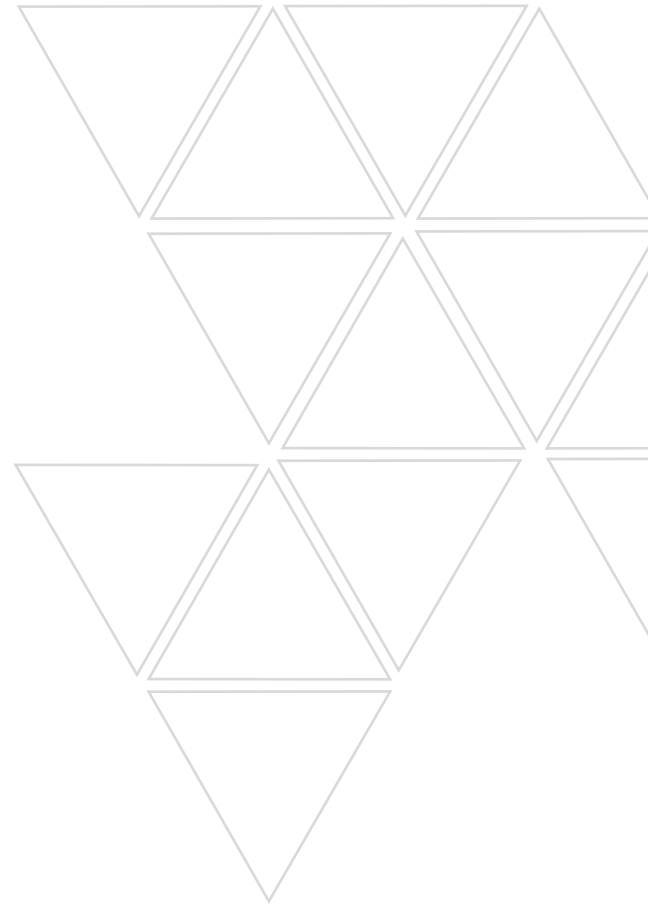




# ANNUAL REPORT



20  
21



## Follow Along



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@FVAP\_law



@FVAP\_law

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Bellevue, WA 98005

# MESSAGE FROM

## THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**ERIN SMITH, ESQ.**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**"Our success is driven by the dedicated staff, volunteers, and board members here at FVAP"**

**As we look forward, we know we will continue to face uphill battles... we remain committed to advancing social justice and racial equity in our communities."**

Dear friends,

I write this report mid-2022 to reflect on the work we accomplished last year. Together, we have overcome many obstacles: the pandemic has changed not only how we go about our day-to-day lives, but shone light on the vast systemic injustice within our society. We close the books on 2021 knowing that hope and determination will continue to see us through.

We successfully expanded our organization's operations to Washington State, which will allow us to reach hundreds of thousands of more survivors each year. Our success is driven by the dedicated staff, volunteers, and board members here at Family Violence Appellate Project.

As we look forward at the year to come, we know we will continue to face uphill battles. Just a few weeks ago the Supreme Court overturned **Roe v. Wade**, which sets the stage for other fundamental rights to be stripped away from millions of people across the country. This ruling will disproportionately affect survivors of domestic violence and other under-resourced and historically excluded communities. That is why we remain committed to advancing social justice and racial equity in our communities.

We continue to believe that we can harness the power of the legal system to create sustainable systemic change that will improve the lived experience for generations to come. I am endlessly grateful for the people who continue to join us in our fight to keep survivors and families safe. Together, we are building a more just and equitable future.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature of Erin Smith in blue ink. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



# HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM

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## OUR COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY

FVAP's mission is grounded in the awareness that gender and racial oppression intersect to deprive survivors of the basic human right of a life free from abuse. FVAP has a strong set of core programs designed to help survivors of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based abuse obtain justice from the legal system. We overturn dangerous court decisions, create systemic change, provide vital legal resources, and educate the next generation.

Moreover, we prioritize the needs of survivors who experience the intersection of gender and racial oppression, and we intend to further deepen our commitment to centering principles of race equity in our work.



# OUR GUIDING PRINCIPALS

## MISSION, VISION & VALUES

### Mission

We believe no one should endure abuse. We ensure the safety and well-being of survivors of domestic violence and their children by helping them obtain effective appellate representation.

