



# OPENING DOORS TO JUSTICE

## 2018 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

### Message From The CEO

This year's report would be incomplete without recognizing the contributions of our Founding Board Chair, Barbara Rodriguez Mundell. Barbara, the former Presiding Judge of Maricopa County, stepped in to provide leadership for ALWAYS for this fiscal year. Our clients and team are incredibly fortunate to have benefited from her commitment of time and community service.

ALWAYS legal aid work is possible because of our loyal supporters, caring staff, and dedicated partners. Thank you for investing in those we serve.

Most sincerely,

*January Contreras*  
January Contreras

### Chris Found ALWAYS

Chris\* came to ALWAYS seeking family law help. Chris had experienced the foster care system as a minor, lived in a group home, and became a father at the age of 18. He attempted to co-parent with the child's mother, but when she abused the child, Chris knew he needed to keep their child safe. He didn't want his child to grow up experiencing the same issues he had.

Fortunately, Chris's DCS caseworker referred him to ALWAYS. Chris's attorney advocated for the safety of his child in family court. Chris now lives with his daughter and works full-time to support their family of two.

\*Client name has been changed

## 2017-18 LEGAL SERVICES



### IMMIGRATION

Representing victims of crime and vulnerable youth to gain safety and employment



### FAMILY LAW

Assisting abuse and trafficking survivors with strengthened safety and family stability

### SAFETY & ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Assisting homeless youth and victims of crime with orders of protection, ID, and fraud



### CRIMINAL HISTORY REPAIR

Addressing convictions with homeless youth and trafficking survivors to boost employability

134  
LIVES  
CHANGED

64%  
HOMELESS PAST OR  
PRESENT



63%  
VICTIMS OF ABUSE

FISCAL YEAR  
10/01/2017-  
09/30/2018

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 that stand in the way of safety, stability, and opportunity.

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## JULIA'S LONG ROAD TO CITIZENSHIP

Julia was brought to the U.S. from Eastern Europe through an adoption that was later terminated. As a young adult, she fled a labor trafficking situation and found shelter and services with a Tucson homeless youth provider, which led her to ALWAYS. That was three years ago, but ALWAYS never stopped fighting for her to claim the U.S. citizenship that was rightfully hers.

Julia worked closely with her ALWAYS attorney to piece together her past, including tracking down former adoptive parents for documents. When Julia was recently granted U.S. Citizenship, her ALWAYS attorney stood proudly at her side.

*"People like you give the voiceless a voice. You truly changed my life and I'm forever grateful."*

*- Young mother and survivor of abuse*

[www.ALWAYSaz.org](http://www.ALWAYSaz.org)

## 2018 FAST FACTS ABOUT ALWAYS CLIENTS

**73%** ARE WOMEN & GIRLS

**30%** ARE FORMER OR CURRENT FOSTER CARE YOUTH

\*Based on intake answers.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Retired Judge

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**January Contreras**

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## ALWAYS FUNDING PARTNERS

ARIZONA  
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