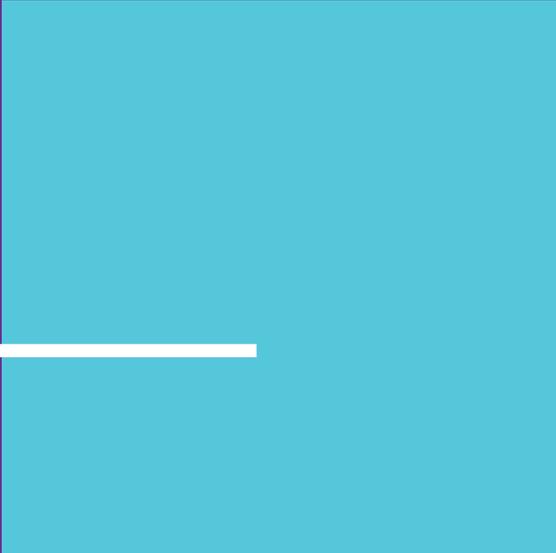


# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



TEXAS  
ADVOCACY  
PROJECT

"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 CLIENT  
&  
2018 COURAGE AWARD RECIPIENT



TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT

**DECADES OF COMMITMENT TO  
TEXANS LIVING FREE FROM FEAR**

**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.

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WHO WE HELP



Provided free legal services to 4,767 primary survivors in power-based abuse cases



Supported clients from ages 12 to 88 years old



Served 10,106 clients and children across the state



Our attorneys reached 64% of all counties in Texas

WHY WE HELP



HOW WE HELP

14 staff attorneys provided civil legal services relating to protective orders, divorce, child support, and child custody	Assisted 4,537 clients and their children with safety planning and overcoming financial abuse	Provided 8 training sessions in Texas universities to prevent campus sexual assault	Trained over 4,000 judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, educators, students, military members, health care providers and other advocates
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Cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. On average, we distribute about 3,500 Handbags for Hope and about 900 Backpacks for Hope to domestic violence shelters yearly.

Provided training on healthy relationships, teen dating violence, online safety, and leadership skills to 1,165 teenagers - 81 of which served as Teen Ambassadors of Hope.



GET INVOLVED

Visit [TexasAdvocacyProject.org/communitysupport](https://TexasAdvocacyProject.org/communitysupport) for financial donations, sponsorships, annual report, volunteering, handbag/backpack donations, and events. Last year, supporters came together to raise \$270,000 at the 14th annual Black & White Ball, held virtually for the first time.

TEEN AMBASSADORS OF HOPE, HANDBAGS FOR HOPE, BACKPACKS FOR HOPE, AND HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

\*All sources cited at [TexasAdvocacyProject.org/communitysupport](https://TexasAdvocacyProject.org/communitysupport)

# READY & ABLE



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. Today, our comprehensive approach includes both solutions and prevention, and provides a range of legal and advocacy services proven to break the cycle of violence and get victims to safety.

We provide effective legal solutions 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 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.



**HEATHER BELLINO**  
CEO

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | YEAR IN REVIEW

It is hard to comprehend all the challenges that we as a world and as an organization have faced in 2020. Our staff has been on the front lines of this pandemic, providing real solutions to survivors facing increased isolation and escalated violence and I am so deeply proud of all that we have been able to accomplish in this wild year.

We had to dig deep as a team and lean in to the hurdles and enormous effort it would take to implement completely new ways of doing things. Not only did we survive, we thrived. I am pleased to share that, in 2020, our team helped **10,106 survivors** find safety and justice in the **4,767 cases** we have closed. Here are some other noteworthy accomplishments from our 38th year:

