



*because justice first requires access*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Report on Unique Legal Referral Training Model**

**Minneapolis, Minn.** – Call for Justice, LLC, a Minneapolis nonprofit, and United Way 2-1-1, Minnesota’s leading information and referral resource for health and human services, have released a joint report titled, “Training on Legal Resources and Referrals: A Report on an Innovative Collaboration” which details a unique model for expanding the scope and quality of legal referrals in the Twin Cities.

Call for Justice began training 2-1-1 Information and Referral Specialists on Twin Cities legal resources in March 2012. Call for Justice originated because the Twin Cities legal community and Greater Twin Cities United Way sought to better connect low-income people with legal resources. They found a natural partnership with United Way 2-1-1, which annually receives more than 30,000 calls from people with legal needs.

After 16 months of training, the results of the Call for Justice—United Way 2-1-1 collaboration are compelling. Outcomes referenced in the report include:

- A 200 percent increase in referrals for 9 key legal resources—to providers that previously had received more limited referrals, effectively helping connect callers to programs more appropriate to the callers’ legal needs.
- A 786 percent increase in referrals to LawHelpMN.org, a resource-based website related to the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition.
- Increases of 336 percent and 560 percent to Court Self-Help resources in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, respectively.
- Connecting attorneys with nearly 80 women and their children involved in a large Twin Cities program fighting intergenerational poverty. This “adoption” by two Minneapolis law firms was the result of an offshoot program that convenes various nonprofit legal and social service providers to facilitate organic collaborations.
- Providing more than 70 homeless individuals with legal advice within the first four months of a collaboration between a Legal Aid organization and a homeless meal and resource center.
- The creation of the first-of-its-kind (in Minnesota) panel of LGBT lawyers to serve homeless and at-risk LGBT youth.
- Nearly 1100 views of 2-1-1 training videos posted on the C4J website, including videos on immigration law, landlord-tenant law and bankruptcy.
- 8,035 page views of the C4J website (which includes 2-1-1 training materials) by 3,134 visitors.
- 533 views of the C4J website page that lists legal clinics. This is one of the few “print friendly” lists of Twin Cities metro legal clinics.
- Multiple outreach presentations to community organizations (Rotary, Optimists, etc.) regarding United Way 2-1-1 as a legal referral resource.
- Key assistance in helping to recruit more than 100 attorneys to assist low-income tenants at risk of eviction in housing court.

Call for Justice, LLC has also created the first-ever list of Twin Cities-based volunteer interpreters who gave hundreds of hours of free service to various nonprofit legal and social service providers. The joint report between Call for Justice, LLC and United Way 2-1-1, which contains other findings and tips on how to duplicate the training program on a national basis, can be accessed at [www.callforjustice.org](http://www.callforjustice.org)

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***About Call for Justice, LLC***

Call for Justice, LLC, seeks to improve access to justice by connecting low-income people to existing legal resources, in partnership with United Way 2-1-1 and others. We utilize innovative strategies to open access to the civil legal system, which includes collaborating with existing legal service providers and legal referral sources, like United Way 2-1-1. We work to close the Justice Gap-the place where people become caught when they can't obtain legal assistance to protect life's basic necessities like housing, healthcare, key family relationships, and employment.

***About United Way 2-1-1***

United Way 2-1-1 provides free and confidential health and human services information. 2-1-1 Minnesota partner call centers: United Way 2-1-1 through United Way of Greater Duluth, First Call 2-1-1, Great Rivers 2-1-1 and First Link North Dakota. Minnesota 2-1-1 also covers Douglas, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties in WI.

***About Greater Twin Cities United Way***

Greater Twin Cities United Way collaborates with business, government and nonprofit organizations to build pathways out of poverty. We LIVE UNITED to help children succeed, to stabilize families and empower healthy lives. Join our online discussions at [www.unitedfrontmn.org](http://www.unitedfrontmn.org), volunteer at United Way Caring Connection or give online at [www.gtcuw.org](http://www.gtcuw.org). Greater Twin Cities United Way serves clients in Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott and western Washington counties. For more information, go to [www.gtcuw.org](http://www.gtcuw.org) or call (612) 340-7400.