

*Opportunity and Prosperity for All*



North Carolina Justice Center

2008 ANNUAL REPORT





■ **The Justice Center** is the state's leading *research and advocacy* organization dedicated to transforming North Carolina's prosperity into opportunity for all.

Our mission is to **eliminate poverty** in North Carolina by ensuring that every household in the state has access to the resources, services and fair treatment it needs in order to enjoy economic security.

■ **THE CENTER** was founded in 1996 through the merger of two former Legal Services organizations. Today, our staff is nearly 50 people strong and includes **community educators, communications specialists, researchers, attorneys, policy advocates**, and other dedicated professionals. Our unique approach to advocacy has helped the Justice Center to be extraordinarily successful in **changing policies** in North Carolina to improve the lives of working families. We use **five interconnected strategies** in our work:



◀ **1 Public Policy Advocacy** - Our advocates work with policymakers to secure laws and policies that improve the lives of low- and moderate-income families and to oppose policies that would take the state backward.



◀ **2 Research** - Our experts analyze policies and challenges that impact low-income North Carolinians, identify strategies for improvement, and publish their findings in an array of well-respected reports and issue briefs.



◀ **3 Litigation** - Our attorneys take on high-impact cases designed to protect and expand the rights of low-income groups and individuals, including immigrants.



◀ **4 Communications** - Our writers and media experts generate commentaries and publications designed to shape public opinion.

▶ **5 Community Outreach** - Our educators build relationships with groups and individuals at the community level and pursue a two-way process of education and empowerment.

■ To make **opportunity and prosperity for all** a reality, we work toward:



▲ **PUBLIC INVESTMENTS IN SERVICES AND PROGRAMS** that expand and enhance opportunities for economic security



◀ **HOUSING** that is safe and affordable



◀ **A FAIR AND STABLE REVENUE SYSTEM** that adequately funds public investments while fairly distributing tax responsibility



◀ **CONSUMER PROTECTIONS** that shield hard-earned assets from abusive practices



◀ **FAIR TREATMENT FOR EVERYONE** in North Carolina – regardless of race, ethnicity, or country of origin



◀ **HEALTH CARE** that is accessible and affordable



◀ **JOBS** that are safe, pay a living wage, and provide health coverage and other benefits

▼ **PUBLIC EDUCATION** that opens a world of opportunity to every child





Jean Cary



Raquel Lynch

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If ever a year illustrated the importance of the Justice Center's work, 2008 was it. The foreclosure crisis, job losses, a growing number of families without health insurance - many people in North Carolina are facing tremendous financial hardships.

Thankfully, the Justice Center has grown both in capacity and scope in order to help low- and moderate-income North Carolinians through these difficult times. For twelve years, the Justice Center has worked to expand programs and protect the rights of the state's most vulnerable residents. In 2008, the organization added staff in all of its strategy areas - litigation, policy advocacy, research, outreach and communications. And there has been no shortage of challenges for these new staff members to tackle.

That is why the Justice Center so greatly needs your support in 2009. You've seen the news reports about families struggling and budget shortfalls at the state and local levels. Elected leaders must now choose to either help struggling families and plan for a future of shared prosperity or stick with the same policies that helped get the nation into this mess. North Carolina is at a crossroads, and the Justice Center has the experience and expertise necessary to guide its leaders in the right direction.

But it will be up to those who care about justice, fairness, North Carolina and its people to fund the work of the Justice Center in the year to come.

We cannot overstate how important that work is. Make no mistake - if North Carolina fails to protect its working families now, they will continue to suffer long after the recession is over. North Carolina must make the investments that will position the state and its people for a better, more sustainable future.

We hope you will join us and the Justice Center in this effort to make North Carolina a place of opportunity and justice for all.

Sincerely,

*Jean Cary*

Jean Cary  
Co-Chair, Board of Directors

*Raquel Lynch*

Raquel Lynch  
Co-Chair, Board of Directors



## Dear Friend of the Justice Center,

Hopefully, history will remember 2008 as a turning point for the nation, the year in which an historic election changed the priorities of the federal government and reformed how corporate America does business. But having spent the year on the front lines of the battle for justice and fairness in North Carolina, I can say I will remember 2008 as a year of great challenges and hard-won triumphs.

