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Angela's Pisgah Legal Attorney Ben Many secured a settlement from her threatening landlord that allowed her to move to a better, safer rental property. "The attorneys are so confident and compassionate," she says. "Ben even checked on me as I was moving out because he was concerned for my safety."

## Women Face Uphill Battle for Justice

SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF PISGAH LEGAL CLIENTS ARE WOMEN: WOMEN STRUGGLING TO FIND DECENT HOUSING, ESCAPE VIOLENCE, AND MAKE ENDS MEET

Like many people in WNC in search of housing, Angela just wanted a decent place she could afford. Short on time and money, she found a mobile home for rent.

Even though the place had repair issues, when she visited a handyman was there hard at work. With the landlord's promise that all repairs would be made, she moved in.

Angela never saw the handyman again. Desperate, she and a friend tried to repair the trailer themselves, but fixing dangerous wiring and a broken heater were beyond their capabilities.

Just when Angela thought her situation couldn't get worse, she became very sick; the well water contained E. coli. When she complained to the landlord about the well and lack of heat, he told her that if she got cold, she could "crawl in bed with him."

Angela is one of thousands of women who turn to Pisgah Legal Services (PLS) for help each year. On October 4, PLS will host a forum to explore why women are especially vulnerable, and what we, as a community, can do to address the issues.

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Don't miss  
**Dr. Kathryn Edin**, Princeton sociologist and author, at Pisgah Legal's Annual Poverty Forum on October 4.

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## Pisgah Legal's 8th Annual Poverty Forum

### Making Ends Meet: Women and Poverty in WNC

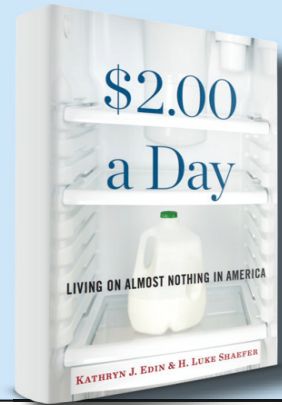
with Dr. Kathryn Edin, Princeton Professor of Sociology and author of *\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*.

**Thursday, October 4, 2018**

Thomas Wolfe Auditorium,  
U.S. Cellular Center, Asheville  
5:30 pm Reception/ 7:00 pm Forum

Forum Tickets: \$15/person.

Purchase online at [bit.ly/2018povertyforum](http://bit.ly/2018povertyforum)  
or call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000.



*Due to a limited number of reception tickets (\$50/person), please contact Michelle Spiegel to inquire about availability: (828) 210-3773.*

## Find Out How WNC Women Are Making Ends Meet

Please join us on **October 4** to explore the challenges low-income women face in our mountains, and to learn innovative ways we can address the challenges as a community. Dr. Kathryn Edin will be the speaker at the 8th Annual Poverty Forum.

Pisgah Legal Managing Attorney Julia Horrocks says, "Making Ends Meet' is an opportunity to talk about the issues we see women clients face every day such as working for less money, coping with domestic violence, and caring for children as single moms."

### About Dr. Kathryn Edin

Kathryn Edin is the Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and is the Margaret Mead Fellow at the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences. Dr. Edin has authored eight books including *\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*. The hallmark of her research is her direct, in-depth observations of the lives of low-income men, women and children.

### Why are Women the Focus this Year?

The National Women's Law Center says that 15.2% of women in North Carolina live in poverty, which is higher than the national average.

The problem is much worse for single mothers. On average, 41.3% of single mothers living in the WNC counties served by Pisgah Legal Services live in poverty.

The poverty rate for those with young children (under 5 years of age) is even higher: 72.7% in Madison County, for example.

***"Out of every one hundred Americans, fewer than two get aid from today's cash welfare program. There are more avid postage stamp collectors in the United States than welfare recipients."***

***– Kathryn Edin***

### Get Your Tickets Today!

Don't miss this important community conversation with a leading poverty researcher and a panel of local nonprofit representatives. Tickets are \$15/person for the forum, \$50/person for a cocktail reception with Kathryn Edin, followed by the forum. Availability for reception tickets is limited. Contact Michelle Spiegel: (828) 210-3773.

# A New Way to Stop Evictions

FREE LEGAL AID NOW AVAILABLE AT BUNCOMBE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

They say the more things change, the more they stay the same. As Pisgah Legal celebrates its 40th anniversary, that expression rings true.

