

January 2, 2010

For immediate release:

ELAP Recipient of Eastside Community Aid Thrift Shop Grant

Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) received a grant for \$5,000 to support ELAP's legal aid work to low-income survivors of domestic violence. ELAP will use this generous grant from the Eastside Community Aid Thrift Shop to recruit and train additional volunteers to meet the rising demands for legal assistance in King County.

The leading cause of homelessness in east King County is domestic violence, according to a 2008 United Way Community Assessment study. Also, as the population of King County grows, legal service providers are facing rapidly increasing caseloads as they seek to serve low-income clients in the area.

In 2009, ELAP served over 1200 low-income clients in need of legal services, 181 of whom were survivors of domestic violence. Since it was founded in 1989, the organization has helped over 50,000 people navigate the justice system.

This grant will be able to provide 50 domestic violence survivors with legal resources to obtain the legal aid they need, including protection orders, according to ELAP staff. Resources like this are important to help ELAP and its clients meet the challenges of poverty, homelessness, and domestic violence and work together for community solutions.

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