

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



TEXAS
ADVOCACY
PROJECT



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ADVOCACY
PROJECT

DECADES OF COMMITMENT TO TEXANS LIVING FREE FROM ABUSE

OUR MISSION | Texas Advocacy Project's mission is to end dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Texas. Texas Advocacy Project empowers survivors through free legal services and access to the justice system, and advances prevention through public outreach and education. Our vision is that all Texans live free from abuse.



Established in 1982 by a group of young lawyers, **Texas Advocacy Project** started as a legal hotline. In the decades since, TAP has evolved into an **expert on legal issues** affecting survivors of power-based abuse. Today, our **holistic approach** includes both **solutions and prevention**.

Our **solutions** consist of legal, social, and advocacy services proven to **break the cycle of violence** and get victims to safety. We provide effective **legal and social services** like protective orders, termination of abusers' parental rights, child-custody modifications, as well as assistance with civil issues that affect abuse cases such as housing, employment, education, and financial empowerment. In an effort to advance our vision, **we serve ALL Texans** without regard to socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, immigration status, or any other distinction.

Our team extends its impact through **prevention** work consisting of a network of **outreach and trainings** to the public and those that work with survivors including: domestic violence and sexual assault shelters, judges, prosecutors, crime victim services personnel, legal advocates, medical professionals, universities, and students.

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

WHO WE HELP



Provided free legal services to 5,042 primary survivors in power-based abuse cases



Supported clients from ages 3 to 86 years old



Served 10,891 clients and children across the state



Our attorneys reached 2/3 of all counties in Texas

WHY WE HELP

Nearly 1 in 3 human trafficking victims are recruited by a family member or caregiver*

40% of Texas women and 35% of Texas men experience intimate partner violence in their lifetimes*

1 in 10 children have seen one parent assault another*

Over half of U.S. women and almost 1 in 3 U.S. men will experience sexual violence*

U.S. economy loses \$8.3 billion annually due to domestic violence*

HOW WE HELP

14 staff attorneys provided civil legal services relating to protective orders, divorce, child support, and child custody


Assisted 4,796 clients and their children with safety planning and overcoming financial abuse


Built an On-Demand Training Portal and added 6 new educational courses to the training menu


Educated 5,586 judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, educators, students, military members, health care providers, and other advocates

Distributed 1,046 handbags, diaper bags, and unisex tote bags to domestic violence shelters, clinics, hospitals, and more, as well as 1,647 backpacks to children across 30 Texas agencies.

Provided training on healthy relationships, teen dating violence, online safety, and leadership skills to 757 teenagers – 65 of which served as Teen Ambassadors of Hope.







GET INVOLVED

Visit TexasAdvocacyProject.org/communitysupport for financial donations, sponsorships, annual report, volunteering, handbag/backpack donations, and events. Last year, supporters came together to raise over \$545,000 at the 15th annual Black & White Ball.

*All sources cited at TexasAdvocacyProject.org/communitysupport



HEATHER BELLINO
CEO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | YEAR IN REVIEW

I cannot believe I am already writing another year-end message to all of you- where on earth has the time gone? It just seems unimaginable that we are at the end of 2021. And what a year it has been! As the year comes to a close, I need to share how very proud I am of our team and how our services thrived in this unpredictable year. They have banded together while working remotely, have supported each other, and have continued to grow our programs. The team at Texas Advocacy Project (“TAP”) are true **JUSTICE WARRIORS!** And I am humbled for the opportunity to lead them into 2022.

Many survivors that stayed with their abuser during 2020 began making their way to safety in 2021. According to the United Nations, “all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, has intensified amid the pandemic.” We now know that domestic violence increased **8.1%** after pandemic-related lockdown orders, creating what some are calling a “**double pandemic**”. Most disturbing, domestic violence-related-homicides throughout Texas increased by **23%** during the pandemic. TAP was faced with an increase in high-risk cases, all while navigating the ever-changing rules and processes of the court system regarding zoom and in-person hearings.

TAP was able to serve nearly **11,000 survivors** in **5,000 cases** and provided trainings to over **5,500** individuals and **1,000** survivor services agencies. Some other notable accomplishments from our **39th year** include:

- We began a brand NEW **social work program!** This year proved the need to couple our legal services with social work services. We know that legal remedies, like protective orders, get a survivor safe, physically, but we need to also help them get them safe, mentally and emotionally. Thanks to funding from Impact Austin, TAP now has an on-staff Social Worker to address survivors’ mental health and immediate needs, while our Attorneys provide the legal solutions.
- TAP was honored to have been asked to consult on the premiere of **SHOWTIME Documentary, “CUSP”**. We are hopeful that the conversations this film begins will spread much-needed awareness and education around teen dating violence and consent.

- The Covalent Foundation has funded local stakeholders, including TAP, to collaborate and create a coordinated community response to **human trafficking in Austin**. This ties in well to our work as an appointee on the Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force.
- Texas Access to Justice Commission and its co-sponsor, the State Bar of Texas, awarded **Managing Attorney, Allison Neal**, with the prestigious **James B. Sales Boots on the Ground**. She is the third attorney at TAP to be honored with this award.
- We provided a training to social workers at Dell Seton Main on **recognizing domestic violence and how to help survivors** and posted flyers around the hospital in discreet locations where survivors may have privacy.
- We trained over 150 School Resource Officers on dating violence in a full-day workshop all about keeping **K-12 campuses safe**.
- We transitioned all of our training modules over to “**Teachable**,” an online, on-demand, portal, ensuring domestic violence advocates have the legal training they need to help survivors.
- We found joy being in person again, with the return of our **Kentucky Derby Watch Party!**
- In our most successful Backpacks for Hope campaign yet, we were able to send over **1,600 backpacks** to children across Texas!
- We trained over **700 teens** in schools across Texas on teen dating violence prevention!
- Our Teen Ambassadors of Hope campaign recruited and trained **65 teen leaders** from all across Texas, and **raised \$23,358!** This was also our inaugural year having a Leadership Council.
- Our Handbags for Hope campaign sent over **1,000 handbags, diaper bags, and hospital bags** to agencies across Texas.
- Finally, our **Black & White Ball presented by Accenture** returned as an in-person event, honoring the **city of Houston and Mayor Sylvester Turner** with our Vision Award for their coordinated community responses to providing resources for victims of intimate partner violence and human trafficking. In one glamorous evening, we raised over **half a million dollars!**

TAP has been providing civil legal remedies to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking for 39 years. With all that we have accomplished, there is so much more to be done to end abuse and the social norms that accompany it. It is our goal to expand on what we have learned and incorporate innovative solutions to further wrap survivors in the support services they need. That’s my hope, that’s my dream, and that’s my goal.

