



SC Appleseed Expands Programs with Grant Awards

July 24, 2009

SCJustice.org

Come Join the Celebration

-2009- Advocate of the Year

Advocate of the Year award is given annually to a member of the South Carolina legal community that exemplifies SC Appleseed's role as a voice for low-income children and families.

On Wednesday, September 16, 2009, the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center will host its fourth annual Advocate of the Year award ceremony at the First Citizen's building in downtown Columbia, home of Nexsen Pruet.



Ms. Vickie Eslinger, Esq.

Our honoree this year is esteemed attorney Victoria Eslinger. Ms. Eslinger is a member of Nexsen Pruet and practices in the area of general and business litigation, labor and employment as well as in the firm's international practice.

We have selected Ms. Eslinger as our first woman Advocate of the Year in part for her

SC Appleseed is pleased to be the recipient of several new grants for the coming year. These grants allow us to further our goals of representing the needs of citizens of South Carolina through education, advocacy, and litigation. We are expanding our impact with grants created for new, specific goals--like developing a children's advocacy program and educating the homeless on their legal rights.

SC Appleseed is a sub-grantee of **SC Fair Share's Housing Accountability Program** grant. **Community Catalyst** created this grant program through a *cy pres* settlement fund called **The Hospital Accountability Project: When Health Insurance Falls Short**. This grant's goal is to improve access to healthcare and reduce medical debt for low and moderate income, uninsured individuals and families. We are working with **SC Fair Share** to improve hospital financial assistance practices for the uninsured.

SC Appleseed was granted funds through **America's Promise Alliance** to begin specifically addressing children's issues. With guidance from our national partner, **First Focus**, we will cultivate an advocacy network addressing early education, tax and finance, and health care issues for the often overlooked children who need a voice.

SC Appleseed was granted funds by the **Southern Poverty Law Center**. We will work to improve educational outcomes for vulnerable students who are disproportionately disciplined and excluded from school. Working with schools, educational leadership, and others on policies and practices to improve student behavior, school climate, and to add needed student services, we hope to increase educational opportunities for all students in our state.

SC Appleseed was awarded a grant from **The Four Freedoms Fund**, a project of **Public Interest Project**. With this grant we will focus on immigration reform and civic integration. The project is guided by long-term goals of fully

long history of pursuing equal rights for all. In the 1970s she filed a lawsuit which ultimately won women the right to serve as pages in the State House. Ms. Eslinger has been an advocate for equal rights throughout her prestigious career.

Please join South Carolina Appleseed at 1230 Main Street in downtown Columbia to honor a truly deserving Advocate of the Year. The reception will begin at six o'clock pm, and the award will be presented to Ms. Eslinger at seven o'clock.

For any questions about the event or contributions, please contact Carrollee Hevener.

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<http://www.scjustice.org/advocateoftheyear.html>

integrating immigrants into American life. Using state and regional support groups as well as ethnic-specific groups, **SC Appleseed** will work to connect with national campaigns and grassroots efforts on civil rights issues important to immigrant's growth as Americans.

Finally, **Richland County** has awarded **SC Appleseed** a grant for **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing**. **SC Appleseed** will provide training to homeless service providers and direct legal clinics to educate homeless and at-risk individuals on their legal rights as tenants; helping them understand benefit programs that will assist in supporting their needs.

With these grants and ongoing work, **SC Appleseed** continues to help those in need. Through our efforts, it is our hope that all SC citizens will benefit and have those inalienable rights--a good life, equal in liberty, with the opportunity to pursue happiness.

Mission Statement:

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center is dedicated to advocacy for low income people in South Carolina to effect systemic change by acting in and through the courts, legislature, administrative agencies, community and the media, and helping others do the same through education, training and co-counseling.

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center
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