



(photo representative of client)

Susan F., a single mother of three small children, ages seven, three and one applied for a job driving a bus. This job would work perfectly with her children's schedules and the resulting income would have allowed her family to live on her income, instead of public assistance in the amount of \$248.00 per month. But she had been charged (not convicted) with a crime as a juvenile. She needed to have her record expunged. Neighborhood Legal Services Association filed a Petition to have the record expunged. The District Attorney's office initially objected to the expungement. NLSA had the client bring in a letter from her new employer stating that she had been hired and was doing well, but would not be able to work until her record was cleared. The District Attorney's office withdrew their objection, the Court agreed to expunge the record, and Ms. F. is now able to support her three children.



Janice from Erie said ...

“After watching Northwestern Legal Services’ ‘Access to Justice’ television show on Erie Cablevision, I felt I might qualify for the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). After I applied for the assistance, I was able to get a grant that really helped with the bills this winter. I also told two friends about LIHEAP, and they were able to benefit from the program.”



Tammy Dowis, a single mom raising her 11 year old daughter Alicia, called Crisis Intervention when Alicia's visiting Dad, who was homeless and without a job made suicidal threats and put his fist through a wall. Fearing that Tammy would block future contact with his daughter, he took Alicia from school, and then to Florida to live with his parents. Without a pre-existing custody order the police could do nothing to stop him.

A MidPenn attorney filed a Custody Complaint and obtained a hearing date in York within two weeks. The child was returned to Tammy as ordered by the court. "MidPenn was there for me when I needed them. We're doing great now," says Tammy. Alicia will still see her Dad but it will be with the protection of a court order.