- We updated our **mission statement** to include the valuable work we do empowering the public with violence prevention education.
- We created our 1st ever **Annual Report** which will serve as the primary communication piece to highlight our annual accomplishments.
- We produced not one, but **two brand new PSA's** to highlight both our Agency Services and Youth Services.
- Going 100% virtual entailed a rapid transition to a **new phone system** that directs all Legal Line calls to our team working remotely. Using the new soft phone technology, we are now able to communicate with clients using voice, but also through **text and video calls**. This has enabled us to expand our **Virtual Legal Clinics (VLC)** to all of our legal line callers and clients seeking face-to-face video conferencing with an attorney, for free.
- Due to the demand for our virtual legal services, we also added new technology including a **web chat feature** to our website, to better communicate with survivors seeking help.
- We formed a partnership with the **Houston Area Women's Center**, the largest domestic violence shelter in Houston, to have a virtual satellite office at their shelter and host legal clinics for all of their clients.
- The training department worked around the clock to transition all presentations to virtual platforms as well as creating new trainings to address unique legal challenges amid the pandemic and one geared for essential workers entitled **Going Beyond the Job Description: How to Recognize & Respond to Domestic Violence in the Workplace**. In all, **4,075 people** have attended our virtual trainings this year!

- In May, Chief Legal Officer Bronwyn Blake and Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach Amanda Elkanick Oder presented a webinar on **Coercion and Consent** at the **Crimes Against Women Conference**, the premier national gathering for advocates in our field.
- We had another record-breaking Teen Ambassadors of Hope program with **81 teenagers** participating and raising over **\$32,500!** The Teen Hope Awards switched to a virtual platform with many special guest appearances including Texas First Lady Cecelia Abbott.
- We transitioned our largest fundraiser, the Black & White Ball to a virtual platform, raising over **\$270,000** and honoring Dallas Mavericks CEO, Cynthia "Cynt" Marshall, with our Vision Award.
- Our staff attended the first virtual **Public Service Career Fair at UT for law students** from all over the state to meet the next generation of public interest lawyers.
- We continued to build on our medical-legal partnerships and Board Member Dr. Kelly Thorstad submitted a blog to the Texas Medical Association titled **"What PPE is Needed for Domestic Violence?"**
- We provided a training on healthy relationships to the staff at **Girl Scouts of Central Texas**. Stay tuned to this partnership- we hope to have an exciting announcement next year about a cool collaboration!
- The Texas State Bar Poverty Law Section honored our very own, Denise Margo Moy, Chief Operating Officer, with the **Noble Award for Lifetime Achievement** for devoting her entire legal career to making justice accessible to survivors!
- We have come to the end of our lease in our current office space and have decided to continue to provide staff the option to work from home. With that in mind we have a new location, smaller yes, but perfectly suited for the "new normal."
- Finally, as a team, we acknowledge the racial injustices in our nation and we engaged in discussions and training for growth and healing. We made a commitment to doing more outreach to survivors who are people of color. Our leadership team attended and implemented the National Coalition Building Institute diversity training. Our Board of Directors adopted a new Statement on Diversity and Inclusion. Our team developed a training on Disproportionality & Intersectionality which was given to all staff. And we reached out to organizations representing people of color to seek ways in which we could collaborate and support the work they are doing.

I want to express my immense appreciation to you, our supporters. You have been steadfast with your support since the beginning of this crisis. I am grateful beyond measure for your willingness to stand by us and ensure our sustainability.

What we are facing today, seems never ending. Fortunately, I am so proud and inspired everyday by the incredible work of my team. We will continue to stand up against violence and systemic abuse. We will continue to serve clients and educate the public. And we will continue to be the example the world needs.

I'm off to pack some boxes for our new location, because why wouldn't we move during a pandemic?

**From my heart, I thank you for being on this wild ride with us!**

**Heather Bellino, Chief Executive Officer**



**SCOTT NEUENDORF**  
2020 BOARD PRESIDENT

## A NOTE FROM \_\_\_\_\_ OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Texas Advocacy Project's Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team are pleased to present this 2020 annual report. **Last year surely will go down in history, as one of TAP's most challenging.** If a global pandemic and relocating offices weren't enough, the tragic death of George Floyd sent the masses to our streets in what were the most significant and important protests in our country since the Civil Rights movement over 50 years ago. Years like 2020 test how preparation holds on the battlefield. It is with great pride that I report to you- **due to the amazing work of our staff and volunteers, not only did TAP come out of 2020 unscathed, we exited 2020 in a better position than we entered the year!**

