



# OKLAHOMA BAR FOUNDATION

## 2014 Grant Application Instructions and Requirements

**The organization of the application has changed.** Please carefully review the “2014 OBF Grant Application Instructions and Requirements” before completing your grant application packet. Thank you.



*Part 1 of 2 – see [OBFGrt-Forms-2014-Part2of2.pdf](#) for remainder of the application*



## General Information

The Oklahoma Bar Foundation (OBF) was founded in 1946 to accomplish the charitable purposes of lawyers from all across Oklahoma. OBF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is the third oldest state bar foundation in the Nation. It serves as the charitable arm of the Oklahoma Bar, and all licensed lawyers in Oklahoma are members of the Foundation. OBF works silently behind the scenes for Oklahoma's children, the poor and our most vulnerable citizens through the generous support of attorneys by charitable donations and participation in OBF programs such as the Fellows, Community Fellows, IOLTA and other contributions.

The purposes of OBF grant funding are:

- To provide delivery of civil legal services to the poor and elderly;
- To promote quality education of the law and legal issues;
- To improve and promote the administration of justice and law-related programs for the benefit of the public, as are specifically approved by the Oklahoma Bar Foundation for exclusively public purposes.

Awards totaling \$490,575 were approved during 2013 by the Oklahoma Bar Foundation Board of Trustees to:

- Provide **delivery of civil legal aid services to the poor and elderly throughout Oklahoma** and to improve the administration of justice. Grants totaling \$165,000 were awarded to Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc. and the Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, and \$115,200 was awarded for legal aid and advocacy services for children, the elderly and victims of violence to: Oklahoma Lawyers For Children Inc., Tulsa Lawyers For Children Inc., Center for Children and Families Inc., Community Crisis Center, Inc., Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Inc., Family & Children's Services Inc. Tulsa County Court Program, Family Shelter of Southern Oklahoma, Inc., Marie Detty Youth and Family Services Center, Oklahoma CASA Association for Children Statewide Training Conference, and University of Tulsa Boesche Legal Clinic Immigrant Rights Program.
- Fund public law-related **educational** programs in the total amount of \$76,700. Awards were made to the OBA Young Lawyers Division High School Mock Trial Program, Teen Court Inc. of Comanche County, the Senior Law Resource Center, Inc. for legal and educational outreach services, William W. Barnes Children's Advocacy Center in Rogers, Mayes, and Craig counties, and the statewide YMCA Oklahoma Youth & Government Program for the Youth Legislative Day. An additional \$44,800 was also awarded for law-school scholarships at all three law colleges in Oklahoma.
- Promote **administration of justice** through programs for the judiciary and court system in thirteen different counties in the total amount of \$88,875 under the separate OBF Court Grants Program.

## Important 2014 Application Submission Information

OBF grants are awarded on an annual basis. Applicants are to submit **1 original and 14 printed copies** of the OBF Grant Application not later than **5:00 pm, CST on Tuesday, July 1, 2014** to receive consideration. Applications must be fully completed and signed. Early application submission is encouraged.

**Oklahoma Bar Foundation**  
**Attn: Grants Program**  
**PO Box 53036**  
**Oklahoma City OK 73152-3036**

**Oklahoma Bar Foundation**  
**1901 N. Lincoln Blvd.**  
**Oklahoma City OK 73105-4901**

All applications must be postmarked or delivered no later than 5:00 pm, CST on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 to receive consideration. Applications may be delivered only between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.CST, Monday through Friday. **Applications will not be accepted via e-mail or fax. Deliveries will not be accepted after 5:00 pm, CST.**

**Please carefully review the "2014 Grant Application Instructions and Requirements" before submission of your application packet.**

The OBF Grants and Awards Committee will review 2014 OBF Grant Applications and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. **An applicant or appropriate representative is required to make a brief appearance and presentation before the Grants & Awards Committee, currently scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2014, appointment time and location to be announced.** Applicants will receive written notification regarding disposition of their application during October 2014 following the grant deliberation process.

