



PEGASUS
Legal Services for Children



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

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

REVENUE:	\$1,224,274	100%
Contracts	\$752,369	61%
Grants	\$294,000	24%
Contributions	\$58,029	5%
Other Income	\$119,879	10%
EXPENSES:	\$1,126,354	100%
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

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