As 2009 begins, it looks like things will get worse before they get better - and the Justice Center is ready for the challenge. We are the only organization in North Carolina with the capacity and skilled staff to protect vital services, expand protections for workers and homeowners, and empower families and communities so they can create their own successful futures.

First things first - we need to ensure the state doesn't deal with the budget shortfall by cutting important programs and services. To that end, the Justice Center has united dozens of non-profit and public-service organizations for a responsible budget campaign, which will launch in January 2009. With the support of the Justice Center's research and strong relationships with legislative leaders, we believe this campaign can mobilize the public and persuade lawmakers to make decisions that protect families, invest in the state's infrastructure and workforce, and require corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share.

At the Justice Center, we recognize the inextricable links between the environment, jobs, and transportation. However, we were concerned about the disconnect between the groups advocating for social justice and those focused on the environment. So in 2008, we brought these organizations together in a coalition dedicated to creating a transportation system that protects the environment, meets the needs of working families, and is paid for in a way that does not overburden low-income residents. As North Carolina strives to deal with its deteriorating roads and growing cities, the coalition will be ready to shape the debate.

The Justice Center has made tremendous strides in its work in the past dozen years, and we are not willing to let North Carolina move backward simply because the economy is in recession. Shared prosperity is our definition of success. Our staff has never been stronger, our commitment has never been greater, and our vision has never been more important.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melinda Lawrence". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Melinda Lawrence, Executive Director

■ **2008** was a momentously successful year for the North Carolina Justice Center. Our **research, advocacy, and community outreach** helped us secure key victories in the state legislature and the courts. Here are some of the year's highlights:

## Consumer Protections

**Protecting families from predatory practices that can lead to home foreclosure** has long been a focus of the Justice Center's work. In 2008, our advocacy supported the passage of three new laws to address the rising number of foreclosures in North Carolina. One law created a program that provides new resources and information to homeowners with sub-prime mortgages who are facing foreclosure. The second increases the regulation of loan servicers, which sometimes impose illegal fees on homeowners, and the third prohibits bonus payments to mortgage brokers for steering borrowers into more expensive home loans. In addition, we stopped several legislative efforts to increase the rates and fees consumers pay on a variety of loan products.

Thanks to an increase of capacity in our litigation arm, the Justice Center has been able to expand its efforts to defend homeowners against foreclosure actions (**see Spotlight**). We have also filed litigation challenging predatory practices of mortgage lenders and servicers, including a lawsuit to establish that the practice of putting low-income borrowers in mortgages they cannot afford violates North Carolina consumer-protection laws. In order to help more homeowners, we have spearheaded efforts to train private and volunteer attorneys around the state to defend against foreclosure actions.

The Justice Center, with the help of other consumer advocates, succeeded in getting payday lenders to leave North Carolina years ago, but the effort to get money back for consumers continues. This year, that effort resulted in an important ruling from the NC Supreme Court. In the case of *Tillman v. Commercial Credit*, the lender argued consumers had no right to sue because the contracts they signed included "mandatory arbitration agreements." These clauses require consumers to pursue claims against the lender individually (no class actions) and through an arbitrator, who would charge hundreds of dollars per hour to hear a case. The Justice Center



contended these agreements were illegal and the Supreme Court agreed, ruling that the arbitration clause was unfair, unconscionable and could not be enforced. Consumers can now have their cases against the payday lenders heard in court.

Moreover, mandatory arbitration clauses are in many contracts for health insurance, telephone service, bank loans, credit cards, summer camps. Because arbitration clauses are so ubiquitous, this ruling could affect every consumer in North Carolina.

## Housing

**Although the foreclosure crisis brought housing issues to the forefront** this year, the Justice Center has long been involved in the effort to increase the amount of affordable housing available to low-income families. This year we secured a significant increase in funding for the NC Housing Trust Fund, which finances the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing.

We also have worked for years to improve conditions for the significant number of people across the state who live in manufactured housing. This year we were successful in passing legislation that

### SPOTLIGHT: Foreclosure Protections

The Justice Center's efforts to protect low-income people trapped in predatory mortgages received national attention when *New York Times* columnist Bob Herbert wrote about one of our clients. Referring to her only as "Ms. Richardson," Herbert explained how the mortgage broker lied to her, telling her she was signing for a fixed-rate mortgage. In fact, she got an adjustable-rate mortgage that quickly became unaffordable.