Back in 1978, Pisgah Legal Services began with volunteer attorneys taking on cases for free or “pro bono,” and they worked out of a small office inside the Buncombe County Courthouse.



*Pisgah Legal Housing Attorney Thomas Lodwick is working on the front line, right outside eviction court.*

This summer Pisgah Legal returned to intensive work in the courthouse to prevent homelessness. Since June, every day eviction court has been held, volunteer and PLS attorneys – like Thomas Lodwick (above) – set a couple of chairs and a folding table in the hallway outside the courtroom. Thomas approaches the worried people waiting in line, saying, “I’m here from Pisgah Legal Services to assist tenants. I have a table right over here if you need help.”

***“It’s hard to see people struggle without representation. Many people show up with no idea of what’s about to happen.”***

working two jobs. She came flying into the courtroom just as her case was starting. Sometimes it’s all they can do just to show up.”

Pisgah Legal attorneys review the docket of upcoming cases to pre-screen potential clients. Then, an attorney is on hand providing much needed legal advice, knowledge that most people just don’t have.

“It’s tough in there,” says Thomas. “It’s hard to see people struggle without representation. Many people show up with no idea of what’s about to happen. But if we can reach them in time, we can offer advice and even represent them. We often work out deals between the tenants and landlords right here at the courthouse.”

“We’ve served dozens of people since the program began and plan to continue serving as many as we possibly can,” says Thomas.

## ***Attorney Wins State Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Work***



**Congratulations to Nicki Applefield Engel, winner of this year’s North Carolina Bar Association Younger Lawyer Pro Bono Service Award.**

When Nicki began practicing law in 2012, she became a volunteer with Asheville’s Mountain Area Volunteer Lawyer (MAVL) Program, a partnership between Pisgah Legal Services and the 28th Judicial District Bar.

Since then Nicki has taken 29 pro bono cases - primarily helping senior citizens - and has contributed almost 200 hours of service.

Nicki practices with Patla, Straus, Robinson & Moore in Asheville.

**Congratulations, Nicki! Thank you for all that you do to help Pisgah Legal clients!**

# Attacks on ACA Worry Those Who Need Healthcare

PISGAH LEGAL AT RISK OF LOSING \$180,000 PER YEAR IN FEDERAL FUNDING TO ASSIST LOCAL PEOPLE

A year ago, Josh was juggling two very physical jobs, working both as a waiter and running his own business cleaning windows. But that all changed last October when Josh fell off a 30-foot ladder, shattering his vertebrae and damaging his spinal cord.

When Josh began receiving Social Security disability income, he lost Medicaid coverage, which means he must provide his own healthcare. Josh says, "I came to Pisgah Legal Services and signed up for Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance. I don't know what I would do without it. The bills for my ongoing medical supplies are ridiculous."

Josh, and many others, are worried about the fate of the ACA after a recent lawsuit filed in federal court in Texas asserts that the ACA is unconstitutional. Future coverage for pre-existing conditions is also at risk.

In addition, Pisgah Legal Services recently learned that federal grants that once funded its efforts to help local people sign up for coverage were slashed. Funds were cut nation-wide, but were especially severe in North Carolina, from \$3.4 million to \$500,000. Pisgah Legal could lose \$180,000 per year.

Pisgah Legal Managing Attorney Jackie Kiger oversees the ACA program and calls the cuts "devastating." She says, "The funding for this program is very much at risk for vulnerable, underserved people in WNC."



*Josh came to Pisgah Legal Services for help signing up for health insurance. "I was expecting the worst, but it was a painless experience. I was really pleased." He pays \$5/month for insurance through the ACA.*

**"People need affordable health care, they want it, and we've provided a lot of help to them over the past five enrollments. Last year, despite a shortened enrollment period, we were still able to enroll 33% more people in half the time and secure more than \$7 million in tax assistance credits," says Jackie.**

## ***You Can Help!***

Pisgah Legal is currently strategizing ways to keep this program going. You can help by making a tax-deductible gift. **Give online at [www.pisgahlegal.org](http://www.pisgahlegal.org)**, or use the enclosed envelope. For stock gifts, or if you have other giving questions, please contact Development Director Ally Wilson at (828) 210-3444.

