



Homeless Persons Representation Project, Inc.

Lawyers Ending Homelessness



Annual Report 2017

A Message From Our Leaders



Antonia Fasanelli
Executive Director



Irving Walker
Board President

We are pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report for the Homeless Persons Representation Project (HPRP), with highlights of our successful legal work, which you helped to make possible. **Thank you!**

HPRP celebrated two momentous events this year - **the opening of HPRP's first satellite office in Rockville, MD** to expand our services in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, and the **American Bar Association's** selection of HPRP's **Homeless Youth Initiative as a Model Program** providing legal services to homeless youth.

In addition to these achievements, HPRP

- Closed 1,193 cases, helping 2,000 people from 14 Maryland Counties with legal matters that could likely end or prevent their homelessness;
- Recovered over \$326,000 in back awards for wrongfully delayed or denied public benefits, including veterans benefits;
- Supported successful efforts to create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund in Baltimore City and to allow recipients of Temporary Cash Assistance benefits to receive child support benefits; and
- Hosted Pulitzer-Prize winning author of *Evicted*, **Matthew Desmond**, and **Dan-el Padilla Peralta**, author of *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League* as part of HPRP's ongoing Jane Harrison Speaker Series on the Importance of Housing.

We are honored by the ABA recognition, excited about our expanding footprint and challenged by our clients and partners to continue to eliminate barriers to stable housing, income, and employment. **This work is only possible because of you** and the support of many volunteers, donors, foundation funders, and community partners. **Thank you for your leadership, your commitment, and your generous financial support.**

2017 At A Glance



1,193 cases closed, affecting 2,035 people



**HPRP clients recovered
\$326,598 in benefits
in 2017**



472
Attorneys, paralegals, & law students volunteered
1,616 hours
in pro bono services, valued at
\$357,095

Expanding to Montgomery County



L to R: HPRP board members Carnot Evans, Matt Hoffman, and Kent Morrison, HPRP executive director Antonia Fasanelli, HPRP supporter Daniel Sasse and HPRP board members Emily Vaias and Irv Walker.

In 2017, HPRP expanded to serve people experiencing homelessness in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, opening its first satellite office in Rockville, Maryland. HPRP is grateful to **Miles & Stockbridge P.C.** for donating office space.

The new office has already tripled HPRP's presence in Montgomery County with two new shelter-based legal clinics opening in Rockville, building upon HPRP's long standing legal clinic at Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring. HPRP's new office has been met with overwhelming support of members of the Montgomery County Government, City Council, and state legislators who have long desired to see a civil legal aid program specifically for homeless persons open in Montgomery County. HPRP has targeted its legal assistance to areas of need identified by homeless services providers and government officials and intends to complement the ongoing efforts of the Montgomery County government and providers to end homelessness.

In September 2017, the Director's position for HPRP's new office was named in honor of HPRP Board Member **Kent Morrison**. Kent started his career as a legal services attorney in Texas and is a founding attorney and partner at Crowell & Moring LLP. In recognition of his long-standing commitment to social justice and his vision to bring HPRP's unique program to Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, we are proud to name the position the **Kent Morrison Director of the Montgomery/Prince George's County Office**.

Ending Youth Homelessness

The rate of homelessness among youth under the age of 25 is on the rise in Maryland. Most have experienced serious conflict in their families, and face further trauma and victimization while living in shelters or on the street. Without access to appropriate housing and supportive services, they often find it difficult to transition to a stable and self-sufficient adulthood. **It doesn't have to be this way.**

HPRP's Homeless Youth Initiative (HYI) attorney met "Leah" in 2017. She was fleeing physical and emotional abuse, which caused her mental health to deteriorate to the point where she was suicidal. She was facing loss of her housing because she was unable to pay her gas and electric bill. She had already lost custody of her baby. She was devastated and overwhelmed with civil legal needs related to safety, housing, public benefits, disability, and energy assistance.

