

HAP BY THE  
NUMBERS

3,075

Homeless clients,  
including 139  
homeless veterans,  
who were helped by  
HAP in 2018.

1,984

Veterans whom  
HAP has helped  
secure VA and other  
benefits since 2001.

350

Lawyers, paralegals,  
and law students  
who volunteer  
each year for HAP  
and engage in  
direct outreach to  
homeless  
individuals in need  
of legal services.

120

HAP legal clinics  
held last year in  
soup kitchens,  
homeless shelters,  
day centers, and  
transitional housing  
facilities, including  
17 veterans-only  
legal clinics located  
throughout the City.

25

HAP legal service  
clinic sites  
throughout  
Philadelphia.

## Letter from HAP Board President, Nancy A. Smith, Esquire



The Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP) has accomplished much over the past year. In January 2018, we began the process of reviewing and revising our Strategic Plan. Throughout 2018, a team of Board members, HAP staff, and outside consultants met on several occasions to tackle this project. And last December, we completed our 2019-2022 Strategic Road Map.

As part of that process, we emerged with a new vision and mission for HAP.

**Vision:** All Philadelphians at risk of or experiencing homelessness have equal access to justice and the means to secure, safe and stable housing.

**Mission:** To provide free civil legal services and advocacy to reduce the frequency and duration of homelessness in Philadelphia.

We also strategized on and developed action items to help HAP enhance and balance the clinic and staff project case models to best meet the needs of the clients, to help HAP staff more effectively allocate their time and resources, and to strengthen HAP's partnerships with law firms, law schools, and corporations. Through the strategic planning process, we believe that HAP is better positioned to serve its clients and help ensure homelessness is rare and brief.

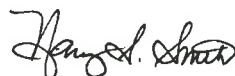
You may have noticed the new HAP logo on this newsletter. This year, we are working with Paragraph Inc., a brand marketing agency, to create a revitalized brand that more accurately represents HAP and our mission. As a starting point, the agency interviewed HAP's partners, clients, Board members, and staff members. In describing HAP, the following words were used most often: "committed," "compassionate," and "passionate." The new logo and tagline are the result of their efforts to capture our mission and better reflect HAP's role in the community.

2019 continued to be a busy year. Through a Duffy Fellowship, made possible by HAP Board Member Tom Duffy, HAP launched the Duffy KARE (Kensington Advocacy, Representation, and Empowerment) Project in January of this year. Through the Duffy KARE Project, HAP is providing free civil legal services to individuals suffering from opioid dependence. HAP also launched a new legal clinic at the Storefront in Kensington, the epicenter of the opioid crisis. This clinic is focused on serving a population that is in crisis and greatly in need of our services. More information on this initiative may be found in this newsletter.

On the advocacy front, HAP staff and Board members authored an amicus brief on behalf of homeless community service providers, including Bethesda Project, Catholic Worker Free Clinic, Pathways to Housing PA, and St. Francis Inn, in support of the creation of a safe injection site in Philadelphia—the first of its kind in the United States. HAP well understands the close connection between opioid use disorder and homelessness and supports the safe injection site as a critical vehicle for providing essential services and saving lives.

These accomplishments are truly remarkable when combined with HAP's ongoing efforts on the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Project, the Veterans Project, and the Children, Youth, and Families Project which have helped thousands of individuals and families over the years. It is a testament to the dedication and commitment of HAP's staff and Board. And HAP's success would not be possible without your continued support. Your generosity is an important reason why HAP is able to address the ongoing and ever-changing challenges and to continue to be an effective legal services provider and advocate for its many clients. Together we are working to make the vision a reality.

Sincerely,



## Inside HAP



**Kay Lawal** joined the HAP legal team in July 2019 as a paralegal. Kay works on the DHS SOAR (SSI Outreach Access & Recovery) Project, specifically with youth aging out of foster care and parents trying to achieve reunification with their children.

Prior to joining HAP, Kay worked in private practice, assisting clients with Social Security benefits, Employment Law issues, Civil Rights violations, and Workers' Compensation cases. Kay previously attended the University of Virginia School of Law where she was involved in the Domestic Violence Project and volunteered with the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society for two years. Kay also participated in a Poverty Law clinic, assisting clients applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Veterans Benefits.