We hope to see you next year at one of our many events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Texas Advocacy Project.

Cheers,

Heather Bellino, Chief Executive Officer

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY GIVING THEIR TIME,
RESOURCES & LEADERSHIP

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- **Boran Buturovic**, Treasurer
Center Coast Capital Advisors, LP
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- **Scott Biscoe**
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Butler Snow LLP
- **Kristi Elizondo**
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NFP
- **Thomas Graham**
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Milam Distillery
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Luther King Capital Management
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Cantilo & Bennett, LLP
- **Leslie Rhode**
Retired Anchor, KXAN Austin News
- **Alexander C. Schoch**, Attorney at Law
Railroad Commission of Texas
- **Marybeth Schmitz**
Vista Equity Partners
- **Sarah Shrewsbury**
Philanthropist
- **Jeannette Spinelli**
Spinelli Residential Group
- **Sarah Melton Swartzendruber**
Philanthropist
- **Kenny Thompson, Jr.**
PepsiCo
- **Kelly G. Thorstad**, MD
Lone Star Pediatrics

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Matt Matthews & Company, LLC
- **Shonnery Pettit**
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The Simpson Tuegel Law Firm, PLLC
- **Julienne VanDerZiel**
The University of Texas at Austin
- **Jessica Vogel**
Epsilon
- **Andrew Weber**, Attorney at Law
Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP

SENIOR LEADERSHIP STAFF

- **Heather Bellino**
Chief Executive Officer
- **Denise Margo Moy**, Attorney at Law
Chief Operating Officer
- **Bronwyn Blake**, Attorney at Law
Chief Legal Officer
- **Amanda Elkanick Oder**
Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach
- **Jeremy Rathke**
Vice President of Development
and Communications

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

- Accenture
- Attorney General of Texas
- Butler Snow Foundation
- eCW Giving Foundation, Inc.
- Impact Austin
- Krikland & Ellis LLP
- LGR Foundation
- Office of the Governor Criminal
Justice Division
- Sarah & James Shrewsbury
- Shield-Ayres Foundation
- Swalm Endowment of Texas Council
on Family Violence
- Texas Access to Justice Foundation
- Texas Bar Foundation
- Texas Health and Human Services
Commission
- Thanhhao & Scott Neuendorf
- The Breach Family Foundation
- The Covalent Foundation
- The University of Texas School of Law
- Vista Equity Partners Management, LLC

160_____
PEOPLE VOLUNTEERED
4,359
TOTAL HOURS



MICHAEL MARCIN
2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CHAIR

A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Texas Advocacy Project's Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team are pleased to present this 2021 annual report. After having weathered the historic social disruption from a global pandemic and a turbulent election, TAP has been instrumental in working with our state's leaders to expand interventions and reporting to prevent power-based abuse which includes domestic abuse, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking and happens when someone uses power, control, or intimidation to harm someone physically or emotionally. Further, the organization has jumped back in to expand educational opportunities and outreach efforts at levels that have exceeded pre-pandemic efforts. Years like 2021 are a testament to the success my predecessor and the leadership team had in strengthening the organization during the pandemic, as was evident in **the amazing work by our staff and volunteers!**

TAP was recognized by state leaders in 2021 as being a **major source of expertise, knowledge and data** on power-based abuse, including intimate partner violence and human trafficking. During the 2021 legislative session, our Chief Executive Officer, Heather Bellino, participated in Accenture's **Texas Women in State Government Leadership Summit** to examine the shared challenges, leadership lessons and opportunities women face to lead at this critical level of government – special thanks to our Board Secretary Jon Andrews for continuing to strengthen the relationship between the TAP and Accenture. Ms. Bellino followed this up by working with the Texas Council on Family Violence's **Public Policy Committee** to address the response to family violence in our state and provide guidance on measures before the Legislature. As a member of the committee, she represented TAP at the **Capitol Day** event to discuss the need for full funding of family and sexual violence service providers and shared her expertise on bills that protect survivors including one on gun forfeiture in family violence cases.

The efforts before the Legislature demonstrating TAP's deep knowledge of issues led to even greater opportunities to assist Texans through participation on the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force. Through this work, the Office of the **Attorney General** asked TAP to assist on a significant **labor trafficking case** where the State was pursuing charges against the trafficker. TAP helped the victims through their depositions and unique legal needs.

Along with the heroic effort to provide legal services to victims of power-based abuse that TAP has been doing for forty years, and in addition to supporting the Legislature, 2021 was a **breakout year** for establishing TAP as the educational resource for preventing and responding to family and domestic violence in Texas. In partnership with **Stanford Law School's Community Health Access Project (CHAP)**, our legal staff worked with law students committed to our mission on a comparative study of state statutes that require healthcare workers to provide patients with information on intimate partner violence if they believe the injuries were caused by family violence. TAP also initiated a conversation with **Texas Legal Services Center** and the **Texas Access to Justice Commission** concerning language access in Harris County courts. The lack of interpreters for non-English speaking litigants in civil cases is a widespread problem that has dire consequences – potentially affecting the safety of the litigants and their family members.