Herbert wrote, "Ms. Richardson and her current lawyer, (Justice Center staff attorney) Carlene McNulty of Raleigh, N.C., said the figures that would have made it obvious to Ms. Richardson that she couldn't afford the mortgage were deliberately concealed... Ms. McNulty, the lawyer, is trying to forestall the foreclosure, while at the same time trying to locate those who, in her view, defrauded her client."

The case is a clear example of one of

the problems that led to the national foreclosure crisis - mortgage brokers are paid for closing the deal, and the most unscrupulous of them will lie to get a borrower to sign the papers. Lenders try to insulate themselves from liability for the mortgage brokers' conduct.

A new state law makes major headway toward fixing this problem by eliminating the bonuses brokers are paid for directing borrowers into more expensive loans.

creates incentives for mobile home park owners to allow tenants to purchase the park.

In 2008, we also successfully advocated for the state to expand its Home Protection Program to all 100 counties and double the program's funding. Launched in 2004 in only eight counties, the program helps laid-off workers keep their homes while they retrain and look for new jobs.

# Access to Health Care

**The Justice Center's NC Health Access Coalition (NCHAC) added two new staff positions** in 2008, dramatically increasing its capacity for writing, research and community outreach.

NCHAC published two influential reports on state health policy this year. The first was the Guaranteed Affordable Choice Plan, which outlines how the state can make health coverage accessible to everyone in North Carolina. The plan was endorsed by a wide variety of organizations and attracted considerable media attention. It is already influencing the health care debate in North Carolina and will serve as a framework for NCHAC's advocacy work in the coming year.

The second publication looked at health coverage for elected



## SPOTLIGHT: Outreach on Health Care

The Justice Center's Health Access Coalition is reaching out to parents in various settings with two goals – to make sure eligible children are enrolled in public health-insurance programs and to engage parents in the effort to expand access to health care.

We held a community meeting in partnership with the YWCA of Raleigh at which parents shared

their stories of troubles obtaining decent health care for their children. NCHAC staff gave the parents information about health coverage options and handed out legislative advocacy pocket guides, which explain how to communicate effectively with legislators and effective arguments for expanding health coverage.

NCHAC held another community

meeting with the Raleigh Community and Safety Club, a deeply rooted community institution located near downtown. More than 25 parents attended and joined the coalition, and the community center's director now distributes NCHAC materials - in English and Spanish – to all parents who register in the center's programs.

officials and revealed that most sitting elected officials get benefits without paying any premiums, and many have the option of extending coverage once their public service ends. The report offers concrete recommendations for how officials can ensure that the people they represent also have access to affordable health coverage.

NCHAC significantly expanded its outreach efforts in 2008. Staff reached out to schools and community groups to provide parents with information on the coverage options available for uninsured children, to assist with enrollment and re-enrollment in public health-insurance programs, and to engage parents in the effort to expand health care access (See Spotlight). At the end of the year, NCHAC added a field coordinator to its staff to further expand its outreach around the state.

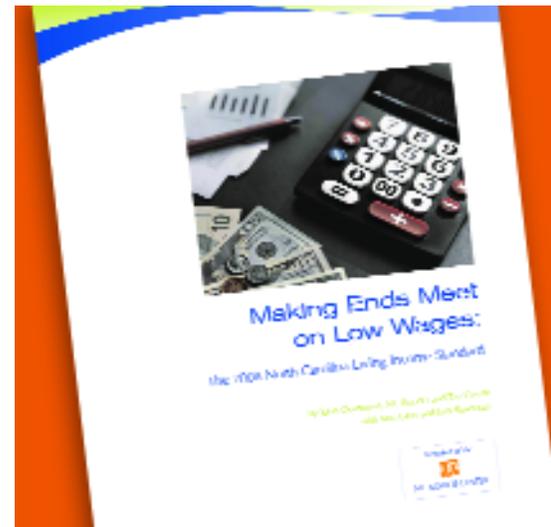
Meanwhile, at the NC General Assembly, NCHAC continued its formidable and effective advocacy to preserve and expand access to health care. At the federal level, NCHAC worked with partner

organizations to successfully protect Medicaid coverage and benefits for adults and to convince key members of North Carolina's congressional delegation to support funding for children's health insurance. In addition, NCHAC has dramatically increased its communications efforts, including expanded use of blog posts and video to greater influence the policy debate on health care.