Our leadership team quickly worked to accelerate our **technology platform buildout to enable staff to work remotely**- allowing us to serve our clients in a time of increased stress and uncertainty. We had a bit of a head start because TAP was uniquely prepared for the crisis with virtual/tele-law services, critical to reaching victims in rural and underserved areas across the large state of Texas. Our Board

and Staff were lightning quick to submit our application for PPP funds (within 2 minutes of our bank announcing they would accept them!). Heather also was proactive in reaching out to our amazing grantors to see what flexibility they could afford us during the depths of the crises. **All of this quick and thoughtful action allowed us to reassure our entire staff that their jobs were not in jeopardy, and that they could devote all of their efforts to doing what they do best: helping our clients.**

Our success during the year was due in no small part to the scores of staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the past 39+ years to build this organization into the finely tuned nonprofit it is today. With that said, it would be naïve not to assign the vast majority of last year's success to Heather Bellino and her senior leadership team: Denise Margo Moy, Bronwyn Blake, Amanda Elkanick Oder, and Jeremy Rathke. I want to publicly recognize them for a tremendously successful year and celebrate our C-suite executives for three momentous work anniversaries- Heather Bellino and Bronwyn Blake both marked their 15 year milestones, and Denise Margo Moy marked her 20th! It's exceptionally rare to find organizations in which the key people have such a long and successful history of working together.

Heather and her senior staff's relationship with the rest of the organization was instrumental in navigating the conversations pertaining to equity and inclusion with staff, as the BLM movement took shape and brought these issues to the forefront. One key action the Board took in 2020 was the establishment of a diversity and inclusion task force to explore how we can do better and be better. I'm excited to see what blind spots this uncovers for us as a Board and what opportunities this leads to in the future.

During 2020, we made significant progress in our Youth Outreach program. Youth Outreach has quickly risen to the top training efforts with over 1,100 students being trained about Healthy Relationships. Last year, the youngest client TAP helped was 12 years old. This really hits home for me. I have two elementary school aged girls and my wife is a healthcare worker in a hospital. Like many of you, last year, I had to juggle the kids at home while keeping up with my day job. At times, all of it was overwhelming. But at the end of the day we didn't have to worry about our jobs, how we were going to make our mortgage payment, or whether we could afford groceries. I can't begin to imagine the added pressure so many others must have endured last year. **Not surprisingly, we've seen a noticeable uptick in domestic violence over the same timeframe. Imagine what it's like for those kids dealing with all these things, with violence in the home.** We know that abuse in the home affects children, even if they are not the direct targets. Because of the generous support of our donors and work of our staff, we are making a lasting positive impact in so many young lives.

As 2020 ended, so did my two-year term as board chair. The past six years of board service has been remarkably fulfilling. I've made so many wonderful friends, not least of which is Michael Marcin, to whom **I pass the Board Chair baton.** Mike is a lawyer by training (I am not) and just thinks about things differently than me, which is productive for the growth of TAP. I have full confidence Mike will continue to lead TAP to helping more Texans in need of our services as our organization continues to rapidly grow and evolve.

On behalf of the over 10,000 victims we help each and every year, I want to thank you for enabling us to do this work.

# 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY GIVING THEIR TIME,  
RESOURCES & LEADERSHIP

- Michael Marcin, Attorney at Law  
Chair
- Alison Watters  
Vice Chair
- Boran Buturovic  
Treasurer
- Peter M. Black  
Secretary
- Jon Andrews
- Ginger Averitt
- Scott Biscoe
- Marshall Bowen, Attorney at Law
- Kristi Elizondo
- Thomas Graham
- Kathleen Hausenfluck
- MJ Hegar
- Sheri Hunter, Attorney at Law
- Cynde B. Jones
- Burke Kennedy, Attorney at Law
- Sarah Melton Swartzendruber
- Marsha Milam
- Sherrill Morales, CPA
- Dr. Teshana Murray
- Scott Neuendorf
- Jose M. Rangel, Attorney at Law
- Leslie Rhode
- Alexander C. Schoch, Attorney at Law
- Marybeth Schmitz
- Sarah Shrewsbury
- Jeannette Spinelli
- Dr. Kelly Thorstad
- Julie Ward

## HONORARY BOARD

- Marla Broaddus, Attorney at Law
- Beryl Crowley, Attorney at Law
- Doug Doerr
- Cindy Hielscher
- Matt Matthews, Attorney at Law
- Shonney Pettit
- Michelle Simpson Tuegel, Attorney at Law
- Julienne VanDerZiel
- Jessica Vogel
- Andrew Weber, Attorney at Law

