



HOMELESS ADVOCACY PROJECT

*Helping to Break the Cycle of Poverty and Homelessness*

### HAP by the Numbers

**3,050**

Homeless clients, including 183 homeless veterans, who were helped by HAP in 2016.

**1,700**

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

**350**

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

**134**

HAP legal clinics held last year in soup kitchens, homeless shelters, day centers, and transitional housing facilities, including 19 veterans-only legal clinics located throughout the City.

**25**

HAP legal service clinic sites throughout Philadelphia.

**10**

Years HAP's SOAR (SSI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) Project has operated in Philadelphia, helping secure rapid SSI disability benefits for over 1,800 clients.

# HAPPENINGS

Summer 2017

## Letter from HAP Board President, Grant S. Palmer, Esquire

Dear loyal friends, supporters, and volunteers,



This past year has been a busy and successful time for the Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP). In addition to starting new projects with the Department of Behavioral Health, expanding our work with the Department of Human Services (DHS), and planning to launch a new SOAR Justice Project, HAP prevailed in its law suit against New York City. In April, U.S. District Judge William Pauley III approved a settlement agreement in HAP v. New York City that makes it possible for homeless individuals born in New York City to obtain their NYC birth certificates, even when they don't have a government-issued photo ID. Thanks to the effort of HAP and its volunteer attorneys, New York City's new policy allows attorneys to use their own state-issued photo IDs to obtain birth certificates on behalf of their clients. Birth certificates are often the first step to accessing critical state identification which is necessary for subsidized housing, treatment, and a host of other social services essential to independent living. HAP has been delighted by the reaction from providers across the country who had been stymied in their efforts to help their NYC-born clients move on. You can read more about the case, including the pleadings, agreement, and press, by visiting HAP's website at [www.homelessadvocacyproject.org](http://www.homelessadvocacyproject.org).

2017 marks the 10th Anniversary of HAP's SOAR Project in Philadelphia. Through SOAR, HAP helps disabled homeless adults and youth aging out of dependency and delinquency care to secure immediate access to disability income and accompanying medical insurance on a rapid basis. In July, HAP expanded its work with DHS to offer SOAR to disabled caregivers of children under DHS care as a tool to prevent family dissolution as well as support stability for family reunification. The purpose of this contract is to decrease the growing number of disabled youth who become homeless upon aging out of the DHS system and to mitigate the risk of homelessness for DHS-involved families working towards reunification.

HAP's formal partnership with the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) began in July 2017. In a new contract, HAP will help some of the most medically fragile and disabled adults in our community access rapid SSI/medical benefits through HAP's SOAR Project. SSI/SSDI is a major factor in helping these clients become stabilized.

We appreciate your continued interest in and support of the Homeless Advocacy Project. Together, we are working to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness in Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

## 2017 HAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sara Brandes  
Dennis Brennan  
Jon Cochran  
Thomas Duffy  
Jennings F. Durand  
Michael Eagles  
Jack L. Foltz  
Kenneth L. Gibb  
Laura Grossi-Tyson  
Stephen Harvey  
Michael B. Hayes  
Jennedy Johnson  
Jon Katona  
Joseph Kernen  
Gregory Kleiber  
Lawrence J. Kotler  
Lori L. Lasher  
Michael D. LiPuma  
Sandra Madden  
Susan May  
Brooke E. McGlenn  
Eric Meyer  
Margaret A. Morris  
Constance Naylor  
David Newmann  
Brian S. North  
Jeff P. Palazzese  
Grant S. Palmer  
Wesley R. Payne IV  
Brian D. Pedrow  
Heather E. Rennie  
Jessica A. Rickabaugh  
Jennifer L. Seme  
Carol Nelson Shepherd  
Madeline M. Sherry  
Nancy A. Smith  
Scott P. Towers  
George A. Voegele, Jr.  
Thomas J. Wamsler  
Laura Weinbaum

### EX OFFICIO

Christopher C. Fallon, Jr.  
E. Blaine Stanley  
Joseph A. Sullivan  
Geanne K. Zellkowitz

### HAP STAFF

**Executive Director**  
Marsha I. Cohen  
**Managing Attorney**  
Michele Levy  
**Staff Attorneys**  
Neha Yadav Chiaramonte  
Laura Kolb  
Patricia Malley  
Alie Muolo  
Meg Retz  
Michael Taub  
**Director of Development**  
Alexandra Morigi  
**Director of Operations**  
Tanya Rambert  
**Office Administrator**  
Margianne P. Smith  
**Office Assistant**  
Joy Harris

