This Report shows our impact

in 2019, before COVID-19 devastated the Greater Hartford community’s low-income residents with unemployment and illness. Even before the pandemic, low-income people encountered life-challenging problems they couldn’t resolve because our legal systems can be a complex maze. GHLA lawyers navigate that maze for clients to help them find stability, safety, hope and justice.

Our attorneys and support staff improved clients’ lives through individual representation, complex litigation, policy and systemic reform advocacy, and know-your-rights presentations and community collaborations. Client perspectives inform us, and we are deeply rooted in the low-income social services provider and advocacy communities.

These snapshots show our priorities and impact pursuing our mission of justice.

“\[I’m grateful and feel blessed – if it wasn’t for GHLA I probably would be homeless.\]”

IMPACT in numbers:

We pursued justice and attained basic human needs for people living in poverty through:

- 3790 legal matters
- 1645 newly opened cases

And helped:

- 2230 people through community legal education
- 1000s more through systemic litigation and advocacy
SAFETY NET:
Won a substantial refund for a refugee family that had been mistakenly charged with a benefits overpayment.

Attained sign language interpreters through Video Relay Interpretation for DSS field offices, in partnership with Disability Rights Connecticut.

HOUSING:
Distributed $1.6 million in relocation benefits to tenants who were displaced from their condemned apartments.

Helped rewrite the Hartford Housing Code to mandate decent conditions.

JOBS:
Won back pay and positive references for a nursing assistant who was fired because of pregnancy.

Defended laws protecting low-wage workers, including unemployment eligibility and allowing home care workers to change employers without penalty.

EDUCATION:
Helped students with disabilities stay in school.

Supported the community’s advocacy to improve equity in the Manchester Public Schools.

SAFETY FROM VIOLENCE:
Increased safety and stability for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Collaborated with community organization Make the Road CT on three legal clinics providing consultations to more than a dozen immigrants.

SELF-DETERMINATION:
Provided on-site legal services at low-income senior housing and senior centers, including preparing advance directives.

Won home care services for a senior by demonstrating that without them her serious but intermittent symptoms would require nursing home placement.

HEALTH:
Launched Medical Legal Partnership with Hartford HealthCare, and in the first week resolved a patient’s legal problem so that he could leave the hospital for step-down care.

RACIAL JUSTICE:
Supported launching the Manchester Latino Affairs Council and worked with African-American and Black Affairs Council (AABAC) Manchester, furthering activism for racial justice in Greater Hartford.

PRO BONO PARTNERSHIPS:
Held a one-day Pardon Clinic which assisted 56 people in filing applications for full pardons so they can get good jobs and apartments previously not available to them.