You can also help by spreading the word that the ACA is still the law and that **Open Enrollment for 2019 will take place from November 1 - December 15**. Contact us at 828-210-3404 for free appointments, with questions, or if you would like to volunteer. ***Thank you for your support!***

## Meet Ally Wilson



Ally Donlan Wilson joined Pisgah Legal Services as its Director of Development in July.

Ally comes to PLS from Habitat for Humanity in Charlotte. She has more than 15 years experience working in the nonprofit sector, including with the Appalachia Service Project, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity and Warren Wilson College.

Ally received her bachelor's degree from the Johns Hopkins University and holds a Master's of Social Work from UNC-Chapel Hill. She is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and is also a 2010 graduate of Leadership Asheville.

"I'm incredibly excited to be part of the team here at Pisgah Legal and to work for an organization that is making such an impact on our community," she says. "I look forward to meeting all of the volunteers, friends and supporters who make this work possible."

# Thank you, thank you, thank you!

SOME OF OUR FAVORITE PEOPLE HAIL FROM HENDERSON COUNTY



This summer PLS had the pleasure of paying tribute to two crusaders for justice in Henderson County. Marian Lowry (above, center) was honored for her exceptional support and generosity. Marian is shown here with her grandson, Michael Drew, and his wife, Mandy.



Martha Milcarek (above, right) was honored for her exemplary volunteer service, helping to provide legal aid to people struggling to meet basic needs. PLS Board Member Leslie Heywood (left) presented the award. **Thank you both for your outstanding support!**

## So Close! We're Only \$5k Away

IMMIGRATION CHALLENGE HAS ALMOST BEEN MET...ALMOST!

Earlier this year, generous donors extended a \$40,000 challenge to raise funds for Pisgah Legal to assist immigrants in crisis.

So many people have given generously, and we're happy to report that we're only \$5,000 away from meeting the challenge!

### *You Can Put Us Over the Top!*

If this work speaks to your heart, don't wait. Make a gift today, and help us reach our goal. **You can be the difference!** And have you met our new Director of Development Ally Wilson (left) yet? Give her a call at (828) 210-3444.



*Pisgah Legal has held six clinics around WNC to serve immigrant parents who – if they are deported or detained – worry what might happen to their children. Intern Betsy Chavez (left), volunteer attorney Jo Melnyk, a client and her child who asked not to use their names, and Cecelia Guerra-Smith (right) of Mountain Projects.*



**PISGAH**  
LEGAL SERVICES

*Standing for Justice and Dignity since 1978.*

P.O. Box 2276

Asheville, NC 28802

Toll Free 800.489.6144

Asheville/Brevard 828.253.0406

Hendersonville 828.692.7622

Marshall 828.210.3788

Rutherfordton 828.427.0297

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**“How is it that a solid work ethic is NOT an adequate defense against extreme poverty?”** – Kathryn Edin, *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*

## Making A Gift for the Future of Justice

ASHEVILLE COUPLE SUPPORTS PISGAH LEGAL WITH PLANNED GIFT

Dan and Dorothy Foltz-Gray are living their dream. For years, they visited Asheville and imagined how wonderful it would be to actually live there. “Our lives were in Knoxville, Tennessee, but Asheville was our playground for 20 years,” says Dorothy.

Then, in 2011, they found a condo in the heart of downtown and decided to make the move to the mountains. They’ve never looked back.

Soon after the move, Dorothy met another Ashevilleite and friend to PLS, Anne Kimmel, who invited her to learn more about Pisgah Legal Services. Dorothy says, “I attended a Poverty Forum and was so moved to learn about the work Pisgah Legal does to help people and to promote social justice.”

In addition to Dorothy’s volunteer work with PLS, Dorothy and Dan have decided to include Pisgah Legal in their will. “Last year, when we met with an attorney to draw up our will, we decided to leave a percentage of our estate to Pisgah Legal Services,” said Dan. “We aren’t wealthy people, but we’ve both had lucky lives. We grew up with good parents and generous families.”



*Dorothy and Dan at their home in downtown Asheville.*

“Asheville is our favorite place that we’ve ever lived, and we are happy to be a part of a community that is very generous to those who have less.”

***You can create your own legacy for justice.***

Learn more by contacting Executive Director  
Jim Barrett at (828) 210-3408  
or [jim@pisgahlegal.org](mailto:jim@pisgahlegal.org).