## 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
- Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation
- Allstate Foundation
- Attorney General of Texas
- Major League Baseball
- Major League Baseball Players  
Association
- Shield-Ayres Foundation
- Texas Access to Justice Foundation
- Texas Bar Foundation
- Office of the Texas Governor Criminal  
Justice Division
- Texas Health and Human Services  
Commission
- The Covalent Foundation

174 \_\_\_\_\_  
PEOPLE VOLUNTEERED  
4,404  
TOTAL HOURS



### 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:

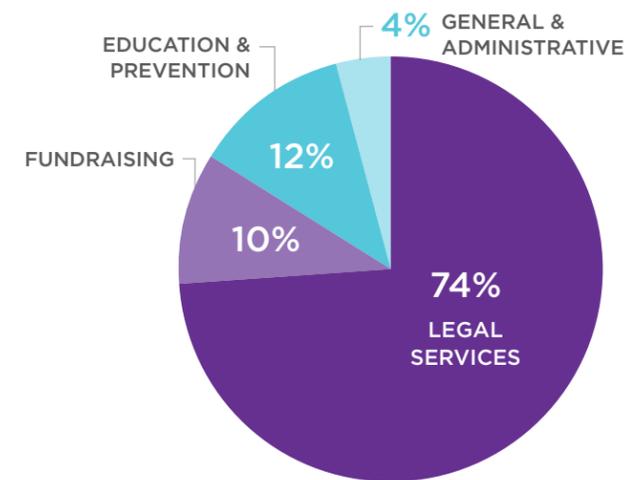


## 2020 FINANCIALS

STEWARDS OF YOUR DOLLARS

WE ARE PROUD TO OPERATE ON **86% DIRECT SERVICES COSTS** & **14% ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS**

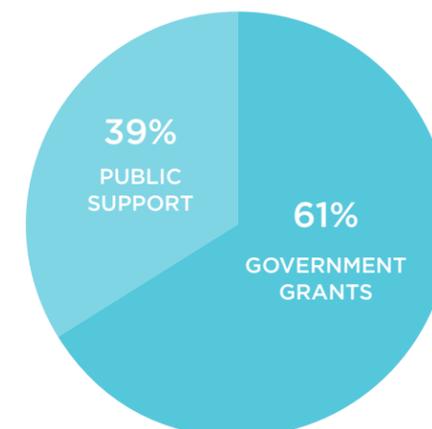
Texas Advocacy Project undergoes a Single Audit every year because we receive federal funding. Single Audits are performed by an independent auditor and require higher levels of testing than a regular audit. When it comes to fundraising events, we are dedicated to spending no more than 20% of incoming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



### EXPENSES

Program Services	
• Direct Legal Services	\$2,069,375
• Education & Prevention	\$346,512
Fundraising	\$267,029
General & Administrative	\$124,798

**TOTAL \$2,807,714**



### REVENUE

Program Services	\$2,679,663
Fundraising Events	\$329,406
Contributions, Gifts	\$265,976
Other	\$206

**TOTAL \$3,275,251**

# 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



## TINA'S STORY

Tina was 25 years old when she met, fell in love and quickly moved in with a charismatic man. When Tina got pregnant, her boyfriend's controlling and isolating behavior began. He told her she wasn't allowed to work or see her friends. His behavior escalated into physical abuse, breaking her phone on several occasions to prevent her from calling 911. The violence culminated in an event where he threw off his shirt, said he was going to kill her, dragged her around their apartment with her baby in her arms and then strangled her. Miraculously, Tina escaped to a neighbor's home. When the police

arrived, her boyfriend had stabbed himself to make it look like he was the victim. Luckily, the police officer on duty had been specially trained to recognize symptoms of strangulation and believed Tina's story. Her boyfriend was arrested on the spot. Tina was referred to TAP by an advocate at a domestic violence shelter. Tina's TAP attorney secured two important victories, a Protective Order and Sole Legal Conservatory of her son. The following year, Tina was presented TAP's Courage Award and in her speech she said, getting custody of her son was **the single most important thing that has happened in her life**. Tina is now inspired to do public speaking on behalf of TAP.



