

## ANNUAL REPORT

Providing a Voice for Those in Need for 35 years!

Fiscal Year 2014

#### Note from John & Sue

In 2014, SC Appleseed celebrated 35 years of providing a voice for low-income South Carolinians. Advocating for policies and systemic reforms that help alleviate the effects of poverty now and break the cycle for future generations is not work that we do alone. Your support, along with the support of others in communities and coalitions across the state, help make this work possible. I hope you enjoy the opportunity to learn a bit more about the work you helped us do in 2014.

Our work is not easy or quick, but it is vital. *Thank you for your continued support*—you enable us to dream big about eradicating poverty and work on a solid foundation in place to help make that dream a reality.

John Kassel Board President



#### LAWYERS 4 VETS launched in May 2014.

In its first 6 months, it helped Vets with:

- 30 wills or power of attorneys
- 47 vets seeking pardons or expungements
- 38 child support modifications
- 17 consumer protection issues, such as payday loan issues
- 5 identification issues, including 2 homeless vets who had no ID at all

#### Access to Healthcare

- 5,332 people visited SignUp SC for reliable information about the Affordable Care Act
- Supported Medicaid Expansion in SC, which would provide coverage to over 190,000 people
- Educated 260 people about the Affordable Care Act and their rights and responsibilities through community presentations



194,000 South Carolinians are still in the Medicaid Coverage gap—and SC Appleseed is working on solutions

## Consumer · Protection.

- Provided training to 132 attorneys, magistrates and judges on issues impacting homeowners who face foreclosure
- Protection. Updated and distributed SC Consumer Practice Manual at trainings

#### Affordable Housing & Homelessness

- Helped establish South Carolina's first Homeless Court, which is designed to provide an alternative system
  for handling minor offenses common among homeless individuals, such as vagrancy or panhandling
- Educated 423 people about their rights and responsibilities as tenants and landlords through community presentations



#### **Immigration Reform**

- Worked with the Attorney General to create a plan to combat human trafficking in the state
- Educated 1,659 people about a variety of immigration issues, such as DACA, through community presentations
- Worked with the Department of Social Services (DSS) develop policies to ensure undocumented youth in their custody can receive the legal support they need to obtain a stable legal status, which is vital for their future

There are 221,933 immigrants in South Carolina —and SC Appleseed is working to safeguard their rights!

#### Kids at Risk

- Provided direct assistance on education matters to 155 families
- Testified at legislative hearings on DSS and helped provide information to policy makers
- Created the Give Kids a Chance Campaign (GKAC) coalition, in partnership with the ACLU, to bring together community partners, parents, members of the legal community and others to keep students in school and out of jail.
- Educated over 100 school leaders about Community Eligibility (CEP), which provides free breakfast and lunch to kids in high-poverty schools.
   Today, of the 550 eligible school is SC, over 250 have implemented CEP.

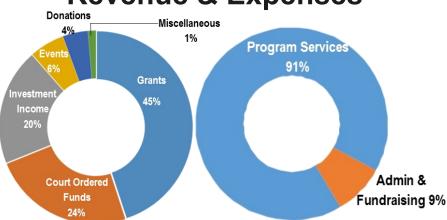


# SC Appleseed provided community education to 3,466 people in 2014

- 22 about expungements and pardons
- 339 about predatory lending
- 45 about hunger and access to public benefits
- 300 about legal issues of veterans and 25 lawyers for the Lawyers 4 Vets clinic

SC Appleseed provided 215 attorneys with low-cost CLEs on mental health, family law, consumer law, trial skills, education and housing law. These attorneys have all committed to taking a pro bono case.

### **Revenue & Expenses**



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, SC Appleseed has grown dramatically since its humble beginnings. Although we have been the lucky and grateful recipients of grant and court ordered funds, we are working hard to increase donations from people and businesses just like you so that we can keep this momentum going. Your contributions are vital to our continued success providing a voice for low-income people in South Carolina.

For a complete list of donors to SC Appleseed in 2014, please visit scjustice.org/annual-report-2014