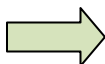
Questions about application preparation should be directed to the OBF Office at (405) 416-7070 or by e-mail to [foundation@okbar.org](mailto:foundation@okbar.org). Either PDF fill-in the blank forms or a Microsoft Word version of the complete Application Packet (2 parts – 1) Instructions and 2) Forms) is available by e-mail to [foundation@okbar.org](mailto:foundation@okbar.org).

## Tax Exemption Status

Applicants must be organized as a nonprofit philanthropic organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or in some instances, as an organization that will provide an exclusively charitable public service that would qualify as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) to make application for OBF grant funding. If the organization is not a Section 501(c)(3) organization, the applicant must fully describe the nature of its tax-exempt status and provide additional information concerning its tax-exempt status and the exclusively charitable public service for which funds are requested. OBF does not fund political activities or organizations. OBF will not fund organizations or activities that do not fit within IRS 501(c)(3) guidelines within the scope and mission of the Oklahoma Bar Foundation; OBF awards are made for exclusively public purposes. A copy of the applicant's tax determination letter and two most recent IRS Form 990's are required as a portion of the application packet. <sup>1</sup>*Most tax-exempt organizations, other than churches, are required to file a yearly return or notice with the IRS. If an organization does not file as required for three consecutive years, the law provides that the organization automatically loses its tax-exempt status. Loss of exempt status means an organization must file income tax returns and pay income tax, and its contributors will not be able to deduct their donations.*

## Application Guidelines

- Grant applications should be to fund no longer than a twelve-month period.
- Grant awards are generally funded through periodic payments to the recipient.
- Grant recipients will be required, as a condition of continuing funding, to submit **written quarterly reports** on the progress of the funded project. A final written report will be due within 30 days of completion of the project. A sample "OBF Grant Quarterly Report Form" is attached for informational purposes only and the report should not be returned with your application.
- Grant recipients will periodically be asked to participate in OBF presentations. OBF Site Visits may be conducted. Grant recipients are required to annually provide at least two (2) narrative stories about your program or project successes, a testimonial type story from your volunteers, clients, students or other participants that has not previously been published. OBF may ask grantees to participate in video productions and/or to submit photos for marketing purposes.
- Grant recipients are required to recognize the Oklahoma Bar Foundation in written materials, during program presentations, on the Website and various forms of media, and other venues. Samples of all recognition should be provided to the Foundation. Please see Public Recognition requirements below.
- Requests should be for exclusively public purposes.



## Public Recognition of the Oklahoma Bar Foundation

Grant recipients are required to recognize the Oklahoma Bar Foundation in written materials, during program presentations, on the organization Website and various other forms of media recognition, and other venues. Samples of recognition are to be provided to the Foundation. Failure to give OBF

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=217087,00.html>, January 12, 2011



appropriate recognition may result in termination of the grant and grantees may be asked to reimburse prior grant payments.

## Grant Priorities

The following priorities will be considered in making grants, not necessarily in the order listed:

- The track record of the applicant including, but not limited to, fiscal responsibility and program stability.
- Other funding sources or potential funding sources to be able to sustain the program.
- Development and expansion of pro bono services.
- Special needs of the applicant.
- The potential of matching grant funds from another source.
- The benefits that will be derived from the project or program by the state, county or service area.
- Non-duplicative services.

## Technical Information and Instructions

If an applicant chooses to include a transmittal letter, that transmittal letter is to be placed behind the 2014 Cover Sheet and nothing is to be placed in front of the 2014 Cover Sheet.

Applications are required to address all of the following items and provide as much detail as is appropriate to assist the OBF Grants & Awards Committee in making award recommendations to the Oklahoma Bar Foundation Board of Trustees.

- 1) **OBF Grant Applications should be printed on 8 ½” “x 11” white paper, where forms are not provided.** Reduce all legal-size attachments to 8 ½” x 11” size.
- 2) Do not bind the OBF Grant Application or accompanying materials; use only one staple placed in the upper left corner through all materials.
- 3) Applicants must provide one original and fourteen copies of the Application and all accompanying materials. Do not place transmittal letters or other materials before the 2014 Cover Sheet.
- 4) OBF Grant Applications should contain the following information and be arranged in the following order:

- a) **2014 Cover Sheet:** Complete the one-page 2014 Cover Sheet and place the Cover Sheet on top of the original and each copy as the first page of the application. No other materials should be placed before the Cover Sheet.

