies .....	121,440

#### OTHER REVENUE

Fees .....	37,238
Miscellaneous .....	7,681
	<b>44,919</b>

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

### EXPENSES

#### PROGRAM SERVICES

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

#### SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management and General .....	108,863
Fundraising .....	60,569

Total supporting services ..... **169,522**

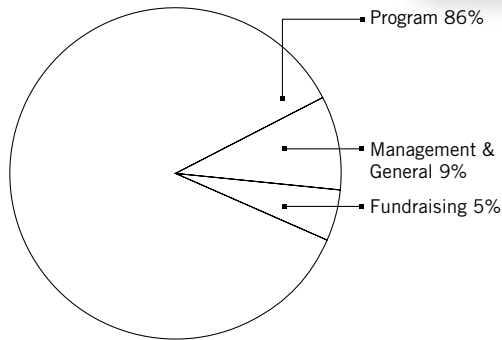
Total expenses ..... **1,228,793**

Change in net assets ..... 47,855

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

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

### 2008 | ALLOCATION OF FUNDS



**“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!”**

JACK BAKER, PRESIDENT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT POLICE AND  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL



# Clients:

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A.C.T.I.O.N. Cooperative for Human Development  
Abell Improvement Association, Inc.  
Amazing McElderry Park Community Development Corporation  
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Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center of Baltimore  
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God’s Holy Evangelical Christian Church  
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**“Our 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 TOWE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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