Providing Pro Bono Legal Care to Minnesotans Affected by Cancer

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

I started to cry when the social worker told me about the program. I just couldn’t believe that someone would care about helping people that have nothing left anymore. Thank you so much.
From the Executive Director

The words on the cover of this report are those we at Cancer Legal Line hear every day from our grateful clients. We are proud to share them with you as your financial support and friendship makes it possible for Cancer Legal Line to be here for those in need at a very vulnerable time in their life. Thank you! Your support changes lives for the better and eases a time of great difficulty for so many.

At the heart of our work is the realization that legal problems are health problems. Your support shows that you realize this as well. Without secure housing, employment, or insurance coverage, people living with cancer can’t be well. Without knowing that one’s family is provided and cared for, it is nearly impossible to focus on one’s own care.

Six years ago, there was no easy way to get help with these issues. Six years ago, Cancer Legal Line was only a dream. Your financial support has made this dream a reality for hundreds of your fellow Minnesotans, like Merre and Diana whose stories we share with you here. The Cancer Legal Line board, staff, and I thank you for all you have made possible by your generosity.

With Gratitude,
Lindy

Merre's Story

Insurance denials happen every day. Merre depended on disability insurance when she could no longer work. But, she received a notice from her long-term disability carrier announcing she was “no longer disabled” even though she is a Stage IV leukemia patient needing oral chemotherapy every day for the rest of her life. She couldn’t pay rent and had to move in with her sister when her disability income was denied.

Merre’s rights were protected. CALL volunteer attorney Sally Silk worked to get Merre’s insurance carrier to reverse their denial. Sally was successful and made sure that the award was retroactive to cover the months Merre was without any income whatsoever.

Merre had a plan in place for income in the event of a catastrophic illness, but she needed our help to preserve her right to disability income. Merre is now living independently and has money to pay her monthly health insurance premiums and to build her future.

Cancer Legal Line is the only organization in the Upper Midwest meeting the critical need for legal care cancer patients face.

THANK YOU to our very generous supporters.

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Sheila Engelmeier
2013 SURVEYS

How are we doing in meeting the goals of our mission to reduce stressors and make room for wellness in a cancer patient’s life?

In order to find out, CALL surveyed two groups of constituents: referring physicians and clients. The referring physician survey was sent to 46 health care providers and 76% returned the survey. The client survey was delivered to 65 clients who in our Breast Cancer Legal Program, with a 32% response rate.

From the Client Perspective

We asked women from the Breast Cancer Legal Program:

_How did your legal concern affect your sense of health and well-being before you contacted Cancer Legal Line?_ 50% said the issue had an extremely negative effect.

_How did the help from Cancer Legal Line affect your sense of health and well-being?_ 60% said our intervention had an extremely positive effect.

Our clients tell us that legal care doesn’t just resolve a legal issue. Legal care elevates a cancer patient’s sense of health and well-being.

From the Physician Perspective

Physicians benefit from legal care services, too:

- 100% of the physicians reported that legal concerns have a somewhat (59%) or extremely (41%) negative impact on their patients’ overall health and well-being.

- 91% of the physicians in our survey report CALL’s legal care yields a moderate (26%) or extreme (65%) benefit to the care they are able to provide their patients.
Diana’s Story

So close, yet so far. Diana was a woman in her 20’s who needed a life-saving bone marrow transplant. Her chances of a full recovery were over 95% if she had a perfect sibling match as a donor, and only about 50:50 without a sibling donor. She had a perfect match in her younger brother, Eduardo. But he was living in their native Ecuador. His application for a visa to come to Minnesota was denied.

Bridging the gap. Diana came to Cancer Legal Line via her Social Worker, Leah, at the University of Minnesota. Cancer Legal Line enlisted help from a team of volunteer attorneys at the Fredrikson & Byron law firm. Senator Franken’s office expedited the appeal on humanitarian grounds. The appeal was granted and within 14 days Eduardo was on his way here to help save his sister’s life.

IN 2013:

- 40% of all referrals to CALL came from a Social Worker.
- 75% of our clients were women.
- 76% of our clients lived in the Twin Cities Metro Area.

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Founder and Executive Director

U of M Social Worker Leah Otterlei, Diana and her family, and CALL volunteer attorney Catherine London.
2013 Annual Gala

“Downton Abbey” at the Van Dusen Mansion

Tom and Sheva Sanders
Kristie Schmid
Anne Schmiechen
Pat and Kelly Schuster
Tom and Stacy Seidel
Jill Shannon
Sally Silk and Thomas Wolfe
Arlene Skorich
Thomas and Laurie Smith
Valerie Sorenson
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Eileen Weber
Gwen Welckle
Mary Welfling
Sasha and James Wells
Val Werness
Anthony and Ellen Wilson
Todd Wind
Justin Winkels
Tom and Mollie Wise
Joe and Sandy Wolkowicz
Douglas and Janet Smith Yee
Anika and Ken Yokanovich
Paul and Lindy Yokanovich
Rod and Carla Young
Taylor Young
Lauren Young
Richard and Diana Zera
Carrie Zochert

2013 Annual Gala

“Downton Abbey” at the Van Dusen Mansion
In 2013, CALL provided legal care to 391 clients Minnesotans.
## 2013 Financial Summary

### INCOME

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<td>Events (net of expense)</td>
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<td>Private Donations</td>
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<td>Corporate Contributions</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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### EXPENSE

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<td>Case Consultations</td>
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<td>Breast Cancer Legal Project</td>
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<td>Group Presentations</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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### ASSETS

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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

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<td>Net Assets, Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Net Assets, Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>83,991</td>
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Full financial statements are available to view at the CALL office.

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Cancer Legal Line  
Energy Park Place  
1380 Energy Park Lane, Suite 203  
Saint Paul, MN 55108  
www.cancerlegalline.org

We have made every effort to keep and maintain an accurate listing of our supporters.  
We apologize for any inadvertent omission.