

**Google Translation of the Article:**

## Lawyers who help the most neglected These professionals make a difference in Miami, one person at a time.

By Adriana Carrera, May 24, 2011

One hot Saturday morning, behind the stately apartment buildings facing the bay in Miami, hundreds of homeless come to Camillus House, an organization that feeds and provides shelter to the most neglected by society. The contrast between luxury and poverty is common in large cities like this, that in 2010, according to the census of homeless prepared by the Homeless Trust, Miami-Dade County had 4,000 people and families sleeping in the streets. But not everyone is indifferent.

Inside the building of Camillus House does legal clinic Lawyers to the Rescue - Lawyers to the Rescue, a group that, one Saturday a month, stripped of their coats and ties and comes to serve customers who otherwise would never have had access to costly professional services.

Immigration cases, custodial family, the criminal area and especially social assistance, are the most common. But there are not enough lawyers to cover the entire spectrum of needs.

"Even the easiest things for us, not so for these people. When I come, I think I could have been one of them," says Scott Kottler, a former prosecutor in Miami for 49 years, born in Texas but living in Miami for over 20 years. Despite managing a successful private practice, he makes time to volunteer to receive queries in the criminal area.

"There is a need"

One Saturday average, 15 people can easily come to the clinic. Although some cases are taken pro bono by lawyers and meet with success, others simply have no way out, but just having someone to listen, explain, volunteers make a difference for these people.

"We have been able to help homeless people who lost their documents and therefore have no access to government assistance. There is need to do this," Britt said Marco, a young corporate

lawyer 29 years.

Britt, Honduran father and Italian mother, it is useful to address Spanish-speaking customers as John (real name withheld to protect her identity), a 45-year Guatemalan disabled by diabetes, which came to the clinic to learn how a resident of the United States.

According to Camillus House, 14% of the homeless in Miami are Latino. "Services such as weekly food allowance and income have increased about four to five times compared to previous years," said Sam Gil, vice president of marketing for the organization.

"I arrived in 1991 and have worked all their lives," says John, whose dark eyes seem to have seen everything. "Just come to eat and sleep, I sell flowers, but the cops are bothering me a lot because I have no license to sell flowers, because I have no papers," says the immigrant. Spencer's attorney and microbiologist Dina Aronfeld are a very active couple and parents of two young children. Spencer, a successful trial attorney for 45 years, born in Chicago, and Dina, 41, who was born in Saudi Arabia, with her husband manages a network of lawyers.

The Lawyers to the Rescue organization was created by the couple a year ago, following the earthquake in Haiti.

"When the earthquake happened, we said we have to do something," says Dina Aronfeld.

And they did. The couple moved their contacts and organized an auction that raised over \$ 7,000 that they donated then to the Red Cross. What they did not know that raising funds to help the victims, took them to create something more fundamental.

"Most of our contacts are lawyers. With my husband we wonder, why not create a nonprofit organization for lawyers to make an impact in the community?" Recalls Dina Aronfeld.

Thus was born Attorneys to the Rescue, whose members are lawyers, law students and other professionals who volunteer in several community outreach projects.

"I think I have an obligation as a lawyer, community member and father to be an example, rather than sit quietly and watch other people help," says Spencer Aronfeld convinced. "I know many lawyers who wanted to get involved but did not know how," notes the expert in litigation, based in Coral Gables, Florida.

Since its founding, the organization has held events to raise funds for the earthquake in Chile and recently to Japan, among other community activities.

Positive outlook

Aronfeld and his wife are committed to building a positive reputation of the profession. "Before I was proud to say that it is a lawyer, has now become a joke," continues Aronfeld.

"The picture we have is not necessarily correct," agrees Marco Britt, Spencer Aronfeld who met

at a supermarket in Coral Gables. Aronfeld heard Britt and her mother spoke Italian and even as he speaks, he approached them and they became friends. Then invited to be part of Lawyers to the Rescue.

"I was in nonprofit organizations and sent checks any more, but this is an opportunity for lawyers to contribute to the community, helping those most in need," says Britt, who works for a law firm in Miami.

Spencer Aronfeld Recently, inspired by his daughter, 11, wrote children's books Sara Rose, Kid Lawyer (Sara Rose, the girl lawyer). It is the story of a girl who wants to be a lawyer and in the process learn what this profession means and represents to the class in one case.

"I wrote it to empower young girls to solve conflicts," explains Aronfeld. The proceeds from the sale of the book is intended to help the organization.

"What we need now is to spread the word so that more lawyers are involved in this voluntary," says Dina Aronfeld, who heads the nonprofit organization.

At the turn of day, such as the phrase is more blessed to give than to receive ", who give their time voluntarily in the clinic of Camillus House, are the ones who benefit.

Antonio Revilla, a 43 year old Cuban-American lawyer puts it: "Any human being feel better helping someone. Debt is a moral obligation to assist the weaker we are here by the grace of God. You never know when things will change in your life. "

Kottler Revilla as both were named "Lawyer of the month" in several months for the organization because of their help in the clinic.

"There is nothing worse than feeling no support whatsoever," says Revilla. "These people have families, they are largely abandoned by society, and the idea is to make the difference, they feel that someone is on your side, "he adds.

Revilla, immigration expert and owner of his own law firm, prevented a person is deported Camillus House and helped her apply for residency.

"We want more lawyers in other specialties to join the Camillus House clinic, "says Jessica Laleh, a young lawyer from New York to volunteer 26 years and family cases.

The stories that these attorneys hear how people end up in the streets never cease to amaze. Recently a man came to them that asked questions about custody of their children. Having had a lot of money for working in the real estate sector, ended wracked by economic crisis and a costly divorce.

"Listening to these cases is the sad part, but we will continue, " said Laleh. "They need us. "