## Supports for Working Families

**In 2008, the Justice Center launched a new effort** to ensure that every worker in North Carolina can earn paid sick leave. Currently, some 42% of the state's workforce gets no paid sick time – forcing workers to go to work when they or their loved ones are sick or go without pay and risk losing their jobs. We have secured 30 partners in the effort so far, and we are working to convince lawmakers that establishing a right to paid sick leave is good for businesses, families and public health.

We received extensive media attention for the publication of our fourth version of the *North Carolina Living Income Standard*. The LIS provides estimates of what it costs families to meet basic needs such as housing, food, childcare and transportation. The report provides living income numbers for each county in North Carolina. In conjunction with the report, we created an on-line calculator that individuals and organizations can use to generate data for their own counties. The report has become an important tool used by non-profits and service agencies around the state.



## A Fairer and More Responsible State Budget

**State legislators and policymakers rely on analysis from the Justice Center's Budget & Tax Center (BTC)** to make decisions about a wide range of issues that impact low- and middle-income North Carolinians. This year, they followed the BTC's recommendation and increased the state Earned Income Tax Credit from 3.5% to 5% for the 2009 tax year. More than 845,000 working families will benefit from the increased state EITC.

As part of BTC's ongoing monitoring of the state budget, our researchers were the first to report that North Carolina would face a multi-billion-dollar budget shortfall in the 2009-10 fiscal year and to call on lawmakers to take action quickly. Media outlets across the state reported our



estimates, and soon state leaders had to confirm our numbers and make plans to deal with the budget crisis.

The BTC plays a key role in North Carolina's non-profit community, providing data and expertise to the many organizations with a stake in state budget decisions. As in years past, the BTC partnered with the United Way of North Carolina and local United Way chapters for community forums around the state. Through nine events, the BTC informed more than 350 people about the state budget and provided an update on policies that affect low- and moderate-income families.

With deteriorating infrastructure, fast-growing cities and a dearth of public transportation, North Carolina has tremendous transportation needs that will significantly impact the state budget. For that reason, the BTC delved into the issues of transportation financing and planning for the first time in 2008. We published an in-depth report outlining the administrative and funding challenges of the state's current transportation system and providing extensive recommendations for how North Carolina can create a transportation system that will serve the population's needs. In addition, the Justice Center has launched a new coalition of social-justice and environmental organizations dedicated to making sure North Carolina's transportation policies prioritize the needs of working families and the health of the environment.



## Quality Education for All

**Because improving education and protecting students' rights often require school-by-school efforts,** the Justice Center's Education & Law Project (EdLaw) does extensive outreach work, training parents and community leaders to be education advocates. In 2008, EdLaw trained some 45 individuals through its Education Leadership Institute on schools' responsibilities, students' rights, and how they can be advocates for improved education policies and services.

EdLaw's outreach efforts also dramatically increased membership in NC Community Advocates for Revitalizing Education (NCCARE), the grassroots coalition formed by graduates of the Education Leadership Institute. NCCARE, with support and guidance from EdLaw staff, had a busy year, adding some 80 new members and engaging in a number of advocacy efforts. For example, members in Cumberland, Beaufort, Robeson and Duplin counties focused on discipline issues and school funding. In Forsyth, Hoke and Nash counties, NCCARE members challenged unconstitutional suspensions.

EdLaw staff also engaged NCCARE members in their legislative advocacy efforts at the General Assembly. In 2008, EdLaw helped to secure a significant increase in funding for the state's dropout-prevention grant

program, and the director of EdLaw served on the committee that awarded the grants. In addition, EdLaw successfully worked to get more money for a fund dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for disadvantaged students. Our advocacy also helped to secure the passage of a law that protects the rights of special-needs students in the disciplinary process.

When outreach and legislative advocacy are not enough, the Justice Center takes its commitment to protecting students' rights to the courts. This year, the Justice Center assisted in a case challenging Durham Public Schools' rules regarding gang-related symbols and clothing. We argued the rules were unconstitutionally vague, making it almost impossible for students and parents to know if they were in violation. The court agreed, and Durham is revising its rules. School districts throughout North Carolina have similar prohibitions, and we anticipate this ruling will have a widespread effect as they revise their policies.

