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***Executive Director Report***

Kimberly Rodgers

2009 proved to be a year of exciting opportunities and positive changes for Community Law

Program, Inc. (CLP).

CLP increased its ability to provide much-needed free legal assistance to the poor by, among other services, operating approximately 25 free legal advice clinics and community education classes per month; providing full representation to clients based upon program priorities; and collaborating with over 15 local legal and social service providers to address the most critical legal needs within our community.

In July, with the help of additional funding from the FBF General Support Grant, CLP moved to a new office suite in the 501 Building on First Avenue North in downtown St. Petersburg, Suite 519. This beautiful and spacious facility improves our ability to accommodate our growing staff and program services, especially the operation of our legal advice clinics and classes. CLP is eternally grateful for the tireless efforts and generosity of everyone who made this relocation possible, including CLP's Board President Linda Perrigoue of Synovus Securities, who spearheaded this effort, along with the City of St. Petersburg and other board members, private donors, and volunteers.

We also improved our capacity to provide assistance to clients facing foreclosure. Not only do we now operate a twice-monthly housing clinic staffed by volunteer attorneys, but as of October, we have a part-time attorney who provides additional counseling to clients and helps eligible clients obtain loan modifications. To help meet the increased need for attorneys to represent clients facing foreclosure, we also held a regional foreclosure defense seminar at the EpiCenter, where attorneys who attended had to agree to provide at least 20 hours of foreclosure related pro bono legal assistance. Also in October, we began a collaboration with the Pinellas County Department of Justice and Consumer Services and others to help spread awareness about and prevent foreclosure fraud.

CLP also continued to serve particularly vulnerable and underserved populations through our ongoing collaborations with the Sixth Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program to assist transitioning dependent youth as they prepare to age out of the foster care system; and the Clerk of the Circuit Court and the Sixth Judicial Circuit in operation of the Self Help Center, which provides self-represented litigants with procedural and legal information as well as assistance in completing court-approved forms.

## America was founded on the ideals of liberty and justice for all.

In a democratic society, legal representation helps ensure access to justice. Today, the mechanisms necessary to resolve disputes in our legal system have become exceedingly costly. Many individuals cannot afford the legal representation they need.

**Nearly 110,000 people in Pinellas County (12% of our population) live below the poverty level. Of this percentage, the vast majority are women and children** (28.9% of households headed by single women are poor). Working 40 hours a week at minimum wage in 2009, you could earn \$1,176 a month. The average rent for a single parent and 2 children was \$870, based on HUD Market Statistics in Pinellas County. That leaves these families with \$302 a month to pay for food, childcare, transportation, and healthcare.

### Imagine having to make these kinds of choices:

- Feeding your children or hiring an attorney to help collect child support from a parent who abandoned the family years ago
- Keeping a roof over your children's heads or hiring an attorney to help you and your children escape an abusive relationship
- Scraping up money to help you and your children relocate because your once affordable housing complex is converting to condominiums or hiring an attorney to help you get an extension on your lease agreement

**Any kind of legal dispute can be catastrophic for these families!**

### Community Law Program's Legal Assistance Program helps clients "help themselves" and can make the difference between:

- Losing their homes or staying to fight unlawful evictions or foreclosures
- Remaining in abusive relationships or breaking free because they are no longer intimidated by the process of filing for divorce

### Community Law Program provides the poor and working poor with equal access to legal assistance. Programs for 2009 included:

- **General Clinic and Self Help Program** – CLP operated approximately 25 free legal advice and self help clinics per month to advise clients about their legal rights and helped them complete forms so they could represent themselves
- **Legal Representation Program** – CLP provided full representation to clients with additional challenges and special needs
- **Information and Referral** – CLP gave clients procedural information and referrals to other valuable community resources
- **Community Counsel Program** – CLP matched qualified nonprofit organizations needing legal assistance with volunteer business attorneys
- **Transitioning Dependent Youth Project** – CLP provided free legal assistance to foster children aged 13 -19
- **Community Education Programs** – CLP educated the general public and community groups about their legal rights and responsibilities through live presentations and written materials

### Community Law Program Objectives

- Expand access to the legal system and provide quality representation to those economically less fortunate through the use of advice clinics, outreach, individual representation, and other programs
- Educate members of the public regarding their legal rights and responsibilities and continue to develop public awareness of the program
- Assist the courts, bar associations, and other agencies to improve the delivery of legal services and access to the court system, especially for low-income individuals
- Establish a consistent funding base to provide for long-range planning and to ensure future assistance to low-income individuals
- Maintain a well-functioning organization that has the capacity to respond to the legal needs of low-income individuals in Pinellas County

**Philanthropic support from individuals plays a critical role in making these services possible.** The need for legal "self help" services is increasing rapidly at the same time that federal funding is shrinking.

