



Dear Friend:

I'd like to introduce you to Rose, a divorced mother of three children, one of whom is autistic and has special needs. She is self-employed and owns a home. Hurricanes Irene and Sandy caused \$30,000 in unreimbursed home repairs -- all of her savings and safety net. Shortly afterwards, Rose's oldest son, who was 23 at the time, died suddenly of a massive heart attack.*



In addition to dealing with such a devastating emotional blow to her family, having to pay for her son's funeral and burial caused Rose to fall behind on her mortgage. Even though she was trying to make things right, the bank moved to foreclose and throw her out of the home where she raised her children.

Desperate, alone, Rose needed someone to help her and her family... Rose needed someone to fight for justice!

Although Rose felt alone, she wasn't. In fact, there are tens of thousands of people living in the Hudson Valley today that have experienced an unwarranted eviction or unnecessary home foreclosure. They are domestic violence survivors, veterans, senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and parents. 70% of them are women... 40% of those impacted by those evictions and foreclosures are children.

Thankfully, the attorneys and paralegals at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) are there for them when they need help, providing legal advice, counsel, and representation to help our neighbors stay in their homes and remain productive members of society. Last year, LSHV handled more than 15,500 cases **impacting more than 36,000 household members** and almost half of those cases involved **keeping families in their homes**.

Why is eviction and foreclosure prevention so important? It's really very simple.

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Homelessness threatens the stability of families and imposes enormous costs on communities in the form of providing shelter, increased social services, and other acute services. Children that are evicted and uprooted typically are set back six months or more in their education. Families that are forced to move often lose important employment opportunities and cannot improve their income or prospects for the future.

This year, LSHV celebrated its 50th Anniversary by launching its **LET JUSTICE GROW Campaign** to **Prevent Homelessness for Children and Families** across the Hudson Valley. We were overwhelmed with the outpouring of support for this basic, fundamental human right... a roof over our heads. And, we were encouraged that so many of our friends and neighbors choose to invest in our efforts to fight for justice.

As our 50th Anniversary Celebration comes to an end, and we embark on our next 50 years of service to the community we all share, we ask you to join us and make a contribution before December 31st to **help us meet our \$1 million goal**. We're almost there... but we need your support so that we can help Rose and her family and thousands of other families.

By the way, you might like to know that **we fought for Rose... and we won!**

She has a new mortgage which she's paying steadily, and she is living in the same home where she raised her children.

We can't do this important work without you. Please make a contribution today! Thank you.

Sincerely,

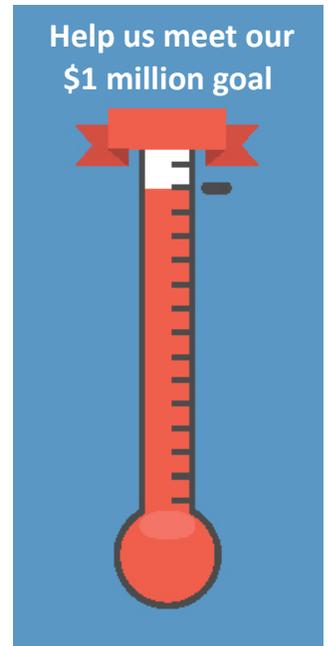


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