## SPOTLIGHT: Education Leadership Institute

The Education Leadership Institute, conducted by the Justice Center's Education & Law Project, is a training program created out of a belief that informed, engaged parents and community members are essential to improving public education. It is an intensive, 30-hour workshop that teaches participants about education policy and advocacy.

In 2008, we held Education

Leadership Institute trainings in Forsyth and Duplin counties. The 45 participants learned how federal laws, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and No Child Left Behind, can be used to maximize children's access to education. They also found out that they have the power to change local practices and policies around short-term and long-term school

suspensions - a primary issue for many minority parents and students.

The Education Leadership Institute is offered free to the participants. The Justice Center provides materials and covers any other costs associated with the training.

## Protecting Immigrants' Rights

**Because discrimination and open hostility force many immigrants to live in the margins of society,** they are vulnerable to fraud and abuse. This year, the Justice Center's Eastern Carolina Immigrants' Rights Project (ECIRP) filed suit against a pair of notarios (notaries public) who aggressively solicited customers through radio ads offering to provide legal services. However, these notarios had no qualifications to give legal advice and, put customers at risk of poor outcomes in their immigration cases. This class action seeks relief for more than 300 plaintiffs. ECIRP attorneys are also representing dozens of workers, both immigrants and US citizens, whose employer - a defense contractor in Johnston County - paid them late, paid them with bounced checks, and then ceased to pay them at all.

The Justice Center's Immigrants' Legal Assistance Project (ILAP) is the only non-profit in North Carolina that represents low-income immigrants in all areas of immigration law at no charge. Through the expert assistance of ILAP staff in Immigration Court, the Asylum Office, the Citizenship and Immigration Service and the Board of Immigration Appeals, more than 200 individuals have gained legal status in 2008. Additionally, ILAP staff answered more than 1000 information requests and referrals.

## SPOTLIGHT: Pesticide Protections

Attorneys from the Justice Center's Immigrants' Legal Assistance Project represented one of the migrant workers who were exposed to pesticides while working for Ag-Mart, which grows tomatoes in Brunswick County. The case against Ag-Mart highlighted the enormous problems with North Carolina's pesticide regulations. For example, Ag-Mart claimed its own

records that showed violations could not be used against them because state law did not require them to keep accurate records, so they didn't. We helped the state build its case by assisting the attorney general's office in locating and interviewing workers who were potential witnesses to pesticide violations.

The case prompted state

legislators to take another look at the regulations. The Justice Center's advocacy, in coalition with the Farmworker Advocacy Network, helped to secure regulation changes that will improve record-keeping requirements for farmers. We also successfully advocated for funding that will enhance pesticide monitoring and increase outreach to farmworkers.



The Justice Center works with other advocacy organizations to defend against anti-immigrant policies and government actions. In Beaufort County, we helped fight a proposal before the county commissioners to identify anyone with a Spanish surname as an undocumented immigrant. We stopped the plan by organizing more than 60 legal residents and citizens with Spanish surnames to appear at the commissioners' meeting. In Asheville, the Justice Center's Network of Immigrant Advocates and ILAP attorneys met with people facing deportation and coordinated with national groups to provide information about immigration bonds, hearings and visitation rights. We also reviewed information from those detained to determine if there was any relief available to them under immigration law.

At the General Assembly, the Justice Center worked to kill bills that would have deprived immigrants of rights or made it more difficult for them to access services and protections. We also played a lead role in securing passage of a law that protects farmworkers, many of whom are immigrants, from pesticide exposure (**See Spotlight**).

