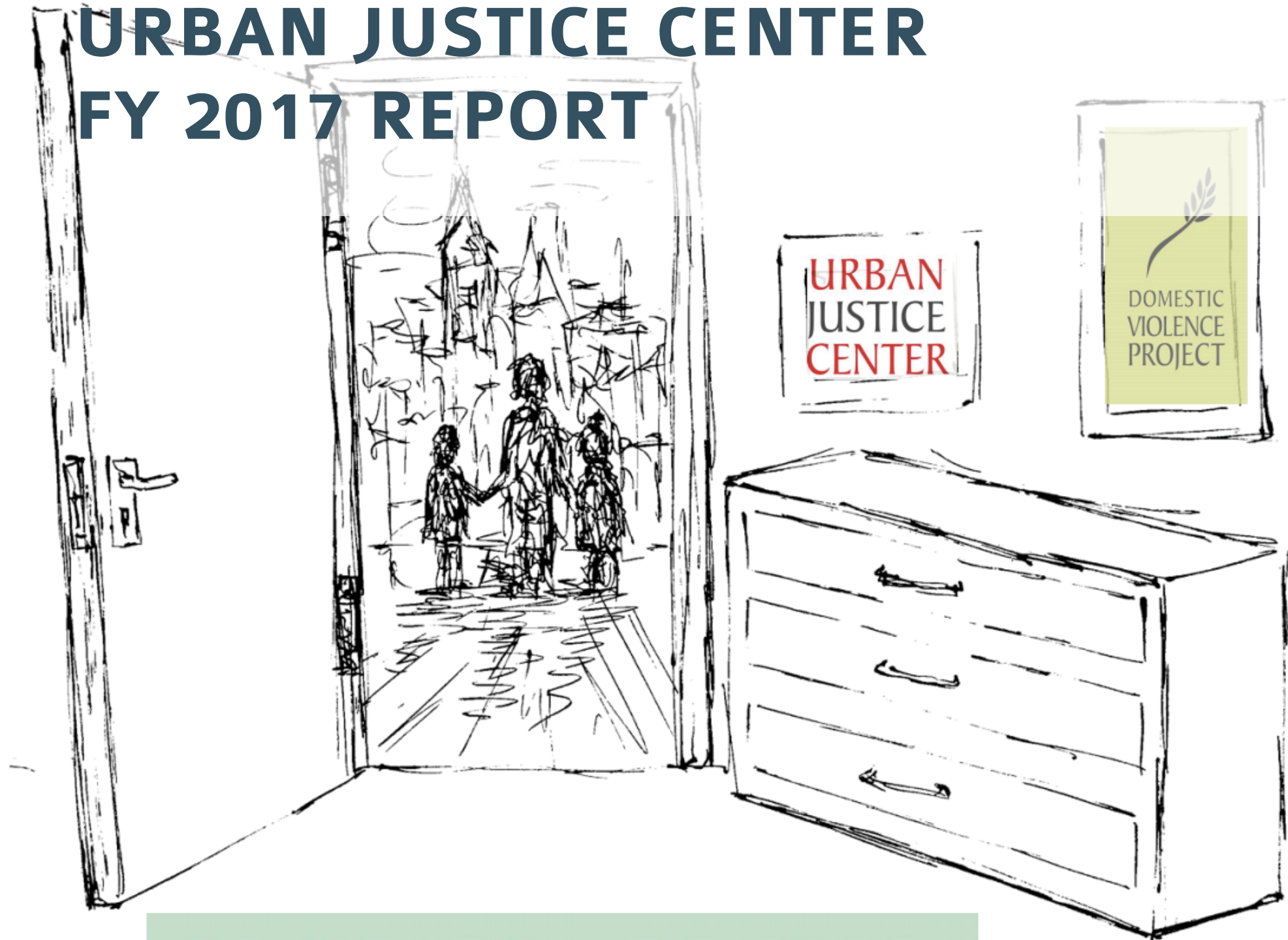


URBAN JUSTICE CENTER FY 2017 REPORT



BE HEARD BE FREE



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MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR



As a child of immigrant parents, I learned very early how to act as their ambassador, advocate, and translator. Their work, support and endless love provided me the key to access the American dream. Through their sacrifice, I acquired all the rights and privileges they could never attain in our home country. It is of little surprise my personal journey was the incubator of a professional commitment and passion providing others with the key to oft-times elusive rights and privileges.

These very rights and privileges have become more elusive and eroded under our current government. How we choose to implement our laws reflect the image of values held as a society. The reflection currently cast is one of hate, intolerance, misogyny and xenophobia. However, there remain pieces of another image in our collective mirror. Reflected can still be seen the countenance of love, the spirit of tolerance, the excitement of inclusion and the belief in equity.

DVP fights each and every single day on behalf of the most marginalized and undervalued. We are the ambassadors for the undocumented immigrant forced to choose between abuse and deportation. We are the advocates for the LGBTQ client forced to choose between intimate partner violence and hate crimes. We are the translators for the indigent client once reliant on the Affordable Care Act who now remains in a violent relationship because of the partner's insurance.

We are honored and thank you for providing us with the support and endless love proven absolutely critical in amassing the keys to the American Dream sought by many but attained by few. Together, shoulder to shoulder, we can ensure the societal values reflected allow for possibilities for all.

Madeline Garcia Bigelow

Madeline Garcia Bigelow,
Managing Director

LEGAL SERVICES

Our team of passionate attorneys provide free legal representation and advocacy to survivors across all 5 boroughs of NYC.

Dedicated to providing holistic and comprehensive legal advocacy and representation for survivors, our lawyers provide a variety of legal assistance. Advocacy efforts range from robust consultations at legal clinics to full representation and litigation when needed.

