

LEGAL AID SOCIETY

OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE CUMBERLANDS

Information for Release

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HELPS LEGAL AID SOCIETY PROVIDE AID TO CHILDREN

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 19, 2009 – The Community Foundations recently awarded a \$2,500 annual grant to the Legal Aid Society to provide free legal representation to children who have been denied access to needed medical care.

“Our mission is to help those with nowhere to turn,” said Gary Housepian, executive director of the Legal Aid Society. “It is with support of organizations such as the Community Foundation, that we are able to help the most vulnerable citizens and make a real difference in their lives.”

On average the Legal Aid Society’s “Access to Health Care for Low Income Children Project” serves 130 children annually.

“Ten percent of Tennessee’s children do not have health insurance, and many of those who do rely on the very complex public healthcare system,” said Housepian. “When coverage or services are wrongfully denied or terminated, it is very difficult to win an administrative hearing or judicial review without an attorney. Private attorneys typically will not take these cases because they do not generate fees.”

Housepian added that gaining or maintaining access to healthcare coverage or medically necessary services encourages low-income families to seek preventive care and needed treatment for their children, helping to avoid new or worsening health problems in the future.

“The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee connects generosity with need by supporting our region’s hard-working nonprofit organizations,” said Ellen Lehman, president of The Community Foundation. “The Foundation appreciates that these programs matter, congratulates the organizations on their efforts and salutes the dedicated people who work to enhance the quality of life in our community.”

The Legal Aid Society gives free legal aid to people who have nowhere else to turn. It serves 48 counties from offices in Nashville, Gallatin, Clarksville, Murfreesboro,

Columbia, Tullahoma, Cookeville and Oak Ridge. For more information call 1-800-238-1443.

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