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# 'Tis the Season to Help

When it comes to year-end charitable donations with a law-related focus, Virginia State Bar members have a wealth of options.

A number of worthy projects dedicate resources to aiding families and children. The enclosed envelope, for example, can be used by bar members to make year-end donations specifically to the Virginia Law Foundation.

Below is a sample of information about additional providers and underwriters. These other programs may require a bit more of an undertaking since they are not VLF grantees and are not covered by any VLF-directed donation or the enclosed envelope.

Some useful information for donors includes:

- Guidestar, at <http://www.guidestar.org/>, makes detailed but somewhat dated fiscal information about most nonprofits available online;
- Donors should consult their tax adviser regarding whether intended donations are tax-deductible;
- Payroll offices may know more about any qualified employer matching gifts options;
- The Virginia Division of Consumer Affairs lists charitable entities approved to solicit donations in Virginia;
- A donor's bank or its charitable-giving (trust) department may have additional ideas about regional opportunities for giving.

The Virginia Law Foundation promotes, through philanthropy, the rule of law, access to justice, and law-related

education. See <http://www.virginialawfoundation.org/support.htm> (and the enclosed envelope) for more information about designating funds towards specific programming, including Virginia Bar Association efforts to enhance rule of law teaching by volunteers who engage 7th and 8th grade civics students in Virginia's public and private schools.

Local community foundations have donor-advised funds and their philanthropic service teams can help residents of states unaffected by Hurricane Sandy learn how to make interstate contributions to address, for example, the basic needs of residents of sister states, including families with children struggling to cope with fallout from severe natural disasters. See <http://www.tcfichmond.org/learn/news/helping-after-the-storm>.

Tens of thousands of children have slipped into poverty in Virginia since the start of the economic downturn. The Legal Aid Justice Center — *JustChildren* Program at [http://www.justice4all.org/our\\_programs/justchildren](http://www.justice4all.org/our_programs/justchildren) relies on a range of strategies, including individual representation, community education and organizing, and statewide advocacy, to make sure that Virginia's most vulnerable young people receive the services and support they need to lead successful lives in their communities. To donate to JustChildren, write to Susan Kruse at 1000 Preston Ave., Suite A, Charlottesville, VA, 22903 or contact her at [susan@justice4all.org](mailto:susan@justice4all.org) or (434) 977-0553 ext. 101.

Friends of the Virginia Beach Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court Inc. at <http://vbfriendsofjdr.org/donate/> shows the many ways donors may elect to help provide a needed service to benefit a child and/or family.

The Community Tax Law Project, at <http://ctlp.org/>, provides free legal help to Virginia's low-wage families and individuals experiencing economic harm because of a tax problem. Legal services focus on directly strengthening the financial stability of working families, i.e., Virginia's low- and moderate-income taxpayers.

Legal Services of Northern Virginia, through *The Law Center for Children (TLC)* and *The Education Law Project*, serves low-income children and families in a variety of civil legal matters, with a particular focus on special education cases. TLC also serves children in family adoptions, guardianships, public benefits, and other matters. There is a tremendous unmet need for these and inadequate resources with which to meet that need. To help, visit <http://www.lsnv.org/funding.html> or call (703) 778-6803.

## Free and Low-Cost Pro Bono Training

Visit the Pro Bono page on the VSB website for free and low-cost pro bono training and volunteer opportunities:  
[http://www.vsb.org/site/pro\\_bono/resources-for-attorneys](http://www.vsb.org/site/pro_bono/resources-for-attorneys)