



Domestic Abuse
Legal Advocacy Center, PSC®

Impact Report: 2025 & The First Ten Years

Transforming Lives Through
Trauma-Informed Legal Advocacy.

Our Mission:

To stop the cycle of domestic abuse through legal advocacy.

Why We Care:

75% of domestic violence homicides occur upon separation.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR | FOUNDER

Studies show that victim-survivors need real, long-term alternatives to remaining in abusive relationships. In addition, only the availability of legal services in a county of the shelter resident was found to reduce a victim-survivor's likelihood of abuse.

For the past ten years, Domestic Abuse Legal Advocacy Center, PSC (DALAC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit law firm, has shone our inner light on others during their times of darkness while they were fleeing an abusive relationship.

Our light shone when our clients' light was dim.

Our light shone when hope seemed faint.

Our light shone when the stars seemed to have disappeared from the night sky.

Our clients' needs are what matters to us as we practice through a trauma-informed lens. We see our clients. We hear our clients. We focus on providing them what they need, rather than telling them what we believe they need. We do this by focusing holistically on our clients' needs. We show up for our clients how they need us to show up for them. Non-judgmental. Compassionate. Victim and Survivor Focused. Culturally Aware. Sensitive. Dedicated. Empathetic. Safety-Conscious. Affirming. Trusting. Accepting. We empower our clients through providing them legal knowledge and their legal options.

In times of darkness, Be The Light From Within.

Join us in our transformational work to ensure that survivors and their children have access to extended legal services that co-create a new life of safety and empowerment.

We cannot do this work without your financial support.

In deepest gratitude,



Evon M. Spangler, Esq.¹, Board Chair | Founder
Trauma Informed Advocacy in Legal Systems Certification

¹The time I spend working with DALAC is 100% pro bono and uncompensated.

Trauma-Informed Legal Advocacy

DALAC is centered on the needs of our clients, volunteer/staff attorneys and shelter advocates.

We prohibit children from being present during meetings between the client and the attorney.

This policy is based on research showing the impact of trauma on a child's development.

We are dedicated to ensuring the mental well-being of our attorneys and the shelters' advocates.

It is not uncommon for those of us who work in this area to be impacted by the trauma, known as secondary or vicarious trauma, of those we serve.

We offer several opportunities to our attorneys, including an Employee Assistance Program that offers no cost therapy services and other resources.

We stay abreast of the science of trauma.

Our trainings focus on the science of trauma, and we set policies and procedures that follows research on the effects of trauma. In our law and literature series, a few of the books we focus on, which we highly recommend you read are:

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

by Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D. and Oprah Winfrey

THE BODY KEEPS THE SCORE

by Bessel van der Kolk, M.D.

MY GRANDMOTHER'S HANDS

by Resmaa Menakem, MSW, LICSW, SEP



Our Commitment to Trauma-Informed Services

WE OFFER SERVICES TO OUR CLIENTS IN 5 PRIMARY WAYS:

- 1 MONTHLY LEGAL CLINICS:**
Held monthly both during the weekday and on the weekend.
- 2 EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICES:**
In between monthly legal clinics, we offer legal services, on an emergency basis, to residents of the shelters with emergency legal issues.
- 3 IN-COURT LIMITED SCOPE REPRESENTATION ON ORDERS FOR PROTECTION (OFPS) AND EVICTION EXPUNGEMENTS:**
We represent clients on Orders for Protection, which generally involve a trial or evidentiary hearing, and Eviction Expungements, which generally involve a post-trial motion.
- 4 FULL-SERVICE REPRESENTATION IN DIVORCES, LEGAL SEPARATIONS, CHILD CUSTODY, CHILD SUPPORT AND OTHER CIVIL MATTERS:**
As of 2024, our staff attorney, Laura June, provides full-service representation to clients in a divorce, legal separation, child custody, child support and other civil matters, such as real estate partitions, landlord/tenant actions, etc.
- 5 ESTATE PLANNING:**
As of 2025, we represent clients who receive full-service representation from Laura June in estate planning, including but not limited to wills, trusts, power of attorneys and health care directives.

OUR CLIENT SERVICES:

Our client services are limited to representing individuals who are referred to DALAC from shelters that our organization collaborates with here in Minnesota. Due to capacity issues, we do not accept any referrals from the general public or from shelters that we do not have a collaborating relationship.

