CLS Helps Elderly Man Save His Friends

Eddie* does not speak English, has a mental disability, and relies on his two best friends—little kittens—to help him fight depression and keep him company. He rents an apartment with the help of a public housing program.

During the pandemic, Eddie became more isolated and relied more on his kittens for support. He always took very good care of his kittens, ensuring they received all necessary medical care and were registered with the vet. However, the property manager, who was not on the premises, falsely claimed that Eddie’s kittens were a nuisance to other neighbors and served Eddie with eviction papers. Eviction would mean losing his rental assistance and ultimately result in homelessness and the possible loss of his beloved kittens.

Eddie, confused and unsure of what to do, walked into his local CLS office and asked for help. He was able to request a reasonable medical accommodation, which was supported by a note from his doctor stating that the kittens were medically necessary for Eddie’s personal well-being and helped him manage his condition. Even though the threat of eviction no longer hung over him, Eddie wanted to move. CLS helped him get his security deposit back so he could find another place to live and ensured he would have no problems using his rental assistance. Eddie now lives in a pet-friendly apartment that he loves with his two kittens and is no longer at risk of being homeless.

* Names and identifying information in CLS client stories were changed to protect client confidentiality.
In 2021–2022, Connecticut Legal Services received approximately 15,397 requests for service. We responded by opening 2,001 new cases for legal representation and counseling. We also worked on 1,491 cases opened in previous years. CLS services in these 3,492 cases benefited approximately 8,315 household members, which included 3,468 children.

On June 30, 2022, the CLS staff consisted of 42.80 FTE lawyers, 11.80 FTE legal assistants, 9.00 FTE administrative staff, 2.00 FTE paralegals, and 0.55 FTE child welfare advocates.

CLS has six full-service offices, one satellite office, and one administrative office.

### Distribution of 3,492 Cases Handled in Fiscal Year 2021-2022

In 2021–2022, Connecticut Legal Services received approximately 15,397 requests for service. We responded by opening 2,001 new cases for legal representation and counseling. We also worked on 1,491 cases opened in previous years. CLS services in these 3,492 cases benefited approximately 8,315 household members, which included 3,468 children.

CLS helps abused woman keep her child

Jasmine, a young, pregnant woman, sought refuge with her friend in Connecticut after fleeing from her abusive partner. Back in her former home state, the baby’s father immediately sought and obtained a court order for custody of the newborn child and began contacting Jasmine’s family, claiming he knew Jasmine’s whereabouts, would travel to Connecticut, take the baby, and make sure Jasmine never saw their child again. Jasmine contacted a domestic violence agency and was immediately provided with shelter at a safe house and other services, including safety planning, counseling, and a referral to a Connecticut Legal Services attorney. Shortly after Jasmine began contacting her attorney via her cell phone, her former partner began calling the attorney directly, making it clear that he had somehow hacked into Jasmine’s cell phone account and knew who she was in contact with and her general location.

Jasmine’s domestic violence advocate helped Jasmine get a new cell phone account, close all her social media and email accounts, and begin again. Her CLS attorney filed a custody case on Jasmine’s behalf in Connecticut, the appropriate state to make orders regarding her child, and worked with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence to find legal counsel in her former home state to get the competing custody orders dismissed. Because of COVID, Jasmine’s custody case was delayed. However, her attorney was finally able to obtain the custody orders Jasmine sought, ensuring that she and her child are protected and may remain in Connecticut.
2021–2022 Board of Directors and Advisory Council

Board of Directors

OFFICERS
Carolyn Wilkes Kaas, Esq.—Chair
Associate Professor of Law: Quinnipiac University School of Law
Jeffrey Plotkin, Esq.—Vice Chair
Partner: Finn Dixon & Herling LLP
Helen Harris, Esq.—Treasurer
Partner: Day Pitney LLP
Tadhg Dooley, Esq.—Secretary
Partner: Wiggin & Dana LLP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Mike Hanley—Retired Senior Consultant: Partnership for Strong Communities
Ivy McKinney, Esq.—Retired Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, and Chief Ethics Officer: Xerox Corporation
Richard Orr, Esq.—Retired General Counsel: University of Connecticut
Kevin Rasch, Esq.—Deputy General Counsel: Harvard Pilgrim HealthCare
Brad Saxton, Esq.—Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus: Quinnipiac University School of Law
Ann Taylor, Esq.—Retired Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer: Connecticut Children’s Medical Center