Her HYI attorney quickly helped Leah with the immediate need for safety, food, and mental health treatment, and then focused on her housing. As a result of HYI's legal representation, Leah retained her housing voucher and obtained financial assistance with her utility bills. Leah decided to move to another county to escape her abuser and create a safe home where she could reunite with her child. HYI helped her to transfer her housing voucher and public benefits cases to the new county. Leah was able to move and regain custody of her baby. Having a lawyer during a time of crisis not only preserved Leah's housing and helped her with other basic needs, it allowed her to pursue her goal of providing for her family.



The Homeless Youth Initiative is Maryland's only legal services project providing targeted legal assistance for unaccompanied homeless youth on multiple legal issues.

In May 2017, the American Bar Association (ABA) selected HYI as one of twelve Model Programs for the national Homeless Youth Legal Network.

The Speaker Series

The Jane Harrison Speaker Series on the Importance of Housing brings experts to Baltimore to discuss issues and solutions related to ending homelessness.



In September 2016, HPRP and the Public Justice Center welcomed Pulitzer Prize-winning sociologist **Matthew Desmond**, author of *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, to the University of Baltimore. Prof. Desmond spoke about his research into eviction and its impact on those living in some of the poorest neighborhoods in the country.

“I think we need to keep the message simple and direct,” Desmond said. “We can’t fix poverty without fixing housing.”

A panel of community leaders and activists discussed housing and eviction issues and solutions in Baltimore, where 7,000 families are evicted each year. The panel included **Rick M. Grams**, Sagal, Filbert, Quasney & Betten P.A.; **Detrese Dowridge**, Right to Housing Alliance; **Hon. Mark Scurti**, Baltimore City District Court; **Zafar Shah**, Public Justice Center; and **Karen Wabeke**, HPRP.

In May 2017, **Dan-el Padilla Peralta**, PhD, assistant professor at Princeton University and author of *Undocumented - A Dominican Boy's Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League*, joined HPRP for an engaging and challenging discussion on youth homelessness.

The evening also featured a panel discussion, facilitated by **Marc Steiner** of the Center for Emerging Media, with local advocates leading efforts to end youth homelessness in Baltimore, including **Ciera Dunlap**, YES Drop-In Center; **Ingrid Lofgren**, HPRP; **Helany Sinkler**, Esperanza Center; and **Malcolm Williams**, Health Care for the Homeless.

The 2016-2017 Jane Harrison Speaker Series on the Importance of Housing was generously sponsored by Jane Harrison, the Baltimore Bar Foundation, Enterprise Community Partners, Susan D. Bennett, and John C. Eidleman.

Linda Kennedy Fellowship



The Linda Kennedy Fellowship in Advocacy honors the late Linda Kennedy, Esq., a courageous and determined advocate for persons with disabilities and persons without housing. Linda was a champion for equal treatment of our clients and neighbors who struggle with homelessness. Her tireless work, particularly with people seeking to overcome barriers to housing and employment imposed by criminal records, had a significant impact in our community. Linda provided critical representation to our clients in their efforts to expunge arrest

records and resolve collateral issues related to criminal records. Linda's deeply caring manner with which she addressed the needs of each client was special. The Linda Kennedy Fellowship in Advocacy provides a second or third year law student with an internship at HPRP to work on policy and systemic issues that promote an end to homelessness in Baltimore City and in Maryland.

