

# 20 23 Impact Report

Transforming Lives Through  
Trauma-Informed Legal Advocacy.

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# Brianna's<sup>1</sup> Client Story:

I was fleeing my marriage and my home. I was so scared that if I didn't leave, my young son and I would be killed. To complicate everything, my son is on the severe end of the autism spectrum. There is a lot to his diagnosis. For one thing, he is mostly a non-verbal child and it is very hard for others to understand the unusual and unexpected ways he expresses his needs.

## I knew I needed to continue being my son's biggest advocate in life.

Yet, I was also at a crossroads in trying to determine if I was strong enough to get off of the path of abuse that I had believed I was destined to be on. I struggled with my abuser's constant reminders that I wasn't worthy of respect and deserved nothing better than what I was getting. Each day was a struggle for survival, and I ended up trying to drown out the challenges and my terror with alcohol. Through the shelter, I was introduced to Domestic Abuse Legal Advocacy Center, PSC (DALAC).

## DALAC's work helped me and my son get off the path of abuse and changed our lives forever.

Here, is my thank you to DALAC that I sent to them. Without them, I would not have been able to break the cycle of abuse that I was in.

Thank you so much for your support and believing in me. With the encouragement you've given me, I'm now planning on going back to school. I have applied to the Sociology program at the University, and I plan to earn a minor in criminal justice. (I creped on Evon's website and saw her undergrad degree! lol). You two have inspired me to go back to school and become an attorney. I want to help women who are also going through what I went through. And I also want to represent vulnerable people (disabled, children, elderly and ill, etc). Being an attorney has been a dream of mine since I was a little girl. (Ask my grandma and mom! lol). That dream was squashed and I honestly thought I had moved on from it. You both have helped me rediscover that dream and understand that I deserve to go after it!

## I'm excited to start this journey and reconstruct my life to a life my son and I both deserve.

Again, thank you Angie and Evon [DALAC volunteer attorneys] for everything. You two really are an inspiration for us women!

*Brianna*

We cannot do this work without your support.

*— donate today —*

<sup>1</sup>The client's name has been changed to protect her safety and the safety of her child.



## OUR MISSION

To stop the cycle of domestic abuse through legal advocacy.

## TRAUMA-INFORMED LEGAL ADVOCACY VALUES:

Minimize retraumatizing clients and their children

Stay abreast of the science of trauma

Set policies and procedures that follows research on the effects of trauma

Focus resources on limiting the effects of secondary or vicarious trauma on our volunteer attorneys and shelter advocates

- A 50-year Order for Protection (OFP) was granted on behalf of our client after a trial.
- A continuation of our 100% win rate for OFPs that went to trial.
- Approximately 45 volunteer attorneys.
- Recipient of the Hope Award from the City of Lakes Rotary.
- The generosity of our donors in the Empower Campaign allowed us to hire our first staff attorney who started employment on January 2, 2024.

*2023 highlights*

DEDICATED

EMPATHETIC

TRAUMA-INFORMED

VICTIM AND SURVIVOR FOCUSED

CULTURALLY AWARE

NON-JUDGMENTAL

SAFETY-CONSCIOUS

VALIDATING

AFFIRMING

TRUSTING

EMPOWERING

COMPASSIONATE

SENSITIVE

ACCEPTING

# 2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## THE NUMBERS:

Community members reached:

**1,000+**

Provided legal services to:

**59 clients**

Value of donated services by our volunteer attorneys

**\$263,448**

Support from donations (corporate & individual) and grants<sup>2</sup>:

**\$158,410.80**

## INCOME

Corporate Contributions

**\$9,017.14**

2.14%

Foundation Contribution

**\$4,965.00**

1.18%

Individual Contributions

**\$136,409.64**

32.34%

Gifts in Kind - Legal Services

**\$263,448.00**

62.46%

Donated Stock

**\$6,036.80**

1.43%

Miscellaneous Other Revenue

**\$1,899.06**

0.45%

## EXPENSES

Administrative Expenses

**\$59,724.54**

17.09%

Development & Fundraising Expenses

**\$20,899.56**

6%

Program Expenses - Legal Fees

**\$221,823.00**

63.76%

Other Program Expenses

**\$45,468.81**

13.15%

## SUMMARY FINANCIALS DECEMBER 31, 2023

### ASSETS

Cash	\$81,365.37
Investments	\$79,164.83
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$160,530.20</b>

### LIABILITIES

Liabilities	0.00
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### EQUITY

Restricted Net Assets-Empower	\$120,674.82
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$39,855.38
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>\$160,530.20</b>

# 2023 SNAP SHOT

# 45 Volunteer Attorneys

Our organization solely uses volunteer attorneys to provide services to our clients. One volunteer attorney also serves as the Board Chair.

