



# PEGASUS

Legal Services for Children



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

[WWW.PEGASUSLAW.ORG](http://WWW.PEGASUSLAW.ORG)

# This Past Year

Dear friends,

On behalf of our clients, please accept my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for another remarkable year of collaboration in our mission to support New Mexico's children and their families. Each member of the Pegasus community - staff, volunteers, Board members, donors, and partners - contributes to the well-being and safety of our clients.

At Pegasus, our mission isn't always an easy one, but it is undeniably vital. As you know, one of our overarching aims at Pegasus is to amplify children's voices in decisions that affect their lives. During a year when every headline points to a new crisis around children, it is especially important that we stay focused on their voices.

The past few years have brought profound challenges, with the pandemic leading to a significant increase in the number of runaway, homeless, and orphaned children, compounded by caregiver losses. In New Mexico, we faced one of the highest rates of parental deaths due to COVID-19, leaving many children and youth in a state of uncertainty. What does that mean for children and youth today?

Pegasus staff are still seeing high numbers of youth seeking emancipation from abusive homes. We are still dealing with a waitlist for Kinship Guardianship services, a result of the pandemic's cascading tragedies.

There is also a disturbing edge to many of our cases: more instances and more severe levels of

violence. Unfortunately, even our own Pegasus staff faced direct threats from adverse parties this past year. These trends, while complex, underscore the profound pain and trauma experienced by adults, which in turn places an enormous burden on children, forcing them to make life-altering decisions far beyond their years.

Our clients are not strangers to adversity. While they are vulnerable, they are also incredibly resilient. They continue to dream of a better life for themselves and their families. Pegasus will be here for them, offering legal support and basic needs resources. We maintain a track record of high success on behalf of our clients. The addition of new staff members enables us to respond even more swiftly to their needs. Together, we will continue to support our clients with expertise and compassion. They may be fighting, but they will not fight alone.

Each and every one of you plays a pivotal role in the success of our work, and ultimately, in the health and well-being of our clients. Together, we will continue to advance the Pegasus mission of amplifying the voices of children and supporting their hope for better lives.

With appreciation,



Bette Fleishman  
Executive Director

## Program Highlights

### THE NEED IS HIGH

We are serving even more children & families than in FY22.



#### ALL PROGRAMS

*2,406 individuals served (up from 2,179 in FY22)*



#### KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP

*1,746 individuals served (up from 1,475 in FY22)*



#### YOUTH LAW

*488 individuals served (up from 472 in FY22)*



#### CLIENT ADVOCACY

*180 clients used services (up from 103 in FY22)*



# Our Community

## Staff

Maranda Aguirre, Staff Attorney  
Mary Cianflone, Development Manager  
Morgan Demic, Kinship Guardianship Director  
Lucia Espinosa-Gonzalez, Dir. of Client Advocacy  
Bette Fleishman, Executive Director  
Jennifer Gamboa, Senior Paralegal  
Dani Garcia Grijalva, Dir. of Outreach & Engagement  
Tatiana Gil, Program Specialist  
Febely Ibarra, Paralegal  
Jen Jones, Director of Finance and Operations  
Verenice Peregrino Pompa, Staff Attorney  
Arielle Vicenti, Paralegal  
Yehimi Yang, Office Manager

## Interns

Adriana Mendoza Ortiz  
Dianna Tenorio  
Eugene Ornelas

## Board of Directors

Meena H. Allen, Esquire - Director  
Darcy Bushnell, JD - Director  
Lora M. Church, MPA, MS - Director  
Daniel H. Hyman - Director  
Matt Loehman - Chair  
Donna Peace, CPA - Treasurer  
Andrew Salazar - Director  
Robert Schwartz, JD - Director  
Moses Winston, JD - Secretary

*Thank you to  
Matt Loehman for  
his work as Board  
Chair this year!*

## Funding Partners

Albuquerque Women's Giving Circle  
Bank of Albuquerque  
Bia-Echo Foundation  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico  
Brindle Foundation  
Buffalo Exchange  
Carl C. Anderson Sr. and Marie Jo Anderson  
Charitable Foundation  
Con Alma Health Foundation  
Clothes Helping Kids, Inc.  
CVRC New Mexico  
Hancock Family Foundation  
La Plazita Institute  
Life Comes From It Fund, a fund of Tides  
Foundation  
NM Access to Justice  
NM Administrative Office of the Courts  
NM Aging & Long-Term Service Department  
NM Children, Youth, and Families Department  
NM Civil Legal Services  
Nusenda Community Rewards  
Pueblo of Isleta  
Pueblo of Laguna  
Pueblo of Santa Ana  
Pueblo of Zuni  
Robert T. Keeler Foundation  
Sandia Foundation  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Santa Fe Community Foundation



## Max Wanted a Better Life for Their Baby

Last year, we met Max, a teen parent to a one-year-old baby. Max's parents had kicked them out the year prior, and so Max was working as a nanny and living on their own. Max dreamed of seeking higher education and becoming a teacher some day. They also knew that being emancipated would offer their baby better and faster access to more resources.

Working full-time and studying for the GED, all while caring for an infant, was incredibly difficult. Max held on to the knowledge that better things were close by for their little family.

When Max arrived at Pegasus, they had already made so much progress on their goals. We were able to help with the final hurdle of legal emancipation. Today, Max is enrolled in college and working part-time. Their baby is healthy and thriving.

# Financial Transparency

## AUDITED FINANCIALS

<b>REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$1,224,274</b>	<b>100%</b>
Contracts	\$752,369	61%
Grants	\$294,000	24%
Contributions	\$58,029	5%
Other Income	\$119,879	10%
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$1,126,354</b>	<b>100%</b>
Program	\$930,895	83%
Management & Admin	\$147,016	13%
Fundraising	\$48,443	4%

Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

**Candid.**

This year, Pegasus earned the “Platinum Transparency 2023” badge from Candid and GuideStar. This award is the highest level a non-profit can attain. It represents our commitment to data transparency for our donors.

You can see our full Candid profile at:  
<https://www.guidestar.org/profile/46-0509986>

## How do we use our funds?

The best way to support our mission and to help our clients is through financial donations. All services are provided at no cost to our clients, who otherwise would not be able to afford attorneys. Many of our clients are children and youth, coming to us after severe trauma in their lives. We also serve a high number of grandparents seeking legal guardianship of their grandchildren. These individuals and families have little to no funds for a lawyer. And, they rarely can solve their legal problems on their own. They need the assistance of professional attorneys and paralegals who understand the nuances of the law.

Our clients deserve access to excellent lawyers. The legal system is complicated. Solving legal problems should not be just reserved for the wealthy. Keeping our services free means keeping our services accessible. Since we do not charge fees, the only way we can pay our staff is through external funding.

Our staff includes expert attorneys and paralegals, specially trained in children’s law. We use funding from government and private sources, as well as generous gifts from donors like you, to pay their salaries. We also use this funding for administrative supplies, such as access to legal software. No amount is too small to help.

## **Your gifts matter.**

*We could not do  
this work without  
people like you.*

## How can I help?

Financial support is the fastest, simplest way to support our mission. Keeping our services free for our clients is of critical importance - and that is what your gifts do.



### MAIL

505 Marquette Ave. NW, Suite 1350  
Albuquerque, NM, 87102



### ONLINE

[www.PegasusLaw.org/Donate](http://www.PegasusLaw.org/Donate)



### TOKEN IBIS

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money to donate to local non-profits.