*Your philanthropic gifts today are helping to make "justice for all" a reality tomorrow!*

# Program Report

In 2009, Community Law Program provided free legal assistance to 1,358 low-income individuals, families, and nonprofit organizations through closed cases utilizing a combination of legal advice clinics and individual representation. We provided legal information and referrals to other community resources to an additional 2,084 individuals. We also gave presentations about legal rights and responsibilities to client groups totaling 207 individual participants. All of these services were provided on a modest cash budget of a little over \$365,000, a staff of 6, and a panel of 126 volunteer attorneys, who collectively donated 1,985.8 hours for a total in-kind contribution of \$347,515.



The hallmark of Community Law Program's service delivery has always been and continued to be in 2009 its General Clinic Program, whereby income-eligible clients attend subject specific legal advice and self help clinics where they receive free one-on-one, in-person legal assistance from volunteer attorneys. These clinics assist clients with a variety of civil legal matters, including, but not limited to, family law, consumer rights and bankruptcy, tenant's rights, residential foreclosures and other housing law matters, probate, guardianships, and wills and advance directives. During 2009, Community Law Program operated approximately 25 clinic sessions per month in locations readily accessible to vulnerable and underserved client populations, such as senior citizen housing complexes and day centers, inner city community centers including the Childs Park YMCA, and CASA, Inc. Many of the clients seen during these clinics were referred to other volunteer attorneys for full representation. In 2009, we also employed 3 dedicated staff attorneys to oversee three specialized projects that: (1) provided direct

representation to survivors of domestic violence in collaboration with other services received by these survivors at CASA, Inc.; (2) assisted teenagers in the foster care system with legal issues arising as they prepare to age out of the foster care system and transition into adulthood; and (3) matched nonprofit organizations and community coalitions that serve the poor with volunteer business attorneys to receive assistance with incorporating, applying for tax exempt status, and other related transactional legal services.

Here are just a couple of examples among the 3,565 clients helped by Community Law Program in 2009:

## Case 1:

A woman came to us in October. Her car had been seized by the local sheriff in order to satisfy a judgment of indebtedness from an unpaid credit card. The woman's automobile was specially altered to accommodate her physical disability and was her only means of transporting her granddaughter to and from school. The car's value, primarily due to its special alterations, also far exceeded the amount needed to satisfy the judgment. She was referred to CLP in order to find an attorney to help get her car back before its impending sale. With the rapid response of one of our volunteer attorneys, she was able to get her car back and worked out an affordable settlement whereby she could pay off the judgment over time.

## Case 2:

CLP also helped a young boy and his uncle find a silver lining following a painful family tragedy. The young boy was being raised by his father after his mother died several years ago. When they came to us on a referral from Hospice, the father had been recently diagnosed with a terminal illness; his death was imminent. Immediately, we found an attorney to draft the appropriate end of life documents so that the boy's uncle could care for him upon the father's death. Within weeks of getting these documents in place, the father passed away. Soon thereafter, the uncle returned to our office to get help effectuating the father's dying wishes. With our help, the uncle received temporary custody of his nephew (who is now an orphan) until he turns 18 so that he can properly care for him and so that the nephew can continue to grow up in a home surrounded by family, including his four cousins.

