



PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

# WE WON'T STOP UNTIL **JUSTICE** JUST IS.

2020 Annual Report

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*Inspired by Amanda Gorman's poem "The Hill We Climb"*





# Director's Message

To say that 2020 was an unprecedented challenge, is a great understatement. But thanks to an amazing staff, a dedicated Board of Directors, and committed supporters, like you, we have persevered. We will continue to stand up for fairness and justice for all.

Thank you for standing with us.



Nan Heald





# Our Values

- Respect
- Optimism
- Impact
- Professionalism
- Ownership
- Monitoring for Results
- Sustainability





## Mission

Our mission is to ensure that state and federal laws affecting poor people are upheld, while also addressing the systemic barriers to justice faced by Mainers with low incomes.

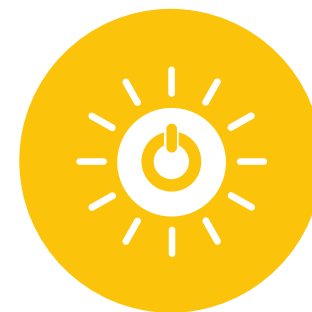
## Approach

We provide free civil legal assistance in cases where legal aid can make a difference in one's ability to attain basic human needs or enforce basic rights, including access to housing, food, income, safety, education, and healthcare.

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic revealed what our frontline staff see every day:  
the extreme inequalities in our state.



Structural inequalities implicate health, housing, employment, education, and even access to the civil justice system.



