Mikes Rhodes is an activist and friend in support of homeless individual’s rights. He was a founding member and former editor of the Community Alliance newspaper. He also helped found the Community Media Access Collaboration and was on the CMAC board. An endowed scholarship fund was established in honor of his extensive work on social and economic justice issues. He is also the author of Dispatches from the War Zone which chronicles issues of the homeless and individuals in poverty living in Fresno. Mike Rhodes is not afraid to challenge those in power.

Margaret Rocha has served as the Executive Director of Centro La Familia Advocacy Services (CLFAS) for more than 25 years. Through her leadership CLFAS has become an important resource for the Latino community. For over 40 years she has achieved a distinguished career in federal and nonprofit service. Ms. Rocha is making a positive impact in the community by improving the lives of children and families. She has guided the organization in the design and implementation of programs focused on holistically serving marginalized families.

The West Fresno Ministerial Alliance (WFMA) consists of various ministries and churches throughout Fresno. It is the oldest and only Alliance remaining in Fresno. Each pastor leads their own church, reaching over 5,000 parishioners. The Alliance acts as a community support service to families residing in West Fresno. They award college scholarships and partner with law enforcement to keep the community informed and safe. Each year, the Alliance honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through a community-wide celebration.

Claudia’s neighbor talked fondly of her son, who was in jail. His personality easily attracted women to him, even while in jail and he convinced Claudia to be his girlfriend.

He was strikingly handsome with friendly eyes. He looked good in his jailhouse clothes that covered the tattoos on his arms. Claudia has a big heart; she gave him money and gifts. Then suddenly everything changed.

During a visit, his friendly eyes turned cold. He accused her of being involved with his criminal case and had her followed. She began receiving threatening calls from a male, "I’m going to break your windows, they will find you in a box with broken bones."

She immediately filed a police report and came to CCLS for a Restraining Order. Afterward, he apologized in a letter saying he was only kidding. CCLS filed for the Restraining Order. CCLS advocate Lydia Velasco accompanied Claudia to her hearing. The judge granted her a one-year Restraining Order. The abuser remains in jail and Claudia now feels safe.
Thank YOU to Two Dedicated Individuals

Barbara Ronsley has worked as a paralegal with CCLS for 34 years. She loves her work and states, “It is a joy to work with our clients and an honor to work with and serve our veterans. It is a wonderful feeling knowing my work has helped someone from losing their home or their family’s income.” Barbara is looking forward to spending time with family and traveling. She made an enormous impact on the community and is a joy to work with. She will be greatly missed!

Our Director of Administration Manuel Romero has been with CCLS for 26 years. He is retiring at the end of the summer. Manuel started as an intern in our Merced office while in law school in 1993. Later he was hired as a paralegal, then became the HR Manager in 2003. In 2016, he was promoted to his current position.

In retirement, Manuel plans to play his guitar, travel, and spend time with family. He also looks forward to focusing on photography. Manuel has been an integral part of our Administration. We are sad to see him go!

OUR FELLOWS SAY THANK YOU!

Last year, CCLS created a Fellowship Campaign to fund two summer positions for law students. They wanted to say THANK YOU to all the people who donated to the campaign!

Rebecca Salgado is attending San Joaquin College of Law and is a Fresno native. She is becoming a lawyer to help address systemic inequalities in the Central Valley.

Christian Arevalo is attending UC Hastings and is from Northern California. He decided to become a lawyer because he wants to help people who are the most disadvantaged and have the most barriers.

Watch their videos here: https://centralcallegal.org/because-of-you-2019/

THANK YOU FUNDERS
Partial List

- Legal Services Corporation
- State Bar of CA—Legal Services Trust Fund
- The California Endowment
- Area Agency on Aging: Fresno-Madera, Merced, Kings/Tulare
- Blue Shield Foundation
- Covered California
- Department of Managed Health Care
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- Judicial Council of California
- The California Wellness Foundation

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*CCLS will spend all funds in accordance with the LSC Act of 1974, as amended, and implementing regulations
July 2019 Bankruptcy Question and Answer Session

Wednesday, July 31 at 6pm

Explanation of bankruptcy process & filing requirements.
How to complete Chapter 7 Petition.
Bankruptcy forms and access to reference materials.

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