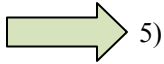
An official who has authority to bind the applicant organization to the proposed obligations must sign the 2014 Cover Sheet. If you reproduce the 2014 Cover Sheet in any way, you must present it in essentially the same format, include the same information, and limit the 2014 Cover Sheet to only one page.

The “Brief summary of grant request” should not exceed the allocated area. The main descriptive body of your request should be contained within the application following the cover sheet and is to be printed on 8 ½” X 11” white sheets of paper. The bottom portion of the 2014 Cover Sheet is for OBF use and should not be moved from the one-page 2014 Cover Sheet.

- b) **Purpose:** Within the main describing body of your application, provide a description of your organization, date organized, brief history and purposes.

- c) **Program/ Project Request Overview:** Continue on to provide a brief program or project narrative which defines the purpose of the program or project you request funding for; address the need for your program or project and the area to be served.

When describing your organization’s community involvement and support, identify other organizations or projects within the geographical area that also provide the same or similar services, and describe any cooperative work between your organizations. Describe volunteer activities and pro bono utilization efforts, when applicable.



- 5) **All organizations are to provide the following information within the body of your application** for either the a) “legal services” portion or b) the “law-related education, improvements to the administration of justice, and all other programs” sections which immediately follow. Next proceed on to 6) through to completion of the application packet.

- a) **Organizations providing legal services to the disadvantaged and/or elderly including children should also include the following:**

- Staffing information.
  - Attach an itemized list of positions and salaries, attach job descriptions.
- Community(s)/population served.
- Expected number and types of clients served.
- Overall community need for such services.
- Specific priorities for the program or project.
- Your method of selection of those priorities.
- Statistical summary of caseload data for most recent past year.

- b) **Law-related education programs, programs to improve the administration of justice, and all other programs should also include the following:**

- Staffing information.
  - Attach an itemized list of positions and salaries, attach job descriptions.
- Community(s)/population served.
- Program goals and objectives.
- Timetable of activities to completion.
- Statistical summary for the most recent past year programming.

- 6) **Your Program or Project Evaluation:**

- Provide information on how your organization plans to measure and report your program or project’s goals and successes (outcomes) to the Oklahoma Bar Foundation so your program progress can be better monitored. Plan to include information on the tracking of your performance. (*information is to be reported in the “OBF Quarterly Reports” to OBF.*)

- 7) **Additional Required Program Information:**

- Include a list of your Board of Directors or Trustees and Officers; identify and describe their professional background:
  - The percentage of the Board that has made a personal “financial” contribution to your organization in the past year.
  - Any compensation, financial and other, any Board member may have received from your organization within the past 3 years.
  - The percentage of your Board who are Oklahoma Bar Foundation Fellow Program participants. Do they provide other donations to the OBF?
- Whether an outside consultant has been retained to help raise funds for your organization and, if so, the terms and results of that arrangement.





- Whether any staff persons receive compensation for fund-raising activities as a part of their job duties and, if so, the terms of that compensation.
  - Whether a lobbyist has been retained and the terms and extent of that engagement.
  - Your organization's mission statement and its charitable purposes and how these charitable purposes are accomplished.
- 8) **Impact:** Explain how your program or project would be impacted without an OBF grant. Include a lesser request amount that would still benefit your organization and briefly define how the lesser request amount would be applied.
- 9) **Other Activities:** Does your organization engage in any direct or indirect political activities? Does your organization engage in lobbying activities? Does your organization pay for lobbying services? If yes to any of these questions, provide an explanation.
- 10) **Tax Status:** Provide a copy of your most recent IRS tax-exempt determination letter. If you do not have an IRS tax-exempt determination letter, provide a detailed explanation; see page 3 of these Instructions and Requirements for more tax status information.
- 11) **Tax Forms:** Provide two copies of your organizations last two years IRS Form 990's or other appropriate tax forms. If your organization did not file an IRS Form 990 or other appropriate tax forms, provide a detailed explanation and the last date your organization did file with the IRS.
- 12) **Audited Financials:** Provide two copies of your last two years audited financial reports.
- Have you or your organization become aware of a material diversion of the organization's assets? If yes, provide an explanation of the diversion.
- 13) **Financial Information & Budget Sheet:** Fully complete the Financial Information & Budget Sheet included in this packet and also attach a Budget Narrative explaining your budget figures.