DIRECTORS
Livia DeFilippis Barndollar, Esq.—Member: Pullman & Comley LLC
Sheila Hayre, Esq.—Visiting Associate Professor of Law: Quinnipiac University School of Law
Laura Jordan, Esq.—Director of Government Affairs and Community Relations: Stamford Health
Peter Knight, Esq.—Partner: Robinson & Cole LLP
Leslie Levin, Esq.—Professor of Law: University of Connecticut School of Law
Patricia McIntosh, LMSW, MPH—Director, Community Safety and Wellness, City of Hartford
Basam (Bas) E. Nabulsi, Esq.—Partner: McCarter & English, LLP
Michael Sullivan, Esq.—Retired Undersecretary: Office of Policy and Management
Thomas (Sully) C. Sullivan Jr.—Assurance Partner: PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Adam M. Swanson, Esq.—Partner: McCarter & English, LLP

Advisory Council

OFFICERS
Vivien Blackford—Principal: Vivien Blackford & Associates
Peter Kelly, Esq.—Partner: Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.

MEMBERS
Aaron S. Bayer, Esq.—Partner: Wiggin & Dana LLP
Gregory B. Butler, Esq.—Senior Vice President and General Counsel: Northeast Utilities
David Carson—Hartford, Conn.
Marilyn J. Ward Ford, Esq.—Professor: Quinnipiac University School of Law
Thomas Goldberg, Esq.—Partner: Day Pitney LLP
Robert L. Holzberg, Esq.—Member: Pullman & Comley LLC
Karen Jarmoc—Assistant Vice President, Sustainability Leader: The Hartford
Jay Malcynsky, Esq.—Partner: Gaffney, Bennett & Associates, Inc.
James H. Maloney, JD—Founder and President Emeritus, Connecticut Institute For Communities, Inc.; Owner: Commonweal Services Corporation
Leslie O’Brien—Legislative Program Director: Department of Consumer Protection
Mitchell Pearlman, Esq.—Government Information Consultant; Former Executive Director: Freedom of Information Commission
Howard Rifkin, Esq.—Corporation Counsel: City of Hartford
Paul A. Slager, Esq.—Partner: Silver Golub & Teitell, LLP
Richard Slavin, Esq.—Partner: Cohen and Wolf, P.C.
Stanley Twardy Jr., Esq.—Partner: Day Pitney LLP

2021–2022 Chief Office Personnel

Deborah R. Witkin—Executive Director
Anne Louise Blanchard—Deputy Director
Keith W. Boyce—Finance Director
Astrid Lebron—Director of Development
Nilda R. Havrilla—Litigation and Advocacy Director
Ashley S. Barnum—Human Resources Manager
Whit Freer—Information Technology Administrator
To the generous friends of Connecticut Legal Services:

Thank you for your commitment to Connecticut Legal Services in 2022. The year was one of coming together in so many ways: our offices reopened as colleagues gathered again and met with clients face-to-face, and the courts and other service providers returned to increasing numbers of in-person proceedings. We all reemerged into a world evolving and changing at mind-boggling speed with a deepening sense of crisis and isolation. We are proud that CLS continues to respond to the needs of clients who struggle in this unpredictable environment.

This past year, CLS needed to make unprecedented adjustments to meet clients’ urgent needs. Housing protections expired, and evictions skyrocketed. Tensions rose in homes, and domestic violence incidents increased. Children returned to their schools with decreased resilience, and calls for special education support accelerated. CLS staff responded to the mounting needs for services while handling struggles in their personal lives.

The Connecticut General Assembly responded to some of the more salient crises with new state funding for housing and domestic violence services, but, inevitably, CLS faced new challenges to meeting state goals without abandoning clients who had different service needs. CLS is digging deeper to advocate for clients while stretching ever thinner to maintain services in traditional areas of need.

CLS needs your support more than ever if we are to remain a full-service legal assistance agency able to meet clients where they are and support them in what they need. We know that the answer is both public and private fundraising. Our board continues its pledge to enhance our fund-raising capacity so we may address the complex spectrum of service needs for our clients.

As we approach the third anniversary of the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must lean on our community and look ahead with new optimism and a renewed commitment to our mission. By coming together, we can achieve equality and dignity for everyone, especially those who are most vulnerable and lack the resources they need to navigate life in this ever more complicated world.

CLS appreciates you and your support more than we can say.