**Monthly  
Legal Clinics**

**Emergency  
Cases**

**In-Court  
Representation for  
Eviction Expungements**

**In-Court Representation  
for Order for Protections  
(OFPs)**

**Board Chair**

Legal advocacy empowers victims to reclaim their lives and break the cycle of domestic abuse.

## Hired staff attorney

to start 1.2.2024

## 32% of Empower Campaign

Raised Towards \$500,000 Goal

### OUR SERVICES



#### For Our Clients\* – Trauma-informed pro bono legal services:

- Monthly legal advice clinics at corroborating shelters;
- In-Court representation on Order for Protections and Eviction Expungements; and
- Emergency Legal Advice.



#### For Corroborating Shelter Staff:

Training on legal issues that affect victims and survivors of domestic abuse and on legal best practices from a trauma-informed perspective.



#### For Our Volunteer Attorneys:

Advocacy skills training and mentorship.



#### For Our Volunteer Attorneys & Corroborating Shelter Advocates:

Trainings on ethics, bias, trauma, mental illness awareness, and cultural humility in domestic abuse legal advocacy.



#### For the Community:

Presentations on issues affecting domestic abuse victims and survivors.

### FUTURE EXPANDED SERVICES TO OUR CLIENTS THROUGH THE EMPOWER CAMPAIGN:

The goal of the Empower Campaign is to raise \$500,000 to hire a team of attorneys to provide in-court representation for Harassment Restraining Orders, legal separation, divorce, child custody, child support, and spousal maintenance that extends past the client's residencies at the shelter.

We cannot do this work without your support.

*— donate today —*

\*Our clients are limited to the residents of the shelters that we collaborate with here in Minnesota. As a result, we do not accept any referrals from any individual or organization, nor do we provide services to the general public.

# Angie's

## Volunteer Attorney Story:

I had been familiar with DALAC for years. I knew of and was amazed by DALAC's perfect<sup>5</sup> trial record on securing Orders for Protection (OFPs) for its clients. So, I had absolute confidence in DALAC's ability to successfully deliver on its mission of stopping the cycle of domestic abuse. This led me to donate to DALAC, but I had not yet volunteered on a case as an attorney. Then I got a call from Evon [DALAC's Board Chair | Founder] asking me if I would represent a client and her special-needs son. After getting a bit of information from Evon, I felt personally called to help this family. Like the client, I am a mother of a son who also has autism. I knew in my heart that I uniquely had the life experience (and the legal advocacy skills) to communicate to the court what the child himself could not verbalize. I said yes. And it ended up being one of the most rewarding, meaningful yesses I have ever given.

From the very start, DALAC supported me in my legal advocacy for this client. Evon was always available to talk through the next step of the case and help prepare both me and the client. I have never received as high a level of quality support/mentorship as I did from DALAC. I was set up to manage each stage of the case with success and, I am proud to say, to provide extremely high-quality legal representation. Selfishly, I will admit that the hard work I did with DALAC made me a better attorney!

I know that I, through DALAC, played a vital role in helping Brianna and her child find the peace and security they deserve! I am so proud of Brianna. She has been presented with so many challenges in life—more than anyone should have to experience. And yet Brianna is now on a path to not only overcoming the challenges, but to paying it forward! Brianna is a great mom and role model—and the legal community will be so fortunate to have her in its ranks soon.

*Angie Street*

Volunteer Attorney

**We cannot do this work  
without your support.**

*— donate today —*

<sup>5</sup>One case where the abuser filed a counter-OFP concluded with the court denying both OFP's after a trial. This is considered a win by DALAC and me because the abuser was prevented from obtaining an OFP on DALAC's client.

# THANK YOU

## TO OUR CLIENTS:

We Believe You.

We Hear You.

We Support You.

Your courage and bravery are humbling and inspiring. Thank you for the honor of being your attorneys.

## TO OUR DONORS:

Thank you!

Without your generous support, we would be unable to do this work in the way in which it needs to be done – through a trauma-informed lens.

## TO OUR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS:

Your professionalism, heart, and legal skills have consistently proven that quality legal services, provided through a trauma-informed lens, transforms the lives of our clients.

A huge thank you!



**Domestic Abuse**  
Legal Advocacy Center, PSC®  
962 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

We cannot do this work without you.

## VOLUNTEER:

Are you a Minnesota licensed attorney in good standing? Our clients need you.

Request a volunteer attorney application at:  
[evon@domesticabuselegaladvocacycenter.org](mailto:evon@domesticabuselegaladvocacycenter.org)  
Malpractice insurance is provided by DALAC.

## DONATE:

Support Our Empower Campaign Fundraiser

### Mail a Check to:

962 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

### Give Online to General Operating Expenses or Empower Campaign:

<https://domesticabuselegaladvocacycenter.org/donate/>

Follow us to keep up to date!



[domesticabuselegaladvocacycenter.org](https://domesticabuselegaladvocacycenter.org)

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without your support.

*— donate today —*

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