



Benefits Law Center
Social Security Advocacy



Happy Holidays!

After being denied Social Security benefits on two separate occasions, Mel needed legal assistance with her case. In 2019, your generosity made it possible for Mel to sleep inside for the first time in seven years. **Because of you, we were able to deliver.**

Mel, a talented ski instructor and avid bicyclist grew up in the Seattle area and was a skilled orthopedics nurse for many years. When she transferred to a different department as a float nurse, the vigorous work demands caused her immense stress. Due to her attention and memory problems she was diagnosed with ADHD and clinical depression. Her mental health became so compromised that she was unable to work.

Mel spent decades paying into Social Security but because she was homeless, it was nearly impossible for her to gain access to these benefits on her own when she needed them most.

“Living in a tent was hard. The cold and instability were really wearing me down. Sometimes it was impossible to get out of bed. But, I got a call that I had a court date coming up, and I understood this to be my last chance,” Mel explained. With a hearing quickly approaching, she contacted Benefits Law Center (BLC). **Because of your steadfast support, we were ready and able to help.**



Mel with tears of joy at LOL for BLC with her BLC attorney by her side.

Mel met with a BLC attorney who quickly started building her Social Security case. “My hearing date was early in the morning in February 2019 during the snow storm, but I knew my attorney would be there. He greeted me with a smile, and I felt more comfortable knowing I had someone on my side.”

You made it possible for Mel to have an advocate by her side when she needed it most. Please continue to support this work with an online donation or fill out the enclosed form today.

(over, please)





When Mel received a call from her BLC attorney in March of 2019 telling her she had been approved for benefits and over \$35,000 in back pay, she started crying tears of joy. “I had been living on \$200 dollars a month and food stamps for over 7 years. I didn’t know what it would be like to have money to buy things again.”

You made this call possible. Thank you.

Your donation allowed Mel to begin receiving the benefits that she was denied access to for over seven years. But, there is more work to be done. There are more people like Mel who are in need of our assistance, and *we need your help.*

Last year we were able to provide accessible legal aid to over 1,200 people in our community because of your generosity.

We estimate there are between 3,500–8,600 people in King County alone who can benefit from our services.

After years of waiting to be approved for the benefits Mel deserves, she was able to meet her goal. “Now that I am on benefits, I don’t have to worry about how cold it is at night or where I can find a public rest room. The other day when it started raining, I was so grateful to be inside.”

You made it possible for Mel to start planning for a more stable future. There are many other members of our community who need our help. We will do whatever it takes to provide financial stability for our community members who need it most -- and you are a pivotal part of this journey.

Please make a gift to make a difference today.

With Generosity,

Alex Doolittle
Executive Director

P.S. Your gift transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable community members. As explained by Mel, “Because of BLC, I have dignity, hope, and can plan for a more stable future.” Thank you for your gift of support.