Deepening TAP's community connections, our Advocacy & Outreach department, led by Amanda Elkanick Oder, trained over 150 Sheriff Deputies in San Antonio at the **Texas Sheriffs' Association Annual Conference** on Protective Orders and numerous social workers at the **Dell Seton Medical Center**. Our work with Texas schools has been ongoing for a number of years, and in 2021, we had 65 teens from across Texas who participated in our **Teen Ambassadors of Hope Campaign**. Bronwyn Blake, our Chief Legal Officer, trained over 150 school resource officers throughout Texas on dating violence, and keeping K-12 campuses safe. Overall, 2021 was a true breakout year for educating teens on violence recognition, school and medical professionals on victim recognition, law enforcement on case management, and the Legislature on ways it can serve victims.

As this past year's state level participation was extraordinary, I feel it important to highlight a few more events that demand special recognition. Our staff served on the **Planning and Steering Committee** for the **Human Trafficking State Adult Services Project (SASP)**. We trained law student volunteers in collaboration with **The University of Texas Title IX office** and **The University of Texas School of Law's Mithoff Pro Bono program**. Bronwyn Blake co-chaired the **Legal Aid for Survivors of Sexual Assault (LASSA)** committee on Culturally Resonant Services & Equitable Language Access. Our staff members also worked on the sub-committee of the statewide **Disaster Legal Services** group of the State Bar. We are particularly proud of Denise Margo Moy for receiving the **Noble Award** from the State Bar's Poverty Law Section in 2021 honoring a Texas attorney for a lifetime of public service in promoting poverty law as a noble profession and for professional accomplishments in expanding the provision of legal services to people of modest means or protecting clients' legal rights.

2021 was the start of my two-year term as Board Chair, and I have relied heavily on the giants who came before me. Our past Chair, Scott Neuendorf, left the organization in such a strong position that we were able to blossom once the restrictions from Covid-19 began to ease. It goes without saying that our remarkable CEO, Heather Bellino, did the hard work of making the connections with donors, State leaders and Texas schools that allowed our reputation and influence to expand as never before. Thank you for enabling the Texas Advocacy Project to provide services to the far too many victims of power-based abuse in Texas, and for your help in enlightening our children, healthcare providers, and leaders in striving to end this scourge.

Michael Marcin, Board Chair



MEMBER RATED

Texas Advocacy Project is proud to have both GuideStar's and Charity Navigator's highest rankings—GuideStar's Platinum Seal of Transparency and Charity Navigator's Give with Confidence seal! We're committed to the highest level of transparency. Check out our Nonprofit Profile on both GuideStar and Charity Navigator.

MEMBER OF:

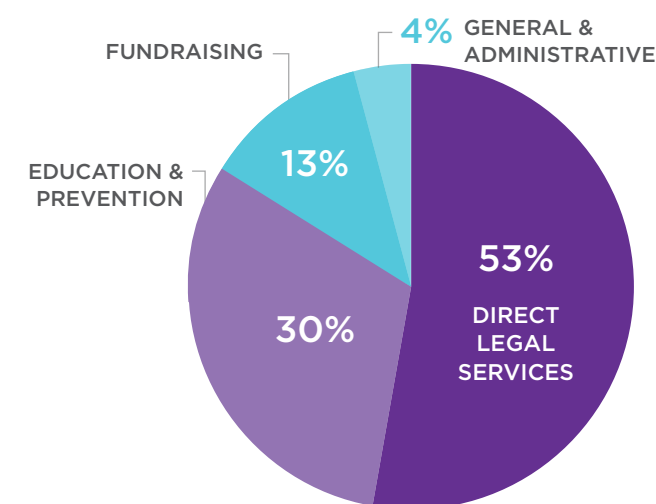


2021 FINANCIALS

STEWARDS OF
YOUR DOLLARS

WE ARE PROUD TO OPERATE ON
83% **&** **17%**
DIRECT SERVICES COSTS ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

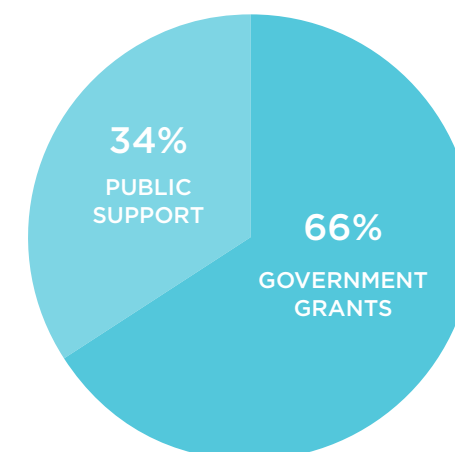
Texas Advocacy Project undergoes a Single Audit every year because we receive federal funding. Single Audits are performed by an independent auditor and require higher levels of testing than a regular audit. When it comes to fundraising events, we are dedicated to spending no more than 20% of incoming revenue on event expenses.



EXPENSES

Program Services	
• Direct Legal Services	\$1,693,574
• Education & Prevention	\$946,723
Fundraising	\$414,856
General & Administrative	\$140,048

TOTAL \$3,195,201



REVENUE

Program Services	\$2,382,130
Fundraising Events	\$612,985
Contributions, Gifts	\$452,960
Other	\$1,804

TOTAL \$3,449,879

TYPES OF ABUSE



Domestic Violence

Threatened or actual physical harm or abuse that happens in a personal, intimate relationship.



Sexual Assault

Actual, threatened, or attempted sexual contact with another person without that person's consent.



Dating Violence

Violence, abuse, or power and control imbalances that occur in a romantic relationship.



Stalking

Actions that make someone feel threatened, oppressed, or intimidated regardless of the relationship.



Child Abuse

Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation.



Human Trafficking

Forced involvement into the sex trade or other types of labor. It affects adults and children, men and women, and people from all parts of Texas and the world.

bosses you around **child abuse**
"spend more more time with me" normalizing violence
humiliation "where are you going?" guilt trips
intimidating looks **dating violence**
sexual assault "this is your fault"
power-based
stalking abuse blame
"you are a horrible parent" **domestic violence**
extreme possessiveness denial of wrongdoing
frequently fights friends abusive to pets
insults "who are you with?" embarrassment
threatens suicide **human trafficking**

POWER-BASED ABUSE TAKES MANY FORMS

POWER-BASED ABUSE HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE USES POWER, CONTROL, OR INTIMIDATION TO HARM SOMEONE PHYSICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY.