## Success Story—HAP's SOAR Project



Lincoln Financial Group Senior Counsel and Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP) Adopt Coordinator volunteer **Nancy Smith** met CB at a 2012 HAP legal clinic at The Salvation Army Eliza Shirley House. CB, a 52-year old woman, had recently been released after serving five years in prison and was suffering from serious mental health symptoms and rheumatoid arthritis. Nancy met with CB several times and obtained medical evidence and other information to evaluate this client's case for inclusion in HAP's celebrated SOAR Project (an initial SSI/SSDI

disability fast tracked application process). After thorough evaluation and despite the fact that CB was seriously impaired, Nancy determined that CB's case did not meet the SOAR criteria due to insufficient medical treatment and documentation of CB's impairments. Nancy advised CB that she should seek additional treatment and explained that she would be happy to re-evaluate her case in the future.

Many months later, after additional medical treatment, CB contacted Nancy who again spoke with the client's doctor and therapist, obtained additional medical evidence, and was able to fully document CB's severe rheumatoid arthritis, psychiatric ailments, and the resulting functional limitations. Nancy submitted a SOAR claim and after advocating on CB's behalf for over a year, CB was awarded SSI benefits, including months of back benefits for the period during which her claim was pending. With her SSI income, CB was finally able to move from shelter into a home of her own.

Since 2010, through HAP's legal services programs, Nancy and her team at Lincoln Financial Group have represented 215 homeless clients with birth certificate cases, including complicated out of state cases, Section 8/PHA Housing and utilities cases, and multiple SOAR cases.

*Nancy is a Vice President and Assistant Corporate Secretary for Lincoln Financial Group. Nancy joined the HAP Board of Directors in 2013 and currently serves as a Vice President on HAP's Executive Board. She is also the Adopt Coordinator at HAP's legal clinic at The Salvation Army Eliza Shirley House.*

*HAP's SOAR Project is ranked as the number one program in the country, helping homeless disabled adults and youth aging out of foster care obtain SSI/SSDI benefits on a rapid basis. The Project has maintained a 98% approval rate while rapidly securing SSI/SSDI benefits for more than 1,800 clients with an average of only 52 days wait time from filing to determination. SSI/SSDI claims for homeless individuals outside of the SOAR Project are approved only 10% to 15% of the time, which means most homeless claimants face an arduous appeal process that can take more than two years until a decision is reached – a wait during which the person, too sick to work, is trapped in homelessness, trying to survive with no income.*

## HAP and Advocacy

HAP's commitment to advocacy on behalf of men, women, and children who are homeless or unstably housed in Philadelphia has never been more critical. In partnership with other organizations at the local, state, and national level, HAP actively voices our opposition to any proposal that threatens access to healthcare, food, education, housing, and other vital services that our clients, especially those most vulnerable, rely upon for survival. On the federal level, HUD's proposed budget cuts, including the total elimination of the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, are alarming. Vigilance is needed to guard against federal and state changes to the Medicaid program that would likely cause HAP's clients significant hardship. HAP opposes any changes that will make it harder for poor individuals and families to access the healthcare they need and deserve.

## Volunteers—One of HAP's Most Treasured Resources

Each year, HAP's staff of 13 (8 of whom are attorneys), plus a dedicated corps of 350 volunteer lawyers, paralegals, and law students provide legal services to homeless individuals and families at 125 legal clinics in 25 shelters, transitional housing sites, overnight cafes, and soup kitchens across Philadelphia. Forty-three law firms and corporate legal departments have also "adopted-a-shelter" and staff a HAP legal clinic at their shelters on a monthly or bimonthly basis.

We spoke with two volunteers to learn more about their pro bono experiences with HAP.

**Louise Cummings** is an attorney at Comcast Cable, working with the content acquisition group under cable legal and with networks on licensing transactions.



Louise began volunteering with HAP in early 2016 when she joined Comcast's newly formed Pro Bono Committee. Her Comcast colleague and HAP Board Member, Michael Eagles, volunteered at the Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission's bimonthly HAP legal clinic, jointly adopted by Comcast and Ballard Spahr. Mike encouraged Louise to get involved with HAP.



**Suzanne Lufadeju** works at Ballard Spahr in Wilmington, specializing in commercial litigation.

Last year, Suzanne attended an on-site SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery) training at Ballard Spahr led by HAP staff attorney Meg Retz. It was here that Suzanne and Louise first met and where Meg encouraged them to work together on a case.

Louise and Suzanne have since collaborated on two important cases. In September 2016, they helped a 33-year old mother of three who was disabled by severe PTSD obtain \$1,000+ a month in SSDI benefits. This past May, they secured SSI benefits for a 65-year old transient woman with schizophrenia and HIV. These benefits allowed their clients to move from emergency shelters into apartments of their own.