### Vision

We believe justice should be available to everyone, not just those who can afford it. Our free, high-quality legal representation gives survivors the best possible chance at success in their appeal.

Ultimately our goal is to break the intergenerational cycle of trauma and abuse. By making sure all kids have the chance to grow up in safe, healthy homes, we are building a better future for the next generation.

### Values

**Social Justice:**

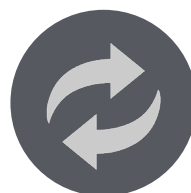
We are creating a fair and accessible legal system to create a just society.

**Well-being:**

The holistic well-being of survivors and their families contributes to a healthy society.

**Diverse Perspectives:**

Elevating diverse voices and experiences to create powerful and effective solutions.

**Transformation:**

Driving positive change in individuals, communities, systems & society.

**Creative Legal Leadership:**

We harness the power of the legal system to shape it to respond to the needs of people who experience multiple oppressions.

# DID YOU KNOW?

**FVAP wins 83%** of the appeals we bring to court, far above the **California statewide average of 20%**

FVAP has successfully published **58 appellate court decisions.**

To date, **71%** of FVAP's clients are **survivors of color.**

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Our programs are bridging gaps and eliminating disparities in our court system to **ensure everyone has equitable access to justice and the safety they deserve.**



### Appellate Courts

We provide free legal aid to survivors who have experienced gender-based violence such as domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. We harness the power of the legal system to reverse dangerous court decisions that leave people at risk of continued abuse. We advocate for the publication of our appellate decisions, each of which becomes binding law for all trial courts across the state.



### Legal Support

FVAP provides free on-call legal assistance, trainings, and self-help legal tools to domestic violence advocates and survivors who do not have a lawyer in court. We help bridge the gap between the domestic violence services and legal communities by training court personnel and attorneys on domestic violence issues to ensure survivors' rights are protected.



### Housing & Employment

The Housing & Employment Justice program bridges the gap between legal service providers and domestic violence advocates who are assisting survivors to secure and maintain safe housing and employment. Homelessness and employment loss are major obstacles survivors face when seeking safety and justice. FVAP provides housing and employment legal services, training, and information for DV survivors so the crisis of abuse is not compounded by housing or employment instability.



## Next Generation

FVAP was co-founded by law students. We know students and young attorneys have the power and creativity to create real, systems-level change. FVAP works to cultivate the next generation of passionate domestic violence advocates.

# EXPANDING TO WASHINGTON STATE

In 2021, we expanded our operations to Washington State. We accepted 4 cases and hired a legal fellow to help launch our program.

Working closely with community partners, we have built relationships that lay the groundwork for creating sustainable impact throughout the state.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In Washington State you only have 30 days to file an appeal of a court ruling. Most people don't know where to begin with the appeal process. FVAP provides critical resources and support for clients when the court system fails them.

## WASHINGTON STAFF



**Evangeline Stratton** (left) is the Senior Managing Attorney for the new Washington State FVAP office. A 2010 graduate of William Mitchell College of Law (now Mitchell | Hamline) in St. Paul, Minnesota, Evangeline has dedicated her 11 years of practice to domestic violence survivors. While in law school, Evangeline also earned her Master's in Gender and Women's Studies at Minnesota State University, through a unique dual degree program, and clerked for the Battered Women's Justice Project, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, the Advocates for Human Rights, and the Hennepin County Attorney's Office Domestic Abuse Service Center. Prior to law school, Evangeline worked as a community-based domestic violence and sexual assault victim advocate in Southern Oregon for 5 years.

**Zyreena Choudhry** (right) is the Fellow, and now Staff Attorney, for FVAP's new Washington expansion. Zyreena attended Seattle University School of Law where she was the Vice President of the Middle Eastern South Asian Law Student Association, Events Coordinator for the International Law Society, and Social Chair for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Board.







## MEASURING SUCCESS



**3,892+**

views of written  
resources

In 2021, FVAP published

**11 appellate cases.**

10 published appellate cases in California and 1 in  
Washington State.

