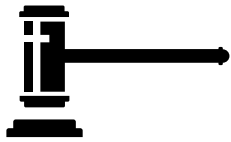


NCLC Welcomes Seventeen AmeriCorps*VISTA Volunteers in 2008

NCLC is excited to begin a new partnership with the AmeriCorps*VISTA program. (Volunteers In Service To America). VISTA is a national service program that places individuals with non-profit organizations dedicated to fighting poverty. The VISTA members are volunteers for their host organization, but VISTA provides a modest living allowance, as well as other benefits such as an education award and medical benefits.

This summer, NCLC was blessed by nine law student AmeriCorps summer associates who were mentored by our staff attorneys and provided invaluable assistance to low-income Indianapolis-area residents. In addition to the VISTA law student summer associates, we will have eight VISTA full-time volunteers who will be with us for twelve months working on everything from grant-writing to volunteer coordination. Two of our VISTA volunteers have already begun their year of service: Kari Phelan, who is working on our Burmese (Myanmar) Refugee Assistance Project, and Rachel Mauldin, who is working on human trafficking and fiscal responsibility education projects for middle and high school students. Kari is from Fishers, Indiana, and is a 2008 graduate of Wittenberg University with a degree in Communication. Rachel is from Jackson, Michigan and is a 2008 graduate of Taylor University with a degree in Psychology. Other interns will work as: Volunteer Coordinator, Grant Writer, African Outreach, Marketing Coordinator, and Fort Wayne Site Coordinator. Our full compliment of VISTA interns will begin their work by the end of August. With the help of our VISTA volunteers, NCLC expects to strengthen and expand programs and services to combat poverty and empower low income families in the coming year. Our full-time VISTA volunteers are excited to discuss their outreach efforts with you! Please call with any questions you may have about their exciting work.

NCLC would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers and interns! Without you, fulfilling our mission would be impossible. We are inspired by your dedication and enthusiasm.



Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic

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Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic

**“Defend the cause of the weak
and fatherless; maintain the
rights of the poor and
oppressed. Rescue the weak
and needy; deliver them from
the hand of the wicked.”**

Psalm 82:3-4



Community Partner



A New Home for NCLC!

Since our inception in 1994, the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic has grown steadily in both the number of clients served as well as the number of staff and volunteers housed within our offices. NCLC has once again outgrown its surroundings and on June 1, we moved into our new office located at 3333 N. Meridian Street. NCLC's first office was only a couple of blocks away so it feels like we are "coming home" to have our main office back in the Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood.

This move has combined our two former small offices, increasing our office space from less than 4,000 square feet to 7,500 square feet, allowing us to comfortably house all of our 17 permanent staff under one roof for the first time in six years. The move is especially timely as we are joined by nine AmeriCorps law student interns and eight full time VISTA volunteers this summer. With all of our staff together, we are increasing our workplace efficiency as well as expanding our main office intake. While we still have 10 intake sites that are convenient to low income communities throughout the Indianapolis area, we will take advantage of this centrally located and easily accessible location to have a "super intake" each Wednesday at 3333 N. Meridian, conducted simultaneously by three staff and volunteer attorneys.

This is an exciting and pivotal time for the clinic and the services that we provide for the community, because as we continue expanding and fulfilling NCLC's mission statement to serve low-income families as a demonstration of Christ's love, we find that our needs continue to expand as well. **We are grateful for a grant from the Indianapolis Foundation**, that helped fund critical expenses of the move. **Thanks also to Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, Ice Miller LLP, and WFYI for their charitable donations of computers and office furniture!**

In the coming months, we are joining with our landlord, Trinity Episcopal Church, to "go Green." An extremely energy efficient HVAC system and triple paned windows have been installed, NCLC staff are recycling, and many are biking or walking to work. **If you would you like to help us "go Green," please e-mail us at contactus@nclegalclinic.org to receive our next newsletter electronically!**

We are looking for businesses and individuals who are willing to partner with us by donating office furniture. We still need a conference room table and chairs, a refrigerator, and waiting room chairs. We would also love to have donations of Bibles and other devotional items in English and other languages to give away to our clients. As an alternative, you might consider making a financial contribution.



NCLC at the Forefront of the Fight against Foreclosure

In Marion County, one in every 122 homes is in foreclosure, which is 50% of all foreclosures statewide. Every time a home goes into foreclosure, the impact is felt in the entire neighborhood: slashed home values, compromised neighborhood safety, and families uprooted from their community and schools. Our neighbors and friends are literally hovering on the brink of homelessness. In response to this crisis, NCLC joined the Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Network (IFPN) to receive foreclosure referrals directly from the IFPN hotline as well as through our regular intakes. NCLC's **Helping Hoosier Homeowners Project** fights alongside Hoosier families to prevent foreclosure and save Hoosier homes with the following two-pronged strategy: 1) **CRISIS RESPONSE**. Respond and resolve immediate foreclosures facing low income area families by representing homeowners in court in predatory lending and foreclosure litigation and negotiating with lenders to keep families in their homes; 2) **PREVENTION**. Prevent future foreclosures through: loss mitigation and pre-purchase housing counseling that empowers low income families to avoid predatory lending and bad loans; widespread campaign of media and workshops to educate families about available foreclosure relief and how to avoid a predatory loan. NCLC is particularly effective because we not only counsel our housing clients, but also represent them in court when needed in these areas. NCLC is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) certified Housing Counseling Agency. **We are extremely grateful for grant funding to help us fight foreclosure from: Heartland Pro Bono Council, Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, and the National Council of La Raza.**

The services provided by our clinic are free, and since October of 2007, NCLC staff has assisted nearly 350 homeowners with counsel and advocacy to resolve or prevent mortgage delinquency. In the coming year, NCLC is hoping to serve 600 more families through the Helping Hoosier Homeowners Project.

Meet Our Clients

John and Mary's* house was already set to be sold through a Sheriff's sale before NCLC's housing attorney, Stephanie Fairfield, negotiated a work out plan to save their house. John is a young national guardsman with two preschool girls and a wife with a high school education who was unable to find a job that would pay more than child care for her girls. John had lost his job and this young family got months behind on their mortgage payments. Thankfully, NCLC was able to help him save his house so that when he leaves shortly for active duty in Iraq, he will have the comfort of knowing that his wife and daughters will be safe at home.

* Names have been changed to protect client confidentiality.

Check out our updated Website!

Looking for more information about the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic or how you can get involved? Check out the new and improved NCLC website at www.nclegalclinic.org to learn more about our organization. The new website includes a more intuitive set-up, regularly updated news and important information on the main page, a current intake schedule, pdf files of our various brochures, and a list of frequently asked questions and answers to better serve you! NCLC would like to thank Noel and Jamie McClain for creating this user-friendly website. **Coming Soon! Give to NCLC online! NCLC will soon be able to accept credit card contributions through our website!**

Save the Date!

NCLC's Justice For All Celebration will be held at the new Lucas Oil Stadium on November 13, 2008. Our keynote speaker will be Jack Swarbrick, University of Notre Dame Athletics Director, and key architect of Indianapolis' bid to host the 2012 Super Bowl.