

You make
our life-saving
work possible

2016 Annual Report





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Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In 2016, Family Violence Appellate Project took a bold step forward to become a statewide leader in changing the legal landscape to protect survivors of domestic abuse and their children.

In addition to our steadfast advocacy in the appellate courts, which resulted in 7 new published cases being added to California law that benefit survivors and help break the inter-generational cycle of abuse, we conducted a landmark statewide survey of domestic violence attorneys and advocates to learn, from their perspectives, about the greatest challenges survivors face in California's courts.

The results of our survey were alarming and reinforced how much work remains to be done. But we are reinvigorated, not disheartened, and we launched our Central Valley Project to start addressing the greatest needs of survivors in an underserved region of the state.



FVAP will continue to be a leader in identifying and implementing statewide legal solutions for survivors, while always listening to survivors' voices. It is for them, for their well-being, for their empowerment, and for their children, that we press forward with determination and great hope.

With gratitude,

Executive Director & Co-Founder



Our Mission and Vision

Empowering survivors of domestic violence

Family Violence Appellate Project is the only organization in California dedicated to providing free legal representation to domestic violence survivors in appeals.

We represent low-income survivors to appeal and overturn dangerous trial court decisions that put survivors or their children at risk of ongoing abuse. Our goal is to empower survivors through the civil legal system, to ensure that they and their children can live in safe and healthy environments, free from abuse.

Disrupting inter-generational cycles of trauma & abuse

We focus on changing California law with a larger goal in mind: ending the inter-generational cycle of trauma and abuse. Children who grow up in safe, healthy environments are far less likely to become abusive as adults. By keeping kids out of abusive homes, FVAP is building a better California for the next generation, one case at a time.





How We Help

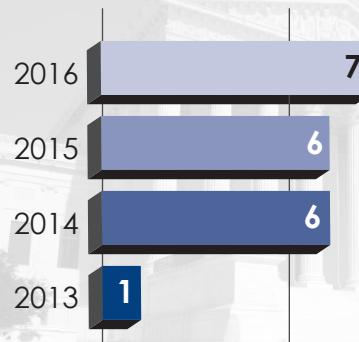


Changing California Law

FVAP's innovative Case Publication Program focuses on obtaining official publication of California cases that prioritize the safety and well-being of children and domestic violence survivors. These cases set new, binding legal precedent statewide, resulting in fairer, safer trial court outcomes for thousands of survivors throughout California.

At the end of 2016, we had a **74% publication rate**, far above the average statewide publication rate of 9%.

Cases Published



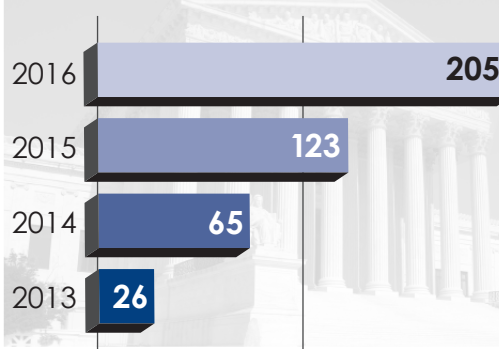
Real-Time Legal Assistance

At FVAP, we believe survivors should have the justice they deserve the first time, without the need to appeal.

We are the go-to resource for real-time legal answers and strategic assistance with trial court cases in California, so California's domestic violence laws have the greatest impact possible, and so survivors have the best chance of winning their cases the first time.

This remains our fastest-growing service to the community.

Technical Assistance Provided



\$1,887,851
of FVAP Impact
including Pro Bono

\$546,242
FVAP Direct
Expenditures

Leveraging Pro Bono Services

We didn't do this alone! 109 volunteers donated over 6,500 hours of free, pro bono legal assistance to FVAP and our clients in 2016.

The value of this pro bono help was over \$1.3 million, almost 3 ½ times what FVAP spent on expenses in 2016. This means our spending had 3 ½ times greater impact than if we were doing this work alone.

