

Have Justice—Will Travel

Ending the Generational Cycle of Violence



NEWS

WINTER 2020

HJWT Continues Its Mission in the Midst of COVID-19

By Wynona I. Ward, Esq., Founding Director, HJWT

The mission of Have Justice—Will Travel (HJWT) is to stop the generational cycle of abuse in Vermont families by bridging the legal, cultural, geographical, psychological, and economic gaps that exist for victims of domestic and sexual violence. HJWT does this by providing free legal services, transportation, and in-home consultations for litigants in family and probate courts.

HJWT has successfully met its mission since 1998 when Founding Director, Wynona Ward first developed the HJWT model and began providing services for clients.

To everyone's surprise, in early March 2020, Vermont Governor Philip B. Scott declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic that was enveloping the entire State of Vermont.

By the end of March the Governor and his team of advisors, including Health Commissioner Mark Levine, MD, ordered the dismissal of PreK-12 classes, stopped operation of daycare facilities, closed all restaurants and bars, suspended all non-essential adult elective surgery, restricted non-essential gatherings to 10 or less people, closed close contact businesses, ordered telecommuting or work from home procedures, and issued a "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order for all residents, except essential workers.

With the Stay Home order came strict advise: stay home if you are sick, wash your hands a lot, keep your social circle small, stay at least 6 feet apart, and wear a facial covering.

Soon after the Governor's order, the Vermont Supreme Court issued a Declaration of Judicial Emergency and Changes to Court Procedures that affected the everyday work of HJWT. The Supreme Court's order suspended non-emergency Superior Court hearings, but did make exceptions for specific criminal



This sign hangs on the front of the HJWT Central Vermont office. Battered by wind, rain, snow, and the sun it looks a little worn, but it stands proud and strong like all the employees who stand behind it. In many cases, unfortunately, it can mean the difference between life and death.

hearings and juvenile matters. The Court also postponed many family court matters such as divorce, custody, visitation, and child support. It did, however, continue to hold final hearings for relief from abuse and stalking requests.

Courts all over the state recommended both attorneys and their clients to participate by telephone and/or video whenever possible. They encouraged email filings of petitions, motions, and responses.

Access to court buildings was severely limited. Anyone seeking to file documents in person was required to place them in a receptacle provided in the entryway to the courthouse. No documents could be filed or picked up at the counter, in fact, the counters were not staffed. Any individual who sought to enter the building if a hearing was scheduled was asked specific questions: in the past few days have you felt unwell, have

continued on page 7...

Wynona is Named a “Remarkable Woman”

By Wynona I. Ward, Esq., Founding Director, HJWT



Wynona holding her “Remarkable Woman Award.”

On March 6, 2020, Wynona and her sister, Nancy Cushman traveled to Burlington, Vermont to attend a celebration. Nancy had nominated Wynona as a “Remarkable Woman” for the Nexstar’s Remarkable Women of 2020 series. The Local ABC 22 WVNY and Local Fox 44 WFFF television stations sponsored the celebration of Remarkable Women in Vermont.

March is International Women’s Month and Nexstar celebrated by honoring “Remarkable Women” across the country and recognizing the great contributions that women make to our nation and our local communities. “This initiative honors the influence women have on public policy, social progress and the quality of life. It celebrates local women that inspire, lead and forge the way for other women.”

Wynona was chosen for establishing Have Justice Will Travel in Vermont after growing up in an abusive home where family violence was an accepted way of life. Wynona pointed out on the show that she had overcome trauma that could have killed her and now uses that strength to help other women in Vermont.

Wynona who appeared in a live interview with host Abigail Friedman on the “Morning Brew” show described the HJWT model and how the organization has been able to substantially change the lives of thousands of women, children, and men who are victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Elizabeth Grimes, a foster care mother, was featured on the show. She had lost her son Tatum to SIDS and turned that tragedy into a program called Tatum’s Totes where supplies such as book bags, toothbrushes, toys, and pajamas are given to children entering foster care.

Amanda Conger, a dedicated student and an incredible hockey player for Saint Anselm College was featured because of her bravery and selflessness in donating a kidney for a stranger in order to save his life.

Kathy Lavoie of St. Albans, VT, was another Remarkable Woman who had helped over 500 adults get into college and is currently working to give second chances to parolees who are seeking a higher education.