**900+**

instances of real-time  
legal assistance provided

**Over \$1.5M**

worth of Pro Bono hours  
donated in 2021

**7**

Cases won for  
survivors

**39 out of 42**

of the trainings we provided in  
2021 were **free to attendees**

**15,000+**

views of FVAP published  
cases through our website

# BUILDING CASE LAW TO PROTECT SURVIVORS



We estimate that each year approximately 237,855 survivors are affected by our California cases.

## CALIFORNIA

[In re Marriage of Carlisle](#) Published at FVAP's request, *In re Marriage of Carlisle* makes it clear that trial courts have the authority to renew a domestic violence restraining order while the original restraining order is being appealed. This means that survivors can continue to be protected by a renewed restraining order even if the abuser has filed an ongoing appeal challenging the original restraining order.

This case prevents abusers from trying to use appeals of restraining orders to stop or postpone renewal hearings, which was previously a method of litigation abuse used to continue to exert control over a survivor after a restraining order was granted.

## WASHINGTON

[Wagner v. Zottolo](#) Published at FVAP's request, this case provides valuable trial court guidance on addressing children's testimony of a party's alleged abuse in a family law proceeding. Specifically, this case provides guidance that an outright refusal to allow children to testify on a blanket rule that courts do not hear from children, without consideration of all the circumstances, is an abuse of discretion. It further clarifies that testimony about a parent's history of domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and sexual assault that results in pregnancy is relevant when considering whether a parenting plan should include statutory restrictions, regardless of whether those prior abusive acts involve the children at issue in the parenting plan trial. Our publication request was jointly filed with Northwest Justice Project, Sexual Violence Law Center, and Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

# ADVOCATING FOR SURVIVORS' RIGHTS



Every year we take time to evaluate and create policy that expands existing legislation to ensure survivors of gender-based violence are protected. These are a few of the key issues we stood behind in 2021 to help keep survivors safe.

## Assembly Bills

### **AB262:**

Improves the record clearing process for victims of human trafficking.

### **AB832:**

Extends COVID-19 eviction moratorium & increases the amount of assistance to 100% for eligible tenants.

### **AB838:**

Protects tenants from hazardous & substandard conditions in their rental properties by ensuring the government inspects the property and notifies the landlord of issues.

### **AB1057:**

Requires unserialized, untraceable guns to be surrendered when a Gun Violence Restraining Order or Domestic Violence Restraining Order is served.

## Senate Bills

### **SB24:**

Restricts abusers' access to minors' school, recreational activities, medical and employment information.

### **SB320:**

Requires the implementation of uniform procedures to ensure individuals who are prohibited from owning firearms due to domestic violence relinquish their weapons. It also strengthens coordination between courts and law enforcement when there has been a violation of the relinquishment order.

### **SB374:**

Adds reproductive coercion to the Domestic Violence Prevention Act as an example of coercive control.

### **SB498:**

Expands IOLTA eligibility from 125% to 200% of current federal poverty threshold; allows veterans to deduct VA benefits