# Many Thanks to our 2009 Volunteers

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, we would like to extend a special “thank you” to the 126 attorneys who collectively donated 1,905.8 hours for a total in-kind contribution of \$333,515 in pro bono legal services.

|                          |                     |                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| David Abbey              | Marisa Gonzalez     | Robert Nordstrom      |
| Jeff Adams               | Lynn Gordon         | Kathryn O'Brien       |
| Louie Adcock, Jr.        | Alan Gross          | Eric Paolino          |
| Christine L. Allamanno   | Linda Gruszynski    | Allison Parker        |
| Bernard R. Appleman      | Nyjola Grybauskas   | William Penrose       |
| Britny P. Bacon          | Christopher Guella  | Marilyn Polson        |
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| Jon Barber               | John Hamilton, III  | Donald Reed           |
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| Frances Bimbryer         | April Hill          | Barry Salzman         |
| David Blum               | John Hixenbaugh     | Charles Samaha        |
| William Bostick, Jr.     | Jeanne Hoffmann     | Scot Samis            |
| C. Bryant Boydston, Jr.  | Kevin Hoyes         | Keith Sanders         |
| P.J. Bradley             | Curtis Ihler        | Paul Scherer          |
| Robert Byelick           | Therese Kane        | Amber Schenck         |
| Brett Cameron            | Linda Kapit         | Timothy Schuler       |
| Ana-Maria Carnesoltas    | Robert Kapusta, Jr. | Lois Sears            |
| Colleen Carson           | John Karvonen       | Mary Selter           |
| Maria Chapman            | John E. Kassos      | Peggy Senentz         |
| Robert L. Chapman        | Bruce G. Kaufmann   | Doris Shearer         |
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| Brian Cummings           | Patricia Lee        | William Slicker       |
| Thomas DeBert            | Kyle Lindskog       | Ted Starr             |
| David Del Vecchio        | Donna Lonsberry     | Traci Stevenson       |
| David Delrahim           | Melissa Lum         | Michael Stuckey       |
| Peter Donnatuoni         | Brian Marantz       | Kenneth Swearingen    |
| Richard Earle, III       | Chris Marone        | James Thaler          |
| Charles W. Ehrlich       | Kelly Ann L. May    | Kenneth Thornton      |
| Sepidah Eskandari        | Matthew McCurdy     | Geneviève H. Torres   |
| Dan Ewin                 | Thomas McLain, Jr.  | John Tuthill          |
| Michael Faehner          | Nancy Meyer         | Ginnie Van Kesteren   |
| Laurel Farrell           | Farzad Milani       | Peter Vasti           |
| William Daniel Finlayson | Timothy Miller      | Joan L. Walker        |
| Stephan Freeman          | Kristen Mory        | William H. Walker     |
| Richard Georges          | James Moss          | Callie Weed           |
| Rosemary Gleeson         | Kate Munkittrick    | Gary Williams         |
| Jason Goitia             | David Neiser        | Jeannine Williams     |

## Mission Statement

Community Law Program empowers the most vulnerable in our community through pro bono legal representation and assistance, education, and outreach.

## *Many Thanks to our 2009 Donors*

**Philanthropic support plays a critical role in ensuring that clients have “equal access to justice.” On behalf of the approximately 3,565 clients served in 2009, we thank the many charitable law firms, organizations, and individuals whose financial gifts provide significant program support.**