Summer law interns **Sean Fahy** and **Bridget Lavender** met with clients at the July 16 birth certificate clinic at Morgan Lewis. Altogether, 28 HAP volunteers processed a total of 64 birth certificate applications for adults and 21 for children. HAP birth certificate clinics are also held at Comcast and PECO/Exelon.



Michele Levy

Congratulations to  
**Michele (Shelly) Levy**  
and  
**Margianne (Margie) Smith**  
who are each approaching their  
20-year anniversary at HAP.



Margianne Smith

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Kay Lawal	Joy Harris
Patrick McNeil	

## Duffy KARE Clinic



HAP Staff (L to R):  
Madeline Sherry, Alie Muolo,  
Marsha Cohen at the first  
Duffy KARE Clinic on 2/1/19.

In January 2019, with generous funding from HAP Board Member Tom Duffy, HAP launched the Kensington, Advocacy, Representation, and Empowerment (KARE) Project. Due in large part to the opioid crisis, the homeless population in Kensington has more than doubled over the last two years.

In 2017, 1,200 people died from drug overdoses in Philadelphia, nearly four times as many as were killed by homicide. The opioid crisis has increased the number of individuals suffering street homelessness.

By the summer of 2018, there were approximately 1,400 unsheltered individuals in Philadelphia, 700 of whom were experiencing street homelessness in Kensington and Fairhill, and often suffering from addiction and serious mental health issues. In response, Mayor Kenney signed Opioid Emergency Response Executive Order 3-18 in October 2018, declaring a citywide emergency and empowering City agencies to come together immediately to address the problem.

The City closed opioid-related encampments and referred encampment residents to treatment and more stable housing options. The Duffy Fellowship enables HAP to provide direct outreach to meet the legal and advocacy needs of homeless individuals throughout Kensington. With the ultimate goal of helping individuals achieve housing stability and independence, the Duffy KARE Project provides comprehensive legal assistance to individuals, including those displaced by the homeless encampment closures, focusing on access to treatment and disability benefits through SOAR, HAP's fast-track Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application process for homeless individuals with serious medical impairments.

By partnering with providers within Kensington, HAP is working to ensure that individuals suffering with this disorder, are readily offered services, including Medical-Assisted Treatment and rehab, rather than citations or jail time.

## Pennsylvania's General Assistance Program Eliminated

Pennsylvania's General Assistance Program (GA) has provided \$205 a month to the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians who have temporary or permanent disabilities that prevent them from working. As of January 2019, the most recent month for which data is available, the GA Program had more than 6,678 enrollees, half of whom live in Philadelphia.

Many of these individuals have no other income and GA helps them transition to a more stable life. In 2012, Governor Tom Corbett and the Republican-led Legislature eliminated GA. In 2018, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned that law, finding it unconstitutional, and reinstated GA.

In July 2019, the Pennsylvania Senate voted to eliminate General Assistance, with benefits terminating on August 1, 2019. With the termination of GA, Pennsylvania's poorest citizens, those in treatment for addiction, adults with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, and other vulnerable populations will again lose access to this critical source of income.

As in 2012, when PA first eliminated GA, HAP's other benefits work, including VA and SSI/SSDI, now become all the more critical for disabled clients seeking stability in their lives.



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**Please complete this form and mail it to:**  
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Online donations are also possible by visiting [haplegal.org](http://haplegal.org)

**Thank you for your interest and help.**

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## HAP Annual Benefit

This year's Annual Benefit was held at the Sofitel Philadelphia on April 4, 2019. Led by Event Co-Chairs Larry Kotler and Sandra Madden, the Benefit raised \$245,000 through sponsorships, ticket sales, private donations, and a silent auction. Many thanks to the Fundraising Committee consisting of HAP Board Members: Laura Grossi-Tyson, Jennedy Johnson, Margie Morris, Jeff Palazzese, Madeline Sherry, Nancy Smith, and Tom Wamser.

**Please SAVE THE DATE**

**HAP's 30th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2020. Location TBD.**

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Attendees from Hogan Lovells  
Seated L-R: Chris Zerweck (former employee), Amanda Tiradentes, Kiante Dargan, Jaihra Davis. Standing L-R: Carol Siu, Becky Rose, David McDonald



Attendees from Comcast L-R: Julia Pudlin, Laura Curran, Claudia Salcedo



## Thank you for contributing to HAP's 2018 Annual Appeal and/or the United Way Donor Choice

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**LOCATION TBD**