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The program serves eligible individuals in the counties of Fresno, Tulare, Kings, Merced, Tuolumne and Mariposa. Services are delivered through fully staffed offices located in the cities of Fresno, Merced and Visalia. A small office in Hanford serves exclusively residents of Kings County in domestic violence cases.



“Justice for All” Meeting the Challenges in 2008

Four decades ago, CCLS began providing legal services to people in need and has led efforts to fill gaps in services, change public policies and engage in community economic development.

- CCLS handles more than 5,600 cases annually including consumer law, education, employment, family law, juvenile justice, health access, housing, civil rights and public benefits;
- In 2008, more than 19,000 individuals (includes all household members) benefited from our services;
- We assisted 3,200 families receive over \$5.5 million in federal refunds, of which, \$2.7 million was in Earned Income Tax Credits;
- 1,780 individuals received information on their legal rights through community presentations and outreach events;
- 80,000 individuals obtained legal information via radio and television;
- Fresno Health Consumer Center staff enrolled 1,662 children plus 138 pregnant women receive health insurance coverage;
- Interns provided nearly 4,000 hours of volunteer work to assist clients.

“Thank you so much for your help and support with my case. The process was becoming overwhelming and daunting but with your assistance you made it less intimidating and calm. I can only hope to pay forward your kindness.”
~ Ms. Cerda

“During these economic hard times, I saved more than \$100 in tax preparation fees. The EITC team was helpful in lending assistance and guided me though the process in Spanish. Thanks so much to the EITC team.”
~ Ms. Jimenez

“If the motto ‘and justice for all’ becomes ‘and justice for those who can afford it’, we threaten the very underpinnings of our social contract.”

Chief Justice of California
The Honorable Ronald M. George

Message from the Board President & Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Central California Legal Services, Inc. (CCLS) proudly presents our 2008 Annual Report. Since 1966, we have worked with low-income individuals and communities towards fulfilling the national aspiration of "Justice for All." It is in times like these that the voices of the poor and underserved need more than ever to be heard. The fulfillment of our mission, "To Advance Justice and Empower People" becomes more critical when safety net programs are reduced or eliminated.

In 2008, the deepening recession wrecked havoc on our clients and their communities. Our six-county service area experienced some of the highest mortgage foreclosure rates in the nation. Rural farming communities on the west side of the valley reeled under the continued drought. As fields dried up so did the jobs and the entire economies of those communities. Ever increasing numbers of unemployed workers encountered delays; unable to communicate with the Employment Development Department (EDD) because phone lines were constantly busy.

Working with our collaborative partners, we are making a significant difference:

- Alpaugh residents stopped a \$20 per household water rate increase to domestic water users who were receiving arsenic tainted water. The Alpaugh Joint Powers Authority (AJPA) failed to follow the parameters set out by California's Proposition 218 for water rate increases. CCLS, in collaboration with California Rural Legal Assistance and the Community Water Center, joined forces to prevent AJPA from implementing the increase. After six months of community involvement and diligent work among the organizations, a settlement was reached. More than a third of the community will return to paying the original water rate.
- The Behavioral Health Court (BHC) impacts the lives of young children. Eddie, a remarkable young man, was detained and placed in Juvenile Hall. He had been chained to a stove in the evenings while his mother bought and used drugs. He developed an explosive personality and was getting into trouble. The Fresno County Office of Education (FCOE) refused to conduct special education assessments for youth placed in their schools. Thanks to our staff attorney, the court ordered FCOE to change their practices. After being screened, Eddie was accepted into the BHC. He is now receiving high level services in a facility in the South Bay.

Throughout the year, the community stays informed of our work through newsletters, outreach events, community presentations, the annual Homeless Veteran's Stand Down, pro bono clinics and the use of the print and electronic media. We continue to expand and strengthen existing collaborative efforts and work to forge new ones.

Like so many other non-profit organizations, we find ourselves struggling to provide more services with less money. The services we deliver often represent our clients' only hope for survival. Whether their case is an impact case which will have implications for hundreds or even thousands of others, or an individual eviction case which prevents just their family from falling into homelessness, they are extremely important to our clients.

Our successes are possible only through the combined efforts of our clients, staff, board members, funders and supporters. We thank each and every one of you for the support which you continuously provide. We look forward to working with you to make our nation's aspiration of "Justice for All" come closer to reality.

Sincerely,



Ms. Penny Moore
Board President



Chris A. Schneider
Executive Director

2008 Consolidated Financial Summary

BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Current assets	\$1,525,300
Furn., equip. & library	\$ 75,439
Total assets	\$1,600,739

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities	\$ 741,598
Net Assets	
Total net assets	\$ 859,141
Total liabilities & net assets	\$1,600,739

INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT

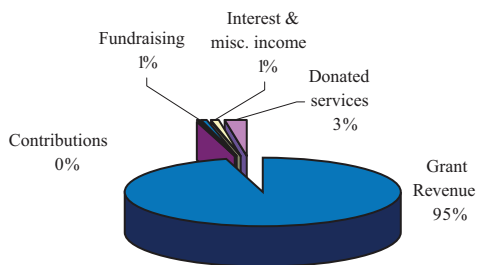
Revenue and Support

Grant revenue	\$5,187,209
Contributions	\$ 3,651
Fundraising	\$ 29,030
Interest & misc. income	\$ 59,764
Donated services	\$ 142,278
Total revenue and support	\$5,421,932

