



Nurturing Creativity

PHOTO CENTER NW

pcnw.org

Ruby Smith was 17 when she was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma in 2011. While studying at Photo Center NW, Ruby used a 35-millimeter camera to document her treatment in black-and-white photos of get well cards, hospital trays, and medicine bottles: the mementos and paraphernalia of a young person finding meaning through art.

Ruby was just one of some 1,000 students a year nurtured by programs at the photo center, where novice and seasoned photographers, as well as collectors, curators, and at-risk youth, find community in place. It's a beautiful place too, an old ambulance building in the heart of Capitol Hill converted into a crisp white gallery, darkroom facilities, and classrooms. For almost 25 years, Photo Center NW has welcomed students of all ages to learn traditional film techniques, composition, and digital skills.

Ruby died a week after her 18th birthday, but her vision and story continues. In honor of her wishes, Photo Center NW created the Ruby Project. Young adult cancer survivors or those undergoing treatment can attend a 10-week program to learn the basics of photography. From this outreach program and other youth projects emerges a new generation of artists. Thanks to Photo Center NW, these artists will find a place to call home.

\$100

supports the donation of a year-long membership to an emerging photographer.

LIGHT
A FIRE
AWARDS
2012



EXTRAORDINARY PRO BONO CONTRIBUTION

Pat Novotny

Legal Voice: legalvoice.org

Legal Voice, the scrappy local women's advocacy group, turns to a powerhouse appellate attorney when their cases, oh you know, wind up in the state supreme court: Her name is Pat Novotny.

Novotny, a private practice family law appeals attorney, started out as a volunteer back in the '90s, helping to vet possible cases for the group to advance its fight against sex discrimination. She has now argued three landmark cases for the group in the state's top court in the last decade. With all the research and brief writing that comes with the task of sparring with the justices, her pro bono contribution is valued at around \$100,000 a year.

In the state supreme court, Novotny argued and won a defining case for nonbiological parents (think lesbians, gay men, and plain-old step parents), establishing precedent for parents who were previously ignored when it came to things such as visitation rights. She argued and lost a landmark domestic violence case to help victims *ban restraining orders* in place and the famous case for a second.

When Legal Voice helps, it relied on Novotny's points to pass bills for the restraining orders now fall (all on the victim) and legal.

Legal Voice staff attorneys handle the toughest cases where you don't always win the first round, but you push the conversation forward.

\$100

can win 20



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