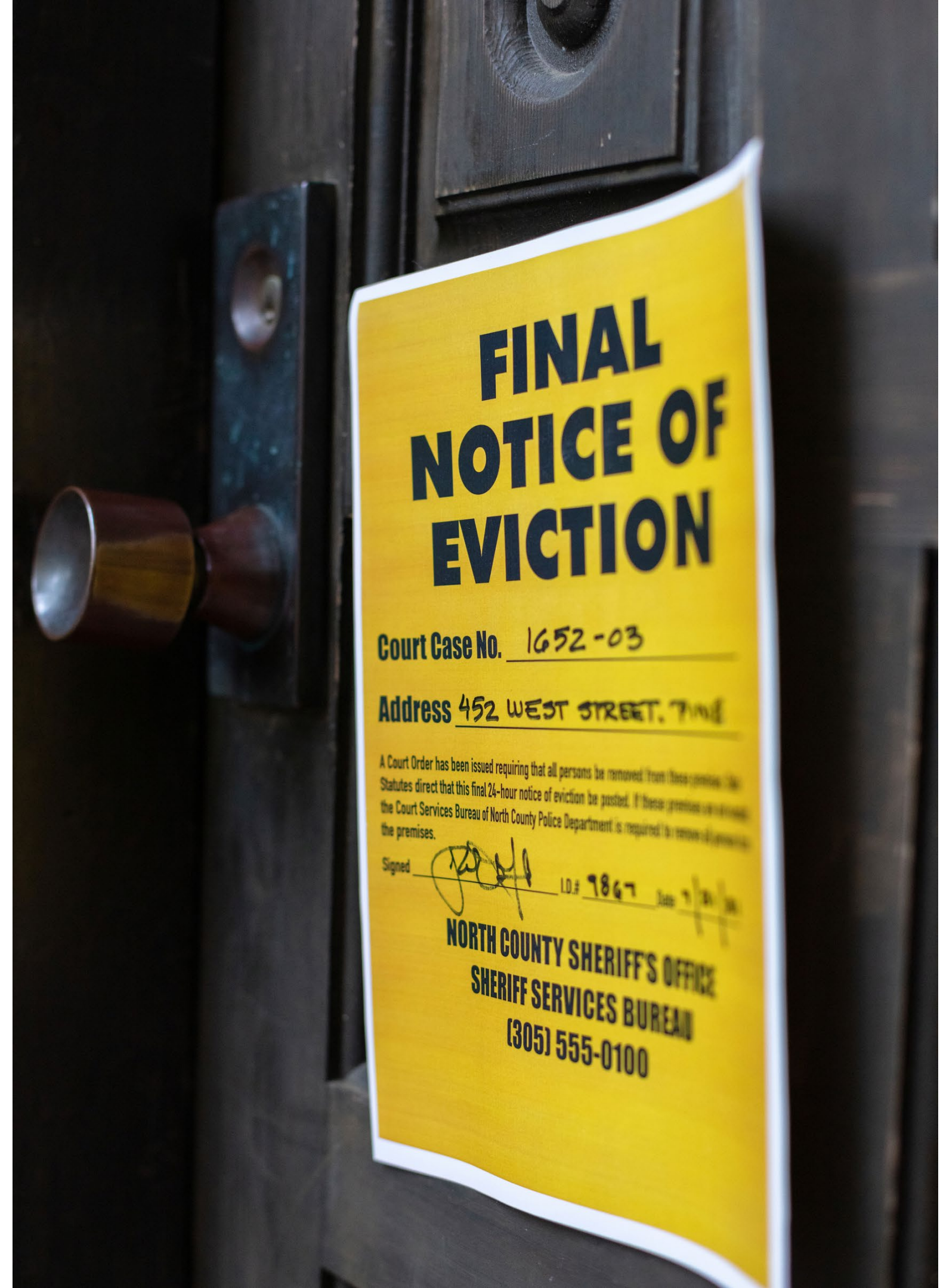


## A CLOSER LOOK →

In January 2020, “Jennifer” started a new job working as an optician at a local eye doctor’s office. Jennifer is a single mom of three, living in a small Maine town. Before starting her new job, she had fallen behind on rent and entered into an agreement with her landlord to catch up on payments. When COVID-19 hit Maine in March, Jennifer was cut down to 8 hours a week and she could no longer afford her current or past due rent.

Initially, Jennifer’s landlord said he would work with her, but after accepting money from her tax return and stimulus check, he asked local police to remove her from her home.

One day in June, Jennifer came home from work to find a notice hanging on her door that said she must leave within 48 hours. In the middle of the pandemic, her landlord threatened to have the police throw her and her kids onto the street.



Jennifer called Pine Tree Legal Assistance for help. She asked us if this was legal. She wasn't sure what rights she had.

One of our staff attorneys, Lynn, researched the case and identified a legal defense. Lynn drove out to the local court to request an emergency temporary restraining order (TRO) to stop the landlord from illegally evicting Jennifer.

The court granted the order and Lynn immediately notified the landlord and the local police that Jennifer and her kids could stay in their home.

If Pine Tree Legal Assistance had not intervened, three children and an adult would have been left without shelter in the midst of a pandemic. This would have resulted in immediate health and safety risks.

Laws only work when they are enforced. Pine Tree Legal Assistance helps local families enforce laws designed to prevent housing discrimination, ensure free appropriate public education, protect low wage worker, and prevent financial exploitation. Your support of Pine Tree Legal Assistance provides free legal help to Mainers who would not otherwise have access to a lawyer.

**“The law is complicated and, without Pine Tree’s help, many families who have a right to stay in their homes will be unfairly evicted.”**



**LYNN WARD**

# ADDRESSING NEEDS



29%

Nearly one third of Maine's population is low income (income under 200% of the federal poverty level).



11.2

More than eleven people are evicted each day in Maine, on average.



71%

More than 70% of American households with low incomes experienced at least one civil legal problem in the last year.



# CREATING AN IMPACT



15,643

In 2020, we worked on 6,313 cases, serving a total of 15,643 people.



\$3,967,188

Our advocacy resulted in \$3,967,188 in income, savings, and benefits to our clients.



1,663,691

Our websites were used by 1,663,691 users, recording 3,015,743 page views.