It was wonderful to spend the morning with these “Remarkable Women” from Vermont who were inspiring, giving of themselves, and a joy to be around. ♦

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Women’s group

National toll free phone line

Women in Transition

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Referrals for:
Supervised Visits
Exchanges
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HJWT's Legal Empowerment Assistance Program (LEAP) – *Always Adapting*

By E. Robin Goodrum, Paralegal and Coordinator of LEAP

The many adaptations the Legal Empowerment Assistance Program (LEAP) has made over the years has allowed it to rather seamlessly face the many challenges the pandemic presented over the last eight months and has also helped with the transition to the new Vermont court protocols.

LEAP is a program that evolved from the Have Justice – Will Travel (HJWT) clientele that were initially identified as “call-ins”. LEAP allows HJWT to offer long-term, on-going support to those disadvantaged Vermonters and *pro se* litigants in Vermont Family and Probate Courts who call looking for legal advice and direction throughout the development of their case. (“*pro se*” litigants are people who represent themselves in court without an attorney.)

“Call-in” clients are those who call requiring a quick answer to specific questions. Over time HJWT became aware of an interesting and important fact: many “call-in” clients were repeat callers, reaching out again and again for further assistance as their Family or Probate case developed. The understanding, guidance and assistance given through each call was helping them, one step at a time, navigate the legal process, respond to court correspondence and learn what social services were available to them.

As the repeat “call-ins” grew HJWT began to identify them as “consulting-clients” as they were receiving months of extensive help through phone support and one-on-one time. These clients were receiving consistent on-going education about the Vermont Family Court procedures and assistance with filling out forms and filing motions and responses for parentage, divorce, parental rights and responsibilities, parent child contact, and child support. For Vermont Probate Court, “consulting clients” received on-going support with guardianship cases.

It soon became apparent that with the continued legal support and direction HJWT had, these Vermonters overcame terrifying challenges in their lives; discovered inner strength they did not know existed, and persevered through tough legal battles and major life adjustments. The realization, that the results of the on-going consulting relationship are much greater than the information given and last long after the relationship with HJWT has ended, prompted HJWT to change the program name from the “consulting” client program to the “Legal Empowerment Assistance Program (LEAP).”

The product of an evolving HJWT clientele, LEAP has been



Robin working from her home office during COVID.

and remains a work in progress. Over the years HJWT and Coordinator, Robin Goodrum have constantly evaluated the delivery of LEAP services and adjusted the program to best accommodate the clientele.

LEAP has continually focused on achieving the most efficient, effective method for providing legal assistance to Vermonters that cannot afford an attorney and for whom HJWT cannot provide full representation.

Due to the many adjustments made over the years by LEAP to accommodate changes in HJWT staff, rising numbers of statewide calls for legal assistance, and an increase in the variety and level of assistance

sought, there was little disruption caused by the pandemic to the delivery of LEAP services.

Since 2006, as LEAP became known and regularly accessed by *pro se* litigants throughout the state of Vermont Ms. Goodrum had to find ways to stretch her workday. She quickly identified the many hours she spent on the road getting to scheduled appointments between various counties as not the best use of that precious time, and set about changing it.

She began strengthening her relationships with various agencies around the state and developed a collaborative method for providing services by relying more on conference calls. It worked well and graduated into training programs to increase the level of assistance provided to clients before a call was made to LEAP, which again freed up important time that was then directed to addressing more complicated legal issues. Over time the conference calls evolved into Skype interaction for meetings and trainings, which allowed for the more personal touch that was a missing piece for some clients.

These adaptations and adjustments made over the years to the delivery of LEAP services around the state has allowed the program to continue delivery of its services rather seamlessly throughout the last eight months of disruption to the Vermont Legal system.

LEAP continuously and successfully addressed complicated family law and Probate Court cases, maintained its strong working relationships with the Vermont Courts, and community organizations it assists by educating them to make their clientele knowledgeable of their rights. It also informs clients of the resources they can access for help with protecting their rights and the best interest of their children. ♦

Bennington – Rutland Update: *Continuing HJWT in Southwestern Vermont*

By Katie Jayne, Paralegal, Client Services Coordinator, and Office Administrator

The Southern Vermont office was excited to receive word in September that the Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) renewed our three-year grant. On September 16, 2020, Wynona attended a press conference with U.S. Attorney Christina Nolan and other Vermont grant recipients to announce that Have Justice – Will Travel and nine other Vermont organizations received funding from OVW this year to help curb domestic violence.