On behalf of the survivors and children we were able to help this year because of your generous contributions of time and expertise, THANK YOU!



Statewide Leadership



1 Surveying the State

This year we conducted a landmark statewide survey of domestic violence attorneys and advocates to hear, from their perspectives, about the greatest challenges survivors face in California's courts. The results were distressing – nearly 90% of respondents across the state reported that trial courts make improper child custody and visitation orders in domestic violence cases, and nearly 80% reported problems getting restraining orders. FVAP is using the survey results to find statewide solutions to help survivors.



2 Central Valley Project

To begin addressing the needs of abuse survivors in California's Central Valley, we launched our Central Valley Project. Legal assistance is extremely scarce in this region of the state, yet the need is great. To help fill this gap, we are providing training, real-time answers to legal questions, sample legal documents, and appellate assistance to address the greatest needs identified by survivors and advocates.



3 Leading the Campaign for Access to Justice

FVAP believes all people have the right to access to justice and a level playing field in court. Yet in a majority of California's counties, there is no record of what happens in trial court hearings, effectively denying low-income people the ability to appeal their cases and shutting the doors of the appellate courts to our most vulnerable. In 2016, FVAP fought to end this injustice, advocating before the California Supreme Court and a statewide court Commission for the right of low-income abuse survivors to have access to justice and the ability to overturn dangerous trial court decisions.

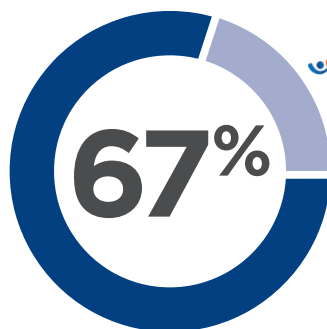


By the Numbers 2016



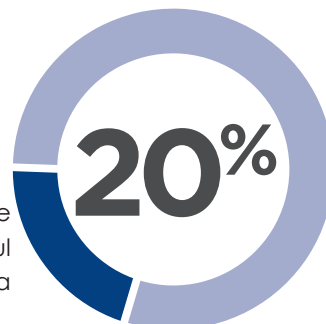
15

Survivors and their kids
represented in appeals



 **FVAP** appeal
win percentage

Statewide average
percentage of successful
appeals in California



9

Interns & volunteers
in Next Generation
Program



7

Cases published



205

Attorneys, advocates, and individuals assisted
through Legal (Technical) Assistance Program

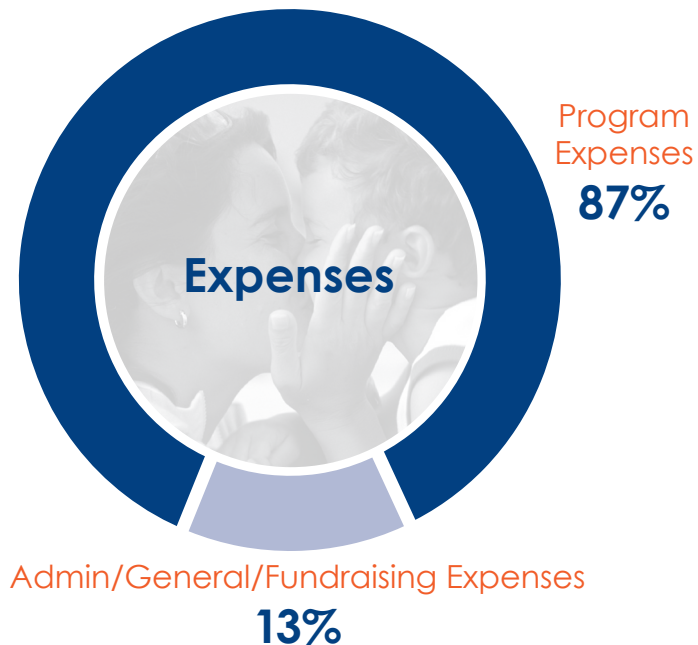
Attorneys, judges, law students, domestic violence advocates trained