## \*ROSE'S STORY

\*Rose is the mother of three girls, sixteen-year-old twins and their six-year-old little sister. Rose's ex-husband and father of her youngest daughter, sexually abused the twins, his step-daughters, when they were 14 years old. When Rose found out about this, she swooped in to protect her girls. Before long, her ex-husband was a convicted sex-offender sentenced to more than a decade in prison. However, without termination of parental rights, her ex-husband would still have the right to know where the girls lived and went to school - and frighteningly, if something ever happened to Rose, by default he

would have rights to the child. Rose came to TAP for help in terminating her ex-husbands parental rights. As a single mom and essential grocery store employee, the COVID-19 pandemic hit her life like a tornado and threatened to delay her final hearing. TAP attorneys were able to secure a virtual hearing and in the end the judge ruled to terminate her ex-husbands parental rights. **Rose and her girls are now free from his abuse!**

\*Name and details have been changed to protect the client's privacy.



## MADISON'S STORY

Madison was getting ready to start college when she began texting with a classmate that she met on GroupMe, a messaging app used by students. They chatted back and forth and Madison felt like she got to know him. On her first night at college, this classmate and one of his teammates from football were invited over by her roommate. It was during this first in-person meeting that Madison's classmate cornered her in her dorm room and sexually assaulted her.

The trauma from the assault was life-altering. Madison felt sick and the next morning she got in her car and drove 3 hours to her parents' home. When she told them what happened, they were supportive and told her that if anyone could overcome this and fight for her rights, it was her! At orientation, her school had shown her a 10 minute animated video on Title IX. Title IX requires schools to combat sex discrimination in education. In Madison's case, she suffered a sexual assault and needed to use this statute to hold her abuser accountable for his actions. She knew there were protections out there, but she didn't know enough. She knew she needed help. After researching organizations that help survivors, she eventually made it to TAP. The very first thing our team helped her with was safety planning. After that, we asked the all-important question- "What did Madison want to happen next?" She asked us to represent her in her Title IX case against the school.

The way cases like this work is that they are taken to a Title IX investigation committee at the school, and they make a finding as to whether there will be actions taken against the alleged perpetrator. Unfortunately her school delayed the process, breaking a "90 day" investigation rule. The explanation for the delay, was the committee provided Madison a preliminary report that had to be sent back to the investigator for review before they could make a final finding- eating up valuable time. Eventually, our attorney sent a demand letter to prompt the committee's response, which ended up being in Madison's favor. Her abuser appealed the decision twice: once to the Title IX board and then to the dean of the school. During this period, the opposing party was contacting witnesses, trying to get them to change their stories. Madison kept fighting for her rights, but in the interim, transferred to another school to be safe from retaliation.

Eventually there was a final due process hearing scheduled. At the hearing, Madison's mom and family were not allowed to be in the room with her. **But Madison was in great hands- her TAP attorney was seated next to her and helped her every step of the way.** These hearings aren't what we all picture from what we see on TV. In the hearings, Madison was the only one allowed to speak on her own behalf. Thankfully her TAP attorney was able to pass notes back and forth to help Madison craft responses to each question. The abuser called his teammate as a witness to lie for him, but when testifying, he told the truth about what had happened and supported Madison.

Ultimately, it was the strength of Madison's own statement that made her case. She wrote, "I have been impacted by this event in many ways. I left my dream school and changed my entire life around because of his decision. He took away my safety at this school, and he deserves to pay his full consequence... I work every day on making myself who I was before that night. I go to school and work full time to make myself feel as normal as possible. No one asks for this to happen to them, he did this and he should have to pay the consequences." Thanks to her perseverance and determination, his appeals were denied. The school suspended her abuser, forcing him to withdraw from school, and pulled his athletic scholarship.

The following year, Madison attended our Black & White Ball, honoring TAP survivor-clients. After the event, Madison wrote to her attorney, "It was a great evening! I loved watching and hearing it all, it really hit home. I couldn't have done it without you and all the people who are a part of the program." **Madison is now about to graduate from her new school and hopes to begin her own career in criminal justice. She would like everyone to know that you are not alone and that you can have support and advocacy too!**

# A HOLISTIC APPROACH

## WRAPPING SURVIVORS IN INNOVATIVE LIFE-SAVING SERVICES & SOLUTIONS

### 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

Attorneys can file impact litigation to bring about lasting effects beyond one survivor's case. Achieving societal change and ensuring that future courts are fairly serving survivors.