Sincerely,

Deborah R. Witkin                      Carolyn Wilkes Kaas
Executive Director       Chair, Board of Directors
## Financial Support 2021–2022

### GOVERNMENT-BASED GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency / Program</th>
<th>Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agency on Aging, Senior Resources (Eastern Connecticut)</td>
<td>$36,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency on Aging, Southwestern Connecticut Area</td>
<td>$36,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency on Aging, Western Connecticut Area</td>
<td>$46,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Middletown</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Block Grant Program—City of Waterbury</td>
<td>$2,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Block Grant Program—Town of Fairfield</td>
<td>$4,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Court Support Services Division—Family Matters Training Program</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services</td>
<td>$106,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Department of Housing</td>
<td>$660,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Department of Social Services</td>
<td>$681,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Judicial Branch</td>
<td>$26,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Office of the Chief Public Defender</td>
<td>$8,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Connecticut Office of Victim Services</td>
<td>$2,108,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Ashford</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Coventry</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Ellington</td>
<td>$2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Groton</td>
<td>$7,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Mansfield</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Government-Based Grants**

$3,739,014

### PRIVATE GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Community Programs of Connecticut</td>
<td>$2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Foundation of Eastern CT</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Foundation of Eastern CT—Women &amp; Girls Fund</td>
<td>$18,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Foundation of Fairfield County</td>
<td>$87,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Bar Foundation (Court Fees Grants-in-Aid)</td>
<td>$4,708,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Bar Foundation (Interest on Lawyer’s Trust Account)</td>
<td>$1,207,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Bar Foundation (Judicial Branch Grants-in-Aid)</td>
<td>$727,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Bar Foundation (RTC Eviction Defense)</td>
<td>$315,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Bar Foundation (RTC Restraining Orders)</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Reach</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Connecticut Gas Company</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John’s Community Foundation</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tow Foundation, Inc.</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tudor Foundation</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, Central and Northeastern Connecticut</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, Greater Waterbury</td>
<td>$16,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, Meriden and Wallingford</td>
<td>$10,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, Northwestern Connecticut</td>
<td>$643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, Southeastern Connecticut</td>
<td>$26,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way, West Central Connecticut</td>
<td>$2,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vera Institute of Justice, Inc.</td>
<td>$21,488</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Private Grants**

$8,038,901

### DONATIONS AND OTHER INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>$142,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign for Justice</td>
<td>$393,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Goods and Services</td>
<td>$172,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$4,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$17,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way Donor Designations</td>
<td>$3,837</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Donations and Other Income**

$734,311

**Total CLS Income**

$12,512,226
### Statements of Financial Position
**JUNE 30, 2022, AND JUNE 30, 2021**

#### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>JUNE 30, 2022</th>
<th>JUNE 30, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents—Operating Funds</td>
<td>$3,944,729</td>
<td>$4,568,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in Escrow—Client Funds</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$4,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Term Investments</td>
<td>$1,997,151</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contracts Receivable</td>
<td>$758,363</td>
<td>$657,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promises to Give</td>
<td>$1,834,357</td>
<td>$1,765,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Receivables</td>
<td>$93,670</td>
<td>$21,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>$82,224</td>
<td>$80,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,710,994</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,098,557</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIXED ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, Equipment, and Software</td>
<td>$1,393,558</td>
<td>$1,386,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold Improvements</td>
<td>$311,118</td>
<td>$311,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets Before Depreciation</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,704,676</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,697,293</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less, Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>($1,048,196)</td>
<td>($975,709)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$656,480</strong></td>
<td><strong>$721,584</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Deposits</td>
<td>$51,075</td>
<td>$54,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$51,075</strong></td>
<td><strong>$54,565</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,418,549</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,874,706</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>JUNE 30, 2022</th>
<th>JUNE 30, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Pension Liability</td>
<td>$5,505,371</td>
<td>$3,336,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$424,467</td>
<td>$413,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$245,605</td>
<td>$240,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refundable Advances</td>
<td>$1,187,516</td>
<td>$861,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Annual Leave</td>
<td>$442,632</td>
<td>$536,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client Trust Deposits</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$4,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,806,091</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,592,958</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without Donor Restrictions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attributable to Operation</td>
<td>$1,764,018</td>
<td>($784,481)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attributable to Pension Liability</td>
<td>($2,169,298)</td>
<td>$2,544,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>($405,280)</td>
<td>$1,759,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets With Donor Restrictions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,017,738</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,521,970</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,612,458</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,281,748</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,418,549</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,874,706</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRAILBLAZERS:  
$10,000–$24,999
Katherine C. Butler  
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut  
Day Pitney LLP and its partners  
Finn Dixon & Herling LLP  
Joelen Gates  
Thomas D. Goldberg  
Claire L. Helsing Foundation  
Robinson & Cole LLP  
Shipman & Goodwin LLP  
Allen Siegel  
Wiggin & Dana LLP

