



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Another year has flown by, and while it's hard to believe how quickly the time has passed, my heart is full as I look back on the meaningful change we created together—proof that the most important work often happens faster than we ever expect!

This year has been one of remarkable growth, deepened connection, and powerful momentum at Texas Advocacy Project. Together, we expanded our reach, strengthened the systems that protect survivors, and—most importantly—walked alongside thousands of individuals and families on their journey to safety and justice.

In 2025, our extraordinary attorneys, advocates, and volunteers served more than **11,000 survivors and their children**, closed over **6,000 cases**, and trained **3,500 community members** across Texas. Behind every number is a person, a family, and a story—and our commitment remains unwavering: to deliver high-value, compassionate legal services at scale, without ever losing the personal care that defines who we are.

The heart of TAP beats strongest through community. This year, volunteers gave more than **5,100 hours** of their time and talent, and our inspiring **Teen Ambassadors of Hope** raised over **\$22,000** to sustain free, life-saving legal services. With the generosity of **41 collection partners** and the dedication of **150 volunteers**, our *Handbags & Backpacks for Hope* campaign delivered more than **3,000 bags** filled with dignity and care to survivors and their families statewide. These moments remind us what's possible when compassion meets action.

Joy and celebration filled the room at our **19th Annual Black & White Ball**, proudly presented for the first time by **DaBella**. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, the evening raised a **record-breaking \$1.27 million in unrestricted funding**—a powerful vote of confidence in our mission and a gift that allows us to grow. We are profoundly grateful to our donors who trust us as true partners in advancing safety, justice, and hope.

Our impact also reached the halls of the Texas Capitol. During the **89th Legislative Session**, TAP tracked more than **350 bills** affecting survivors, testified on **25**, and helped secure meaningful victories—including **SB 761**, affirming survivors' right to legal representation in enforcing their rights, and **SB 836**, protecting survivor privacy in sensitive trials. We remain honored to serve as active voices on the **TCFV Public Policy Committee** and the **Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force**, advocating for change that lasts. I'm honored to share that, as a representative of TAP, I've been appointed to the **Family Violence Criminal Homicide Prevention Task Force**, where survivors' experiences will help inform statewide strategies to prevent and reduce these crimes.

TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT

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Beyond Texas, TAP's voice continues to grow. This year, our team participated in strategic meetings in Washington, D.C., presented at the **National Conference on Domestic Violence** and **The Conference on Crimes Against Women**, contributed to judicial trainings, and shared our expertise through media appearances, PSAs, and national podcasts. We are proud to help shape the national conversation on survivor advocacy, innovation, and justice.

Behind the scenes, we are building toward an ambitious vision: becoming the nation's most effective law center for victims of abuse. In 2025, we sharpened our focus on productivity, data-driven decision-making, and expanded pro bono engagement to better serve survivors. Looking ahead, our goal is bold and hopeful—**shorten the wait** for survivors seeking legal help in 2026, and by 2027, extending our proven model beyond Texas.

Across every program, partnership, and policy effort, one word captures this year: **momentum**. TAP is stronger, more visible, and more united than ever before. None of this happens without our remarkable staff, our devoted volunteers, and the generosity and trust of our partners and donors. Together, we are creating a new national standard for survivor advocacy—one that is scalable, innovative, and deeply human.

Your belief in this mission fuels every victory. As we look ahead, I invite you to stay in the fight with us—volunteer, share our resources, give generously, and keep survivors at the center of your hearts. Together, we are making safety possible across Texas—and beyond.

Thank you for helping us turn vision into action.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Bellino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Bellino
Chief Executive Officer
Texas Advocacy Project