# The Justice Center Is Growing – So Is Support for Our Work

## 2008 again saw significant growth at the Justice Center.

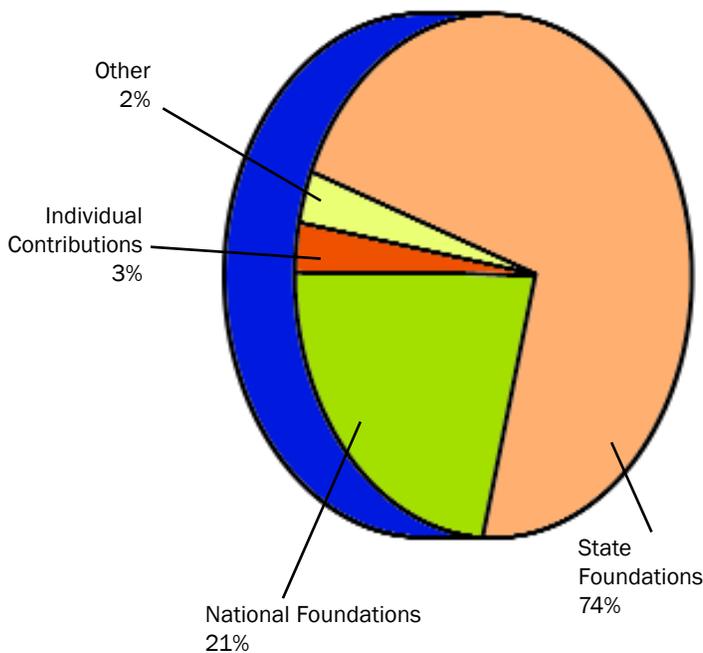
We made great strides toward our goal of increased depth and breadth of expertise in each of our major policy areas. This growth has given us the capacity to bring to bear our core strategies - research, litigation, communications, policy advocacy and community education - on the central issues affecting the lives of low-income people across North Carolina. As the news and information environment transforms itself, we believe that increased capacity to research, investigate and report facts and analysis to support our advocacy is critical. Also, at a time when the economic and fiscal downturns are hammering hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians, it is essential that we be engaged in constant dialogue with the communities we serve through our education and outreach work. Over the last year, we have added a number of staff to play these key roles.

In 2008 we also shored up and pushed forward our technological capacity. With support from state and national foundations, we took major steps to update our technology infrastructure and to invest in tools that allow us to use new media effectively to get out our message.

2008 brought new financial support for the continuation and expansion of our work. Our budget (including the special non-profit partnership project Blueprint NC) grew to \$4.78 million. As set out in the chart below, support grew in every area - individual contributions, state foundations, and national foundations.

These increases in capacity and support have readied us to be the powerful advocate that low-income families and communities desperately need to face the challenges of 2009.

**Sources of Support**



# Communications

2008 marks the first full year in which NC Policy Watch was part of the Justice Center. Policy Watch's widely read and respected opinion pieces are changing the way the public and elected officials debate the important issues facing North Carolina. This year, Policy Watch produced approximately 350 electronic newsletters, including a daily column by Policy Watch's director, weekly articles analyzing public policy issues, and regular pieces that debunk right-wing rhetoric. All went out via e-mail to about 2,500 individuals and organizations.

Readership for Policy Watch's blog, The Progressive Pulse, grew dramatically in 2008. It is the only progressive, statewide, multi-issue policy blog in

Elaine Mejia, an expert on **state fiscal policy**, said that department heads won't be able to meet Easley's cuts simply by trimming around the edges. "These are large enough that agencies are going to have to put entire programs and services on the chopping block," said Mejia, the director of the N.C. Budget & Tax Center, a left-leaning research group in Raleigh.

– *Winston-Salem Journal*

"More money for **Medicaid and unemployment benefits** can provide immediate help to people who have been upended by the recession," said John Quintero, a research associate at the N.C. Budget & Tax Center... "You can get money in people's hands a lot faster," Quintero said. "Essentially that's what the whole point of a stimulus package is."