# Thank you for your support

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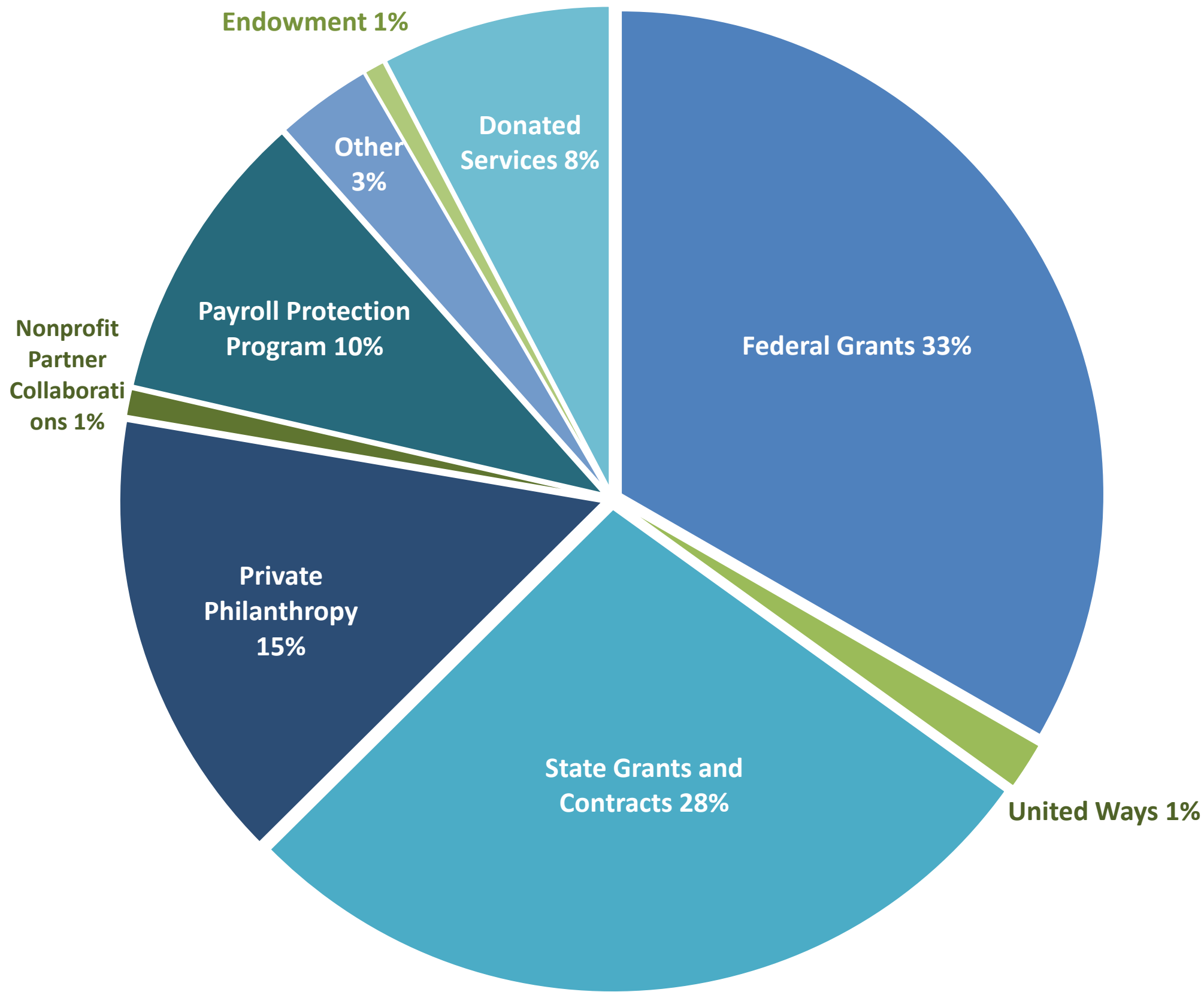


