

UNITED WAY AGENCIES AT WORK

Boy Scouts, Legal Aid

Editor's note: The United Way of Lexington-Rockbridge County is currently running its annual campaign to raise funds for 13 local nonprofit agencies. Some of the work of two of these agencies, the Stonewall Jackson Area Council Boy Scouts and Blue Ridge Legal Services, is explained here.

Recently, the local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts had a very successful Scouting for Food collection drive. Each year, scouts in the Stonewall Jackson Area Council place collection bags at many area homes, returning the following week to collect canned goods placed in the bags.

"All collected goods remain in Rockbridge County," commented Scott Lancey, local district executive with the Boy Scouts of America. "Over 100 Rockbridge County scouts collected more than 2,300 pounds of food, going to food pantries and churches throughout the county," Lancey said.

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A client came into the Blue Ridge Legal Services office in September requesting help in understanding why parts of his wages were being withheld by his employer each week to satisfy a garnishment by the Ohio Child Support Enforcement Agency.

The agency had told him that the withholding was to pay child support to his former wife for the three children they had together. The client had never been married to this woman and had never had any children with her. The garnishment amounted to almost half of the client's paycheck and he was alarmed and at a loss to explain how this could have happened.

After some investigation, BRLS realized that the man who had actually been married to this woman was a man the client had lived with in 1980 and who had stolen his identity. By using the client's social security number the thief had shifted the enforcement action for child support to their client.

The BRLS office contacted the Ohio agency and explained the situation. They e-mailed photographs back and forth and it was clear that the person here was not the target of the garnishment. Ohio asked BRLS to supply them with an affidavit from its client stating that he had never been married to the woman owed the child support and that the children who were the beneficiaries of the child support were not his.

After receiving this affidavit the Ohio Child Support Enforcement Agency returned almost \$1000.00 to the client.

To help fund either the Area Boy Scouts or Blue Ridge Legal Services, send tax deductible donations to United Way of Lexington-Rockbridge County at P.O. Box 1094, Lexington, VA 24450 or pledge a donation online at www.unitedwaylexva.org.