The **Budget Narrative** is to include, but is not limited to the following:

- List the total amount of your grant request.
- Include and describe all other income sources. Describe the organization's efforts to obtain additional funding and other community support, including the possibility of OBF grant funds generating funds from other sources such as but not limited to matching grants. Disclosure of all sources of funding is required.
- Include an itemized listing of staffing positions and salary.
- Include general and operational expenses as well as any program specific income and/or expenses.
- Fully complete the attached Financial Information and Budget Sheet.
- If the grant request is for equipment, or if a portion of the request is for equipment in excess of \$500, include copies of three price quotations for that equipment and breakout any labor/installation charges from the equipment quotations.
- Designate any donated (in-kind) goods and/or services, including these amounts under revenue or expense as is applicable.
- Include financial information for the three years indicated on the Budget Sheet. You may alter line items to conform to your organization's revenue and expense categories.

**OBF Grant Applications Forms are located in a separate file from the Instructions and Requirements, titled "OBFGrt-Forms-2014-Part2of2.pdf". Most of your grant application will be printed in the body of the application packet on blank 8 ½" by 11" paper that is to accompany the OBF Grant Application Forms. The one-page "2014 Cover Sheet" is to be placed on the front of each application copy with nothing before it.**



*For further information, please contact the OBF at (405) 416-7070 or at [foundation@okbar.org](mailto:foundation@okbar.org)*



***THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE OKLAHOMA  
BAR FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS.***



# 2014 Cover Sheet

(OBFGrt-Forms-2014-Part2of2.pdf)

## Applicant Information

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/Project: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Dir/Mgr: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Contact & E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Information

Category or categories for which you request OBF grant funds:

Legal services to the disadvantaged       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Law related education      (define) \_\_\_\_\_

Administration of justice

**Total Request Amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Funds Requested for:       *Specific Project*       *General Support*       *Other:* \_\_\_\_\_

Tax ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ (required)

Previous OBF Grant Funds:	Year of Prior Grant Awards	Grant Amount
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____

Your Geographic Area Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief summary of grant request (the main description of your request should be contained within the application body following this cover sheet):

## Applicant Agreement

\_\_\_\_\_ (applicant) agrees to carry out the activities described in this application, if granted funds as requested herein by the Oklahoma Bar Foundation, and shall report to the Oklahoma Bar Foundation on progress and results from using all such grant funds.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





## Financial Information and Budget Sheet

Your Program: \_\_\_\_\_

	2013 Actual <i>(or last year)</i>	2014 Budgeted <i>(or current year)</i>	2015 Projected Budget <i>(or next year – request year)</i>
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>REVENUE</b> <i>(disclose all revenue)</i>	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
OBF Grant Award	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
In-Kind Donations	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Services	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b> <b>(Including In-Kind)</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>EXPENSES</b>	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
Salaries <i>(itemized list required)</i>	_____	_____	_____
Benefits/Payroll Taxes	_____	_____	_____
Office Space	_____	_____	_____
Telephone	_____	_____	_____
Supplies	_____	_____	_____
Postage	_____	_____	_____
Equipment:*	_____	_____	_____
Rent/Lease	_____	_____	_____
Maintenance/Repair	_____	_____	_____
Depreciation Expense**	_____	_____	_____
Printing and Photocopying	_____	_____	_____
Travel & Education	_____	_____	_____
Auditing	_____	_____	_____
Insurance	_____	_____	_____
Software/Internet Subscriptions:	_____	_____	_____
Other Program/Project Expenses:	XXXXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
In-Kind Donations	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Services	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> <b>(Including In-Kind)</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>GAIN/LOSS</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Capital Purchases</b> <b>To Be Made***</b>			\$ _____

\* Equipment Expense does not include capital purchases, see bottom line.

\*\* Depreciation Expense should reflect the annual depreciation of equipment owned by the organization.

