

Continuing the fight for justice during a pandemic...



2020
Annual Report

UPLC

UPTOWN PEOPLE'S LAW CENTER

Now more than ever, your support really helps!

What does a pandemic mean? It means people in prison are particularly at risk to the virus' spread. It means at the same time people are less likely to be able to pay rent, it's even more dangerous to be homeless.

And what does that mean for UPLC? Our staff has adapted to work remotely. We are working tirelessly to use YOUR donations to help our clients. They rely on our work now more than ever before. **And we can't do it without you. Thank you.**



YOU
*helped
them all...*



Thanks to your generosity, ex-prisoner gets Social Security income



Before prison, Robert worked as a mover. The long hours of hard work took their toll on his back. Then, Robert went to prison. The terrible health care provided there didn't help his back at all, and it got worse.

Robert also spent way too much time in solitary confinement. (The UN says over 15 days is torture.) That hurt his mental health greatly—which also didn't get proper treatment while he was inside.

Robert was released from prison. But his bad back and mental health issues meant his days as a mover were over. He came to UPLC for help, and we won his Social Security case. Thanks to generous people like you, Robert now lives in Uptown with his girlfriend, and is doing very well!

Apartment subsidy saved Caring donors like you stop homelessness before it starts!

Anytime someone in subsidized housing is threatened with eviction, the stakes are really high: If they get evicted, they lose their subsidy, and will be forced to pay market rent. And people in subsidized housing can't afford market rent! So with an eviction notice, what they are facing is homelessness.

Regina's good friend visited her subsidized housing quite often. Her landlord insisted that her friend must live there, and moved to evict her for having an illegal tenant. However, we helped Regina provide proof that her friend had his own lease, elsewhere. We prevented her eviction!

If at first you don't succeed— re-apply with UPLC's help

Nancy has a history of trauma. She had a mental health breakdown that sent her to the hospital, where she hit a nurse. Then, instead of being provided proper mental health treatment, she was sent to jail.



Jail just made her mental health issues worse, and she was not able to hold a job when she got out. At first she was denied Social Security, but we helped her reapply, and we won! Now she gets much-needed income every month.

You helped Rasha get justice

Success in cavity search case



Rasha is a woman with a history of trauma and serious mental illnesses. In 2015, while she was at Logan prison, she was put in solitary confinement. While there, she asked to see a mental health worker.

Then, a guard noticed that an outlet cover was missing from Rasha's cell, and demanded that she turn it over to him. She insisted it had been missing a long time.

The guard called other guards over, and they took her into the showers, where they strip searched her. Still not satisfied, the guards asked the physician's assistant on duty to give Rasha an internal cavity exam.

Cavity searches are considered so invasive that in Illinois, whenever one is ordered, officials must get the warden's approval. Then, the warden notifies officials in Springfield, the state capital.

However, *none of this happened*. Rasha was held down by four people and examined while she was screaming.

Eventually, the guards called off the search. Later, the physician's assistant admitted there was no way the outlet cover could have been in her vagina.

UPLC sued the guards, and got an out-of-court settlement for Rasha!

Prisoners' lives are improving, thanks to your support



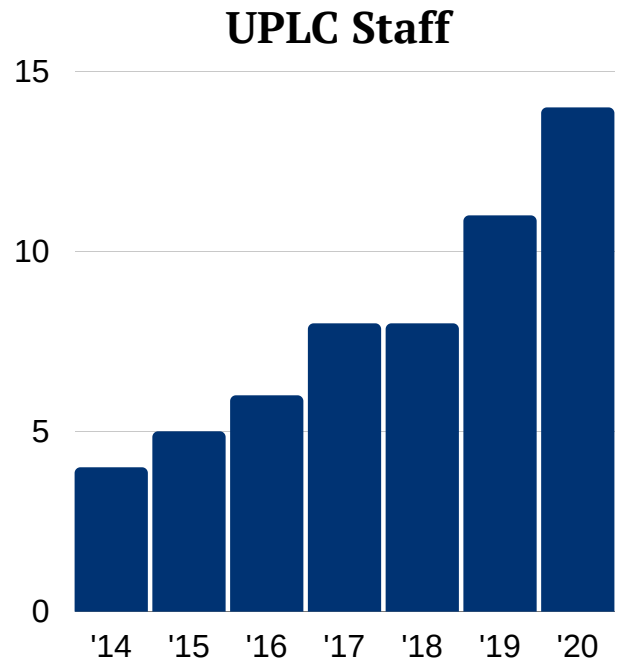
- Medical visits in prison are now free, and the health care system is being overhauled.
- Elgin and Joliet Treatment Centers opened, to hospitalize and provide dedicated treatment to prisoners with serious mental illnesses.

