

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025





MEETING THE MOMENT

Dear Friends,

As we look back on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the community of supporters and partners who make our work possible. This year, Pegasus Legal Services for Children has grown stronger, more impactful, and more committed than ever to protecting the rights and well-being of New Mexico's children.

At Pegasus, we believe that every child deserves safety, stability, and the opportunity to thrive. For over two decades, we've stood beside the most vulnerable members of our community, children facing abuse, neglect, homelessness, or complex legal challenges, with compassionate, no-cost legal representation. This year was not without its challenges. Amid shifting policies, service disruptions, and uncertainty at multiple levels, many of the children and families we serve experienced heightened fear, instability, and hardship. In response, Pegasus stepped up, expanding services and strategically tapping into reserve funding to meet the moment with resilience, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

In response to the growing needs of New Mexico's children and youth, we launched services for undocumented youth and began offering adoption services. These milestones were not achieved alone. They were made possible because people like you believe in justice for all children—regardless of their background or life circumstances. Your donations, your advocacy, and your trust in our mission continue to spark hope and fuel our determination. The work is far from over. As we look to the future, we are committed to deepening our impact, strengthening our programs, and reaching even more children in need.

Thank you for standing with us, and with them.



Bette Fleishman

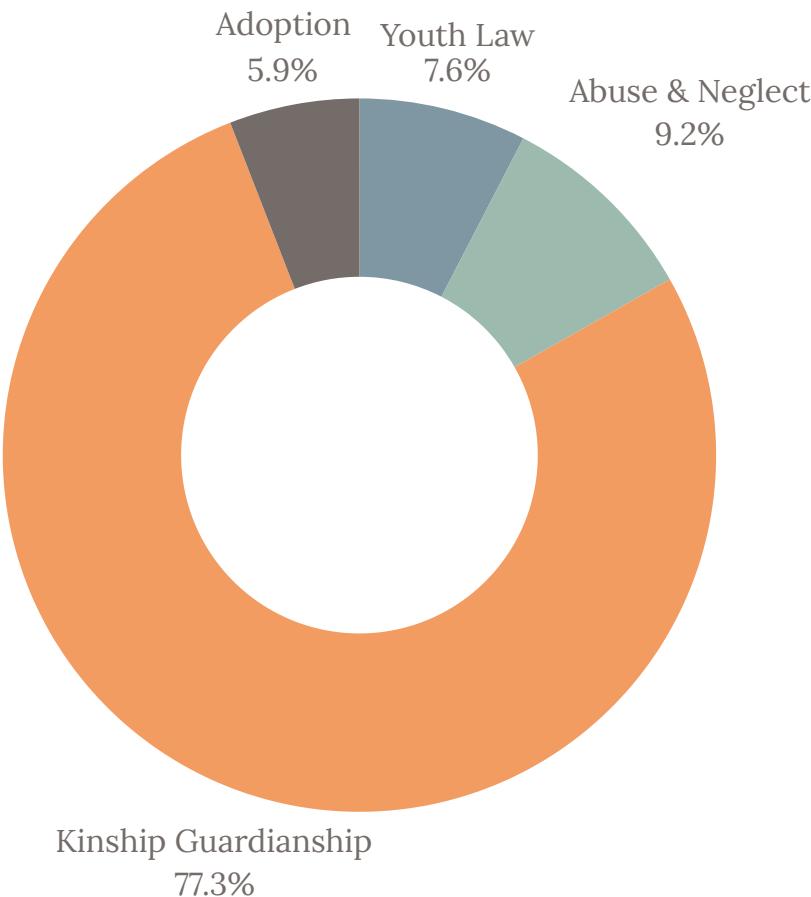
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Robert Schwartz

BOARD CHAIR

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



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This year we made several programming expansions designed to meet shifting community needs. From adding adoption services and legal services for undocumented youth, to taking on challenging abuse and neglect cases, this year is one for the record books. I am so proud of the Pegasus team and all we have accomplished together!

Morgan Demic
Legal Director

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KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP

Our largest program is Kinship Guardianship, which supports children whose parents are unable or unwilling to provide them proper care. Kinship caregivers are relatives or other kin who have stepped up to parent a child in need. Children placed in kinship care are shown to experience better health outcomes compared to those in traditional foster care, as the stability of remaining with their extended family positively impacts their mental and behavioral health. Comparable services from a private attorney begin with a \$5,000 retainer, an unattainable cost for Pegasus clients. Pegasus offers Kinship Guardianship services, including full representation, at no cost to our clients.

KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP LEA & MATEO

Lea lives in northern New Mexico. Lea's niece and her niece's son, Mateo, lived with her when Mateo was a baby. Mateo and his mother moved to New York where they lived until Mateo's mother passed away in a terrible house fire. Mateo's documents and belongings were destroyed, and he began bouncing around his extended family's homes in New York. Mateo's father didn't want to care for him, and Lea knew Mateo needed a permanent home. Lea began pursuing Kinship Guardianship through a private attorney, but after several years, little progress was made. Mateo continued to be moved around family homes from Florida to New York and Lea became increasingly concerned Mateo would be taken into state foster care. A friend recommended Pegasus, and Lea reached out. Pegasus took Lea's case and helped Lea obtain a Kinship Guardianship Order. Mateo has been living with Lea for three years. Mateo is enjoying life in New Mexico, doing well in high school, and playing football and baseball as well as bowling.

Donate today to
support our work!