SURVIVOR - CLIENT STORIES



SUE’S STORY*

Sue* experienced horrific abuse, including hundreds of incidents of sexual assault and stalking at the hands of her ex-husband. Her ex would tie her up, beat her, and rape her. On one occasion, he fractured her arm. On another, he beat her unconscious.

Her ex was incredibly controlling of every aspect of Sue’s life. He would not allow her to shower or go to the bathroom by herself. When they first started dating, Sue had a job and he would call her throughout the day to make sure she was at work. Eventually, he made her quit her job because her employer would not allow her to have her cell phone on while she worked. Years later, when they married, she had another job, and after taking her to work, he would drive by and call her throughout the day, to make sure she was there.

The first time she reported an incident of family violence to the police, they issued a 90-day emergency protective order. Soon after, her ex violated that emergency protective order by kidnapping her at knifepoint. He was eventually convicted of unlawful restraint with a deadly weapon.

In response, Sue asked the County Attorney to help her get a lifetime protective order, but they were unable to. After years of getting turned away by a court system ostensibly meant to protect her and other legal aid organizations unable to take her case, Sue was eventually referred to Texas Advocacy Project. After a few short months, Sue’s TAP attorneys were able to get her a lifetime protective order based on sexual assault, stalking, and family violence. Sue is now able to live her life, free from her abuser.

“

I can’t EVER thank-you enough! You have answered my prayers & have restored my faith in the judicial system! You’ve done more for me in just a few months than the State of Texas did through so many events, incidents & a trial for over a span of 5 years. You both are God’s angels here on earth. The work you do deserves so much more! You have changed my life in so many ways. I know I can truly start healing now.

”

*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our survivor-clients.



LILY’S STORY*

Lily* was referred to Texas Advocacy Project by another legal aid organization that could not take her case. Lily came to TAP seeking a divorce from her physically abusive husband, so that she and her 10-year-old son could be free from his abuse.

Lily is an immigrant and has a difficult time understanding English. Because of the language barrier, she could not represent herself in her divorce.

Lily’s husband was very controlling and was of the belief that his wife should do whatever he told her to do. Because she was an immigrant, he would hold deportation over her head, despite her working towards citizenship.

When she was pregnant, her husband began to beat her. After Lily gave birth, he extended his physical abuse to her newborn.

Her husband, not wanting Lily or her son to have any friends, beat both of them with a belt on one occasion after Lily took her son to visit friends. The abuse with the belt was reoccurring and Lily’s son was terrified of his father. Texas Advocacy Project utilized the assistance of a language interpreter and took on Lily’s case as Direct Representation. In the end, Lily’s TAP Attorney negotiated a successful divorce and settlement for her. Lily and her son are now happy and thriving, free from abuse!



MADISON’S STORY*

Madison was excited for a new chapter of her life: starting college at her dream school. Leading up to the first day, she met and began messaging a classmate. They chatted and she felt like she got to know him well. On her first night at college, her roommate invited him and one of his football teammates over to their dorm. It was during this first in-person encounter that Madison’s classmate cornered her in her dorm room and sexually assaulted her.

The trauma from the assault was life-altering and Madison knew she needed legal help. She decided to open a Title IX case against her school and asked Texas Advocacy Project to represent her. Title IX requires schools to combat sex discrimination in education. In Madison’s case, she needed to use this statute to hold her abuser accountable for sexually assaulting her.

Due to delays in the investigation lead by her school and her abuser appealing the school’s decision in Madison’s favor twice, the case was drawn out and began to seem hopeless. But Madison and her TAP attorney never let up. She didn’t let delays, appeals, or even leaving her dream school get in the way of her fight for safety. A fight that she was taking on not only for herself, but for others who could potentially be hurt if her abuser didn’t face the consequences of his actions.

Madison’s TAP attorney was with her every step of the way, but ultimately it was her own strength, courage, and perseverance that brought her to justice.

SOLUTIONS THROUGH LEGAL ACTION



LAWYERS ON YOUR SIDE

Texas Advocacy Project's core power is in its legal expertise and experience dealing with power-based abused. It serves its clients primarily through advice and counsel, assistance with protective orders including Magistrate's Order for Emergency Protection (MOEP's), assistance in pro se matters, and direct representation. It also provides assistance with general civil issues that impact power-based abuse cases such as housing, employment, education, and immigration.



TELE-LAW

Our attorneys work directly with victims in person and utilizing tele-law (the distribution of legal services and information via electronic information and telecommunication technologies). Tele-law allows long-distance client and attorney contact, care, advice, reminders, education, and remote representation. When rural settings, lack of transport, lack of mobility, or simply the lack of a legal aid office in a county blocks access to the justice system, tele-law bridges that gap.



SPECTRUM OF SERVICES

FLEXIBLE LEVELS OF LEGAL SERVICES TO ENSURE A SURVIVOR IS NEVER TURNED AWAY

LEGAL LINE

The initial consultation.
Free and confidential
advice and counsel.

ASSISTED PRO SE

Providing survivors with
individualized unbundled
legal assistance,
empowering survivors to
represent themselves
in court.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION

Attorneys stand next
to survivors in court
proceedings when cases
are too complicated to
navigate alone and the
barriers to justice are
too high.

THINKING BIG THROUGH IMPACT LITIGATION

When called for, our attorneys file impact litigation to bring about lasting change beyond one survivor's case. These cases create societal change and ensure future courts serve all survivors fairly.

SPECIALIZING IN LEGAL TOPICS THAT HELP COMBAT POWER-BASED ABUSE



LEGAL SOLUTIONS

PROTECTIVE ORDERS

A court order that prevents an abuser from coming near the survivor, their residence or workplace, and/ or school of a survivor and a survivor's children. If an abuser violates this order, they can be arrested immediately.