|                                        |                               |                                                    |                                      |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| David J. Abbey                         | John E.M. Ellis               | Paul Ley                                           | William Schneikart                   |
| Donald Anderson                        | Leonard Englander             | Peter Lousberg                                     | George J. Schriefer                  |
| Warren Angerer                         | Enrique Escarraz              | Eric E. Ludin                                      | Peggy Senentz                        |
| Bernart Appleman                       | Sepideh Eskandari             | Jamy Magro                                         | Bob Shane                            |
| Bruce Austin                           | Mary Evertz                   | Mary Marger                                        | Robert Sharbaugh                     |
| William Ballard                        | Michael Farley                | Thomas D. Masterson                                | Michael D. Siegel                    |
| Barnett, Wolfe, Rice &<br>Dabule, P.A. | Christopher Ferguson          | Robert Mastry                                      | Murray B. Silverstein                |
| Brian Battaglia                        | Luanne Eagle Ferguson         | Leonard A. McCue                                   | William Smiley, Jr.                  |
| Bay News 9                             | Fisher & Sauls, P.A.          | William McGowan                                    | Jeffrey Spies                        |
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| Hon. Robert Beach, Ret.                | J.S. Lucas Fleming            | William B. McQueen                                 | St. Petersburg Bar<br>Foundation     |
| Pamela Bell                            | Hon. Marion Fleming, Ret.     | Farzad Milani                                      | Ted Starr                            |
| Nora Bergman                           | Fontana CPAs, P.A.            | Thomas H. Minkoff                                  | Stetson University<br>College of Law |
| William Blews                          | David L. Foster               | Charles Minnis                                     | Laura Stewart-Pemble                 |
| David Blum                             | Judith Foyle                  | Minor League Baseball                              | Matthew Sullivan                     |
| Richard Botthof                        | Rebecca Frank                 | J. Stanford Morse                                  | Suncoast Hospice                     |
| James J. & Millie Brown                | Bonnie L. Earley Freeman      | Stephen Moskun                                     | Synovus Securities, Inc.             |
| Robert D. Bugg                         | Fulghum Design Builders, Inc. | James Moss                                         | Tangier Deli                         |
| C. Todd Burg                           | Gallagher & Assoc. Law Firm   | Christy Nicholson                                  | Russell Tate                         |
| Robert Byelick                         | General Dynamics              | Stephen Nohlgren                                   | Marc A. Tenney                       |
| Michael L. Cahill                      | Summer Goldman                | Northeast Acupuncture &<br>Oriental Medicine, Inc. | James D. Thaler                      |
| Susan W. Carlson                       | Garth Goodman                 | Northwestern Mutual                                | John Tuthill                         |
| Kevin Carreno                          | Seymour A. Gordon             | Stewart Olson                                      | Deborah Usselman                     |
| David Carter                           | Dana L. Greenbaum             | Dennis Palso                                       | Stephen Valeri                       |
| CASA, Inc.                             | Otto E. Halboth               | Robert L. Paver                                    | Joan Lobianco Walker                 |
| Jeffery K. Chambers                    | David Hall                    | Margaret E. Pearce                                 | David Seth Walker                    |
| Joseph W. Chambers                     | Brian Harrington              | William Penrose                                    | William H. Walker                    |
| Client 1 <sup>st</sup> Advisors, Inc.  | Susan Helms                   | Linda Perrigoue                                    | James Wall                           |
| Beth Coleman                           | Diane Hodson                  | Charles S. Philips                                 | Gretchen Walsh                       |
| Carin Constantine                      | Bruce G. Howie                | Roger Plata                                        | Philip Ware                          |
| Carl & Pamela Cox                      | Gay L. Inskip                 | Elizabeth Porcelli                                 | Jack Weiss                           |
| Bruce Crawford                         | Camille Iurillo               | John Rahter                                        | Sidney Werner                        |
| Brian Cummings                         | Andy Jacobsen                 | Regions Bank                                       | Robert Wharrie                       |
| Dennis Dabroski                        | William C. Kaleel, Jr.        | William Reischmann                                 | Bob Williams                         |
| Danell G. DeBerg                       | Karen Keaton                  | Thomas Reynolds                                    | John Williams                        |
| Deberg & Deberg, P.A.                  | James Kennedy, Jr.            | Martin E. Rice                                     | Douglas M. Williamson                |
| Robert C. Decker                       | Jennifer Kennedy              | Patty Robinson                                     | David F. Wilsey                      |
| Terry J. Deeb                          | Jeffrey Kern                  | Kimberly Rodgers                                   | John C. Wolfe                        |
| Rex Delcamp                            | Neil Kiefer                   | Ruden McClosky                                     | Jeffrey Worman                       |
| Susan S. Demers                        | Karen Kolwey                  | Georgette Rumley                                   | Jowita Wysocka                       |
| Jeffrey DiPolito                       | LeAnne Lake                   | James C. Runyon                                    |                                      |
| Eclipse Energy Systems,<br>Inc.        | Nicholas Lang                 | Barry M. Salzman                                   |                                      |
| Charles W. Ehrlich                     | Kenneth Lark                  | Scot & Keela Samis                                 |                                      |
| John Elias                             | Belinda Lazzara               | Lee W. Schafer                                     |                                      |
|                                        | Morris LeCompte               | Paul C. Scherer                                    |                                      |
|                                        | Patricia Lee                  |                                                    |                                      |