- Prisoners with mental illness no longer spend years in solitary confinement, but get much-needed treatment.
- Deaf and hard of hearing prisoners are now provided translators for hearings, evaluated for hearing aids, and more.



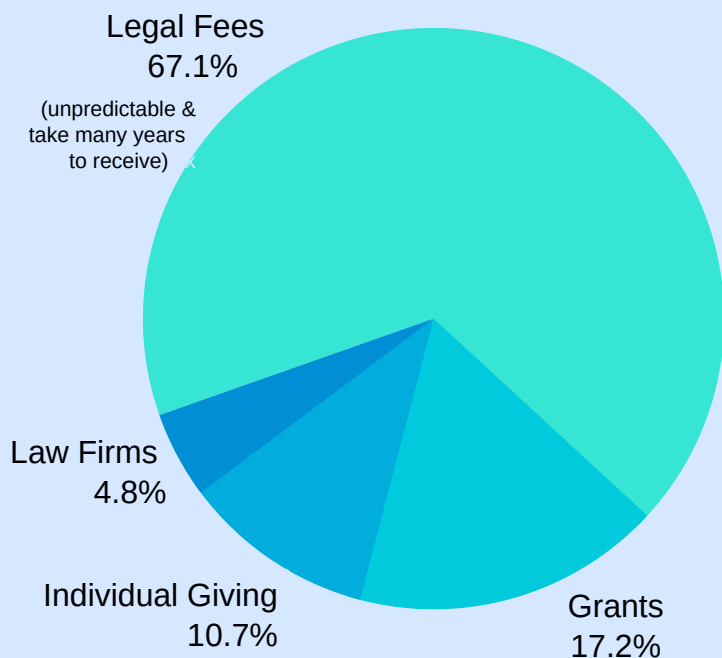
- Using a lawsuit and other advocacy, we're working to obtain release for prisoners particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, and to improve conditions to help stop the spread through IDOC.

Our staff is growing...
YOU are
a vital
part of
that growth!