Louise has been very active in coordinating some of the bigger birth certificate clinics at PECO, Project HOME, and the Free Library of Philadelphia. She loves giving back and helping other attorneys, paralegals, and administrators to engage in pro bono activities. Louise has wisely observed that people have a misperception about the face of homelessness. She explains that people don't understand that two-thirds of the homeless population are parents with children living in emergency shelter, invisible to the general population. Louise spoke with a colleague who recently volunteered at a birth certificate clinic. He said it was amazing to meet the women and their children at the clinic, to talk to them, and to help them get their IDs. Louise feels that she is giving back two-fold: she's helping clients and directly educating her colleagues about the true face of homelessness.

Suzanne's volunteer efforts with HAP focus primarily on SOAR cases. Being a mother herself, Suzanne enjoys helping other women with children so that they can support their families. Suzanne gets satisfaction from assisting those who need help and who would otherwise have trouble navigating the system. Suzanne explains, "I see our helping them as a way to give them the support they need to move beyond poverty and homelessness."

**To learn more about HAP's volunteer program, please contact Marsha Cohen, HAP Executive Director, at [marsha@haplegal.org](mailto:marsha@haplegal.org).**

## HAP Annual Benefit

Homeless Advocacy Project hosted its Annual Benefit on April 6, 2017. Led by Event Co-Chairs Sara Brandes, Sandra Madden, and Jennifer Seme, this year's Benefit raised \$210,000 through sponsorships, ticket sales, private donations, and a silent auction. Many thanks to the Fundraising Committee consisting of HAP Board Members: Laura Grossi-Tyson, Margie Morris, Jeff Palazzese, Carol Nelson Shepherd, Madeline Sherry, Nancy Smith, Blaine Stanley, and Tom Wamser.

## Thank You to our Generous Sponsors

### DIAMOND

Lincoln Financial Foundation | Morgan Lewis

### GOLD

PNC Wealth Management | Blank Rome | Exelon  
Robert E. Keith, Jr. | Merck

### PEARL

Fox Rothschild | Reed Smith  
Ballard Spahr | Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney | Comcast  
Cozen O'Connor | Dechert | DLA Piper US | Duffy + Partners  
Jack Foltz | Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller  
Hogan Lovells US | Pepper Hamilton | Saul Ewing | White and Williams

### SILVER

LexisNexis | The Reliable Companies  
Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg | Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads | Reger Rizzo & Darnall  
Reilly, Janiczek, McDevitt, Henrich & Cholden, P.C. | Soloman Law

### BRONZE

Chris Fallon, Jr. | Margolis Edelstein | Julie and Tom Wamser  
Beneficial Bank | Feldman Shepherd Wohlgeleinter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig  
Subaru of America, Inc.  
Nancy Smith  
Dilworth Paxson | Duane Morris | Courtney and Chuck Ercole  
Gibbons | Independence Foundation | Kline & Specter  
Rita and Lawrence Kotler | Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin | Panitch Schwarze Belisario & Nadel | Philadelphia Bar Association | Raynes McCarty | Nancy and John Rogers  
Saltz, Mongeluzzi, Barrett & Bendesky | Carol Nelson Shepherd  
Madeline Sherry and Frank Devine | E. Blaine Stanley  
USI Affinity | Wapner Newman Wigrizer Brecher & Miller



Executive Director Marsha Cohen (2nd from left)  
and HAP Board Members



L-R: HAP Intern Megan Ruth and HAP Staff  
Attorneys Alie Muolo and Neha Yadav Chiaramonte

**Save the Date | HAP Annual Benefit | April 5, 2018**

## Foundation Grants

Alpin Cameron Foundation	Gibson Holden Foundation	Perimeter
Breaking the Cycle Foundation	Independence Foundation	Pew Charitable Trusts
City of Philadelphia DBH Contract	IOLTA	Philadelphia Bar Foundation
City of Philadelphia DHS Contract	IOLTA Drexel Law	Philadelphia Foundation
City of Philadelphia OHS Contract	JEVS	PNC Wealth Management
Claneil Foundation	Lincoln Financial Foundation	United Way Donor Choice
Duffy Fellowship	Merck	Veteran's Administration
Exelon Foundation	Patricia Kind Family Foundation	