CHILD CUSTODY / MODIFICATIONS / ENFORCEMENT / TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

No longer having to co-parent with an abuser, consult them for important decisions, or worry about who the child would live with in the event of a survivor's untimely death.

DIVORCE

Severing the ties. Permanently and legally separates survivors from their abusive spouses.

TITLE IX COMPLAINTS

Legal support provided to a survivor to ensure their school, college, or university properly handles sexual assault or harassment claims, under Title IX.

FINANCIAL ABUSE / COERCED DEBT

Abusers often use control of finances to force victims to stay in an abusive relationship. In these instances, victims are forced to choose between facing economic hardship or staying with their abuser. Our Financial Empowerment Tools help victims cope with financial abuse.

POST ARREST CRISIS CONSULTATIONS

Collaborating with Austin Police Department, TAP attorneys provide Crisis Consultation Services. Using trauma-informed skills, TAP attorneys contact victims after the arrest of their offender and offer assistance with safety planning and obtaining an Emergency Protective Order (EPO).

TRAUMA INFORMED TRIAL PREP

A trauma-informed approach begins with understanding the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on the survivor. Using a trauma-informed lens, legal and social work staff work with survivor clients to prepare them for the reality of appearing in court. By crafting services and programs that are sensitive and directly responsive to the trauma that many survivors experience after a violent crime, TAP attorneys identify and limit potential triggers to reduce re-traumatization and protect their clients' mental and emotional health. Preparatory work includes courthouse tours and mock hearings.

CRIMINAL RECORD RELIEF

TAP attorneys work with survivors of human trafficking and other abuses to expunge criminal records resulting from survivors' victimization. Cleaning a survivor's record is necessary for securing employment, housing, education, and child custody - all critical elements in rebuilding one's freedom and securing sustainable independence. Our social work staff builds on this legal remedy by connecting survivors with the opportunities they are now eligible for.

SOLUTIONS THROUGH SOCIAL WORK

“

The #1 thing that can help
(a survivor) are legal
services... That's what
Texas Advocacy Project is.
It's the rainbow
after the rain.

TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT SURVIVOR-CLIENT
& 2018 COURAGE AWARD RECIPIENT

TAP's **Social Worker's** provide holistic, trauma-responsive care in collaboration with the legal staff. When safety concerns, overwhelming stress, and mental health issues are present, survivors are unable to fully absorb the legal advice outlined by the legal staff, the social worker's work to fulfill these needs. The Covid-19 crisis shined a spotlight on the **increasing need for social workers** on staff to help our survivor-clients navigate and access services. TAP moved quickly to respond to the evolving needs of survivors, and in 2021, TAP hired its first full-time social worker.



SOCIAL SOLUTIONS

CRISIS INTERVENTION

Clients' safety and psychosocial needs are evaluated through the use of Jacquelyn C. Campbell's Danger Assessment Tool. Social workers assist survivors in processing and understanding the effects of trauma through active listening and validation.

BASIC NEEDS & CASE MANAGEMENT

Assisting survivors in holistic healing by addressing housing, financial, safety, and mental health resources. When survivors' basic needs are addressed, they are more likely to experience improved engagement in their legal proceedings and improved outcomes.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Leveraging TAP's community partnerships provide services and resources through warm referrals (connecting survivors, with their permission, to external service providers who are able to fill a need identified by the survivor) and resource dissemination.

PERSONAL SAFETY PLANS

Social Workers collaborate with the legal staff to assist survivors in creating individualized plans of action to reduce the risks they and their children face.



CONTINUED EDUCATION

STAFF EDUCATION

Staff members receive professional development trainings from TAP's social workers. Trainings guide the manner in which staff communicates with survivors and enhances legal outcomes, indirectly affecting 100% of clients served by TAP.

EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

TAP partners with local Universities to provide field placements (internships) for Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work students to work directly with our social workers.

PREVENTION THROUGH TRAINING

Our training team travels the state to provide the most up-to-date information on the issues to a wide range of audiences including: judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, educators, students, military, health care providers, shelters, and other advocates.

In 2021, we launched our online, on-demand training portal, Teachable! Anyone who is interested can take any of the courses whenever they want, wherever they want. After course completion, a CEU certificate will be automatically generated. For additional information on Teachable and upcoming training webinars please visit our website at www.TexasAdvocacyProject.org/Training.



TRAINING CONFERENCES

We were also proud to serve as expert presenters at the following national & statewide conferences:

- Poverty Law Conference
- Sheriffs Association Annual Conference
- TVSA Annual Conference
- Conference on Crimes Against Women (virtual)
- Crimes Against Children Conference (virtual)
- Texas Advanced Academy for Victim Assistance Conference



NEW TRAININGS CREATED

- Working Together While Apart: Navigating Co-Parenting with an Abusive Partner
- Supporting the Supporters: Navigating Staff Survivor Dynamics
- Beyond the Criminal Case: Holistic Solutions for Human Trafficking Survivors



IN 2021
TAP EDUCATED

5,586

INDIVIDUALS
ACROSS TEXAS

TEENS

757 STUDENTS TRAINED VIA 10 YOUTH SESSIONS

Collaborations with target groups working on domestic violence, sexual assault, and youth issues to help young people, parents, schools, and the community understand the legal rights of teens.

- Free and confidential legal advice and referrals to teens who have experienced dating violence in Texas.
- Legal representation to teens seeking protective orders.
- Develop best legal service practices for providers working with Texas teens.