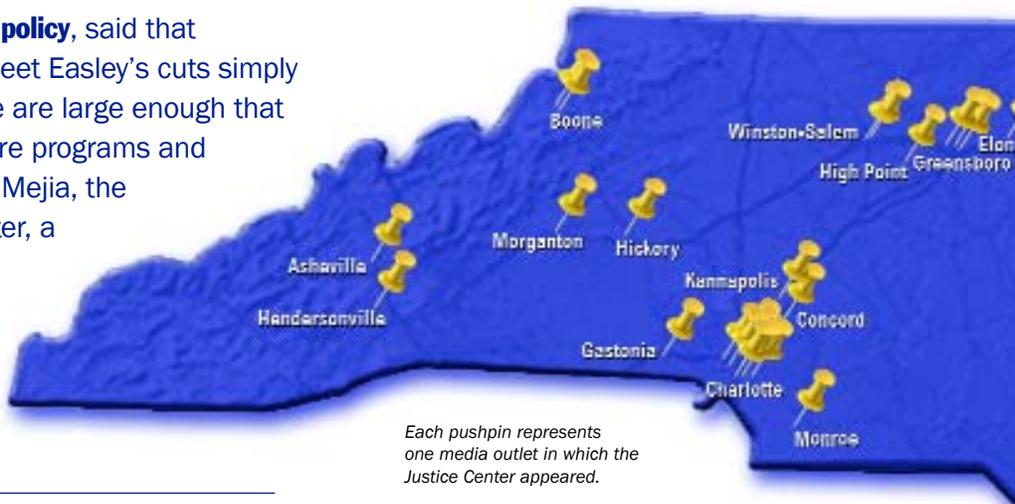
– *Morganton News Herald*

"**Health care** is a critical issue in North Carolina, both morally and economically," said Adam Searing, director of the North Carolina Justice Center's Health Access Coalition.

– *Asheville Citizen-Times*

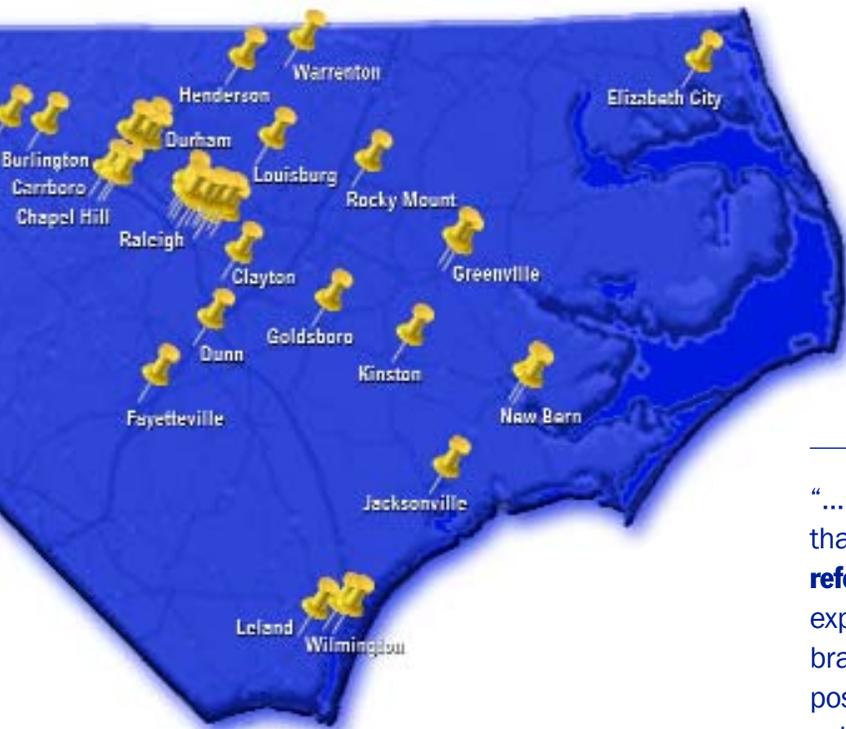
"But it's an intriguing first step," said Al Ripley, counsel for **consumer and housing affairs** at the N.C. Justice Center, which provides legal assistance to low-income North Carolinians... "We'd like to have more financial institutions taking steps to help borrowers without being forced to."

– *Fayetteville Observer*



North Carolina and attracted almost 80,000 unique visitors this year. In addition, Policy Watch hosted six “Crucial Conversation” luncheons, bringing together legislators, policy experts and members of the media to discuss topics being debated at both the state and national levels, such as home foreclosures, the treatment of poultry workers, and the global economic crisis.

Staff of the Justice Center and Policy Watch appeared in media outlets around North Carolina hundreds of times in 2008, thanks in part to the hiring of new staff focused on producing analysis and reports. The Justice Center also hired a new communications director in 2008. In addition, Policy Watch’s director is a regular panelist on NC Spin, a weekly public affairs television talk show syndicated throughout the state, and the BTC’s director is a regular guest.