Attorneys travel across boroughs providing workshops and clinics within the communities where victims live, making it easier for survivors to access services. Our legal team's proven track record of success is largely attributable to their close relationships with their clients. We are continually inspired by our clients every day in the work that we do.

Family Law

- Child custody and visitation matters
- Assistance obtaining orders of protection
- Child and spousal support
- Uncontested divorce
- Appealing indicated cases with Administration for Children's Services

Immigration Law

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self-Petitions
- Naturalization
- Adjustment of Status
- Asylum
- U non-immigrant status for crime victims
- T non-immigrant status for trafficking victims
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
- Removal Defense

NEW CLIENTS

Over 1,216 new victims were seen this year and screened for needs.

Because our clients often have multiple legal needs, we opened 1,700 new cases.

over **1,200**
new victims
screened

1,700+
new cases
opened

FAMILY LAW

Family law is the backbone of what we do- so often victims' most pressing issue is securing the safety of them and their children.

We were able to provide 228 clients with assistance on their custody disputes, 172 with help obtaining orders of protection, 235 with divorce and over 110 help with child/spousal support.

600+
assisted with
family law
matters

172
assisted with
obtaining orders
of protection

IMMIGRATION

The newest and fastest growing service area, our immigration unit has opened over 400 new immigration cases, which include U-Visas, T-Visas, VAWA, naturalization cases, removal defense, asylum and SIJS matters.

400+
new
immigration
cases opened

47%
of our new
clients were not
proficient in
English

ADVOCACY SERVICES

The critical element to DVP's success has been our team of devoted advocates and social workers.

Often working hand in hand with our legal team, our advocates accompany clients through every step of their journey. The range of services they assist with are vast and constantly adapting to meeting the changing needs of our client base. While legal assistance is often necessary, more often the non-legal intervention is what drives the client's success and ability to truly move on from the abuse.

This includes our Financial Empowerment Program. Recognizing the connection between financial stability and domestic violence, DVP provides financial literacy and empowerment services to provide survivors with the tools that will help them to remain out of abusive relationships.

Our advocates and social workers provide:

- Intake assistance
- Safety planning
- Advocacy
- Immediate and longer term crisis counseling
- Support groups focused on empowerment and stress reduction
- Case management assistance
- Housing assistance and shelter placement
- LINC/FHEPS aftercare
- Public benefits application assistance
- Financial empowerment services
- Court accompaniment
- Referrals and technical assistance

NEW ADVOCACY CASES

DVP opened over 440 new case management matters this year and 22 intensive long term counseling matters.

Advocacy cases range from benefits assistance to financial and housing assistance and more

FINANCIAL & HOUSING

167 clients assisted cure rent arrests, obtain safety transfers, LINC recertification and referrals for housing court.

OUTREACH & EVENTS

Monthly clinics and outreaches are conducted throughout NYC's communities. On average, we hold 10 events per month specifically tailored toward financial abuse, amounting to 120 a year. Additionally, DVP hold social events for clients to increase their support network of peers.

22

new clients
received long
term counseling

440+

new case
management
cases

167

assisted with
housing
advocacy

68

attended
housing &
financial
workshops

120

outreach
events this year

86

attended
client centered
events

SUCCESS STORIES

While numbers may help demonstrate our success, a client story better illustrates our work and the impact that your donations have driven...

Taylor, an immigrant victim of severe emotional, financial and sexual abuse at the hands of their spouse first came to us through the family law team who successfully negotiated an uncontested divorce for the client and also secured an order of protection. As a result of the DV, Taylor applied for a "U-Visa" and eventually received work authorization.

From this success came many more as Taylor began home health aide courses through our partnership with a local HHA agency, eventually becoming officially certified by the Department of Health.

Our Financial Advocate and Family Law attorney also assisted the client in applying for Innocent Spouse Relief with the IRS in the hopes of alleviating the financial burden of the tax debt incurred by Taylor's spouse without client's knowledge. About a year after our initial application, Taylor was granted full relief- in the amount of over \$2,000. Taylor was able to use this money toward securing an apartment.

As you see, your support directly assisted this client reach so many life changing milestones-legal status, protection from abuse, divorce, employment certification, housing stability.

PROGRAM UPDATES

For FY18, NYC Council awarded DVP with over \$300,000 in funding to support our community clinics.

Additionally, we have continued to receive monies from our supporters listed on the next page.

With this additional funding, we have undergone a rapid growth in our immigration department in a response to the increasing need during this political climate.

We will also be launching drop in groups for survivors related to client empowerment and stress reduction.



FY18 SUPPORTERS

NYC Human Resources
Administration

IOLA Interest on
Lawyers Accounts

Department of Justice

New York Senator Jesse
Hamilton

NYC Department of Youth
& Community
Development

New York City Council

NY State Office of Court
Administration

NY State Office for
Children & Family Services

FY17 SUPPORTERS

Edward & Ellen Roche
Relief Foundation

Department of Justice

NYC Human Resource
Administration

NY State Office of Court
Administration

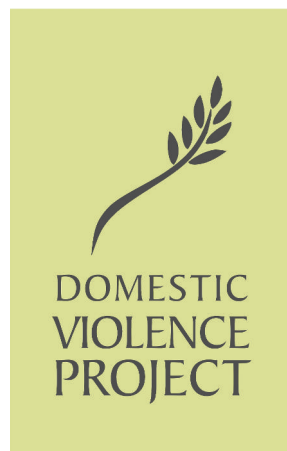
NY State Office of Court
Administration

New York City Council

IOLA Interest on Lawyers
Account

NY State Office for
Children & Family Services

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