\*\*\* If you plan to use OBF funds for Capital Purchases, please describe & explain reason for purchase on separate sheet; attach 3 quotes.

**▶ ATTACH YOUR ORGANIZATION'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND YOUR IRS FORM 990 FOR THE TWO MOST RECENT YEARS.**

## OBF Grant Application Final Checklist

Prior to submitting your application, please review all submission instructions to ensure your application is complete according to requirements; instructions are contained in a separate file – **OBFGrt-INSTRUCTIONS-2014-Part1of2.pdf** . The following checklist is included for your convenience and you need not return the checklist with your application submission.

### My OBF Application Packet:

- Because the organization of the application has changed, we carefully review “2014 Grant Application Instructions and Requirements” before completing the OBF grant application packet.
- Includes 1 original and 14 copies – printed on unbound 8 1/2" x 11" paper, all legal-size attachments are reduced to 8 1/2" X 11" size, with only one staple in upper left corner of each;
- Is being submitted to the Oklahoma Bar Foundation not later than 5:00 pm CST on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 – the application is either being mailed, delivered in person or via messenger. (applicants are strongly encouraged to submit application packets early);
- Includes a complete, **signed** 2014 Cover Sheet using the form on first page of the application packet (nothing should be placed before the 2014 Cover Sheet);
- Includes a complete program overview describing the funding request and all other pertinent information as required in the “2014 Grant Application Instructions and Requirements”;
- Includes a Budget Narrative as well as the Financial Information and Budget Sheet (figures are in balance and the funding request amount matches the total shown on the 2014 Cover Sheet);
- Includes 2 copies of our audited financial reports and organization financial statements for the two most recent years;
- Includes 2 copies the last two year’s IRS Form 990’s or other tax report forms;
- Includes an itemized listing of staffing positions and salaries; job descriptions are included for all positions that are to be funded totally or in part by any portion of the OBF request;
- Includes important information relating to possible grant funding in a “lesser amount” along with priorities;
- Includes all attachments and supplemental documents – all on 8 ½" X 11" sized sheets.

 **Incomplete grant applications will be returned for timely completion or clarification.**

### Attached for Your Information only are:

- Sample copy of the “OBF Grant Quarterly Report Form”
- Examples of the “Narrative Story On Your Program” – 2 stories per grant period are required.

## Grant Agreement

A grant agreement, to be provided by the Oklahoma Bar Foundation upon notification of the grant funding award, must be executed by the grantee and returned to the OBF office before grant funding will commence.

## Application Packets

Grant application packets, and supporting materials, become the property of the Oklahoma Bar Foundation and will not be returned. OBF has the right to use any or all information provided in the application submission, whether or not the proposal is accepted.

**For further information, please contact the OBF at (405) 416-7070 or [foundation@okbar.org](mailto:foundation@okbar.org)**



# Oklahoma Bar Foundation Grant Quarterly Report Form

**TO:** Nancy Norsworthy, Executive Director  
Oklahoma Bar Foundation  
P O Box 53036  
Oklahoma City OK 73152-3036

Phone: (405) 416-7070 or (800) 522-8065, Ext 7070  
E-mail: nancyn@okbar.org

**FROM:** Your Contact  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Program/project funded: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preparation Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Report Period Covered: \_\_\_\_\_  
OBF Grant Period: 2014 OBF Grant Period Payable for Calendar Year 2015  
Full Amount Granted: \_\_\_\_\_

**BRIEF PROGRAM DEFINITION:**

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**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT:**

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**RUNNING TOTAL ALL GRANT EXPENDITURES TO DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ (running total grant period to date)  
*Expense Category Description* *Expended Amount this Report Period*

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<i>Expense Category Description</i>	<i>Expended Amount this Report Period</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
<b>TOTAL THIS REPORT PERIOD ONLY =</b>	_____



**QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS:**

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**REPORT ALL APPLICABLE STATISTICAL INFORMATION:**

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**PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:**

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**YOUR PROGRAM GOALS AND PROGRESS/SUCSESSES (your outcomes):**

*As defined in your Grant Application required under Section 6 of the Grant Application Instructions.*

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**PRO BONO EFFORT HIGHLIGHTS (volunteer efforts):**

*Include number of volunteers & estimated hours worked as well as other highlights.*

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF THE OBF:**

**Annual Grant Narrative Requirement for each OBF Grant Award to be submitted by all organizations receiving OBF funding – Two (2) Stories:**

Provide at least two (2) brief narrative stories about your program and/or project's successes for OBF publication purposes. These should be client, volunteer, student or other participant success stories that have not been published elsewhere. OBF is interested in personal testimonials and stories that will dramatize and give heart to the effect of your program rather than normal facts, figures and statistics.