# Financial Report

## Community Law Program, Inc. Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2009 With Comparative Totals for 2008

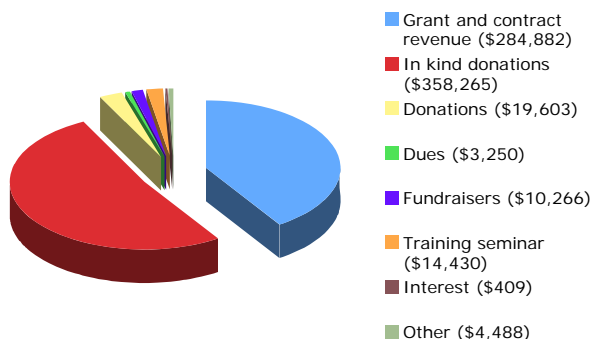
|                                                                               | 2009                  | 2008                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Revenue and other support:</b>                                             |                       |                       |
| Grant and contract revenue                                                    | \$ 284,882            | \$ 313,548            |
| In kind donations*                                                            | 358,265               | 452,139               |
| Donations                                                                     | 19,603                | 26,752                |
| Dues                                                                          | 3,250                 | 4,985                 |
| Fundraisers                                                                   | 10,266                | 3,545                 |
| Training seminar                                                              | 14,430                | —                     |
| Interest                                                                      | 409                   | 2,246                 |
| Other                                                                         | 4,488                 | 896                   |
| Net assets released from restriction -<br>Expiration of time/use restrictions | 25                    | 305                   |
| <b>Total revenue and other support</b>                                        | <b><u>695,618</u></b> | <b><u>804,416</u></b> |

\* In kind revenue consists of pro bono attorney fees of \$333,515 and rent of \$24,751

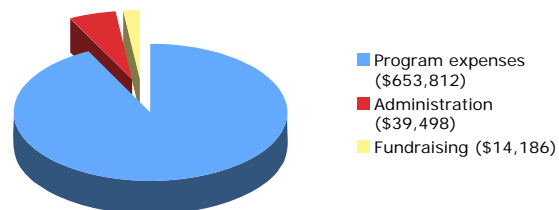
### Expenses:

|                                 |                         |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Program expenses                | \$ 653,812              | \$ 735,927              |
| Supporting services:            |                         |                         |
| Administration                  | 39,498                  | 37,918                  |
| Fundraising                     | <u>14,186</u>           | <u>13,024</u>           |
| Total supporting services       | <u>53,684</u>           | <u>50,942</u>           |
| Total expenses                  | <u>707,496</u>          | <u>786,869</u>          |
| Change in net assets            | (11,903)                | 17,537                  |
| Net assets at beginning of year | 99,253                  | 82,021                  |
| Prior period adjustment         | =                       | =                       |
| Net assets at end of year       | <b><u>\$ 87,350</u></b> | <b><u>\$ 99,253</u></b> |

### 2009 REVENUE (Total \$695,618)



### 2009 EXPENSES (Total \$707,496)



From the Independent Auditors' Report completed by Fontana C.P.A.s, P.A. The complete Audit Report is available upon request.

### Special thanks to the following funders who helped make our programs possible in 2009:

- Florida Department of Community Affairs (Florida Bar Foundation—Florida Access to Civil Legal Assistance sub-grant)
- Legal Services Corporation (Bay Area Legal Services sub-grant)
- U.S. Department of Justice (Pinellas County Foreclosure Fraud Awareness & Prevention Program sub-grant)
- Pinellas County (Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. Legal Aid Services Agreement sub-grant)
- The Florida Bar Foundation:
  - Legal Assistance for the Poor (IOTA)
  - Children's Legal Services Grant
  - Staff Attorney
  - Regional Grant
- Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court Self-Help Center
- State of Florida Guardian ad Litem Office
- Pinellas County Social Action Funding
- Community Action Stops Abuse, Inc. (CASA)
- St. Petersburg Bar Foundation

For more information on Community Law Program, please call Kimberly Rodgers, Executive Director, at (727) 582-7480 or email: [krodgers@lawprogram.org](mailto:krodgers@lawprogram.org).

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