### LEGAL SOLUTIONS

SPECIALIZING IN LEGAL TOPICS THAT HELP COMBAT POWER-BASED ABUSE

#### 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.

### AND ALMOST ANYTHING ELSE A SURVIVOR MIGHT NEED.

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

SURVIVOR SERVICES THAT EXTEND BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL LEGAL REALM

#### PERSONAL SAFETY PLANS

An individualized plan that advocates create alongside survivors to reduce the risks that survivors and their children face when leaving and preparing to leave an abusive relationship.

#### SURVIVOR SERVICES

Assisting survivors in holistic healing by addressing housing, financial, safety, and mental health resources.



THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOUND AN 80% REDUCTION IN FUTURE VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN WHO HAD A PROTECTIVE ORDER IN EFFECT, WHEN COMPARED TO WOMEN WITHOUT SIMILAR LEGAL PROTECTIONS.\*

\*All sources cited at [TexasAdvocacyProject.org/communitysupport](https://TexasAdvocacyProject.org/communitysupport)

# HOW WE HELP

IN 2020 WE SERVED

10,106

CLIENTS & CHILDREN IN TEXAS



## LAWYERS ON YOUR SIDE

**Texas Advocacy Project's** core power is in its legal expertise and experience dealing with power-based abuse. 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.



## LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- We are called to the Capitol as subject matter experts to assist in the formation of state laws that relate to issues facing survivors.
- Provide expert testimony during session to inform decision makers on impact to survivors.
- Notable accomplishments from 2019 session:
  - SB 971 (strangulation)
  - SB 234 (lease termination) and SB 2390 (emergency protective order confidential address)
  - SB 3809 (child sexual abuse)



## EDUCATION & PREVENTION

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.

## TRAINING LOCATIONS

- Accenture
- Alliance of Local Service Organizations
- Angelo State University
- Asian Family Support Services of Austin
- Austin Police Department Victim Services
- Banquete Junior High
- Bear Branch Elementary
- Brighter Tomorrows Shelter
- Catholic Charities
- Children's Advocacy Center of Texas, Inc
- City of Austin Municipal Court
- Concho Valley Workforce Solutions
- Connally High School
- Dailey Middle School
- EA Sports
- Eastfield College
- Family Compass
- Family Connects
- Family Support Services
- Genesis Women's Shelter
- Girl Scouts of Central Texas
- Hope Alliance Shelter
- Lamar Middle School
- Mexican Consulate General in Austin
- National Charity League
- Pillow Elementary
- Poverty Law Section of the State Bar of Texas
- SAFVIC
- South University
- Stanford Health Law Pro Bono
- Tarrant County College
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- The Ark
- The Bridge Over Troubled Waters
- The Landing
- Travis Co. Sheriff Victim's Services
- University of Houston-Victoria
- University of Texas School of Law
- Victims Advocate Network at UT Austin
- Warfield Center for African and African American Studies at UT Austin
- Young Men's Service League

# HOW WE HELP



## TRAINING CONFERENCES

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

- School Safety Summit Conference
- Adolescent Symposium of Texas 2020
- Texas Association of Student Counsels High School Virtual Conference
- Texas Association of Student Counsels Middle School Virtual Conference
- TXPSTA Online Summer Conference
- TAASA Virtual Conference
- Crimes Against Women Virtual Conference
- Crimes Against Children Virtual Conference
- 2020 Genesis Lecture Series
- Virtual Texas Summit on Gender-Based Violence
- SEED Virtual Live Conference

For additional information and upcoming training webinars please visit our website at [www.texasadvocacyproject.org/training](http://www.texasadvocacyproject.org/training).

