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Dear Friends:

CJI is celebrating its sweet sixteen and what a year it has been! Our attorneys have represented 187 low income individuals across South-Central Wisconsin in a variety of practice areas. We have continued our Municipal Defense Project, which connects homeless individuals with pro-bono attorneys and social services, helping those individuals gain relief from municipal tickets received as a direct result of their homelessness. We have also received additional funding from the Department of Justice to further assist low-income individuals through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), expanding our ability to help individuals experiencing domestic violence.

Two of our attorneys received recognition this year from the Dane County Bar Association for their contributions to our community. Carousel Andrea Bayrd, our newest addition, received the Individual Attorney Pro Bono Award for her numerous volunteer positions, while Frank Donahue received an Honorable Mention for bringing immigration and asylum cases to CJI. The drive and passion of our staff are what allow us to assist clients in the way that we do.

However, we celebrate our successes in a time of uncertainty. The need for affordable legal services is more critical than ever. The global pandemic has hit Wisconsin's economy hard. The unemployment rate in the state was 13.6% in April of 2020, compared to just 3.3% the previous year.ⁱ The need for assistance with legal issues surrounding homelessness, eviction, debt, and family issues has increased with this trend, and the ability of everyday Wisconsinites to afford legal assistance with those issues has decreased.

Victims of domestic violence and abuse are experiencing a greater need for affordable legal services. Wisconsin saw 72 domestic violence-related homicides in 2019.ⁱⁱ The services we provide help domestic abuse victims leave an abusive relationship and protect their children from abusers. These services are crucial, now more than ever. So far this year, CJI attorneys have provided legal services to 121 victims of domestic violence; this includes 81 clients who were represented under VOCA and 20 clients who obtained restraining orders. As we look ahead, we hope that the number of individuals we are able to serve will continue to grow.

Traditionally, our major annual fundraising effort is our fall fundraiser, which provides us with significant financial support in helping us achieve our mission of closing the justice gap in South-Central Wisconsin. The fundraiser is always a special event during which we bring the community together for an evening of local food and drinks, comradery, and giving.

This year, however, the pandemic has forced us, like many organizations, to modify our fundraising efforts. While we are not able to host our annual fundraiser, our need for financial support is greater now than ever. We cannot invite you to join us in-person this year, but we are inviting you to continue to support the important work that we do. To help make your donation go even further, an anonymous donor has offered to make a donation of \$2,000 if we are able to raise \$8,000 by the end of this year.

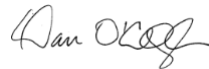
A donation, small or large, makes a real difference in our community. For example:

- A donation of \$100 will provide a 1-hour consultation to a single mother fighting for child support for her children.
- A donation of \$250 will provide legal representation to a domestic abuse survivor in obtaining a protective order.
- A donation of \$700 will provide legal representation to an individual in a personal bankruptcy.
- A donation of \$500 will provide a stipend for 1 semester to an intern to assist with outreach in our Municipal Defense Project.
- A donation of \$1,000 will provide legal representation to an individual fighting eviction.

You can donate by using **the attached donation form** or by visiting our website, **www.communityjusticeinc.org**, and clicking the “Donate” tab. Your financial support, no matter the size, will help CJI provide the kind of high-quality legal representation that low-income individuals and families need to achieve the security and stability they deserve. Of added benefit, all contributions are tax deductible as a charitable donation to a 501(c) (3) organization with tax identification number of 20-1228751.

Please contact me at 608-442- or mara@communityjusticeinc.org if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support!

With gratitude,



Mara Bridgman
Executive Director

Daniel O'Callaghan
President, Board Of Directors

ⁱ *Local Area Unemployment Statistics*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (July 30, 2020), https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LASST550000000000003?amp%253bdata_tool=XGtable&output_view=data&include_graphs=true.

ⁱⁱ Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report, September 2020. End Abuse Wisconsin.