

2014



“For many victims and survivors, speaking is really difficult until they find someone they can trust. When that happens, they will eventually share their story.”

*- Bukola Oriola, Founder,
Enitan Story*

Enitan Story, a small nonprofit in Spring Lake Park, MN, started in 2013– with assistance from LegalCORPS – to advocate for victims of human trafficking, while empowering survivors. Enitan, derived from the Yoruba language of western Nigeria, means “person of history.” Bukola Oriola, its founder and executive director, emphasizes, “People and their individual stories are what we value.” The hope is that victims and survivors will be able to connect with someone who has a similar story, in order to receive help.

A survivor herself, Bukola understands the needs of victims and survivors. Bukola began raising awareness about human trafficking through the Imprisoned Show. Struggling to meet the needs of her clients, Bukola reached out to several organizations for help. That’s when Bukola contacted LegalCORPS. She attended a brief legal advice clinic, and received counsel about establishing her work as a nonprofit. While the Imprisoned Show continues to raise awareness, Enitan Story was founded in order to provide practical help for survivors.

“When I go to LegalCORPS, I feel confident about the step I want to make. It’s one of the resources I now refer my clients to.” In the past year, Enitan Story expanded its services to include an empowerment circle program and a skills-building program for survivors. It also partners with other organizations that fight trafficking, as well as immigrant and refugee-services. Enitan Story serves both immigrants and native U.S. residents throughout the United States.

Human trafficking is prevalent in the Twin Cities metro area. Over the past few decades, the dangers of human trafficking in the U.S. have been exposed, but there is still a lot of work to do. Educating the public at large is crucial since most victims and survivors often don’t know who to contact for help. One human connection could be the beginning of hope for an individual living in a crisis situation.

To learn more about human trafficking or to contact Enitan Story, visit www.enitan.org or email Bukola Oriola at info@enitan.org



Clients Served and Client Sites...



Video Conference Sites



In-Person Sites

23

Clients in Northwest Minnesota

20

Clients in Northeast Minnesota

27

Clients in North Central Minnesota

8

Clients in West Central Minnesota

55

Clients in Central Minnesota

356

Clients in the Twin Cities

8

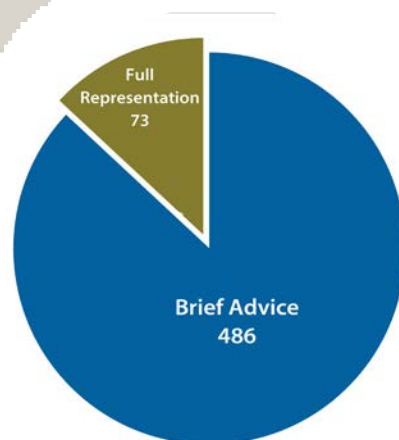
Clients in Southwest Minnesota

27

Clients in South Central Minnesota

35

Clients in Southeast Minnesota



A Time to Reflect and Look Forward...

In February 2014, LegalCORPS marked the 10th anniversary of its founding. Reflecting on that decade, we realize our nonprofit has come a long way – reaching all corners of Minnesota, routinely assisting 550-600 low-income entrepreneurs and small nonprofits each year, with volunteer attorney rosters topping 500. We’ve operated the nation’s first statewide patent law pro bono program for three years now – and have helped 15 Minnesota inventors get patents for their innovations.

And we’ve accomplished this on a virtual shoestring, with a paid staff of less than two full-time equivalents – thanks to the talent and devotion of those volunteer business lawyers who believe the access to justice movement should include their area of law, too.

However, looking forward, we see there is a long way we need to go with our mission. We’ve become increasingly aware that we need to learn better ways to reach immigrant, American Indian and other entrepreneurs of color in Minnesota. These populations have tremendous gifts to offer, but there is a lot we do not know about the assistance they need for success. So we have embarked on an initiative to join with other nonprofits that serve those populations to learn what we need to know – and then to start doing it. For the next three years, LegalCORPS has the opportunity to host a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) member – at relatively low cost – who will coordinate our outreach efforts.

Meanwhile, due to our success with the LegalCORPS Inventor Assistance Program, the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office has asked us to work with William Mitchell College of Law to provide some patent law pro bono assistance to inventors in states adjoining Minnesota.

Moving forward, LegalCORPS faces major challenges in developing the internal organizational resources we will need to achieve our goals. However – inspired by the talent, drive and hopefulness of our volunteers and the entrepreneurs and nonprofits they help – we are optimistic about our next 10 years.

Tammera Diehm, Board President

Michael Vitt, Executive Director

Clients Served in 2014...

Small Businesses

- The female owners of a startup “nano-brewery” got counseling about protecting their trademark and trade name.
- Owners of a greenhouse in Northwest Minnesota received advice and assistance in dealing with a power company that hiked their rates steeply.
- An immigrant entrepreneur from Central America got advice regarding purchasing a gas station in Minnesota (similar to one he had operated in his native country), and about importing coffee to sell there.
- A volunteer attorney reviewed a proposed partnership agreement for the prospective owner of a small new video production and animation company, and advised her about entity formation and client contracts.
- A West African immigrant received advice about organizational options for expanding her faltering housecleaning business to include personal care assistance.

Nonprofit Organizations

- A nonprofit in Central Minnesota that provides veterans discounted hunting and fishing trips received assistance with governance documents and satisfying legal requirements.
- A metropolitan area gospel choir got the answers to employment law questions.
- A civic group in Northern Minnesota received guidance about organizational structures and other legal considerations for operating a charitable raffle.
- A faith-based nonprofit that assists people who face challenges because of age, disability or other circumstances got help with employment law and human resources matters.
- A group planning a fundraising run in memory of an infant lost to anencephaly received guidance donating the proceeds to a nonprofit that aids orphans and adoptive families.

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Financial Report

July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

Revenue

Grants	\$151,055.26
Individual Donations	\$5,813.28
Special Events	\$14,407.00
Client Fees	\$1,645.10
Admin Fees & Other	\$11,499.60
Interest	\$87.25
Total	\$184,507.49

Expenses

\$154,840.24

Net Income

\$29,667.25

Balance Sheet June 30, 2014

Assets

Cash	\$79,937.41
Grants Receivable	\$566.67
Other	\$374.47
Total	\$75,415.36

Liabilities

\$0.00

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$41,819.31
Temporarily Restricted	\$33,596.05
Total	\$76,532.37

LegalCORPS assists small businesses and nonprofits, especially those that strengthen Minnesota's low-income communities, by providing individuals and organizations with business law services they could not otherwise afford. It seeks to provide quality pro bono legal services to increasing numbers of clients throughout Minnesota, so they can focus their time and resources on pursuing their objectives.