We are so thankful for Laura Savall, the Staff Attorney in the Southern Vermont office who continued to represent clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The court buildings were closed in late March and all hearings moved to telephone or video appearance which was a huge adjustment for all parties. Laura worked in the office and remotely to make sure that clients were prepared for their hearings and had the ability to attend telephonically. Laura worked with members of our community coordinated response teams to make sure that our clients were receiving all assistance available.

We are thankful for our grant MOU partners from Bennington, the victim advocacy group Project Against Violent Encounters and the Bennington County States Attorney office. From Rutland our grant partners are the victim advocacy group New Story Center and the Rutland County States Attorney office. Everyone has worked closely together during this time to ensure survivors received access to legal assistance. The court buildings are reopening on a limited basis and Laura has returned to in-person court hearings where she continues to make sure victim’s voices are being heard.

Because of storage limitations in the office, Katie took on the task of transitioning the office to a paperless filing system. This involved countless hours of scanning and uploading thousands of paper files to our computer servers. We are pleased with this transition which is in line with the Vermont Courts transitioning to electronic submission of pleadings.

HJWT normally sends staff to a national conference to explore ideas and discuss strategies for providing services to rural survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic all conferences were cancelled or moved to virtual format. In July the Center for Court Innovation held a three part virtual training titled “Enhancing Victim Safety and Facilitation Skills in Abusive Partner Intervention.” Laura and members of our community coordinated response teams attended the three part virtual conference where they learned about the impact of Abusive Partner Intervention Programs. Conference organizers hope they will be able to host an in-person skills workshop as well. Laura and Katie are both regularly attending virtual meetings to connect with other advocates to explore ways to assist victims during these uncertain times.

Throughout this year we have helped countless clients navigate the new world we are in with COVID-19. Below are a few stories highlighting their perseverance and strength while seeking safety for themselves and their children.

HJWT assisted a client to obtain a relief from abuse order (RFA) against her former partner. HJWT assisted her



Laura Savall and Katie Jahne review the new court e-filing system

originally to separate from her abuser years ago. Since then she always renewed her RFA to stay safe from his abuse. Unfortunately, her RFA lapsed and she needed to apply for a new order. During the time she didn’t have an RFA he would send other people to threaten her, call various places looking for her and her daughter, and stalk her at her residence. Our client feared for both her and her daughter’s safety. Unfortunately, she was unable to serve him since he lived a few states away. HJWT assisted her in her efforts to serve him by newspaper publication, which is allowed if the court finds all other options have been exhausted. We successfully served him by publication and got her a two-year RFA to keep both her and her daughter safe from his abuse.

Without HJWT our client may not have been able to serve by publication since this option is not commonly known by “*pro se*” litigants. (“*pro se*” litigants are people who represent themselves in court without an attorney). Many RFA’s that cannot be successfully served are vacated by the court for lack of service, leaving the victim without protection, and further victimized by the court process. When survivors are not adequately heard, they may not later engage with the court process because of their past negative experiences.

HJWT assisted a client with a Relief From Abuse matter against their significant other. The abuser persistently looked for our client all over town and would frequently confront our client about her whereabouts. She often had friends and family conceal her location so she did not get in trouble with her husband.

After he moved out of the marital home, he would still frequently return to check up on her and see who she was with. One night things escalated to physical violence when he went to check on her and realized another vehicle was in the driveway. Unfortunately, their minor child was in the home during the altercation. She fled that location and found a secure home without his knowledge.

HJWT assisted the parties to agree to an RFA, avoiding a hearing which, more than likely, would have been traumatizing for our client. Even during negotiations he insisted on knowing where

continued on page 7...

Representing Clients in HJWT's Southern Vermont Office

By Laura A. Savall, Esq.

The majority of our cases in the HJWT southern office consist of assisting and representing clients with their Relief From Abuse Orders (RFA) and Stalking Petitions. Recently we have experienced an increased number of stalking petitions and RFA's with stalking components. Both Katie Jahne and I have attended trainings with a focus on stalking behavior. January is National Stalking Awareness Month which brings attention to the reality many stalking victims face. What many of us do not realize is that stalking behavior escalates, intimidates, and in some cases can turn deadly.

Stalkers use many tactics to interfere with their victim's privacy and autonomy. Unwanted phone calls or messages on social media, unwanted gifts, surveilling their victim, and showing up unannounced are a few ways that stalkers ensure their presence is known to their victims. Victims

of stalking know the, sometimes subtle, ways their stalkers try to communicate their presence. At times those of us on the outside may not understand the significance of some actions and we may downplay the magnitude of certain gestures.