OCTOBER 21, 2021

# BANDING TOGETHER TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Rockstar lawyer  
bands from  
California



22

Sponsors  
supporting at  
\$1,000 or more

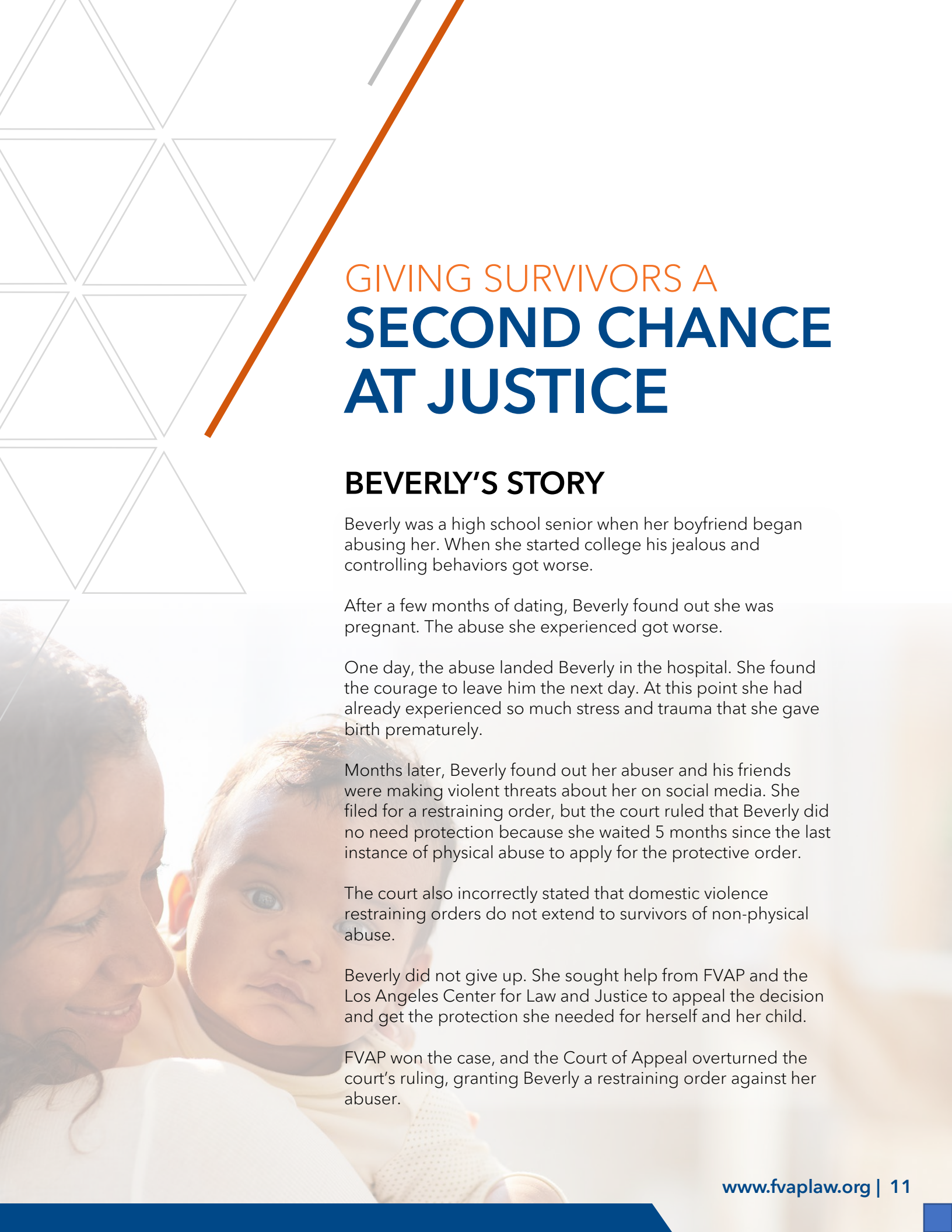


**\$96,826**  
raised to help  
end domestic  
violence

This year we brought together lawyers and other supporters for an in-person and virtual Battle of the Bands experience to help raise awareness and funds to end domestic violence. Six bands were made up of staff from major Bay Area law firms including Gibson Dunn, Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein, Greenberg Traurig, Baker Botts, Schaerr Jaffe, Nassiri, & Cooley LLP, Morgan Lewis & Bockius, and Reed Smith.

The bands battled for the title of Best Lawyer Band in the Bay. Attractive Nuisance from Greenberg Traurig won the title and our guest judges, Dave Lean, Pamela Parker, and Mindy Mechanic awarded Morgan Lewis & ROCKius from Morgan Lewis & Bockius Judges' Choice.





# GIVING SURVIVORS A SECOND CHANCE AT JUSTICE

## BEVERLY'S STORY

Beverly was a high school senior when her boyfriend began abusing her. When she started college his jealous and controlling behaviors got worse.

After a few months of dating, Beverly found out she was pregnant. The abuse she experienced got worse.

One day, the abuse landed Beverly in the hospital. She found the courage to leave him the next day. At this point she had already experienced so much stress and trauma that she gave birth prematurely.

Months later, Beverly found out her abuser and his friends were making violent threats about her on social media. She filed for a restraining order, but the court ruled that Beverly did not need protection because she waited 5 months since the last instance of physical abuse to apply for the protective order.

