Washburn Law students from the Child and Family Law Center partnered with Habitat for Humanity, and more than 20 other organizations, to help build a 2,400 square-foot home for a family who immigrated to Topeka. On April 5, 25 students gathered at the build site in the Knollwood neighborhood for the Center’s spring service project. Volunteers raked leaves, trimmed roots, repaired fencing, and moved dirt to support the house’s foundation.

The students received a special surprise when Bora Munganga, the future homeowner, stopped by to thank them personally for their time and efforts. Munganga and his family immigrated from Burundi, Africa, in April 2009 and were naturalized in May 2014.
Director’s Message

Students in Washburn Law School’s Children and Family Law Center make a difference in the lives of children and families in the Topeka community. They are active as CASAs (court appointed advocates for children); as volunteers for the HORIZONs program for high-conflict parents; and as volunteers for the Topeka Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, and the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Our alumni have helped the Children and Family Law Center in various ways. Family Law practitioners Joe Booth, ’95, Ed Kainen, ’88, Larry Rute, ’73, Lynn Ward, ’90, and T. Michael Wilson, ’72, have made generous contributions to scholarships to help students who want to practice family law. Alumni have also served as adjuncts for the additional family law courses we have added: Joe Booth, in Financial Aspects of Divorce and Collaborative Law; Mickie Brassel, ’99, in Juvenile Law; Marie Landry, ’94, in Elder Law; and Larry Rute in Alternative Dispute Resolution. Many others have volunteered to talk at lunches on specialty topics.

Eight more students earned the Family Law Certificate in the 2013-14 school year: Sara Ehret, Janette Fellows-Papak, Hazel Gauthier, BreAnne Hendricks, Clay Kuhns, Jennifer Ouellette, Justin Pierson, and Lisa Williams. That brings the total to 83 students who earned a B average in 12 hours of dedicated family law courses and pro bono work in addition to the basic family law course. Many took family law clinic with Lynette Petty. Most wrote a family law paper with Nancy Maxwell.

The Center has also been busy collaborating with other entities to put on quality continuing legal education programs. Last August, the Center teamed with Milfred Dale, Law Offices, to provide Case Management and Parent Coordination Training. In September, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML) and the CFLC sponsored its first Advanced Family Law Seminar. Lynn Ward, ’90, was president of the Kansas Chapter. The topics ranged from E Discovery, Forensic Business Evaluations, and Hot Tips. I spoke on “Lawyers Gone Wild: Sex, Lies and Other Ways to Lose Your License.” Two of our Family Law students were able to attend for free. This spring I have been working as a reporter drafting a Family Law Arbitration Act, speaking at statewide and national continuing legal education programs.

This has been an exciting and dynamic year for the Children and Family Law Center. The students, faculty, and I welcome your participation!

FAMILY LAW QUARTERLY

Because Professor Linda Elrod continues to edit the Family Law Quarterly, now for 22 years, Washburn students form the student staff. Travis Cook was student editor-in-chief for 2013-14; Justin Pierson and Hazel Gauthier are the student research executive editors. The Quarterly provides a valuable resource for judges, lawyers, court services personnel, and the media. It includes an annual survey of cases, a review of the literature, as well as three issues with articles covering all aspects of family law area. In a recent survey of law journals from 2007-2012, the Quarterly had the most law journal and court citations of any family law publication.

Kate Butler, ’13, who was a former student director of the Children and Family Law Center and earned the Family Law Certificate, won first place in the 2012-13 Schwab Memorial Essay Contest. Her article on Dramatic Leaps in the Right Direction: Protecting Physically Disabled Parents in Child Welfare Law was published in the 2013 fall issue of the Family Law Quarterly.
Scholar-in-Residence

PROFESSOR BYRNY ADDRESSES SAME-SEX PARENTING ISSUES

From April 6 to 8, the Child and Family Law Center hosted Associate Dean and Professor Mary Patricia Byrn, Scholar-in-Residence, from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Professor Byrn's research interests are in assisted reproductive technology, family law, constitution law, and sexual orientation. She presented a Lunch and Learn on same-sex parenting, hosted office hours for students, mingled with faculty and staff during a Meet and Greet, and presented on same-sex parenting plans in the Divorce Practice course, which was open to guest students. Byrn also attended several exclusive events for active CFLC law students.

"Thanks to the great work of Professors Elrod and Maxwell and the students in the Children and Family Law Center, the Kansas courts are doing some very interesting things to protect the rights of same-sex couples and their children. It was a privilege to be able to discuss those topics with the Washburn community."