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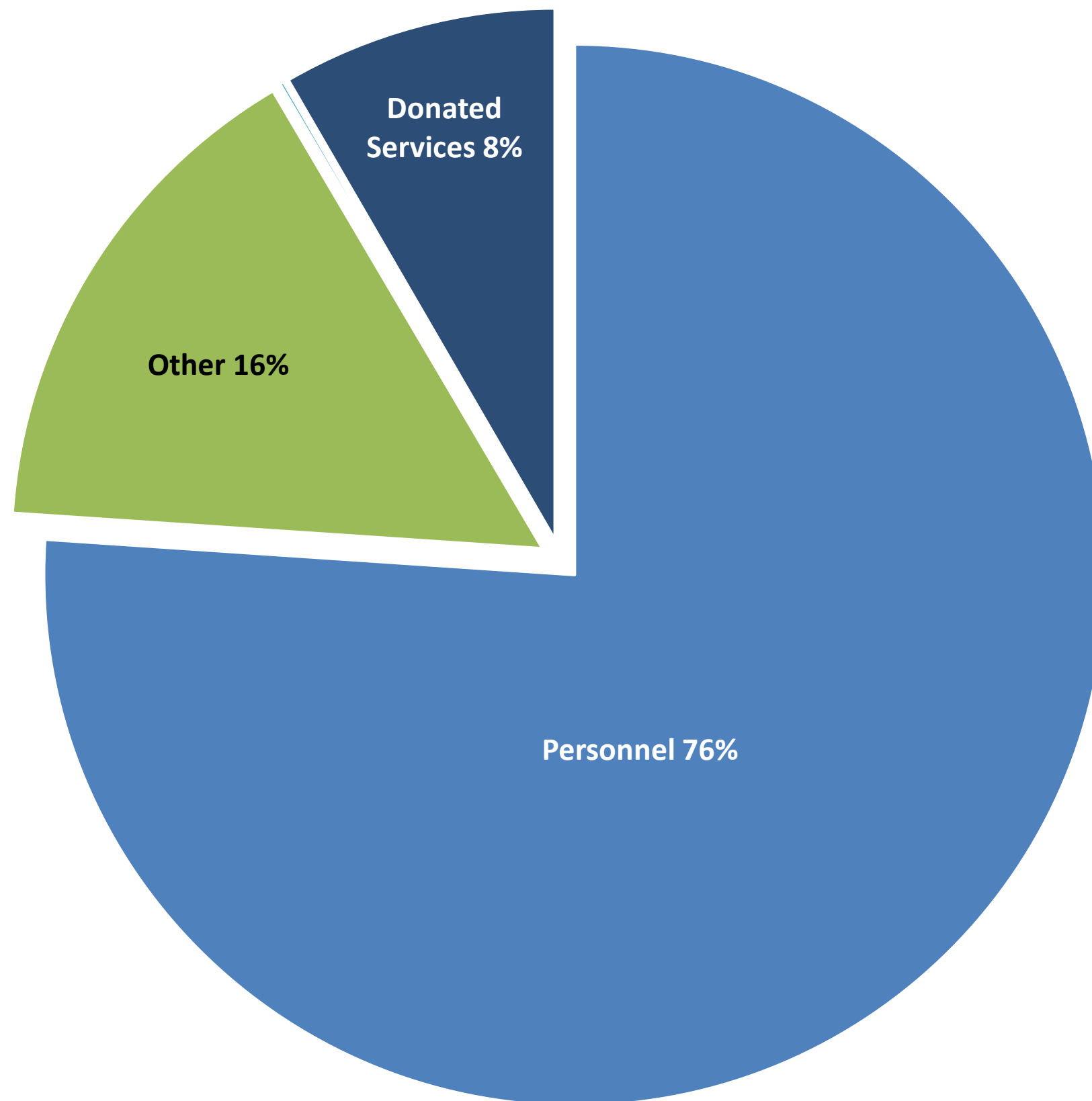
Thank you



## REVENUE

Federal Grants	\$2,531,247
State Grants and Contracts	\$2,100,687
Private Philanthropy	\$1,149,195
Nonprofit Partner Collaborations	\$69,124
United Ways	\$122,708
Payroll Protection Program	\$746,400
Other	\$244,006
Endowment	\$53,210
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,599,677</b>





## EXPENSES

Personnel	\$5,302,955
Occupancy	\$253,518
Supplies and Equipment	\$213,287
Travel and Training	\$63,490
Fundraising	\$7,589
Sub-grants	\$14,561
Other	\$533,280
Donated Services	\$583,100
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,971,780</b>



PINE TREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

# THANK YOU

For your support of our mission!

## WEBSITE

<https://ptla.org>

## PHONE NUMBER

(207) 774-4753

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