LEADERS:  
$5,000–$9,999
David S. Golub and Kathryn Emmett  
Marianne B. Kilby  
The Ruth Krauss Foundation, Inc.  
Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder PC  
Leon N. Lapine Charitable Residuary Trust  
McCarter & English, LLP  
Jeffrey and Nancy Plotkin  
James Randel

PACESETTERS:  
$1,000–$4,999
Aaron and Laurie Bayer  
Hon. Stuart Bear  
Donald L. Becker  
Gail A. Bedoukian  
Marvin P. Bellis  
Vivien Blackford and William H. Cuddy  
Anne Louise and Chris Blanchard  
Cohen and Wolf, P.C.  
The Dolian Family  
Steven D. Eppler-Epstein  
Gaffney Bennett & Associates, Inc.  
Gordon and Shelley Geballe  
Gary R. Gold  
Tamara D. Hall  
Michael J. Hanley  
Helen Harris  
Jon Hendel  
Astrid Lebron  
Leighton, Katz & Drapeau  
Kaye and Associates, LLC  
Ivy and Frederick McKinney  
Megan R. Naughton  
Kevin Rasch  
Robert Saperstein  
Michael Schlessinger and Monica S. Smyth  
Cindy and Mark R. Slane  
Alan R. Spier  
Adam Swanson and Stephanie Nickse  
Rob and Ann Taylor  
Howard S. Tuthill III  
Jonathan Winikur  
Deborah Witkin and Israel Ortiz  
Wofsey, Rosen, Kveskin & Kuriansky, LLP  
Elizabeth C. Yen  
Susan and Nels Ylitalo

SUSTAINERS:  
$500–$999
Richard and Sandy Adelstein  
Livia Barndolhar  
The Barney Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation  
Julia Brown  
Butler Tibbetts, LLC  
John P. Casey  
Edward Cosden  
Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP  
Robert Goliger  
Francoise and Richard Jaffe  
Christopher J. Jarboe  
Peter G. Kelly  
Peter R. Knight  
Jay B. Levin, Government Relations Consulting  
Michael P. Lynch and Mary T. Berthelot  
Priscilla A. Meyer  
Devjani H. Mishra, Esq.  
Jonathan Orleans and Linda Liefland  
Richard F. Orr  
Thomas J. O’Sullivan  
Mitchell and Susan Pearlman  
Mark D. Phillips, Esq.  
Alan Scott Pickel  
Brad Saxton and Anne Harrigan  
Law Office of Eileen Caplan Seaman  
James T. Shearin  
Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC

PATRONS:  
$200–$499
Melanie B. Abbott  
American Immigration Lawyers Association: Connecticut Chapter  
Jon and Alice Bauer  
R. Scott Beach  
Berkman-Hill Family Charitable Fund  
Peter Bilfield  
Betsy and Ben Bilus  
Ray and Sandy Bourret  
Marlene H. Brodsky  
Susan Brown  
Lynne A. Burgess  
Michael P. Byrne  
Dennis G. Ciccarillo  
Christina E. Clayton  
Richard P. Colbert  
Consumer Law Group, LLC  
Sonja M. Devitt  
Maureen Dewan  
Wendy Dunne DiChristina  
Marianne Barbino Dubuque  
Elionov & Tenore Law Offices  
Marvin and Evelyn Farbman  
Dorothy M. Freeburg  
Alfred A. Fressola  
Nicole Gathy  
Alexis S. Gettier  
Stella Santonio Giordano  
Giuliano Richardson & Sfara LLC  
Glass & Braus  
Roberta and Stephen Gould  
Susan B. Handy  
Christina and Patrick Hanna  
Nancy Haslam  
Gregory A. Hayes  
Sheila N. Hayre  
Prof. Carolyn Wilkes Kaas  
Joel M. Kaye  
F. Paul Kurmay  
Whitney M. Lewendon  
Nicholas A. Longo  
Michael and Robin Magistrali  
James H. Maloney, JD  
James C. McGuire  
Garry H. Morton, Esq.  
Atty. Stephen J. Murray  
Basam and Kim Nabulsi  
O’Brien Stuart Eppinger & Collier, LLC  
Thomas J. O’Neill
CLS Helps Disabled Man Access Necessary Services