Mary Pat Byrn
Scholar-in-Residence

CFLC Upcoming 2014 Events

**JULY 25-26:** Junior Legal Writing Scholars Workshop

**AUGUST 14-15:** 8th Annual Case Management Training

**SEPTEMBER 12:** Tough Issues in the Child in Need of Care System
LUNCH AND LEARN - OVERNIGHTS IN PARENTING PLANS

On February 14, Dr. Bud Dale, ‘09, presented "Attachment: The Debate on Overnights in Parenting Plans" during a Lunch and Learn with Washburn Law students. He discussed the current issues of overnight stays in dealing with parental custody and the effects on children.

Dr. Dale is a licensed psychologist and attorney in Topeka who offers a combination of clinical and forensic services to children, teenagers, and adults. He is a graduate of Washburn Law and his practice emphasizes finding child and family-focused solutions. He co-authored the article, Attachment in Child Custody: An Additive Factor, Not a Determinative One, 46 Fam. L.Q. 1 (2012).

Jennifer Ouellette, Ashley Green, Danielle Packer, Dr. Bud Dale, Professor Linda Elrod, Michelle Foster, and Victoria Eck

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR CERTIFICATE HOURS

Horizons, Solutions for Change, is a court sponsored co-parenting program that provides divorcing parents ways to reduce conflict and emotional impact on their children. To volunteer with Horizons, contact Lauren Douglass at lauren.douglass@klrd.ks.gov.

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence works to prevent and eliminate sexual and domestic violence through a statewide network of programs that provide support and safety for all victims of sexual and domestic violence. Students are able to assist the development director in various tasks, join the Public Policy Team, and volunteer at annual events. To volunteer with KCSDV, contact Becky Price at 785.232.9784 or bprice@kcsdv.org.

LifeHouse Child Advocacy Center is a community based, not-for-profit agency designed to meet the unique needs of child victims in the Topeka community by helping children tell their stories just once in a comfortable and safe environment. LifeHouse is in need of law students to assist with grant writing as well as their annual fundraising events. To volunteer with LifeHouse, contact Kelly Stephens at 785.232.5433 or kstephens@lifehousecac.com.

Shawnee County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) investigate cases by visiting with a child, family members, social workers, caregivers, teachers, and others. Students can also monitor the orders of the court and submit reports to the court, thereby assisting the judge in making decisions regarding a child’s future. To volunteer with CASA, contact Joanna Penn at 785.215.8279 or joanna.penn@shawneecocasa.org.
STUDENTS SUPPORT KCSDV’S EMPOWER GALA

On April 25, more than 20 Washburn Law students volunteered with Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) to help the organization with its Empower Gala event. This was KCSDV’s second year hosting the fundraiser event to help survivors stand against sexual and domestic violence.

More than $65,000 was raised at the Gala with the help of Washburn Law students devoting their time, energy, and support.

“I was awed and humbled by the turnout of Washburn students that volunteered their time to assure that The Empower Gala went off without a hitch. The 400 guests attending the event were met with smiles and a smooth, flawless check-in thanks to the volunteers. Thanks to their generosity, the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence successfully raised over $65,000 at the Empower Gala event!

KCSDV asked you to stand with us — with your voice, your support, your generosity — and, you delivered! Thank you.”

Becky Price, Development Director, KCSDV
Students involved in the Washburn Law’s Child and Family Law Center volunteered for LifeHouse’s dueling pianos fundraiser on March 8. LifeHouse is a local non-profit organization designed to provide and coordinate services to child victims in the Topeka community. CFLC law students helped serve food and sell raffle tickets, and enjoyed listening to the dueling pianos.

“We could not have done this event without our volunteers. Several of them stayed way beyond what we asked them to do. We cannot thank them enough and only hope they will back again next year!”

Kelly Stephens, Executive Director, LifeHouse Child Advocacy Center

**2013-14 CFLC STUDENT DIRECTORS**

*Jennifer Ouellette, Danielle Packer, and Ashley Green*

**ASSISTANT DIRECTORS:***

**Victoria Eck ~ Wichita, Kan.**

“I received my bachelor’s degree in political science from Wichita State University. Throughout high school and undergrad, I worked with non-profits for children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as children in foster care. As a result, I joined CFLC in hopes of becoming an advocate for the children that I have become so passionate about. My favorite event so far was the Habitat for Humanity build. It was a wonderful hands-on experience that allowed us to benefit a great family while getting to know other law students in the process. I look forward to planning and being a part of many more CFLC events in the future!”

**Michelle Foster ~ Leavenworth, Kan.**

“As an undergraduate, I attended Kansas State University where I learned to bleed purple. Ever since my sophomore year of college, I have had an interest in family law and wanted to focus on it as a career. The reason why I joined the Child and Family Law Center was to not only get more involved as a student, but to bring events dealing with family law issues to students. This would also increase my understanding of family law.

My favorite event this semester was working with Habitat for Humanity. Although it was very taxing work, being able to meet the person who would eventually live in the house and getting to talk to him was a wonderful experience. What I hope to accomplish is to uphold the dignity of CFLC while also doing my part to promote and make students aware of today’s family law issues.”