HIGHER EDUCATION

1480 STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF TRAINED ON 9 CAMPUSES

Provides workshops and training courses that cover survivors' rights on campus for faculty, staff, resident assistants, and the general student population. Common topics covered:

- Empowerment-Based and Trauma Informed Response to Survivors of Violence
- Healthy Relationships, Dating Violence, and Digital Abuse
- Legal Solutions to Medical Problems: Intimate Partner Violence
- Advocating for Survivors of Violence: A Systems Approach

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

A survivor will often first identify herself as someone that has experienced power-based abuse while accessing care at an emergency room, hospital, or clinic. We are proud of the momentum gained on our Medical Legal Partnership initiative with new partner-providers — AdventHealth, Center for Health Empowerment, CommUnityCare Health Centers, Community-Driven Initiatives Department of Population Health Dell Medical School UT Austin, Family Connects, Mama Sana, St. David's Health Care, and Texas Children's Hospital.

PREVENTION THROUGH POLICY

At Texas Advocacy Project, we know that effective advocacy in the public policy sphere amplifies our capacity to create lasting change for the survivors and communities we serve. By engaging with our democratic process to design practical, constructive policy, we are working towards a reality where **all Texans live free from abuse**.

Due to TAP’s **braided funded stream**, we are uniquely positioned as the only legal services provider in the State of Texas able to speak on behalf of all survivors. In Texas’ 87th Legislature, we were called to the Capitol as subject matter experts to assist decision makers in the formation of state laws relating to issues besetting survivors.



The work to protect survivors’ interests at the Capitol persists year round. In 2021, TAP’s CEO, Heather Bellino, and VP of Advocacy & Outreach, Amanda Elkanick Oder were honored to be appointed to the **Office of the Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force**. The Task Force drafts recommendations to improve the legislative framework against human trafficking. TAP executives also sit on the **Texas Council on Family Violence’s Public Policy Committee (PPC)**. The PPC, comprised of a diverse group of survivors, family violence advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, educators, and the judiciary, plays an essential role in advocating for survivors during the legislative session. TAP also works with the **Texas Association Against Sexual Assault’s Policy and Advocacy Team**, composed of a group of advocates who work to establish best practices standards and sustainable systems for survivors of sexual assault through legislative, legal, community, and human trafficking advocacy.

For the 87th Legislative Session, TAP assisted these committees with the help of our **Board of Directors’ Governmental Affairs Committee**, comprised of seasoned experts, in successfully passing nearly 30 policies to secure funding, improve statutory clean-up, enhance investigative and prosecutorial tools, and strengthen victim protections and services.

In July, our executives traveled to the Nation’s Capital to visit with Senators Cruz and Cornyn’s offices and political pundits to expand our reach to the Federal level. By sharing the voices of our clients and the mission of Texas Advocacy Project, we hope to ensure survivors continue to be wrapped in life-saving services.

We are grateful to the Texas Supreme Court who worked tirelessly with the Texas Access to Justice foundation to ensure necessary funding and to our State and Federal Legislature who not only kept survivors in mind but put them first.

PREVENTION THROUGH OUTREACH



Texas Advocacy Project is honored to have been asked to consult on the Showtime premiere of CUSP. This documentary film follows three teenage friends growing up in a Texas town, and tackles some of the most prevalent topics in a teen’s world today: power-based abuse, sexual assault, consent, mental health, alcohol and drug use, and gender norms. The film’s raw vérité approach creates a sensitive, multifaceted portrait of adolescent girlhood that all young girls, in some form or fashion, will intersect with. As the girls open up about their pasts and explore their definitions of freedom and consent, CUSP illustrates how they rebel against or assimilate to societal expectations and toxic masculinity as a survival tactic.

During our time spent with the film’s subjects and makers, we have been able to share in important conversations around the teen experience. We’ve collaborated with organizations across the country to offer guidance and support to anyone viewing the film. It has also brought up topics of how systems can collaborate to better serve survivors using holistic and trauma-informed approaches.

Texas Advocacy Project was honored to participate in multiple panel discussions, including: Geena Davis Panel: VP of A&O, Amanda Elkanick Oder sat on a panel with the directors of CUSP and participated in a Live Q & A about the film, themes in the film, and dating violence.

Please visit the [CUSP website](#) to learn more about this documentary and the [CUSP Engagement Guide](#) that Texas Advocacy Project helped to create.

TEEN AMBASSADORS OF HOPE

Teen Ambassadors of Hope is a statewide leadership campaign designed to equip teens to influence positive change around healthy relationships and teen dating violence prevention. Through continued training and support from TAP staff and outside leadership coaches, Teen Ambassadors gain valuable resources and tangible information on promoting safe and healthy relationships while raising awareness and funds in support of TAP's mission.