Mark applied for disability benefits after experiencing several musculoskeletal injuries that resulted in five surgeries: three for a shoulder, one for a knee, and one for an ankle. His musculoskeletal deterioration began when he injured a shoulder while working. After his Workers’ Compensation benefits ended, Mark applied for disability benefits. Prior to the application, much of his life had been characterized by surgeries, innumerable MRIs, physical therapy, and chronic pain. Previously athletic but no longer able to do the things he once did, he became depressed, suicidal, and anxious about his life: he wasn’t yet 40 but depended on his family for full support. Mark was denied disability benefits and went to Connecticut Legal Services for help with the appeal at an administrative law judge (ALJ) hearing. The ALJ denied his claim and determined he could perform light work. CLS petitioned the Appeals Council, alleging errors of law the ALJ made in writing the decision. The Appeals Council agreed and remanded the case back to the same ALJ for another hearing. At the time of the hearing, Mark had undergone a sixth surgery involving his knee and was scheduled for neck surgery post-hearing. His CLS attorney obtained updated medical records and submitted an updated legal memo supporting the disability claim. The ALJ reviewed the medical evidence and legal memo and reversed himself, resulting in an award of almost four years of retroactive disability benefits. After the favorable decision, Mark contacted his CLS counsel and thanked him. “I had no hope, but you saved my life,” he said. “You saved my life!”
CLS Helps Family Stay in Their Home

Chris was referred to Connecticut Legal Services by another legal services agency because his landlord was evicting him. In fact, he didn’t know this until he was notified that he would be evicted and his apartment cleared of his things in a matter of days. The landlord had put the incorrect address on all the paperwork, so the Notice to Quit and Writ, Summons, and Complaint were never served; the court even sent the Judicial Notice to the wrong mailing address.

After meeting with Chris, CLS filed motions to reopen and dismiss the case because of the mistakes on the paperwork filed with the court. The case went to a hearing before a judge, where Chris testified to his address, the location of the adjacent building on the property, and other relevant facts—despite the landlord’s attempts to intimidate him and everyone in the courtroom. After a 90-minute hearing, the judge dismissed the case, ruling in Chris’s favor. Chris and his family will continue to live in the apartment while searching for new housing.
CLS Helps Severely Abused Child Start Over

CLS became involved with Jerry when he was taken to a hospital needing medical attention. His siblings, including Jerry’s twin brother, were removed from the care of their parents, who were charged with child abuse. Jerry, five and half months old, had been shaken so violently and severely that he suffered life-threatening injuries and now has a lifelong disability. He had a long stay in the hospital and was then placed in a hospital for children with special needs. Criminal proceedings against the parents were initiated, and because of COVID limitations, no one from the family could visit him. CLS staff took turns visiting Jerry regularly until he could be placed in a foster home that could handle his unique needs. His foster family wanted to adopt Jerry, which is very rare for a child with disabilities. CLS supported the adoption and advocated with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to ensure physical supports for Jerry in foster care and ensure DCF’s agreement to provide physical support equipment post adoption. In addition to an administrative hearing against DCF, CLS also reached out directly to the governor’s office for assistance in persuading DCF to provide basic supports, such as wheelchair accessibility, in the foster placement. Jerry and his twin brother were adopted and live in a safe environment with a caring family that has the support necessary to ensure the long-term well-being of Jerry and his brother.
LAW OFFICES:

1000 Lafayette Boulevard
Bridgeport, CT 06604
203-336-3851; 1-800-809-4434
(serving the Greater Bridgeport area)
bridgeport@ctlegal.org

16 Main Street
New Britain, CT 06051
860-225-8678; 1-800-233-7619
(serving the New Britain and Meriden areas, as well as Middlesex County)
newbritain@ctlegal.org

125 Eugene O’Neil Drive
New London, CT 06320
860-447-0323; 1-800-413-7798
(serving the New London County)
newlondon@ctlegal.org

1177 Summer Street
Stamford, CT 06905
203-348-9216; 1-800-541-8909
(serving the Greater Stamford and Norwalk areas)
stamford@ctlegal.org

85 Central Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06702
203-756-8074; 1-800-413-7797
(serving the Waterbury and Danbury areas as well as Litchfield County)
waterbury@ctlegal.org

1125 Main Street
Willimantic, CT 06626
860-456-1761; 1-800-413-7796
(serving Tolland and Windham Counties)
willimantic@ctlegal.org

SATELLITE OFFICE:

5 Colony Street
Meriden, CT 06450

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

62 Washington Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860-344-0447
povertylaw@ctlegal.org