Stalking impacts 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men at some point in their lifetime. (Stalkingawareness.org) Stalking victims suffer higher rates of depression, anxiety, insomnia, and social dysfunction compared to the general population. Eric Blouuw, et al., "The Toll of Stalking," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 17 No. 1, 50-63 (2002). Further, 1 in 8 stalking victims lose time from work and more than half lose 5 or more days from work. Katrina Baum, et. al, "Stalking Victimization in the United States," (Washington DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics 2009).

In Vermont, residents can either receive or apply for a stalking order if they are not household members or can use stalking behavior as evidence of abuse in a Relief from Abuse petition if they are household members. The court must find that defendant engaged purposefully in a course of conduct which includes two or more acts of following, monitoring, surveilling, making threats, or interfering with property. The court must find that a reasonable person would be in fear for their safety based on the defendant's actions and have suffered substantial emotional distress 12 VSA § 5131.

The Vermont Supreme court has recently issued two cases narrowing the scope of the stalking statute. Specifically they looked at the definition of surveillance, monitoring, and threatening behavior.

The Court found that surveillance, "requires, at a minimum, the intent to closely watch or carefully observe a person or place." Scheffler v. Scheffler, 2020 VT 93, ¶10. The trial court granted Plaintiff her order based on Defendant's intentional honking which

signaled that he was passing the house and indicating his discontent with the contentious probate matter they were engaged in. However, the Supreme Court determined that Defendant's admitted intentional honking past Plaintiff's house did not constitute surveillance because he was not intending to watch or observe the Plaintiff carefully. Id. at ¶ 11. The court ultimately found that just "sending a message" is not enough to constitute surveillance under the stalking statute.

Additionally, the Court found that excessive calls are not, in themselves, threats under the stalking statute. Instead, they would have to include some threatening language or behavior along with the calls or be used to monitor a person's whereabouts. Hinkson v. Stevens, 2020 VT 69, ¶35. Further the Court concludes that threats refer "only to threats of physical harm." Hinkson at ¶42.

Sadly, the Court went one step further indi-

cating "even a threat of 'potential retribution or retaliation' does not necessarily communicate intent to physically harm another person." Id. at ¶47. Ultimately, the court narrowed the scope of threatening behavior to those of physical harm and did not allow threats of retribution and retaliation to constitute stalking.

This conclusion drastically diverges from the legislature's intent to protect stalking victims. The legislature clearly states "stalking causes a long-lasting impact on the victim's quality of life and creates a risk to the security and safety of the victim and others even in the **absence** of express threats of physical harm." 12 VSA §5133(3) (emphasis added). The legislature seems to understand that in matters of stalking and domestic violence many abusers do not plainly state their threats, but instead mask them in a way to be covert from public persecution but meaningful to their victims in the context of their relationship.

Many victims struggle to explain to the court why certain actions are indeed threatening given the totality of the circumstances because the court expects, more clearly now than ever, explicit threats of physical harm. The court should take into account surrounding circumstances when determining if an abuser's actions are threatening. Stickney v. Stickney, 170 Vt. 547,548 (1999).

We continue to serve our clients in rural Vermont with a mission to end the generational cycle of abuse. We strive to educate our fellow Vermonters about the warning signs of stalking before escalation. When we are more educated as a community about stalking and domestic violence we lift that burden of educating others off the survivor and possibly prevent further traumatic experiences. Please visit Stalkingawareness.org for more information related to stalking behaviors. ♦



Laura awaits a telephone call from a client in her Bennington office.

City Mouse or Country Mouse? *

By Elyssa Willadsen, VLS '21, Student Legal Intern

Growing up in the suburbs of New Jersey, not far from New York City, I never really expected I'd end up in law school or in rural Vermont. In undergrad, I studied Fine Arts at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan. I loved working in the arts but felt I was not fulfilling a bigger calling, to positively affect the lives of everyday people. This calling eventually led me to farming. What better way to help people than feed them!? It was my time working in the fields when I really began to grow frustrated with issues surrounding access to healthy food and support for small farmers. I wanted to help a community I grew to truly love, the small farming community. I began researching and found Vermont Law School's Center for Agriculture and Food Systems.

I honestly, was prepared to dedicate my life to building progressive policies for small farmers and improving inner city food systems. The only glaring issue was that I was not moved by the inherently slow nature of creating policy. I wanted to be an active resource to my community. The same time I discovered my distaste for policy-focused work. I was enrolled in a Family Law course at Vermont Law School. Family law was immediately intriguing to me. In the bigger picture, family law policies are a reflection of society's beliefs; morphing and changing to best legally define families and their issues. On a smaller scale, the work you do in family law directly affects the lives of average people and whole families. Work in family law allows me to positively address the needs of small, rural communities, while contributing to the larger, legal interpretation of families and their needs.