## NEW TRAININGS CREATED

- Going Beyond the Job Description: How to Recognize & Respond to Domestic Violence in the Workplace
- Economic Abuse and Civil Legal Advocacy - COVID Information Included
- Legal Barriers and Solutions for Survivors of Economic Abuse
- Coercive Debt and Legal Protections Available for Survivors
- Building Economic Legal Advocacy Practices for your Program

IN 2020  
TAP EDUCATED

4,243

INDIVIDUALS  
ACROSS TEXAS

## OUTREACH FOCUS AREAS

### TEENS | 1,165 STUDENTS TRAINED VIA 17 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 | 99 STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF TRAINED ON 8 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:

- How to respond to reports of sexual assault?
- How to support a friend that is a survivor?
- Where to turn if correct procedures are not being followed?

### 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, and Mama Sana.

# TEEN AMBASSADORS OF HOPE

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

IN 2020

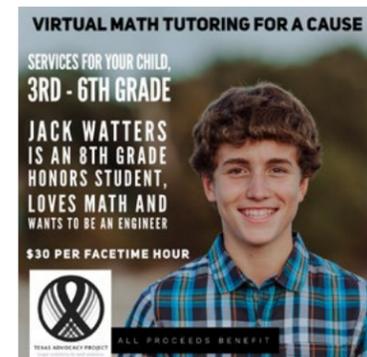
# 81 TEEN AMBASSADORS RAISED \$33,000

Texas Advocacy Project provides training on healthy relationships, teen dating violence, online safety, and leadership skills through Teen Ambassadors of Hope. Teen Ambassadors make an impact in their communities by promoting safe and healthy relationships while raising funds.



## 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



# HOPE CAMPAIGNS

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Our annual Hope Campaigns get the community rallied to help us collect handbags, backpacks, and school supplies for survivors in crisis across Texas. All bags include information on how the recipients can access our free services and are distributed through crisis shelters, emergency rooms, clinics, and more. Unfortunately, our 2020 Handbags for Hope and Backpacks for Hope campaigns were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.



ON AVERAGE  
**3500**  
HANDBAGS SHIPPED TO  
SHELTERS AND CLINICS ANNUALLY

## PARTNERS

- Accenture
- Biscoe Insurance Group - Allstate
- Brighton at the Domain
- Austin Area Obstetrics Gynecology, and Fertility
- Austin Marriott North
- Bumble
- Cain & Skarnulis PLLC and Stream Realty
- Cedar Park High School
- Cedar Park Police Department
- Corevalent
- Edward Jones
- Eileen's Colossal Cookies
- Global Foundries
- Grace Covenant Church
- Hand & Stone Leander
- Hill Country Indoor
- Icenhauer's
- Lago Vista Women's Club
- Leander Police Department
- Lodge at Stone Oak Ranch Apartments
- Lone Star Pediatrics
- Lorena Korpela - State Farm Agency
- Luling High School Student Council
- MOMS Club (Round Rock)
- Naaman Forest High School
- Nitro Swimming Bee Cave & Cedar Park
- Oracle
- Parmer Oaks Dental Care
- Rackspace
- Rough Hollow Lakeway
- Round Rock Police Department
- Shop LC
- SmileOn Orthodontics
- Springhill Suites - Cedar Park
- Stay LIT
- TAKE 5 Cedar Park
- Texas Department of Insurance
- Texas Gas Service Company
- The Little Gym of Austin South
- The UPS Store #6546
- Travis County Constable
- Travis County Sheriff's Office
- T-Werx Coworking
- West Austin Chamber of Commerce



ON AVERAGE  
**900 BACKPACKS**  
WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES SENT  
TO KIDS IN SHELTER ANNUALLY

## PARTNERS

- Alpha Insurance Solutions - Allstate
- Apple Sport Imports
- Ash Creek Homes
- Biscoe Insurance Group - Allstate
- Central Texas Agency - Allstate
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- Dell Financial Services
- Dell Technologies
- Patrick Berger - Edward Jones
- Fit4Mom
- Icenhauer's
- Lodge at Stone Oak Ranch Apartments
- Rackspace
- Saxon Insurance Services - Allstate
- Spinelli Residential Group
- Texas Gas Service Company
- Town Lake Insurance Agency - Allstate





# Hope for the Holidays

"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

"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 CLIENT

## SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER & SUPPORTING OUR CLIENTS' TRANSITION FROM A HOME OF VIOLENCE TO ONE OF HOPE