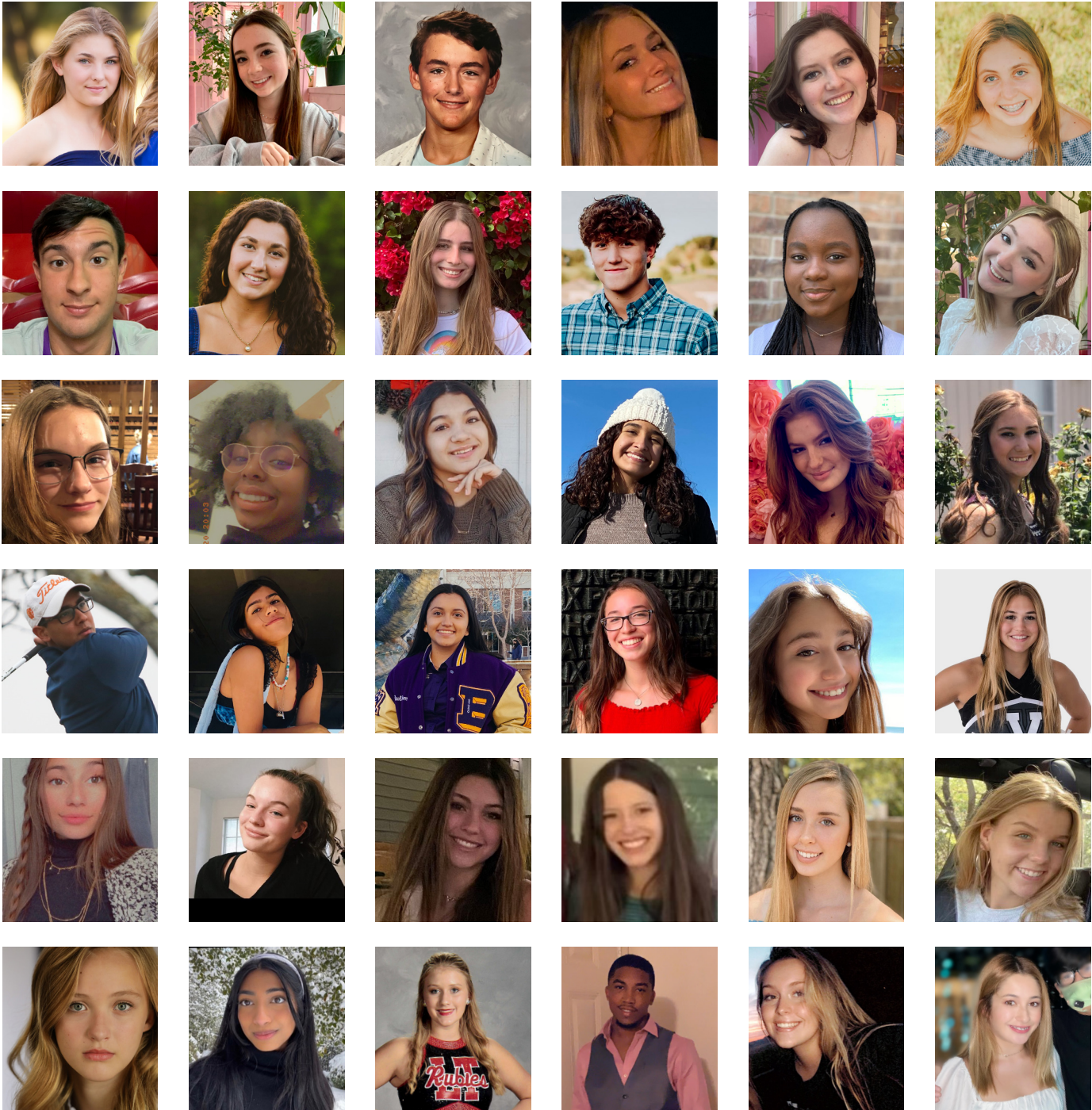
GOALS FOR EACH TEEN AMBASSADOR OF HOPE

- Champion the Mission and Services of Texas Advocacy Project
- Promote awareness of dating violence and healthy relationships
- Raise a minimum of \$500 for Texas Advocacy Project



IN 2021

65 TEEN AMBASSADORS RAISED \$23,358





Our Handbags for Hope campaign partners with the community to collect new purses, gender-neutral totes, and diaper bags for survivors across Texas. This campaign helps to lead those experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) or sexual assault to safety and free legal and social services.

Each bag is fitted with a discreet tag that lists TAP’s toll-free legal line 800-374-HOPE, safety planning information, and Allstate Foundation’s Financial Empowerment Planning Guide. All bags are then distributed to shelters, clinics, and crisis centers across Texas.

PARTNERS

- Brighton The Domain
- Austin Marriott North at Round Rock
- Buttercup Dental
- Capitol Home Health and Hospice
- Discount Tire Co. Inc. TXA-10
- Datum Contracting
- Lago Vista Women’s Club
- Leander Police Department
- Lifepoint Fellowship Church
- Round Rock Police Department
- Smile On Ortho
- Springhill Suites - Cedar Park
- Travis County Constable Precinct 5
- Travis County Sheriff’s Office
- UT School of Social Work



1046
HANDBAGS
GENDER-NEUTRAL TOTES
AND DIAPER BAGS
SENT IN 2021



Our Backpacks for Hope campaign also partners with the community to collect new backpacks and school supplies for children of survivors who currently reside in domestic violence shelters across Texas.

Similar to Handbags for Hope, each backpack is fitted with a discreet tag that lists TAP’s toll-free legal line, safety planning information, and of course, new school supplies to help these kiddos, elementary through high school ages, start off the new school year just like every other kid.

PARTNERS

- eCW Giving Foundation
- Cognizant
- Healthcare Realty
- Capitol Home Health and Hospice
- Sunshine Chateau
- Cedar Park Police Department
- Spinelli Residential Group
- Biscoe Insurance Group
- NCL South Austin Wildflowers
- Performance Contracting, Inc.



1035
BACKPACKS
WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES
SENT TO KIDS IN SHELTER IN 2021

“

This is an invaluable service to the people who are the most vulnerable. My life, peace of mind, and safety are much better after receiving these legal services.

TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT SURVIVOR-CLIENT

Hope for the Holidays

Our Hope for the Holidays campaign provides holiday cheer to 10 survivor-clients and their families. All families are nominated by our attorneys and are past TAP clients who we have helped through our civil legal remedies. TAP partners with the community to give these families a holiday to remember by fulfilling each family's dream wish list.

“I want to thank you all for your great generosity. I'm simply amazed at how big your hearts are. My kids and I were absolutely thrilled with their gifts.”

- Texas Advocacy Project Client & Hope For The Holidays Recipient

**176 BOXES OF CHEER
SENT TO 10 FAMILIES
IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

PARTNERS

- Dawn McDaniel, Seth & Orlando, Shalani Sakar
- Oracle
- UpLift
- Madeline Gordon (Tek systems), Summer Jurells, Brian Helmick
- Ebay
- Whole Foods
- Shannon Netherton
- Bronwyn's Supper Club





Leaders in the legal, consulting, finance, and technology fields joined together for an evening of live music, auctions, and awards celebrating 39 years of service. At the 15th Annual Black & White Ball, presented by Accenture, TAP honored community leaders who embody its mission of preventing violence through free legal services, access to the justice system, and education for victims.



Texas Advocacy Project was proud to honor Sylvester Turner, the Mayor of Houston, with the 2021 Vision Award, which is presented annually to a leader committed to ending power-based abuse in Texas.