There are very few law school experiences that have left me feeling truly blessed and fulfilled in every way. My time at Have Justice – Will Travel (HJWT) has done exactly that. I gained ample experience from my time at the South Royalton Legal Clinic, but there were missing pieces. HJWT filled those empty spaces and so much more. Finally, I had the ability to represent a client in Court. While this was nerve wracking, Wynona prepared me very well. My client's expectations were properly managed and, although transitions caused by court orders were very distressing, the client is doing very well. I have observed more hearings than most students I know. I have researched many family law issues in Vermont. I even had the chance to observe how a real mediation works. From an educational perspective, my broad experiences this semester has given me a strong foundation for practicing family law. From a personal perspective, I feel like I was ushered into an extremely supportive group of women. I feel very grateful to have been welcomed into the HJWT family with open arms. When a hard time hits, whether concerning work or something personal, the



Wynona and Elyssa prepare for a court hearing.

amount of support available in this small firm is enormous. Wynona and Johnnie always know how to put a smile on each other's faces and it is contagious! Some weeks I looked back and was awed at how much we did, how many places we went and how we managed to have so much fun!

A unique quality of this semester in practice was not only Wynona's guidance and extensive knowledge but also the opportunity to work with Laura Savall. When it comes to mentors, the more the merrier! Laura offers fresh takes on common legal issues. She has a vibrant, palpable passion for the law. While Wynona provided much of my "boots on the ground" education this

semester, Laura gave me really intriguing research topics, allowing me to expand my knowledge of Vermont case law. She also invited me to observe her Rutland and Bennington County Relief from Abuse hearings. This allowed me to compare and contrast different approaches employed by many judges throughout Vermont.

It has also been a great pleasure working with Johnnie and Robin this semester. Johnnie is an amazing administrator. Johnnie creates a homey environment in the office all while balancing the burden of intakes and other necessary office work. She is incredibly kind, giving, and understanding. Johnnie always knows how to put a smile on my face, even when we are dealing with some pretty bleak situations.

Robin is also a force! Her insight and ability to guide people through the legal corn maze of Family Law is invaluable. Through the LEAP program, Robin superbly guides those we may not be able to fully represent at the time. Her work provides people the much-needed assistance and knowledge they need to navigate through, what may be, the worst experience of their lives. Wynona, Johnnie, Laura, and Robin are all women I look up to and aspire to become more like.

While it saddens me to see my time at HJWT coming to a close, I know the bonds and knowledge I've built here are everlasting. It has been a blessing, especially during this year, to come to the Vershire office, gain so much hands-on experience, and be supported in my efforts of becoming a family lawyer. I will miss going to court with Laura and Wynona and analyzing the day's outcome. I will miss eating lunch with Johnnie, discussing the world and our lives. I will miss hearing updates on Robin's cases and assisting her in any way I can.

Have Justice Will Travel is a force to be reckoned with, and I feel it's wind beneath my wings. Going into my intensive period of Bar study, I am using the excellent experience I had this semester as a light at the end of the tunnel. Once I pass the bar, I hope to continue the work I grew to love at Have Justice. ♦

**An Aesop Fable*

In the Midst of COVID-19, continued from page 1

you had respiratory symptoms, have you been near anyone with COVID-19, or been in a healthcare facility where people infected with COVID-19 are treated?

Most local judges scheduled telephonic hearings. One clerk in a county with a population of under 30,000 stated that over 300 non-emergency cases had been postponed and would eventually need to be made up.

During the first few weeks of the stay home order, HJWT personnel spent time on the telephone and corresponding with clients letting them know the status of their legal matters and court hearings.

Wynona and JohnnieMae were able to apply for and receive funds from the federal payroll protection plan. They were also able to complete the annual HJWT Federal Tax Forms.

There was no question that fewer calls requesting help for relief from abuse orders were coming in during April and May. Needless to say, we worried. Were victims being forced to stay at home with abusers and unable to reach out for help? We found out that was true when businesses and communities began to open up again. During the summer and fall HJWT has been inundated with new requests for help.

Now with the new spike in COVID numbers, we are worrying once again as states are beginning to shut down in order to prevent the spread of the virus. We realize this procedure is necessary, but at the same time we ask, "With the shut down will victims have any way to reach out for help?"

