



ACAPE

Annual Report

Winter 2010

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.

SECOND HALF 2010 PLACE PROGRAM SERVES RECORD NUMBER AT JOY JUNCTION AND NOON DAY MINISTRIES

There was marked increase in 2010 in the number of persons expressing their appreciation and asking for advice and help in addition to the increase in the second half of those who were formally interviewed.

The total number served in the daytime and the evening PLACE assistance during this second half of 2010 was 396 people through Joy Junction and 924 people through Noon Day Ministries, for a total of 1,320 persons. This was an all time high in the number of persons served during the second half of any year. Unfortunately, except for Victory Outreach, we were not able to provide any PLACE services during the first half of 2010 because John Robb was hospitalized and in rehabilitation for a broken hip during much of the first half of 2010 and was unable to lead and provide PLACE service to Albuquerque Rescue Mission or Victory Outreach during the second half of 2010. Besides the informal types of assistance rendered to a number of persons at both Joy Junction and Noon Day Ministry, there were a total of 31 PLACE private lawyer interviews at Joy Junction where persons received advice and assistance.

The Place Program for the second half of 2010 was conducted in three sessions at Joy Junction and Noon Day Ministries. The entire program was entitled "The People's Law School." The first session was on difficulty with the law or criminal law. The second one covered avoiding difficult family issues, and the third covered obtaining and keeping public benefits. Joe Allred provided the community education and preventative law presentation for avoiding trouble with the law and criminal matters. Allison Pieroni, the main speaker for family law and Carol Garner, from Law Access for public benefits. The lawyers who conducted the private interviews at Joy Junction included Sherri Prescott and Laura Boyett, who attended every session, and Keith Franchini and Betsy Honce who attended two of the sessions. Other volunteers included Jerry Dixon, Mike Carrico, Helen Bennett, Jim Roach, Matt Spangler and John Robb.

During the first nine months of 2010, the lawyers also conducted a record number of private interviews and assistance at Noon Day Ministries weekly sessions.

ALBUQUERQUE RESCUE MISSION LUNCHEON

We went to Albuquerque Rescue Mission for our first quarter Fellowship Luncheon on Friday, March 5th. Our group included Tom Allison, Joe Werntz, Judge John Romero, John Robb, Jim Roach, Mike Carrico, Katie Lynch, and Jen Meisner. Kip Vaughn gave a very encouraging talk on what causes people to be homeless.

He gave these main reasons people become homeless:

- Drug and alcohol addictions
- Mental illnesses
- Life crises
- Lack of personal relationships

In conclusion, Kip said we all need intimate, positive support in our lives and personal relationships are so important. He encouraged each of us to get more involved in other people, develop deep friendships, and become strongholds that other people can turn to in times of need.

What a great reminder that *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. Ecclesiastes 4:9.*



Katie Lynch and John Robb at Albuquerque Rescue Mission

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet
Friday, January 28, 2011 from 6:00-9:00 PM

Christian Legal Aid Training Seminar
Friday, April 15, 2011 from 12:00 noon-5:00 pm

TESTIMONIALS FROM VOLUNTEERS

- “The experience of providing legal assistance to the needy is quite rewarding.” - Rick Alvidrez
- “A gentleman came in with two of his friends who were helping him because he suffered from a brain lesion which affected his memory. He prayed to receive the Holy Spirit!” - Sherrie Trescott
- “Last week we had someone see us a second time because he/she was having difficulty obtaining the legal forms from the Court as I had suggested. After discussing the situation and providing more free legal information to him/her, the person asked if we could close in prayer again, like last time. It struck me that what this person liked and appreciated from our previous meeting—as much or more than the free legal information—was praying together.” - Chad Prosocki

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

We had a lovely Fellowship Luncheon on Friday, May 14th at LePeep Restaurant with a good turnout. The group included Katie Lynch, Rosalie Fragoso, Tom Allison, Keith Franchini, Jim Roach, Joe Werntz, Michael Hoferkamp, Sherrie Trescott, Karole Kohl, Mike Carrico, and Simone Sieler. We were blessed by guest speakers Rosalyn Romero and Juliette Cardoza, who are staff members and once were participants in the Victory Outreach Recovery Program. Christian Legal Aid just started serving at Victory Outreach Center this year, bringing our PLACE Program, as well as lawyers, to conduct interview sessions with participants who need legal help.

Juliette Cardoza is the director of the women's part of Victory Outreach and Rosalyn Romero is her assistant. Both women shared their testimonies which included drug addiction, being arrested, going to jail, and finally ending up at Victory Outreach Center. After that, they knew it was time to surrender to God. Through Victory Outreach, God saved both these women and now they are working to help other women change their lives around.

Hearing their testimony caused Keith Franchini to pose the eternal question – “what causes some people to see the light and others not to? Why are some people saved and others not?” We do not have an answer to that question on this side of Heaven. As volunteers with Christian Legal Aid, you are working to spread the Love of Jesus to needy people.

As a closing thought, these women spoke about spending three hours per day in prayer. How many of us pray three hours per day? When this question was posed to the attendees, not one raised their hand. God has done a mighty work in these women's lives because they spend the time with Him daily in prayer. Isn't it incredible what God can do when we give Him the opportunity?



**Juliette Cardoza and Rosalyn Romero
from Victory Outreach Center**

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN...

Thank you to all of our volunteers and to all our donors who have so generously supported NMCLA over the years in their volunteer efforts and contributions. It is my hope that each of you will give careful thought as to whether or not you can make a year end gift to contribute to the great work which God is blessing in so many ways.

John D. Robb, Chairman of New Mexico Christian Legal Aid

New Mexico Christian Legal Aid

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New Mexico Christian Legal Aid

300 Central SW, Suite 1500-West
Albuquerque, NM 87102