### PARTNERS

- Oracle
- Whole Foods Market - Lamar
- FT Cares Foundation
- Discount Tire - Cedar Park
- Datum Commercial Contracting
- The Piazza Center for Plastic Surgery & Advanced Skincare

**45 BOXES OF CHEER  
SENT TO 11 FAMILIES  
IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**





**2020 BLACK & WHITE BALL COMMITTEE**

**EVENT CHAIR:** Jeannette Spinelli

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

- Diane Bates
- Erika Berger
- Andrea Cavender
- Leta Dorsett
- Kristi Elizondo
- Cathy Hale
- Helen Haman
- America Strader
- Sheri Hunter
- Cynde B. Jones
- Shonnery Pettit
- James Shrewsbury
- Sarah Shrewsbury
- Suzanne Pierson
- Alison Watters
- Tinny Widjaja
- Cynthia Wilson

**PAST CHAIRS:**

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

Event Chair Jeannette Spinelli and leaders in the legal, government, consulting, finance, medical, and technology fields gathered virtually on September 26, 2020, for the 14th annual Black & White Ball presented by Accenture. The evening included the launch of TAP’s new PSA outreach videos, the Vision Award presentation, auctions, and a short concert featuring local music talent, Jimmie Vaughan!



**Texas Advocacy Project was proud to honor Cynt Marshall, CEO of the Dallas Mavericks, with the 2020 Vision Award,** which is presented annually to a leader committed to ending power-based abuse in Texas.



**OVER \$270,000**  
**OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDING**  
**RAISED IN ONE NIGHT**

**EVENT ARCHIVE**  
**2020 BLACK & WHITE BALL**



# EVENT ARCHIVE

# ADVOCATES FOR HOPE

## THE SUSTAINING GIVING CIRCLE OF TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT

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](https://TexasAdvocacyProject.org/donate) or contact [Development@TexasAdvocacyProject.org](mailto: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
- Commemorative “Wings of Hope” lapel pin
- 100% fully tax deductible contribution

JOIN  
ADVOCATES  
FOR HOPE



## WE APPLAUD THE DEDICATION OF OUR 2020 ADVOCATES FOR HOPE IN TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF VICTIMS INTO SURVIVORS.

- Karen & Jonathan Andrews
- Rebecca Austen
- Ginger Averitt
- Heather & Todd Bellino
- Erika & Patrick Berger
- DeeDee & Scott Biscoe
- Peter M. Black
- Marla D. Broaddus
- Becky & Boran Buturovic
- Andrea Cavender
- Armon Clark
- Candrianna & Kieran Coe
- Tracey & Jim Cooley
- Belinda Covey
- Berry Crowley
- Kiff & Doug Doerr
- Lauren Dupuis
- Kristina & Jorge Elizondo
- Sylvia & David Fuller
- Tobie Funte
- Thomas Graham
- Amber Hausenfluck
- Kathleen Hausenfluck
- MJ & Brandon Hegar
- Cindy Hielscher
- Sheri & Kent Hunter
- Cynde B. Jones
- Erica & Burke Kennedy
- Candace & Mike Lambert
- Christine & Michael Marcin
- Sarah Melton Swartzendruber
- Marsha Milam
- Denise Margo Moy
- Stephanie & Matt Matthews
- Janet M. Mitchell
- Jessica & Eric Moore
- Katherine Mudge
- Dr. Teshana Murray
- Thanhhao & Scott Neuendorf
- Ronak Patel
- Shonery & Tom Pettit
- Suzanne & Pat Pierson
- Ashley Pigg
- Jose M. Rangel
- Anu Reddy
- Leslie & Patrick Rhode
- Tina Rodriguez & Dr. Steven Wilkins
- Alexander C. Schoch
- Sarah & James Shrewsbury
- Michelle Simpson Tuegel
- Dr. Kelly Thorstad & Dr. Trevor Turner
- Julienne VanDerZiel
- Jessica Vogel
- Alison Walgren
- Julie Ward
- Alison & Tim Watters
- Lin & Andrew Weber
- Brooke & John Winfrey



**“I give to this organization because Texas Advocacy Project provides a real, actual solution to a problem. And that solution can impact generations.”**

**Shonnery Pettit  
TAP Board Member**



## WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

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



### 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**