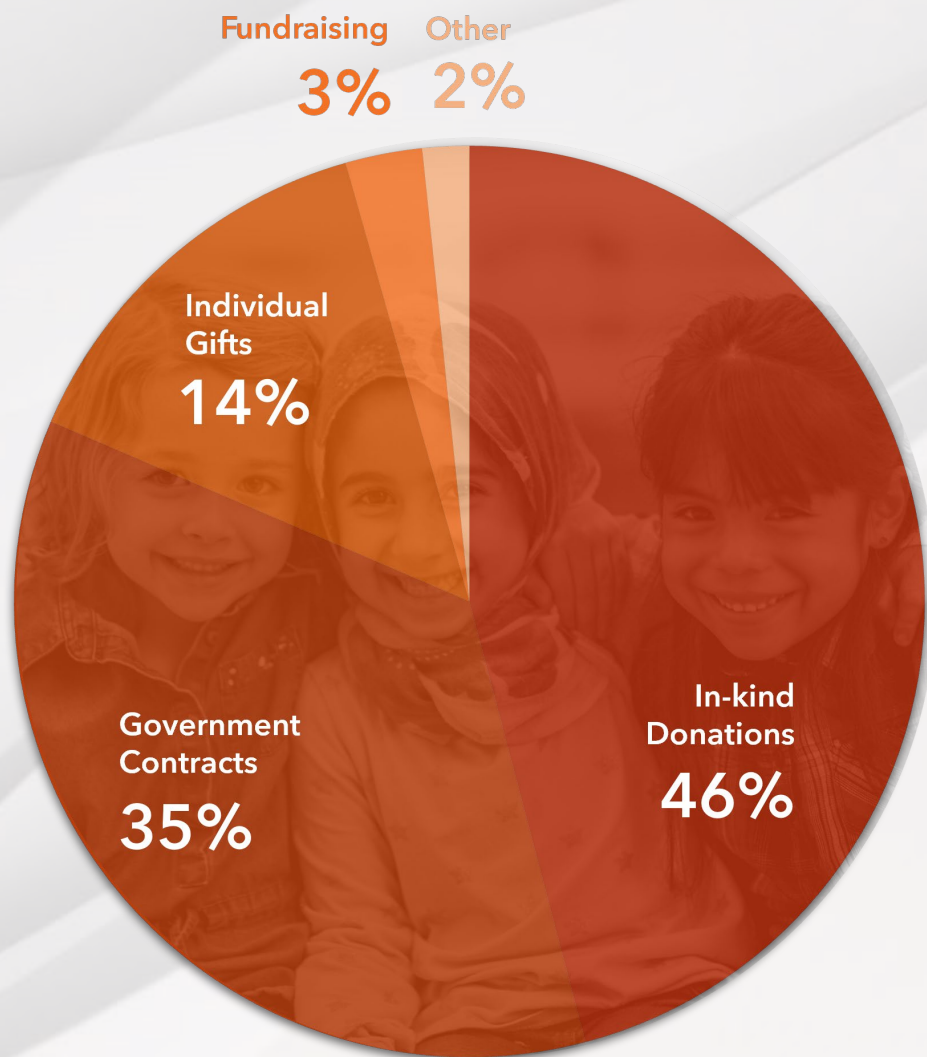
The court also incorrectly stated that domestic violence restraining orders do not extend to survivors of non-physical abuse.

Beverly did not give up. She sought help from FVAP and the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice to appeal the decision and get the protection she needed for herself and her child.

FVAP won the case, and the Court of Appeal overturned the court's ruling, granting Beverly a restraining order against her abuser.

# FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

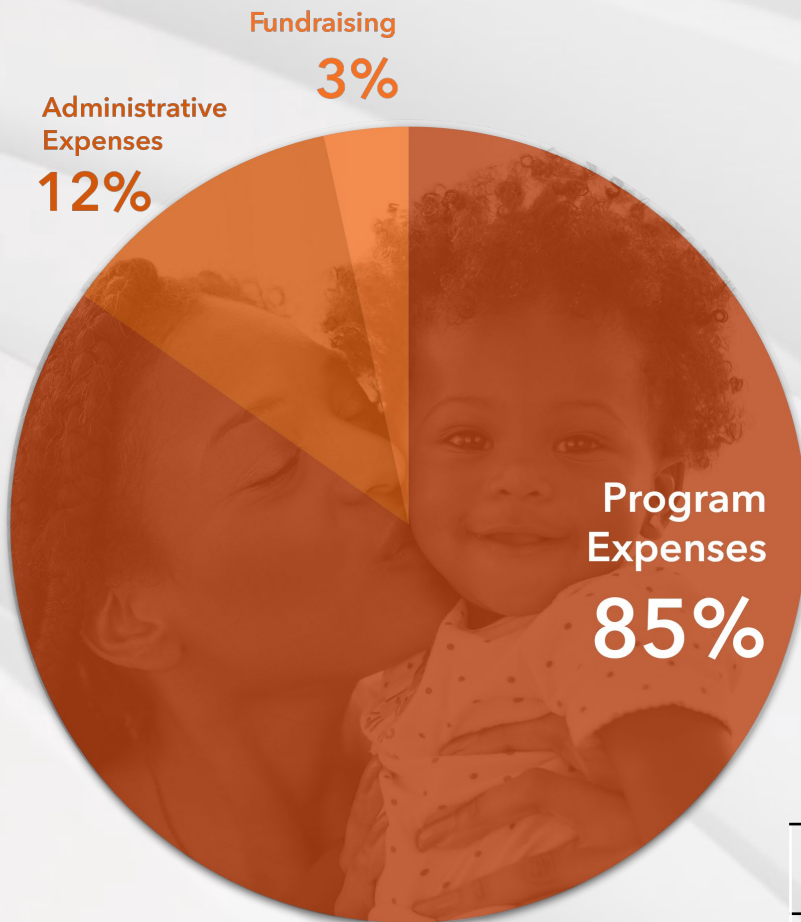


## REVENUE & SUPPORT

Fundraising Events	\$	101,352
Individual Gifts	\$	526,246
Government Contracts	\$	1,317,741
In-Kind Donations	\$	1,709,763
Other	\$	61,528
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Support</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,716,630</b>

## EXPENSES

Program Services	\$	2,952,228
Administrative Services	\$	410,411
Fundraising Expenses	\$	119,279
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,481,918</b>



## ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$	613,012
Investments	\$	1,629,272
Contributions Receivable	\$	399,712
Government Grants Receivable	\$	158,518
Prepaid expenses	\$	19,790
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,820,304</b>
Security Deposits	\$	13,112
Right of Use - Premises	\$	91,160
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,924,576</b>

## LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$	61,396
Lease Payable - Current Portion	\$	76,347
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>137,743</b>
PPP Grant Payable	\$	194,313
Lease Payable - Long-Term Portion	\$	26,394
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>358,450</b>

## NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	\$	1,923,924
With Donor Restrictions	\$	642,202
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,566,126</b>
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Support</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,924,576</b>

# TO OUR DONORS & VOLUNTEERS, THANK YOU

Every success in this report is made possible through our generous community of volunteers and donors. We are continuously humbled and proud to have people come together and share their passion and resources to impact our mission. Together we are working to break the intergenerational cycle of trauma and abuse and building a more equitable community for generations to come.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR RISE & SOAR CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS

The Rise & Soar Campaign is designed to invest in FVAP's core programs and deepen our commitment to race equity. It supports our expansion to Washington State and increases our ability to help more survivors of gender-based violence such as sexual assault, stalking, or intimate partner violence.

### **\$250,000 - Soaring Leaders:**

- Leah & Benjamin Spero
- Michael Cafarella & Victoria Still

### **\$100,000 - Rising Leaders:**

- Scott & Julie Johnston

### **\$50,000 - Empowering Leaders:**

- Mariela Kleiner
- Loni Mahanta & Peter Koob
- John & Terry Levin

### **\$25,000 - Amplifying Leaders:**

- Drew Davis & Vivian Chang
- Anna-Rose Mathieson
- Nora Puckett
- van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation
- Stacey Wexler

### **\$10,000 - Supporting Leaders**

- George & Merrily Davis
- Michael & Shrankhla Holecek
- Charles & Pamela Koob
- Nancy KD Lemon & Blaine Devine
- Caroline Mitchell
- Joanna McCallum
- Erin Smith & Jin Han
- Heather Tucker & Greg Zwart



# MEET OUR TEAM

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