



JULY 2024

# FORWARD

A Quarterly Update For Our Community

During the summer, we celebrate sacrifice, freedom, and independence. At Lowcountry Legal Volunteers, we honor all these ideals by providing equal access to justice to those who need it most -the low-income families living right here in our community.

With the support of staff, volunteers, grantors, donors, and supporters we are able to offer a special kind of freedom to the people we get to serve:

- the Mom struggling to make ends meet- we are able to obtain child support and give her greater financial freedom
- the Dad fighting to protect his son from an abusive Mother- we are able to provide a legal outcome that ensures that child's safety and freedom from fear
- the family living in unsafe housing - we are able to fight for a legal resolution - that creates a healthy environment and freedom from illness

As we all celebrate and take time with our families - we want you to know that Lowcountry Legal Volunteers wishes you all the best this season of freedom has to offer!

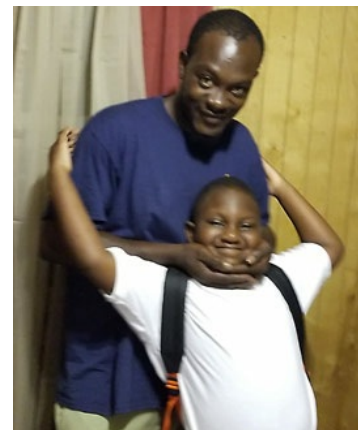
Anne Caywood  
Executive Director

## A FATHER'S STORY OF TRIUMPH

When Shawn came to us looking for help, we quickly realized that this was going to be an intense custody battle.

His son had just turned two when his six-year-old half-sister died while in the care of his biological mother and her boyfriend. Both were arrested and charged on allegations of child abuse.

Shawn and his mother, the little boy's grandmother, then received immediate emergency custody of him. After pleading guilty, his mother, went to prison for several years.



Fast-forward to 2023, and his mother, just recently released from prison, hired an attorney to file for complete and total custody of this wonderful little boy, now an 11-year-old young man. Shawn's son now began having nightmares at the thought of even seeing his mom . Shawn worried whether his son would be safe, and who would protect him if he was returned to his mother's custody.

That's when Shawn came to us for help protecting his son and to fight for his rights as a father. Shawn's goal was to continue to raise his son in a loving and safe home, without fear of harm. Our attorney, staff, and volunteer team then went to work to achieve this goal....and

we did! Lowcountry Legal Volunteers were able to get the case dismissed for the all the reasons cases like this one should never be brought to court.

Shawn no longer had to live in fear for this 11-year-old boy. He was finally able to breathe a sigh of relief, knowing his son would remain with him and away from potential harm.

This is just one more example of how Lowcountry Legal Volunteers is representing amazing parents who lack the financial resources to hire an attorney. Remember, it's your support that makes stories like this possible every day. We simply couldn't do it without you!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

### Marguerite "Susie" W. Capen

Susie was born in Carmel, New York, graduated from high school, went to junior college and obtained her paralegal certificate from Marist College. She worked in many interesting jobs.

Susie was married and had two children who are now adults in their 30s. After the untimely passing of her first husband she married again and has lived a very interesting life. Having lived in the Hudson Valley of New York for many years she worked for a large local law firm, first as a legal secretary and then as a real estate paralegal. She also served as town clerk. Having moved to Washington D.C, she was a real estate paralegal for a very large international firm. Once again she moved west to San Antonio. Susie was employed as office manager for a real estate management company which bought and sold residential apartment complexes.

Today Susie is happily retired and lives on Hilton Head Island. During her free time, she volunteers at Lowcountry Legal Volunteers and the Boys and Girls Club of Hilton Head. Her favorite pastimes are quilting, beach walking, reading and gardening.



## OUR IMPACT

Opened  
Cases

**65**

Free Community  
Clinics Held

**10**

Cases Closed  
thru June

**50**

New Partnership  
Announced

**SC Department  
of Employment &  
Workforce**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

They're back and just around the corner. That's right, we're talking about our Lowcountry Boil on Saturday, September 14 and Brunch with an Author, featuring John Warley author of Jury of One, on Saturday, October 12.

[Lowcountry Boil Event >>](#)

[Brunch With An Author Event >>](#)



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