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“Cutting back on state spending will not be a matter of ‘trimming the fat or excess’ but rather a matter of making **tough choices about the relative importance of state-funded services,**” Meg Gray Wiehe, an analyst at the liberal-leaning North Carolina Budget & Tax Center, wrote in a recent report.

– *Greenville Daily Reflector*

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“... officials with the Budget and Tax Center have said that this should provide an opportunity for the state to **reform its tax structure** – broadening its base by expanding the sales tax, adding new income tax brackets and adjusting the corporate tax, while possibly lowering individual rates. Such changes, they said, would help make North Carolina’s revenues less responsive to changes in the economy.”

– *Goldsboro News-Argus*

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“For those of us whom I say are out in the trenches, the **(dropout) numbers** really aren’t startling,” said Angella Dunston, director of the Education & Law Project at the N.C. Justice Center, which advocates for the state’s low-income residents. “We knew that the numbers were devastating. It’s finally come to the public light and ... people appear to be alarmed.”

– *Wilmington Star-News*

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“In North Carolina, 42 percent of **workers don’t have sick pay,** according to the N.C. Justice Center, which is pushing for a state-mandated sick-leave policy.”

– *New Bern Sun Journal*

## Dear Friend of the Justice Center,

Along with our many policy and outreach accomplishments, we are celebrating our 2008 fundraising successes. This past year, more than 130 new folks from across the state made supporting our work a priority. With the generous gifts of old friends and new, individual contributions increased 90% over 2007.

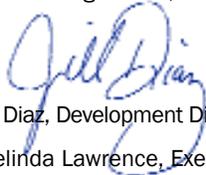
In addition to this achievement, a record number of attendees turned out for our annual Defenders of Justice Awards ceremony on September 25th honoring:

- **Jane Perkins, National Health Law Program in Chapel Hill**
- **State Representative Jennifer Weiss**
- **Juencio Rocha Peralta, President of AMEXCAN**
- **Beloved Community Center of Greensboro**
- **Charlotte Observer staff members Ames Alexander, Kerry Hall, Franco Ordonez, Peter St. Onge, and Ted Mellnik**

Along with our annual award categories, the Justice Center presented **a special award to Tom Ross**, president of Davidson College and former director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, for his commitment to justice and expanding opportunity in North Carolina.

Between these two successes, we have much to celebrate. However, we know 2009 is going to be a challenging year and that your continued support will be instrumental in fighting for and protecting the rights of our state's low- and middle-income families. With this in mind, and on behalf of everyone at the Justice Center, thank you for all the support you have provided and we look forward to working with you to make 2009 another record breaking year.

With much gratitude,



Jill Diaz, Development Director

Melinda Lawrence, Executive Director



*If you would like to be a part of the Justice Center's special 2009 giving initiatives, or would like to host an event to acquaint friends and family with the work of the Justice Center, please contact Jill Diaz at [jill@ncjustice.org](mailto:jill@ncjustice.org) or (919) 856-2575.*

## 2008 NORTH CAROLINA JUSTICE CENTER HONOR ROLL

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Shel Anderson	Ellen W. Gerber	Don Palmer and Leila May	Robert and Patricia Spearman
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BOTTOM ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Beth Jacobs, Rochelle Williams, Rochelle Sparko, Hope Marasco, Melinda Lawrence, Lisa Chun, Cristin Ruggles, Dan Dwyer, Elaine Mejia, Carlene McNulty. SECOND ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Jill Diaz, Nicole Dozier, Debra Tyler-Horton, Jan Nichols, Kate Woome-Deters, John Quintero, Jeff Shaw, Adam Searing. THIRD ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Angella Dunston, Bill Rowe, Mary Coleman, Annette Plummer, Kaci Bishop, Clermont Fraser, Dani Martinez-Moore, Tom Burton. FOURTH ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Julie Mooney, Al Ripley, Meg Gray-Wiehe, Carol Brooke, Jessica Rocha. TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Phyllis Nunn, Adam Linker, Jack Holtzman, Chris Fitzsimon, Ajamu Dillahunt, Rob Schofield, Dan Rearick (NOT PICTURED: Michele Brown, Nina Driver, Elise Elliott, Steve Jackson, Attracta Kelly, Harmony Mancino, Diane Morris, Louisa Warren, Stephanie Bass, Erin Byrd, Senseney Marshall)





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