TAP's 2021 Generosity of Spirit award honored Andrew Weber, former TAP Board Chair and current Partner in Charge at Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP. This award recognizes an individual or family who has had a significant impact on TAP through volunteerism, contributions as a fundraiser, or as a major contributor to our services and the cause to end abuse.



OVER \$545,000
OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDING
RAISED IN ONE NIGHT

2021 BLACK & WHITE BALL COMMITTEE

EVENT CO-CHAIRS: Leta Dorsett & Tanya Dorsett

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Andrea Cavender
- Kristi Elizondo
- Cathy Hale, Marketing Chair
- Helen Haman
- Cynde B. Jones
- Sarah Shrewsbury, Décor Co-Chair
- James Shrewsbury, Décor Co-Chair
- Suzanne Pierson, Silent Auction & Mystery Gifts Chair
- Alison Watters
- Cynthia Wilson, Live Auction Chair
- Kaeleen Weiser
- Michi Spielman
- Shelby Hawkins

PAST CHAIRS:

- Paula Greenfield
- Stephanie McKenzie
- Suzanne Pierson
- Leah Wallace
- Alison Watters
- America Strader
- Jeannette Spinelli



EVENT ARCHIVE
2021 BLACK & WHITE BALL



EVENT ARCHIVE

ADVOCATES FOR HOPE

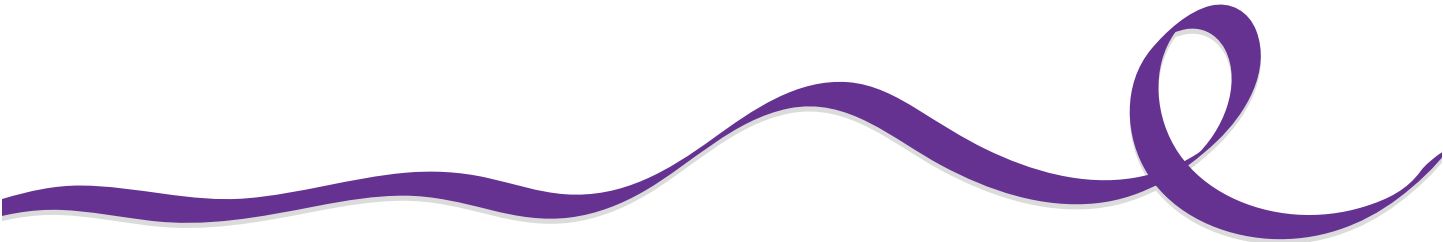
TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT'S SUSTAINING GIVING CIRCLE

Power-based abuse in Texas must end. But we can't stop it alone. Our Advocates for Hope show the community that abuse of any kind –emotional, financial, physical, and sexual- cannot be tolerated. Our services work. Join us in our vision that all Texans should live safely in hope, not fear. Become an Advocate for Hope at \$100/month by visiting TexasAdvocacyProject.org/donate or contact Development@TexasAdvocacyProject.org.

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Invitation to annual appreciation reception honoring Advocates for Hope members hosted at the home of a Project supporter
- Name included on our “Wall of Hope” to be permanently displayed at Texas Advocacy Project, and recognition in our monthly e-newsletter Hope Herald and other publications
- Invitation to our annual holiday party
- Logo Lapel Pin
- 100% fully tax deductible contribution

JOIN
ADVOCATES
FOR HOPE



WE APPLAUD THE DEDICATION OF OUR 2021 ADVOCATES FOR HOPE IN TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF VICTIMS INTO SURVIVORS.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Karen & Jon Andrews• Rebecca Austen• Ginger Averitt• Heather & Todd Bellino• Erika & Patrick Berger• DeeDee & Scott Biscoe• Peter M. Black• Marshall A. Bowen• Marla Broadus• Becky & Boran Buturovic• Andrea Cavender• Armon Clark• Candrianna & Kieran Coe• Tracey & Jim Cooley• Berry Crowley• Lauren Dupuis• Kristina & Jorge Elizondo• Sylvia & David Fuller• Thomas Graham• Julie Graham• Kathleen Hausenfluck | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amber Hausenfluck• MJ & Brandon Hegar• Sheri & Kent Hunter• Cynde B. Jones• Erica & Burke Kennedy• Candace & Mike Lambert• Christine & Michael Marcin• Denise Margo Moy• Stephanie & Matt Matthews• Sarah Melton Swartzendruber• Marsha Milam• Janet M. Mitchell• Jessica & Eric Moore• Sherrill Morales• Katherine Mudge• Dr. Teshana Murray• Thanh hao & Scott Neuendorf• Suzanne & Pat Pierson | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jose M. Rangel• Leslie & Patrick Rhode• Tina Rodriguez & Dr. Steven Wilkins• Marybeth Schmitz• Alexander C. Schoch• Sarah & James Shrewsbury• Jeannette Spinelli• Kenny Thompson, Jr.• Dr. Kelly Thorstad & Dr. Trevor Turner• Michelle Simpson Tugel• Julienne VanDerZiel• Jessica Vogel• Alison Walgren• Alison & Tim Watters• Lin & Andrew Weber• Sasha Wytrwal |
|--|--|---|





“I give to this organization because it is exceedingly well run. Every penny, every volunteer hour, every resource is used strategically - and ultimately provides lasting safety and hope for Texans.”

Alison Watters
Board of Directors, Vice Chair

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

It takes all of us to end domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, and human trafficking in Texas. By donating, partnering, volunteering, or just becoming better informed, you can help bring about a day when all Texans live free from abuse.



DONATE

Donors help ensure that critical legal services are available, free of charge, when they are most urgently needed.

[DONATE TODAY](#)



GET EDUCATED

We provide free training to judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, educators, students, military members, health care providers, and the general public.

[LEARN WITH US](#)



VOLUNTEER

Volunteers directly support the many services Texas Advocacy Project provides. Opportunities are available for a variety of educational, professional, and personal backgrounds.

[VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME](#)



TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT

TexasAdvocacyProject.org

800.374.HOPE