## Thank you for contributing to HAP's 2016 Annual Appeal and HAP's 2016/2017 United Way Donor Choice

Ace Charitable Foundation  
Amy Adelman  
Thomas Alexander\*  
Marcia Allen  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerrold Anders  
Denise Aniatang  
Francine Appleton  
Bree Archambault  
Joseph Patrick Archie  
Robert Ashbrook  
George Audi  
Diana Avena  
Sandra Ballard  
Elizabeth Barbis  
Jeanne Barnum  
Jane and Richard Baron  
Trudy Batzel\*  
Amal Bass  
Kimberly Bavaria  
John Beiter  
Deborah Berger  
Richard Berkman and  
Toni Seidl  
Nancy and Martin Black  
Blank Rome  
Lynne Bloom  
Michael Bloom  
Marcia Bloomfield  
Claude Boni  
Paul Boni  
Paul Bonney  
Charlotte Bradley  
Sara Brandes  
Patrick Branigan  
Dennis Brennan  
Justin Bresson  
Bridget Briggs  
Coleen Brogan  
Kathleen Brogan\*  
Teresa Brosious\*  
Alvin Brothers  
Lynne Brown  
Leon Browning  
Patricia Buck  
Michael Byrne  
Andrew Cantor  
Michael Cerrato  
Edward Chacker  
Ashely Chan  
John Chou and Teresa Wallace  
Jon Cochran  
Margaret Cochran  
Norman Cohen  
Joseph Cohn  
Lynn Collins  
James Conmy  
F. Kevin Connors  
Julia and Craig Corelli  
Janet Cunningham  
Jocelyn and Michael Dalkin  
David and Gail Hofstein Fund  
Solomon David  
Kecia Davis  
Thomas Decker  
Bryan Deely  
Maron Deering  
Margaret Denton  
Gerard Dever  
Diana Donaldson

Kirk Dorn  
Eleanor Dougherty  
Lisa Dougherty  
Daniel Drecksage and  
Leslie Sudock  
Thomas Duffy  
Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Dunn  
Jennings Durand  
Michael Eagles  
Michael Edwards  
Eve Egerter  
Malvin Eisenberg  
Michael Exler  
Christopher Fallon, Jr.  
Heather Faltin  
Feldman Shepherd  
Wohlgeleenter Tanner  
Weinstock Dodig  
Elliott Feldman and  
Cindy Mogul  
Lisa Felix  
H. Robert Fiebach  
Ethan Fogel  
Marilyn Fogel  
Dottie and Jack Foltz  
Eric Frank  
Barbara and Bruce Franzel  
Carl Fridy  
Isla Fruchter  
Audrey Gaffney  
Rochelle Galloway  
Geraldine Geckle  
Stanley Geiger  
Laura Genovese  
Ken Gibb  
James Giles  
Steven Giuliano  
Dana and Larry Goode  
Steven Goudsouzian  
Ellen Greenlee  
Joseph Gribbin  
Laura Grossi-Tyson  
Margret and Erik Hagar  
Zan Hale  
Jennifer Hanna  
Judith Hanratty  
Rich Hanson  
Dana Harper  
Sarah Harrington  
Stephen Harvey  
Sandra Maki Hashimi  
Lawrence Hastings  
Veronica Hawkins  
Michael Hayes  
Julie Haywood  
Patricia Henrich  
Kathy Herman  
Rhonda Hill Wilson  
David Hofstein  
Thomas More Holland  
Deborah and Christopher  
Houlihan  
David Hudiak  
Camille Introcaso  
Jacquelyn Jackson

Jeffrey Jacobs  
Fred Jacoby  
Dariel and John Jamieson  
Lee and Dale Janssen  
Theresa Jett  
Carolyn Johnson  
Denise Johnson  
Jane Johnston  
Stephen Josel  
Lisa Kabnick and  
John McFadden  
Hedy Karbner  
Jon Katona  
John Kearney  
Venus Keel  
Alan Keiser  
Robert Keith  
Mary and Lawrence Kent  
Joseph Kernen  
R. Jason Kernen  
Susan Kille\*  
Lynn and Sean Kirby  
Barry Kleban  
Gregory Kleiber  
Kenneth Kleinman  
Lawrence Kotler  
Mary Ann Kovach\*  
Cari Kraft  
Kenneth Kulak  
Henry Langsam  
Katrina Langston  
Lori Lasher  
Frances and Kenneth Leider  
Christine Levin  
Morton Levine  
Jared Levy  
Bruce Lichtenstein  
Charisse Lillie  
Lincoln Financial Group  
Geri Lincoln and  
Gordon Bermant  
Karen LiPuma  
Michael LiPuma  
Littler Mendelson  
Adrienne Logan  
Hilary Love  
Nancy Lowe  
Sandra Madden  
Cirel and Howard Magen  
Eugene Maginnis  
Gilbert Marquez  
Stacy Martin  
Robin Martin  
Rosemary Martz  
Mark May  
Susan May  
Mark McCabe  
Linda McDermott\*  
Brooke McGlenn  
Lawrence McMichael  
Richard McMonigle  
Zachary Meisel  
Joseph Messa  
Eric Meyer  
Bryn Michaels