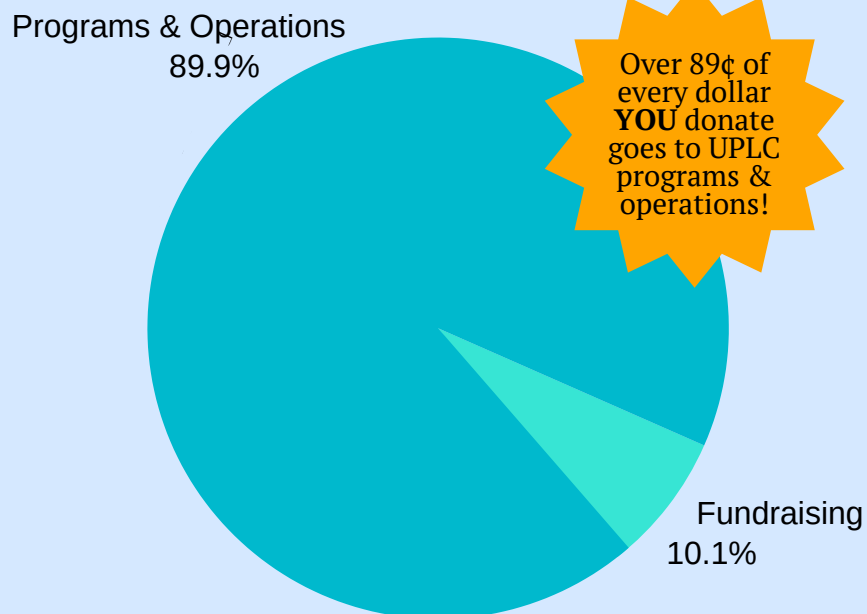


UPLC in 2020

Income



Expenses



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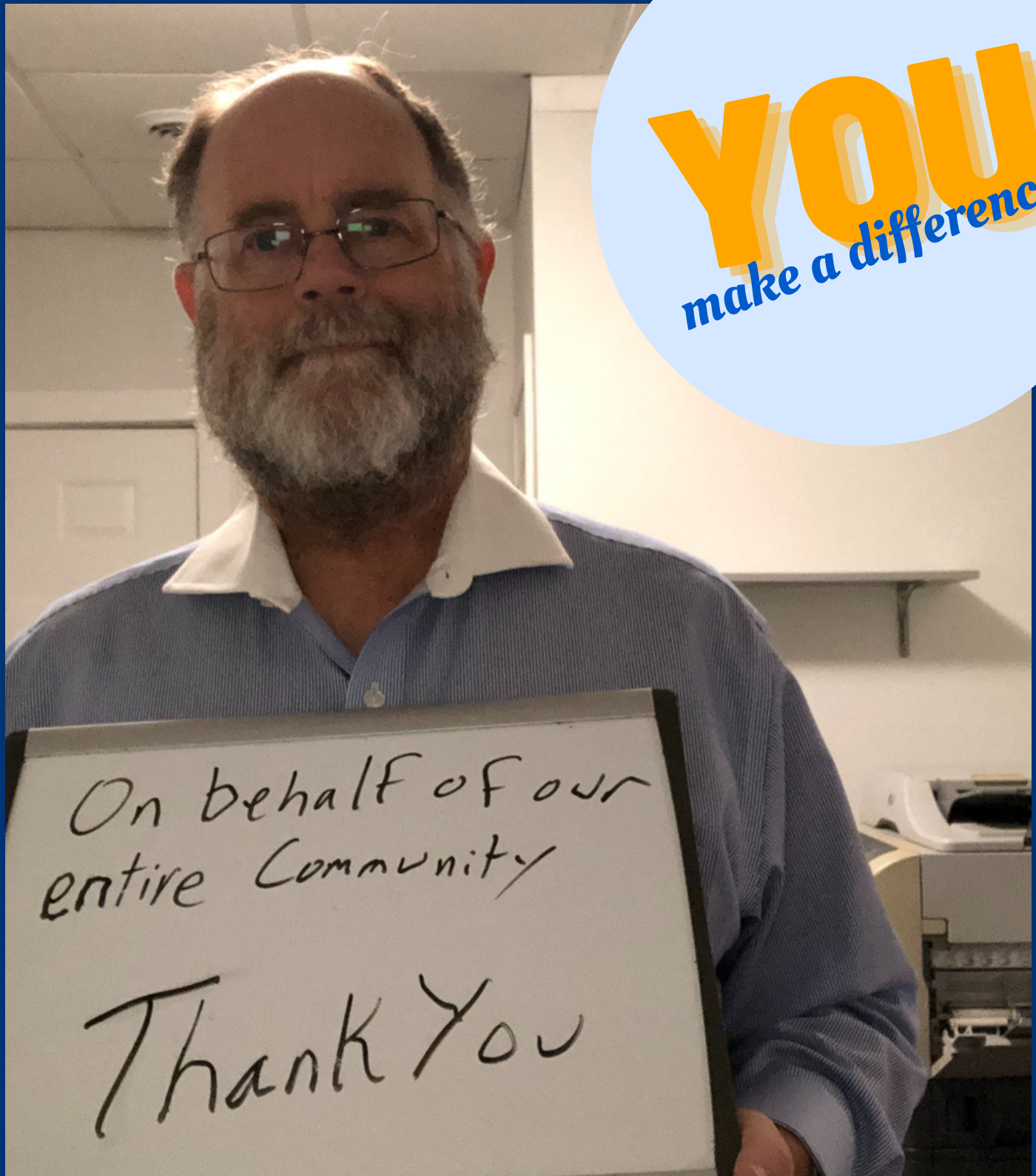
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