Domestic Violence Project

# MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

To our faithful supporters,

Fiscal Year 2025 brought us both enormous challenges and new opportunities here at DVP. Sweeping changes to immigration policy saw a rush of immigrant survivors coming to our doors seeking assistance and answers. Meanwhile, quickly changing systems and threats of funding cuts have made navigating an already chaotic landscape even trickier. Through it all, I'm beyond proud of DVP's ability to be flexible and responsive to this new environment in ways that continue to put our survivor clients first in everything we do.

Thanks to supporters like you, DVP's commitment to protecting the dignity and human rights of survivors in NYC remains steadfast. Despite growing pressure from the new administration, the spirit of our clients – immigrants in particular – is unrelenting. It fuels us to continue our work and continue the fight for freedom and justice for every person who comes through our doors. I hope you are as inspired reading this report as we were by working with these survivors.

Warm regards,

Messelve Steven Bigula

Madeline Garcia Bigelow
Founder & Managing Director
Domestic Violence Project



# AN IMPACTFUL YEAR

1711

SURVIVORS DIRECTLY SERVED THROUGH FAMILY LAW, IMMIGRATION LAW, AND ADVOCACY

4457

LIVES IMPACTED, INCLUDING SURVIVORS'
CHILDREN AND HOUSEHOLDS



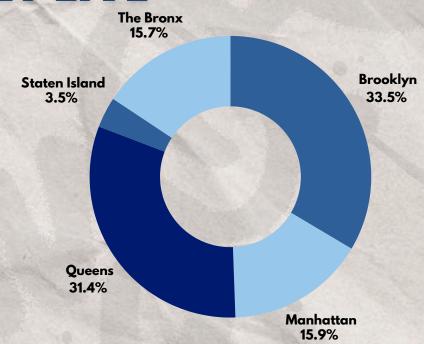
**Domestic** Violence Project

# 

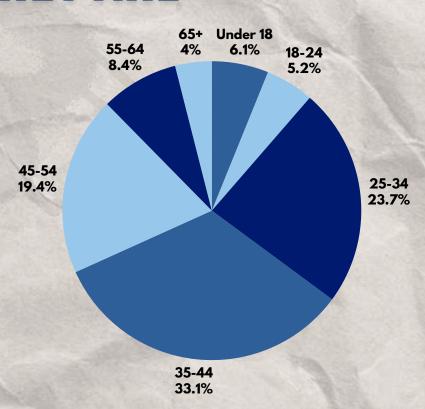
SERWE



### WHERE THEY LIVE

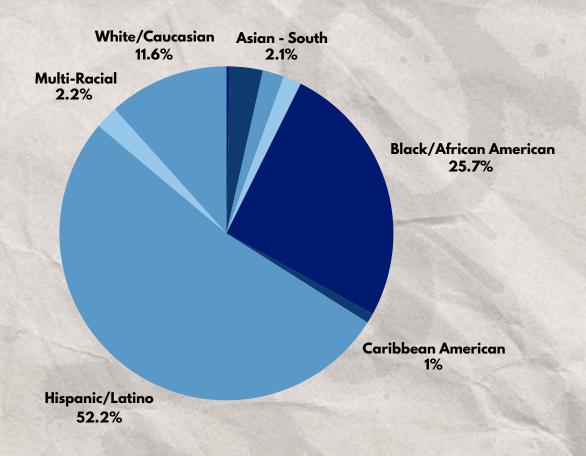


## **HOW OLD THEY ARE**





# WHO THEY ARE



64% OF CLIENTS ARE NON-CITIZENS
A 15% INCREASE FROM FY24

48% OF THOSE CLIENTS ARE UNDOCUMENTED

>80% OF CLIENTS AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL

Domestic Violence Project

# 



# **OUTREACH ACROSS NYC**

1243
PEOPLE REACHED

174
OUTREACH EVENTS

OUTREACH EVENTS

92

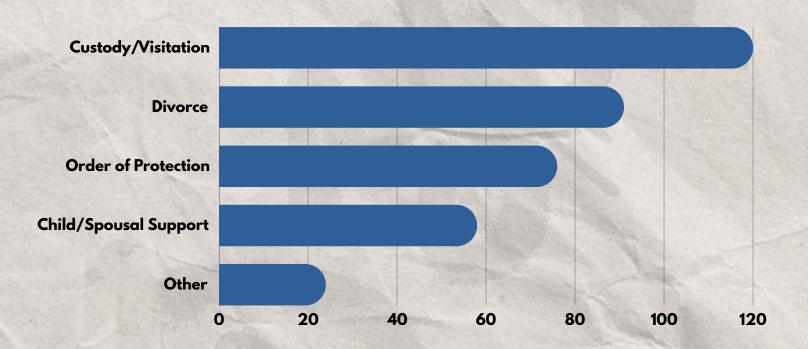
**FAMILY LAW CLINICS** 

45
IMMIGRATION CLINICS





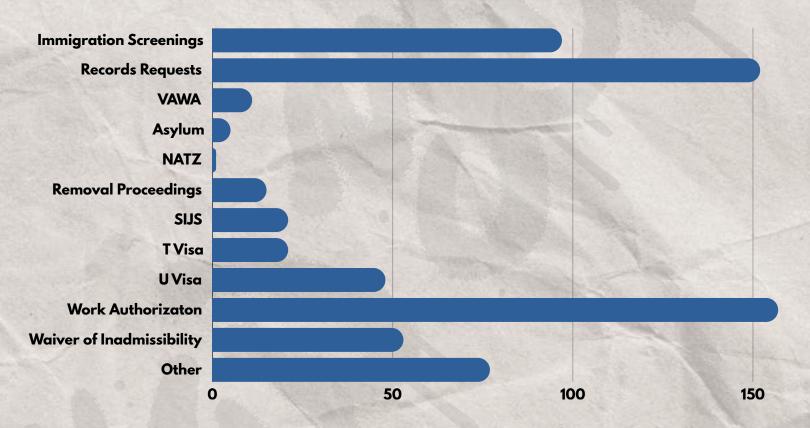
# KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE



394
NEW FAMILY LAW CASES



# PROTECTING IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS



637

**NEW IMMIGRATION LAW CASES** 



# **COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES**

343 NEW ADVOCACY AND CASE MANAGEMENT CASES, INCLUDING:

**Intake Assistance** Safety Planning **Crisis Intervention** Information and Education **Legal Advocacy ACS Advocacy Benefits Assistance Financial Literacy Job Readiness Mental Health Support Direct Assistance** Support Groups/Workshops



# LETTER FROM A SURVIVOR:

"Guess who is back? I have arrived safely yesterday morning and on my way to work. I was nervous, but the guy at customs just asked if I traveled with anyone, how long and where I have been?

Nice simple questions that was easy and he returned my documents. Just like you have coached me like 20 times before I went on that trip. I had a great time seeing my family after a long time but leaving was a-bit heartbreaking. I am going to be fine.

My visit was a successful one because of you and your dedication to my case. I would forever be grateful. I just couldn't stop telling my mom how amazing you are, all so incredible in every way possible way. She is very thankful and much appreciated everything and how you were there for me."

Domestic Violence Project

# 



# KPMG and DVP

We are grateful to KPMG for their generous in-kind support in FY25! Through two team initiatives, KPMG's staff provided both the program and our clients with resources to help achieve our long-term goals.

#### KPMG's New York Office Somos BRG

Our longstanding partnership continued to flourish through two family friendly events. In August, as part of KPMG's annual Community Impact Day, 50 KPMG volunteers packed 250 backpacks full of school supplies and handed them out to DVP families to set them up for a successful school year. Then in December, the Somos team hosted DVP families at their midtown office for a joy-filled holiday event, featuring games, food, and gift giveaways for 75 kids.

#### **Data Citizens with Purpose**

A team of KPMG professionals from across the country provided a pro-bono analysis of DVP's historic data to identify trends in clients, case types, and other indicators of how our services have reached NYC survivors (such as a 300% increase in immigration cases since 2017) – a crucial piece in determining the effectiveness and opportunities for growth in program strategy.



# Catcalls NYC and DVP

Highlighting our expanding outreach to social media partners, DVP has joined forces with Catcalls of NYC. This globally popular organization calls attention to street harassment through outdoor chalking, making for an excellent partner as we bring DVP's message to the streets of NYC.

### Live Chalking at Washington Square Park

In our first partnership with Catcalls, we brought together a huge team of volunteers from both organizations to take over Washington Square Park with a live chalking event. This activation called out the violence rhetoric used both in public and private by abusers, and encouraged audience participation from the countless passersby. We had a massive response on social media for the activation and reached thousands of real New Yorkers on the day.

#### Campus Activation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Earlier this year, we teamed up with Catcalls again during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This time, we combined chalking, flyering, and stickering across major NYC college campuses urging awareness and directing survivors of assault towards essential resources. It was an exciting step up both in our city-wide expansion and the creativity of our outreach to a younger audience.



# DVP Peer Leader Program

Our new Peer Leadership program is the epitome of what DVP is about: empowering our survivor clients with the tools to not just improve their own lives, but also to bring what they've learned to their own communities. We're unbelievably proud of our inaugural Peer Leader class!

#### Peer Leader Development and Graduation

Six DVP survivor clients from past empowerment groups learned how to cofacilitate a group of their own, building skill development around presenting and speaking about DV as well as soft-skills on listening to and supporting others. They led a group session and earned a stipend for their contirbution. This culminated in a official graduation ceremony to honor their progress. Thank you to community partners and funders who came to show support!

#### Taking On New Roles in FY2026

Beyond demonstrating their progress as survivors and clients of DVP, peer leaders are now working directly with our organization on new ways to give back and uplift future individuals that come through our doors. From leading empowerment groups of their own to helping with essential administrative and support work around the office, our new team is making an enormous difference in the work DVP does every day.

Domestic Violence Project

# DONORS



# THANK YOU TO OUR FY2025 LEADERSHIP SUPPORTERS

AEO Better World Foundation KPMG

The Mayor's Office to End Gender Based Violence

**Mother Cabrini Health Foundation** 

**New York Bar Foundation** 

**New York City Council Discretionary Funding** 

**New York City Council DoVE Initiative Funding** 

New York City Department of Youth and Community Development

**New York City Human Resources Administration** 

New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services
New York State Interest on Lawyers' Account
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
New York State Office of Court Administration
New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
New York State Office of Victim Services
Schulte, Roth and Zabel, LLP
Thrive Causemetics
Webster Bank



# SPECIAL THANKS TO DVP'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Leadership Council was formally established in early 2024, bringing together a passionate group of NYC professionals to help advance DVP's mission through strategy, outreach, and philanthropy. We are grateful for the dedication of our Council Members:

Joan Abelardo
Kristine B. Abrenica
lan Acker
Paula Ajumobi
Stephanie Gusching

Stephanie Gusching

Dany Babette Rothemund

Domestic Violence Project

ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US AT DVP,

# THANKYOU

FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT IN ANOTHER INCREDIBLE YEAR