Corinne Militello  
J. Gregg Miller  
Deborah and David Minkoff  
Andrew Mitnick  
Ellen and Brad Molotsky  
Elizabeth Morton  
Bradley Moss  
Angela Mrvica-Benson  
Mary Mullany  
Michael Murray  
David Newmann  
Megan Newsome  
Brian North  
Ryan O'Neal  
Phillip Okala  
Virginia and Nicholas  
Orlicz  
Jeffrey Palazzese  
Emily Palmer  
Grant Palmer  
Jeffrey Pasek  
Eric Patterson  
Wesley Payne IV  
Brian Pedrow  
Kathleen Pelzer  
Thomasina Pierce  
Dorsche Pinsky  
Lyn and Joseph Pokrifka  
Kenneth Porter  
Kim Powers  
Andrea Preate-Regni  
Emil Prigge  
Tanya Rambert\*  
Spencer Rand  
Lori Rapuano  
Amanda Reed  
Lorraine Rega\*  
Reed Smith  
Abraham Reich  
Reilly, Janiczek, McDevitt,  
Henrich & Cholden  
Heather Rennie  
Curtis Reitz and  
Judith Renzulli  
Kevin Rethore  
Jessica Rickabaugh and  
Brian Oeffinger  
Joy Rickabaugh  
Janine Rivera-Bundy  
Shirley Robinson  
Nancy Rogers  
Robin Rosenberg  
Phyllis Rudi  
Leanne and Daryn Rush  
Juliet Sarkessian  
Eric Schaeffer  
Kristin Schattenfield  
Alan Scheinine  
Lawrence Schempp  
Richard Schlegel  
Sherna Schloss  
William Schmidt  
Elana Schwam  
Sharon and William Schwarze  
Carolyn Schweizer

Terri Schwomeyer  
John L. Scott III  
Michael Scullin  
Susan Seif  
Stephanie Seldin  
Jean Sewell  
David Shapiro  
Carroll Sheppard  
Judith and Daniel Sherry  
Daniel Siegel  
Marnie Simon  
Nancy Smith  
Shawn Smith  
Soloff & Zervanos  
Carolyn Soto  
Jeremy Spiegel  
Megan Spitz  
Claudia Springer  
E. Blaine Stanley  
Kevin Stepanuk  
Saul Sternberg  
Beverly Stevenson  
Kathleen Stevenson  
Cynthia Strausbaugh\*  
David Strawbridge  
Min Suh  
John Suria  
Amy Tarr  
Prince Thomas  
Linda Toepel  
Kathy Tokolish  
Randall Towers  
Scott Towers  
Bill Tyson  
John Urofsky  
Cynthia Utz  
Dawn Vahey  
Karen Jackson Vaughn  
George Voegelc, Jr.  
Peggy Vogt  
Thomas Wagner  
Marlene and Max Wald  
Joel Waldman  
Julie and Tom Wamser  
Sam Warshawer  
Mark Washington  
Sharon Webber  
Melissa Weiler Gerber  
Joan and Murray  
Weingrad  
White and Williams  
Lisa Whiteley  
Roger Wiest\*  
Wiest, Muolo, Noon,  
Swinehart & Bathgate\*  
Arlene Woods  
Inna Zaltsman  
Geanne and Hyman  
Zelkowitz  
Thomas Zemaitis  
Eva Ziavras  
Jonathan Ziegler  
Brian Zuckerman  
Steven Zuk

\* In Memory of John Bonik



HOMELESS ADVOCACY PROJECT

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Philadelphia, PA  
Permit No. 794

**1429 Walnut Street  
15th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102**

**Tel: 215-523-9595  
Fax: 215-523-9599  
Email: info@HAPlegal.org**

**Printing Donated by:**



**Suite 660  
1801 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Tel: 215-563-3363  
Fax: 215-563-8839**

**Yes, I'd like to support HAP...**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm/Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support HAP by donating:  
 \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000 \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make monthly donations of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

- Enclosed is a check payable to "HAP".
- Please charge this contribution to my:  VISA  MasterCard  American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/YY)

Name as it appears on credit card and mailing address associated with credit card:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete this form and mail it to:**  
Homeless Advocacy Project  
1429 Walnut St., 15th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
  
Online donations are also possible by visiting [homelessadvocacyproject.org](http://homelessadvocacyproject.org)

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