HJWT persists to spread the word about the free legal services we offer and continues to be available to assist clients over the telephone, by Zoom, with in-person meetings, and by providing representation in the courtroom whenever possible. Everyone at HJWT voluntarily follows the COVID protocols and like all citizens are looking forward to the time when a vaccine is available.

It was especially heart warming to recently receive the following note from a mother: *"Thank you and the entire Have Justice Will Travel organization for everything you all have done and did in the face of overwhelming odds to help me and my family receive such an amazing outcome. Things would not have gone this well without you, Wynona! Thank you so much!"* ♦

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Bennington – Rutland Update, continued from page 4

she was located. HJWT ensured that the RFA included provisions to not allow him to question others to find out where she was currently living. Nevertheless, he continued to question people close to her to find out where she lived. Unfortunately, he was successful in pressuring the right person to tell him where she was located. HJWT worked closely with our MOU partners to bring criminal charges against him for violating the RFA by discovering her whereabouts.

This story highlights the strong hold that power and control has over our clients and their daily lives. Thankfully, our client is safe and secure now and has a final RFA which provides peace of mind when navigating co-parenting with her abuser. Many clients need reassurance that they do not need to provide their abusers with information that directly impacts their safety. We are thankful to our MOU partners for ensuring her safety along with providing the abuser with strict boundaries needed to protect our client.

Have Justice -- Will Travel sends out client satisfaction surveys when a client's case is closed. We are always thankful for this feedback to help grow and provide better services to future clients. Below are comments we have received from clients about the services they have received:

"My attorney was very knowledgeable and wonderful to work with."

"I was very happy to come across this program. I worked with Laura and she was amazing. During a really hard time in my life she made me feel supported. Always responded back almost instantly. Worked hard on my case. She listened to my details and did amazing putting it all together. Laura assured me she would make me feel comfortable and she did. I will spread the word on this program."

"Though it was an uphill battle which I eventually lost, Laura remained both optimistic and realistic throughout, easing my nerves. She was amazing to work with and I am more than thankful for her time."

"Laura and Katie were both exceptionally helpful, professional, and compassionate. All calls and emails were replied to promptly. They addressed all details and guided me in every situation that arose. Laura went above and beyond my expectations by helping me with hand delivery of items and her overall kindness. I'm infinitely grateful for the help they provided in navigating a painful and unfamiliar experience. They made it much smoother and less stressful than it would have been."

We in our southern office look forward to another three years serving the residents of Bennington and Rutland counties and we thank our MOU partners for their continued support and encouragement of our programs. ♦



Have Justice—Will Travel

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The mission of *Have Justice—Will Travel, Inc.* (**HJWT**) is to end the generational cycle of abuse in rural families by bridging the legal, cultural, geographical, psychological, and economic gaps that exist for victims of domestic abuse. HJWT is an innovative, mobile, multi-service program that **assists victims of domestic abuse through the legal process, from the initial interview and relief from abuse order through self-sufficiency and independence.** This holistic multi-service approach to assisting rural victims often is the key to victims first escaping the abuse and then moving forward to improving the quality of their lives and their children's lives.

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Twenty Years at HJWT for Johnnie Mae Doyle

By Wynona I. Ward, Esq., Founding Director, HJWT



Recently, JohnnieMae has recruited her dog, Jasper, to volunteer at HJWT. Here he is shown delivering the mail. He is the best mail carrier we have ever had!

All the staff in the Central office is amazed by the scrumptious lunches and baked goods that Johnnie Mae often brings in to the office. Some days the aromas in the office take you back to your childhood days at Grandma's house. We all want to thank JohnnieMae for the wonderful way she makes our work place a home. ♦

Johnnie Mae Doyle, the Have Justice—Will Travel (HJWT) Administrative Manager, recently celebrated twenty years of service with HJWT. Every small business has a center, a heart that keeps the organization alive, connected, and moving forward—Johnnie Mae is that heart for HJWT.

She is a jill-of-all-trades including answering the telephone and screening all calls, as well as handling the bookkeeping, payroll, tax filings, and financial reports.

Johnnie Mae keeps us all organized whether it is with client files, forms, or calendar dates. She is Wynona's legal assistant and often prepares motions, petitions, and responses for the courts.

Most importantly, JohnnieMae is the first voice a victim hears when calling HJWT. It is an empathetic voice, yet a strong voice, and one that says, "We are here to help."