The shelters that we collaborate with are confidential due to the safety of our clients. If you know which shelters our organization collaborates with, please keep that information confidential to protect the continued safety of our clients and other residents at the shelters.

Preventing Child Abuse



It is common for intimate partner violence perpetrators to also abuse children in the household.

There is often a link between domestic violence and child abuse.

Children exposed to violence in the home were 15 times more likely

to be physically and/or sexually assaulted than the national average.



Exposure to domestic violence as a child increases the risk of poor outcomes as an adult.

Domestic Violence may be the single major precursor to fatalities

from child abuse and neglect in the United States.



The majority of children who witness domestic violence are also themselves mistreated.



Adults burdened by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as the result of their exposure to domestic violence as children create a significant negative economic impact on society at large.

Child Abuse is Preventable.



Never discipline your children when you are upset.

Understand that words can hurt and have long lasting effects.

Use your words and actions to show children and other adults how to resolve conflicts and communicate without causing harm.

Examine your own behavior and be a good role model. Teach children that they have a right to be safe from harm and that abuse is not their fault.



We helped **250** children of our clients through our legal advocacy in 2025.

2025 IMPACT

Community members reached: **8,500+**

Provided legal services to:
132 clients

250 children legally represented through their parent

Value of donated services by our volunteer attorneys:
\$561,657.00

Support from donations (corporate & individual) and grants:
\$244,265.23

Our 10 Year Impact (2016–2025)

Community members reached:
30,000+

Provided legal services to:
789 clients

Value of donated services by our volunteer attorneys:
\$1,986,458.00

Support from donations (corporate & individual) and grants:
\$777,174.61

Your financial support fills
these critical needs.
Thank you!