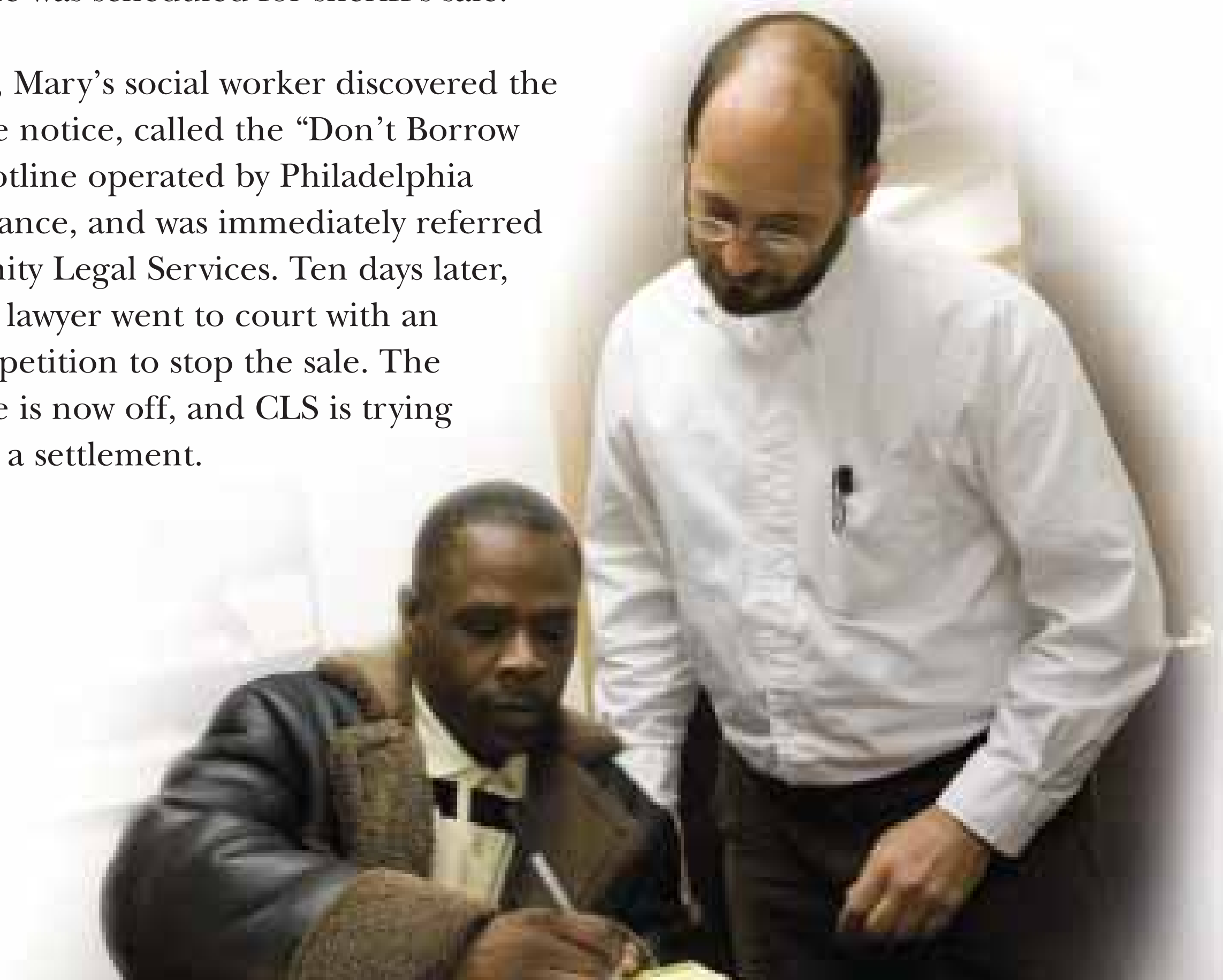
Making A Difference

CLS Fights Predatory Lender

Mary's Story *(Name has been changed.)*

Elderly and bedridden, Mary lives off her Social Security income and her pension. She has owned her home for over 40 years. When a relative applied for a \$2,000 emergency loan, the loan company convinced the family that a much larger \$40,000 loan made sense. Mary put her house up as collateral, and last February, the lender showed up at Mary's bedside to get her signature on the loan agreement. However, with taxes and insurance, Mary's monthly mortgage payment ballooned to over half of her monthly income. Within months, Mary's home was scheduled for sheriff's sale.

Fortunately, Mary's social worker discovered the sheriff's sale notice, called the "Don't Borrow Trouble" hotline operated by Philadelphia Legal Assistance, and was immediately referred to Community Legal Services. Ten days later, Mary's CLS lawyer went to court with an emergency petition to stop the sale. The sheriff's sale is now off, and CLS is trying to work out a settlement.





A prospective landlord refused to return rent and a security deposit to **Ms. Lovett**. She had wanted to rent his apartment but couldn't because he denied access for inspectors to check for Section 8 housing assistance compliance. With the help of a MidPenn attorney, Ms. Lovett was refunded her one month rent payment, as well as her security deposit of \$1,349. She was able to find a new apartment for herself and her two young children. "He knew he was wrong. I just wanted my money back," said Lovett. "Hopefully, he'll think about this in the future and not do it to someone else."

[The Barrier] Jim Cyphers is a 55-year old man with multiple sclerosis who receives \$912/month on SSDI, is covered by Medicare and is enrolled in a Medicare Savings Program. He obtains his MS medication at no cost through a Patient Assistance Program, but was seeking a way to save on his other medications. Jim called PHLP after six weeks had passed with no action on his application for a Medicare Discount Drug card.

[The Outcome] Jim received his new Medicare discount drug card effective the first day of the new year. He also received \$1,200 in credit for the previous and current years combined. The copayment for his medications dropped from \$40 to \$4. Jim was so pleased with this outcome that he called our staff every time he used his card to report his savings and express his thanks.



*Jim was helped by
The Pennsylvania Health Law Project*

Jim is always a satisfied customer these days when he shows up at his local pharmacy with a discount drug card that dramatically reduces the cost of his prescription medications.