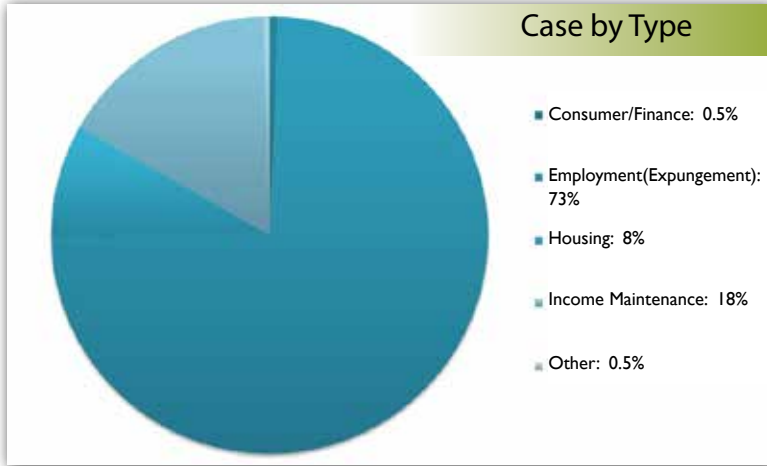


The 2016-2017 Linda Kennedy Fellow, **Noah Patton**, was a second-year student at the University of Baltimore School of Law. During the 2017 Maryland General Assembly legislative session, Noah worked on state legislation to prohibit discrimination in housing based on source of income, to alleviate the burden of rising utility costs on low-income renters, and to improve an emergency rental housing subsidy program for low-income renters. He also provided policy research and written testimony related to youth

homelessness. Noah presented oral testimony on the emergency rental housing subsidy program bill and utility legislation, respectively, and also testified before the Baltimore City Council on water affordability.

**The 2016-2017 fellowship was generously supported by:
Anonymous
Lenna Kennedy**

Case and Program Highlights



HPRP opened 1,505 cases and closed 1,193 cases. These cases constitute matters in which HPRP staff or volunteers represented people struggling with homelessness in legal disputes to prevent or end homelessness. HPRP also received 1,424 calls where brief advice, information, or referral was given. These calls reflect the “unmet” need because of insufficient resources or other reasons.



Pro Bono Program

HPRP could not have touched the lives of so many individuals this year without its talented and dedicated volunteer lawyers, paralegals, law students and others. In 2017, volunteers donated over 1,616 hours of service to HPRP and its clients, including 1,400 hours, valued at \$350,000, donated by attorneys.



*Volunteer Darryl Tarver conducts an intake with a client,
Photo credit: Eric Stocklin*

In 2017, HPRP continued the strong development of its pro bono program, growing to 472 volunteers.

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Volunteer Appreciation Reception

On September 14, 2017, HPRP held its annual volunteer appreciation at The University of Baltimore Angelos Law Center, whose generous sponsorship helped to make the event possible. Awardees in the following categories were presented with artwork created by residents of The Helping Up Mission, one of HPRP's intake locations.



Left to Right: Jeremy Anderson, Dan Scapardine, Paul Spence, Tracy White, Mary Anna Donahoe (on behalf of Staci Winters), and Antonia Fasanelli

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Paul Spence

Paul W. Spence PA

Tracy White

National Transportation Safety Board

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER STUDENT

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University of Baltimore, School of Law

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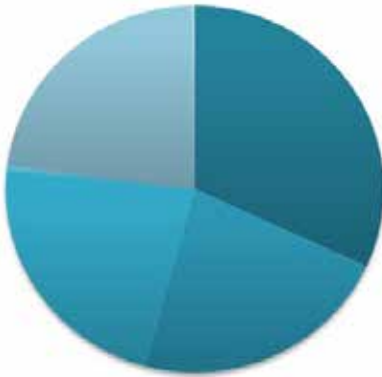
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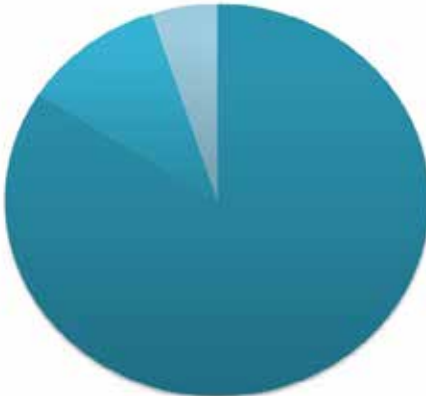
Financial Highlights

Total Revenue: \$1,550,414



- Foundations: \$494,814
- Grants: \$346,480
- Contributions: \$346,364
- Program Services: \$7,130
- Donated Professional Fees: \$351,695
- Other Income: \$3,931

Total Expenses: \$1,546,461



- Program Services: \$1,299,925
- Fundraising: \$169,072
- Management & General: \$77,464

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