406



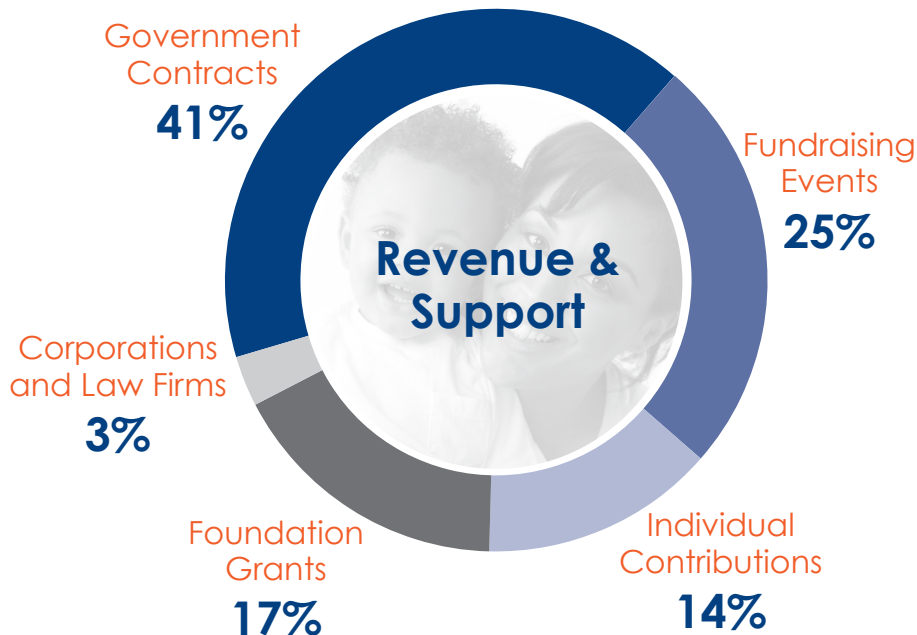
Statement of Activities

Revenue & Support	2016
Foundation Grants	\$122,781
Fundraising Event Revenue	\$185,279
Individual Contributions	\$105,299
Corporate/Law Firm Contributions	\$22,421
Government Contracts	\$298,495
Contributions In-Kind	\$1,341,609
Other	\$1,867
Total Revenue & Support	\$2,077,751
Expenses	
Program Expenses	\$1,647,773
Admin, General, & Fundraising	\$240,078
Total Expenses	\$1,887,851
Increase in net assets	\$189,900



Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2016	2015
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 764,146	\$ 741,788
Grants & pledges receivable	\$ 159,043	\$ 50,000
Other assets	\$ 11,738	\$ 9,622
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 934,927	\$ 801,410
Liabilities		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	\$ 16,429	\$ 16,653
Deferred revenue	\$ 10,000	–
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 26,429	\$ 16,653
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 883,505	\$ 693,605
Temporarily restricted	\$ 24,993	\$ 91,152
Total net assets	\$ 908,498	\$ 784,757
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 934,927	\$ 801,410



Learn more about our work at www.fvaplaw.org



2016 Pro Bono Partners and Volunteers

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Join us in this life-saving movement!

Since our founding in 2012, FVAP's success has been due to the efforts and contributions of many people like you. Without this community support, we could not have started a legal aid office from scratch in such a short time, or helped nearly as many survivors of domestic violence and their children find safety.

You can be part of this movement to end domestic violence!

- Join our Board of Directors
- Join our Advisory Board
- Join our New Leadership Council
- Volunteer
- Donate

Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in any of these opportunities. We can't wait to welcome you into the FVAP family!



2016 Donors

FVAP received donations from 949 supporters last year, including the following:

\$50,000 +

Elizabeth Cabraser

\$25,000 +

The Joan and Irwin Jacobs Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation
Scott and Julie Johnston

\$10,000 +

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*Special thanks to [David Hunter](#) for
pro bono graphic design of this report.*