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Pegasus has been beyond amazing. I am so grateful for everything you have done for me. You led me step by step, got me all the information I needed, and gave me updates as soon as you had them. You held my hand the whole way, calmed me down, and helped me finally resolve my nephew's guardianship. I can't be more appreciative of what Pegasus has done for me and my nephew. I love Pegasus!

Lea, Rio Arriba County

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YOUTH LAW PROGRAM

Our Youth Law Program has a special place in my heart. From helping young parents understand their rights and responsibilities as parents to helping runaway teens enroll in school and continue their education, our youth law program really makes a difference. One thing I wish more folks understood was the importance of emancipation for abused and neglected youth. Emancipation is not something that happens quickly or without extensive consideration. These brave young people have exhausted all options. They have no family to take them in, and they are already working steady jobs and providing for themselves. In these rare situations, emancipation is an essential step in helping these young folks achieve the independence they need to craft their futures. Assisting these young people in taking control of their lives, pursuing their education and careers, and achieving their dreams is something I'm really honored Pegasus can be a part of.

Maranda Aguirre
Supervising Attorney

AUDITED FINANCIALS

REVENUE **\$1,493,321** 100%

Contracts	\$1,158,580	78%
Grants	\$263,500	18%
Contributions	\$50,558	3%
Other Income	\$20,683	1%

EXPENSES **\$1,648,005** 100%

Program	\$1,311,718	80%
Administration	\$253,302	15%
Fundraising	\$82,985	5%





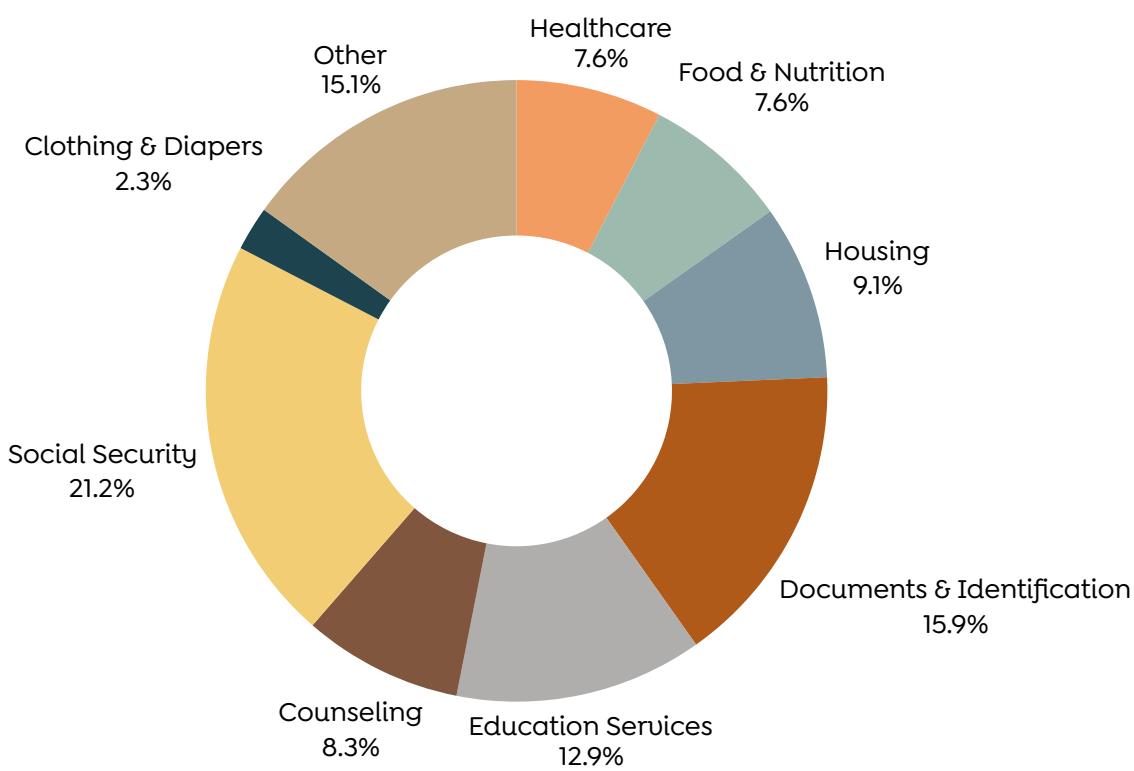
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Pegasus recognizes that families not only need legal services, but that caregivers also face a lack of access to resources and public benefits. My goal as a Client Advocate is to help our clients access public benefits and community services like Medicaid, SNAP, and WIC. I also assist the families in accessing mental health services and recreational activities. It is a privilege to support dedicated caregivers in finding the resources they require to provide children in their care happy and healthy homes.

Lucia Espinosa-Gonzalez
Client Advocate

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CLIENT ADVOCACY



PEGASUS STAFF

Maranda Aguirre - Supervising Attorney
Alenka Arvizo - Dir. of Outreach & Engagement
Yehimi Chavez - Office Manager
Morgan Demic - Legal Director
Lucia Espinosa Gonzalez - Client Advocate
Bette Fleishman - Executive Director
Stephanie Flores Martinez - Paralegal
Tatiana Gil - Program Specialist
Angelina González-Aller - Dir. of Advancement
Heather Hughes - Paralegal
Mikayla Ortega-Speight - Staff Attorney
Becca Pott - Controller
Fatima Turino - Paralegal
Julia Adams Valencia - Staff Attorney
Arielle Vicenti - Supervising Paralegal

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NM Children, Youth & Families Department
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Pegasus is also grateful for the support we receive from many generous individual, family, and business donors! Thank you all!

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

VIA CHECK BY MAIL



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

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IS
For
all!