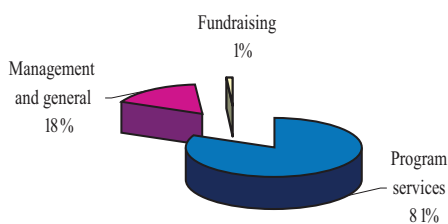
Expenses

Program services	\$4,570,028
Management and general	\$1,024,714
Fundraising	\$ 54,964
Total expenses	\$5,649,706
Net income	\$ 227,774

Revenue and Support



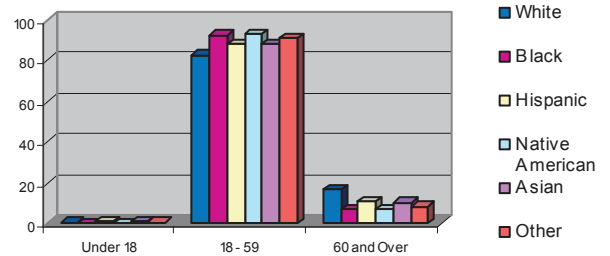
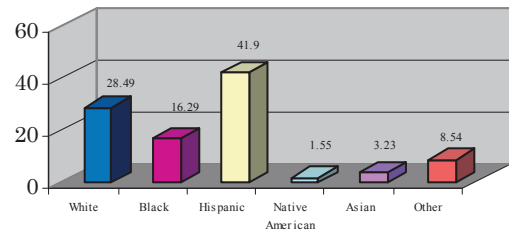
Expenses



Serving the Residents of the San Joaquin Valley

CCLS served more than 5,600 individual cases in 2008, of which, Hispanics/Latinos represented the largest ethnic group at 41.9%, Anglos 28.49%, African-Americans 16.29%, Asian/Pacific Islanders 3.23%, Native Americans at 1.55%, and Other at 8.54%. The vast majority of our clients range from ages 18 to 59 years of age (85%), individuals over 60 represented 10% and individuals under the age of 18 represent 5%.

Ethnicity and Age of Individuals Served



Thank You to our Major Funders

Legal Services Corporation
 The State Bar of California - IOLTA Program & Equal Access Fund
 The California Endowment
 Fresno-Madera Area Agency on Aging
 IRS, Department of the Treasury
 Merced County Area Agency on Aging
 Susan G. Komen for the Cure - Central Valley Affiliate
 Kaiser Permanente
 City of Fresno
 Tulare County Superior Court
 Healthy Communities Access Partners
 Self-Help for the Elderly
 Office of the Patient Advocate
 Fresno County Department of Employment & Temporary Assistance
 Superior Court of California, County of Fresno
 Pfizer, Inc.
 Citibank
 Union Bank of California

CCLS OFFICES

Services are provided at no charge.

FRESNO COUNTY

1401 Fulton Street, Suite 700
Fresno, CA 93721
Phone: (559) 570-1200
Toll free: (800) 675-8001
TTY: (559) 570-1256
Fax: (559) 570-1254

MERCED COUNTY

357 W. Main Street, Suite 201
Merced, CA 95340
Phone: (209) 723-5466
Toll free: (800) 464-3111
TTY: (209) 386-1699 ext. 100
Fax: (209) 723-1315

TULARE COUNTY

208 W. Main Street, Suite U-1
Visalia, CA 93291
Phone: (559) 733-8770
Toll free: (800) 350-3654
TTY: (559) 802-1146 ext. 101
Fax: (559) 635-8096

KINGS COUNTY

1208 N. Douty Street*
Hanford, CA 93230
Phone: (559) 582-1621
Toll free: (800) 417-3296
Fax: (559) 582-8366
**Limited to Domestic Violence
Issues*

For more information,
visit our website at:
www.centralcallegal.org

Helping Build Safe Communities

CCLS is proud of its delivery of quality legal services to low-income individuals. In addition, we also offer the following:

- Voluntary Legal Services Program (VLSP) offers private attorneys and law firms an opportunity to expand services to seniors, veterans, children and families. Private attorneys donate legal services through our clinics, special projects and direct client representation. VLSP provides support to volunteer attorney's including: free liability and malpractice insurance coverage; free access to MCLE accredited training seminars; back-up support from VLSP staff including interpreting, research and case management and ongoing mentoring.
- The Fresno Health Consumer Center (FHCC), a healthcare rights advocacy project, assists low and moderate-income residents of Fresno County with information about health care services through education and representation. We educate consumers about their rights and help consumers understand their health plan benefits. FHCC also helps non-English speaking residents receive medical care in their own language.

With a budget of over \$5.9 million, CCLS employs 65 professionals and support staff who assist eligible individuals throughout our service areas. We serve a diverse clientele in a manner that is both culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate due to our diverse staff, which mirrors our client community. Services are provided at no charge.

We carry out our work in a manner that is both responsive to the latest victims of the economic crisis and continue to assist those whom the economy passed by years ago. We are truly thankful to our individual donors, businesses, foundations and government agencies that gave generously this past year. These donations are critical to the success of our program.