A Message From Our CEO, January Contreras

We hope this glance at our 2015-2016 year helps you imagine a day in the life of Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services (ALWAYS), and the vulnerable women, men, and children we serve.

The circumstances that our clients must rise above are often traumatic and painful. Yet any given day, people walk through our doors with hope that they can overcome their pasts to create a safer and more stable future. It is our privilege to stand with them.

As we close this fiscal year, we recognize the many partners and donors who actively support our work and allow us to keep up with a growing number of clients. I thank our Board of Directors for their commitment to our mission, and the ALWAYS staff who demonstrate passion and tenacity every day in this incredible work.

Most sincerely,

Crystal, a young mother of two, had fled her abuser and sought refuge at a domestic violence shelter. Her husband was verbally and physically abusive throughout their marriage, and when Crystal left, he took her kids and withheld them from her. This is when Crystal found ALWAYS. Our attorney filed for divorce, legal decision making, and parenting time. When Crystal's abuser told the judge she was lying, the drug tests and police reports introduced by her attorney told the truth. Crystal was granted a divorce, and all of the orders she sought to keep herself and her kids safe.

Crystal is now working full-time, and moved out of the domestic violence shelter and into transitional housing with her two children.

*All client names have been changed to protect their privacy.*

### 2016 LEGAL SERVICES SUMMARY

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<th>IMMIGRATION</th>
<th>FAMILY LAW</th>
<th>SAFETY</th>
<th>EMPLOYMENT</th>
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**IMMIGRATION**

Assisted immigrant survivors of human trafficking, victims of crime, and vulnerable youth to pursue pathways to employment, citizenship, safety, and self-sufficiency.

**FAMILY LAW**

Strengthened safety and stability for vulnerable youth and trafficking survivors through emergency orders of protection, identity documents, and other services.

**SAFETY & ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

Secured immediate safety and essential services for vulnerable youth and trafficking survivors.

**EMPLOYMENT**

Eliminated barriers to employment and success for homeless young adults and survivors by fighting wage theft and addressing previous criminal charges incurred while homeless or trafficked.

### 2016 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

**148** LIVES CHANGED

**487** SOCIA SERVICE PROVIDERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED

**350** VOLUNTEER HOURS

**FISCAL YEAR**

10/01/2015-09/30/2016

Mission: Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services (ALWAYS) is a nonprofit community legal center committed to opening the doors to justice for Arizona’s vulnerable young people and human trafficking survivors as they seek to eliminate legal obstacles for their safety, stability, and self-sufficiency.

History: ALWAYS was established in 2013 as a response to the consequences young people and human trafficking survivors face when physical violence, sexual assault and exploitation, homelessness, or family separation enter their lives. While networks have long existed to help our clients meet their housing, education, and basic needs, there were no organizations devoted to providing the legal assistance frequently needed to move from survival to stability. Now ALWAYS is hard at work seeking justice alongside vulnerable young people and human trafficking survivors every day.
Launch of Resources Website
In order to reach a broader audience and help more vulnerable youth, including those who may not be eligible for our services, our team created a new resources website. The website includes informational videos, and links to government websites for forms, such as, orders of protection and immigration applications. In addition, we included links and descriptions to other organizations that provide legal services. Visit resources.alwaysaz.org.

Vulnerable Youth & Justice Forum
ALWAYS hosted a day-long forum focused on training and solution-oriented dialogue to better support vulnerable young people as they face legal issues in family law, immigration, and criminal systems. Our thanks to the more than 120 community leaders and youth-serving personnel who joined us and contributed. In addition, the advice and expertise provided by attorneys, judges, judicial staff, and experts who participated in training panels was invaluable.

501(c)(3) Status
Our organization received official certification as a 501(c)(3) in May. We share special thanks with our previous fiscal sponsors the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education and the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network for their support during our formation.

Racial Justice Training Institute
ALWAYS was invited to participate in the National Center on Poverty Law’s Racial Justice Training Institute. ALWAYS team members January Contreras, Erin Goeman, and Tangi Turner represented ALWAYS and our community in the Institute.

When Rosa was 16, a man approached her family in Guatemala with promises of a job for her in the United States. Because of her family’s dire economic circumstances, Rosa’s mother agreed to send Rosa. The man then took Rosa to the United States where he left her in a home where she was to serve as a domestic worker.

For the following two and a half years Rosa was locked up in the home and was raped. Rosa was finally able to escape her captors when she needed emergency medical care. Through her own determination, and with the help of organizations like ALWAYS, Rosa has since found stability and independent living, while her traffickers are being brought to justice in criminal proceedings.

“People like you give the voiceless a voice. You truly changed my life and I’m forever grateful.”
- Formerly homeless youth