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2025 INCOME

Corporate Contributions
\$46,053.75 | 5.7%

Individual Contributions
\$171,711.48 | 21.25%

Donated Stock
\$0 | 0%

Foundation Contribution
\$26,500.00 | 3.28%

Gifts in Kind - Legal Services
\$561,656.50 | 69.52%

Miscellaneous Other Revenue
\$1,980.26 | 0.25%

2025 EXPENSES

Administrative Expenses
\$13,725.42 | 1.70%

Program Expenses - Legal Fees
\$693,830.27 | 86%

Development & Fundraising Expenses
\$23,531.07 | 2.91%

Other Program Expenses
\$75,678.91 | 9.38%

2025 SUMMARY FINANCIALS

ASSETS

Cash	\$49,072.96
Investments	\$50,833.03
TOTAL ASSETS	\$99,905.99

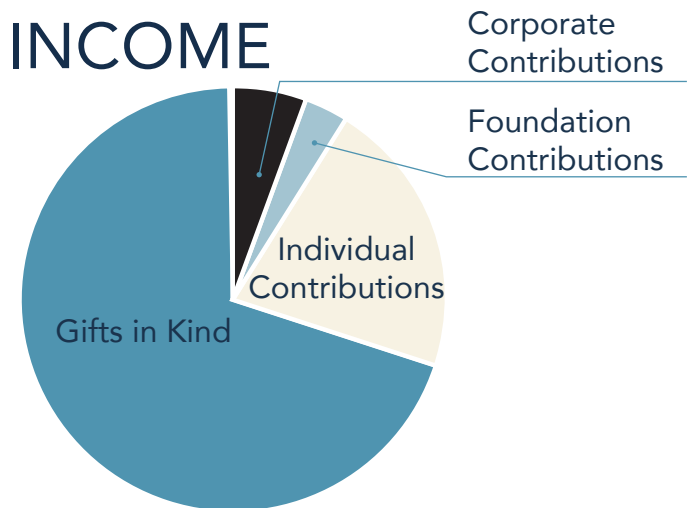
LIABILITIES

Liabilities	0.00
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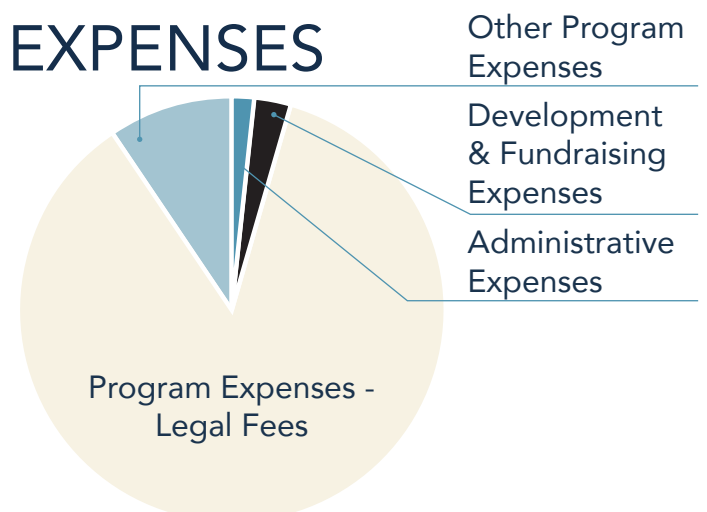
EQUITY

Restricted Net Assets-Empower	\$50,000.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$49,905.99
TOTAL EQUITY	\$99,905.99

INCOME



EXPENSES



Wishing Tree

We focus holistically on our clients' needs through a trauma-informed lens. We use donated gift cards so that our clients can meet their most basic needs.

If a client does not have funds to purchase necessary supplies like diapers or food, not only does that affect their mental health, but it leaves a client unable to focus on their legal issues.

The donated gift cards, which must be purchased by the donor directly from the gift card vendor, are an important part of our mission. Please consider purchasing gift cards throughout the year so that our clients can meet their most basic needs.



TARGET



WALMART

42% of Empower Campaign

Raised Towards
\$500,000 Goal

Empower CAMPAIGN

Future Expanded Services to Our Clients Through the Empower Campaign:



Your financial support
fills this critical need.
Learn more.

Donate today!

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.

You Matter

It is important to make time for yourself – Self-care. Your brain has the ability to heal and change, which can help reverse some of the effects of trauma and restore a sense of safety.

Examples of Self-Care



Crafting Mocktails: The creativity of finding the perfect combination of ingredients and savoring the delicious taste of a well-crafted, palate-pleasing mocktail can bring you into a form of mindful engagement that rests the brain while keeping it active and healthy.



Listening to Music: Listening to music can reduce anxiety, blood pressure, and pain and improve sleep quality, mood, mental alertness, and memory.



Poetry: Poetry can help you process difficult emotions creatively, help you relax, and encourage self-reflection that leads to a deeper understanding of yourself and the world around you.



Expressing gratitude: Expressing gratitude calms the mind, keeps you grounded, and increases resilience, regardless of time or place.



Act of Kindness: Every simple act of kindness can reduce stress, contribute to boosting your mood, and counter isolation.



Worry Musing: The physical act of burning a worry on paper provides a powerful, cathartic release and moves abstract worries from your mind to free up mental resources and reduce obsessive thinking.



Journaling: Journaling provides an outlet for emotional release, increases self-awareness, and helps to identify thought patterns.



Flower Arranging: Flower arranging fosters a connection with nature, offers a sense of control, and provides a mindful, creative outlet, which aids in emotional well-being.



Community Mural: A community mural fosters belonging, reduces isolation, builds self-esteem, and allows for shared creative expression that encourages dialogue and collective pride.



Mindfulness: Mindfulness is being present without judgement. Benefits of mindfulness include reduced depression & anxiety; greater relationship satisfaction; improved memory; improved focus & processing speed; reduced rumination; improved ability to adapt to stressful situations; improved emotion management.

Thank You to Our 2025 Donors

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DALAC strives to accurately acknowledge its donors.

Please accept our apologies if we have inadvertently omitted your name or made any other errors.



Domestic Abuse Legal Advocacy Center, PSC
is committed to empowering victims-survivors
of domestic abuse through legal advocacy.

Legal advocacy empowers.

Legal advocacy is critical action.

Legal advocacy can help redefine personal safety and security.

Legal advocacy is integral in overcoming traumatic experiences.

**Legal advocacy ultimately leads to breaking the cycle of
domestic abuse.**

For 10 years, through legal advocacy provided by dozens of volunteer attorneys, and since 2024 through legal advocacy provided by one staff attorney, DALAC has helped resolve legal issues for hundreds of shelter residents and their children who have fled domestic violence.

**Please join us in transforming the lives of
domestic violence victims-survivors.**
Your financial support fills this critical need.



Please add 3% to your donation to cover the cost of the credit card transaction.
Send checks to DALAC, 962 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.