



ALWAYS
Arizona Legal Women And Youth Services

OPENING DOORS TO JUSTICE

2017 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



Message From The CEO

This year, in addition to our vital legal services, ALWAYS greatly increased our training and advocacy.

We are especially proud that, in response to an ALWAYS case, Senate Bill 1422 was signed into law on April 5, 2017. The law now ensures that the avenue to vacating prostitution convictions is not limited only to those convicted of the state statute, but also includes anyone convicted of a municipal prostitution violation. We're grateful to Los Abogados Bar Association for their advocacy and the legislature for their support.

January Contreras
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Jana's Story

When Jana* was in her early 20s, her husband choked her and dragged her across the floor in front of their young children. She fled with the children and found a domestic violence shelter while her husband was charged with felony domestic violence assault. With the help of her ALWAYS attorney, Jana filed for divorce and proved her abuser's drug addiction through court ordered drug testing. The judge in Jana's case issued orders to help keep her and her children safe. Jana, who had no money for a private lawyer, was grateful to have a lawyer with her in criminal and family court.

*Jana is not pictured in this report and all client names are changed to protect privacy

ALWAYS AT WORK 10/1/2016-9/30/2017



**154
LIVES
CHANGED**

**74%
VICTIMS OF
CRIME**



**21%
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
SURVIVORS**



ALWAYS YOUTH & JUSTICE FORUM

In May, ALWAYS hosted a Youth and Justice forum to train youth serving professionals on legal issues commonly facing young adults who are affected by homelessness, trafficking, and abuse. Thanks to our many partners, including Mayor Greg Stanton, for caring about our youth.

Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services (ALWAYS) is a nonprofit community legal center serving Arizona's vulnerable young people and human trafficking survivors as they seek to eliminate legal obstacles that stand in the way of safety, stability, and opportunity. We provide representation in immigration, family law, criminal history repair, orders of protection, and other essential legal services.

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MONICA'S STORY

When Monica* was six years-old, her father was incarcerated. Shortly thereafter, her mother died and she was placed in CPS custody. At 15, she ran away from foster care placement. In her efforts to survive on her own, she found herself living with two adult males who forced her to sell drugs for them. She was arrested and adjudicated in juvenile court for a drug charge.

Years later, Monica ended an abusive relationship and found a job training program to better support herself and her children. Through the homeless youth program she

resided with, Monica found ALWAYS.

Her attorney helped her obtain a court order granting the destruction of her juvenile records and an order to set aside the adjudication. For Monica, the legal victories were not only important to improve her job opportunities, but also to improve her self-esteem. Now, Monica is working and building a stable life for herself and her children.

*Monica is not pictured in this report and all client names are changed to protect privacy

Criminal history repair is important for job opportunities and for self-esteem



Celebrations like this wouldn't happen without our supporters. Thank you!

2017 FAST FACTS ABOUT ALWAYS CLIENTS

77% ARE WOMEN & GIRLS

32% ARE FORMER OR CURRENT FOSTER CARE

*Based on intake answers.

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January Contreras

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