Two examples follow below:

## Vivian – Legal Aid Services

### *Example No. 1*

Vivian came to the Legal Aid office from a rural southern county of Oklahoma seeking help with Social Security survivor benefits for her young child. The mother and father had never been married, and unfortunately the father was murdered before paternity could be established. The Legal Aid lawyer looked down at the sleeping child and the young mother and knew he must help them. Suit was filed and the lawyer obtained a court order for paternity testing to be performed on a sample of the father's blood that was being held by the State Medical Examiner's office. The lawyer also knew of a different social service agency that would pay for testing. The test confirmed the child's paternity and the Social Security Administration sent a check for over \$16,000 in back benefits the child should have been receiving. Vivian had been a college student but was now staying in a shelter. Her old car had broken down the week before coming to Legal Aid, and she lacked funds to have it repaired. Vivian wasn't sure what to do until visiting Legal Aid of Oklahoma. The money has made it possible not only for her to have the car repaired, but she has been able to rent a home for herself and her young son. Vivian has also been able to return to school with a totally different outlook on life. Someday, Vivian hopes to be able to return the favor to someone else in need.

**Legal Aid Providers** were awarded a total of (dollars) this year, matching the amount given them for the past two years. But OBF was not able to fund 100% of their request this year due to decreased IOLTA revenue.

It is estimated that one in six Oklahomans live in poverty, and one in four Oklahoma children live in poverty. Oklahoma is ranked as the 8th poorest state in the nation. Of the 3.2 million people living in Oklahoma, over 685,000 people with incomes below 125% of the poverty level are eligible for assistance from Oklahoma Legal Aid providers. In addition to the work performed by the staff, Legal Aid also relies heavily upon the generous donations of time and expertise by private attorneys involved in providing legal services within their respective service areas.

## Joey – Legal Volunteers for Children

### *Example No. 2*

Joey was taken into State custody by police when he was only 10. He hadn't done anything wrong, but had been greatly wronged in his young life by those who should have protected him – his parents. They were divorced when Joey was 5. His father received sole custody of Joey after the divorce court determined his mother had repeatedly inflicted serious physical abuse on him, so serious in fact that the court permanently barred her from even visiting him.

At age 10, his mentally ill father held Joey hostage in a standoff with police; the father threatened to commit suicide while a police officer tried to "talk him down." When the standoff ended, Joey was taken to an emergency shelter and placed in DHS custody. That's where his Tulsa Lawyers for Children (TLC) volunteer lawyer met Joey. Over the next 6 years his lawyer was the only constant in Joey's life as social workers, judges, foster parents and therapists moved in and out of his life. Most kids have a parent, who remembers where they came from, what they looked like at various ages, and how they grew from childhood into pre-teen and teen years -- Joey only had a lawyer to carry those memories of him. His story has a happy ending, though. Joey was adopted at 16 by foster parents who fell in love with him when placed with them as a foster child. His TLC volunteer lawyer was there when the judge signed the adoption papers, giving him a permanent home, a family and a future. She was grateful to have been there since the beginning of Joey's journey through the child welfare system and deeply gratified that her young client might indeed "live happily ever after."

Tulsa Lawyers For Children received an OBF grant to purchase a computer to aid in the administration and recruitment of volunteer lawyers for pro bono representation of children in deprived cases throughout Tulsa County. Funding was also provided to the Oklahoma Lawyers For Children group to aid in establishment of the pro bono program that co-ordinates volunteer lawyers in Oklahoma County, our state's largest county. Tulsa County has the second largest population in Oklahoma.