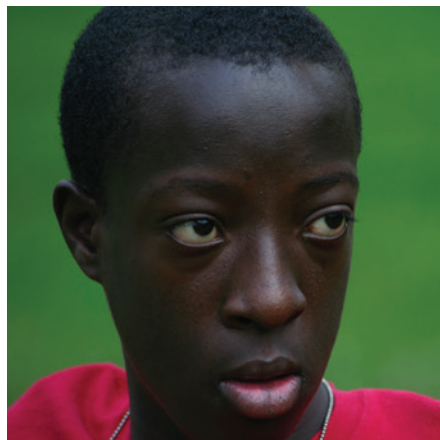
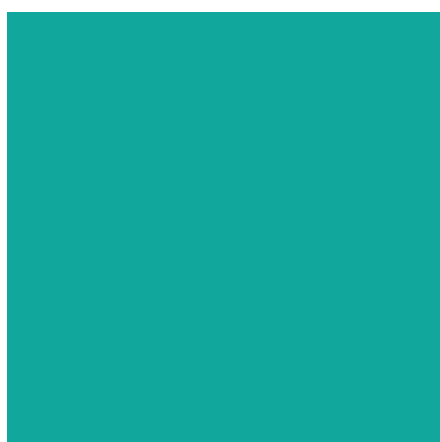


eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
San Diego County



PROGRAM
IMPACT
REPORT
FY 2014 – 2015



Transforming lives together

In fiscal year 2014–2015, **YWCA OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY** served more than 8,300 women, men, and children through our Becky's House®, Passages, Cortez Hill Family Center, and Legal Services programs.

Our dedicated team of professional staff, volunteers, and board of directors enabled us to deliver high-impact domestic violence and homelessness programs for our community. With their steadfast efforts, we continued our focus on enhancing services to underserved populations throughout San Diego County, including addressing the lack of resources for male victims and the LGBTQ community.

Together, we remain committed to the empowerment of all people to transform their lives and achieve lasting self-sufficiency.

6,625
Becky's
House

1,031
Legal
Services

104
Passages

596
Cortez Hill
Family Center

8,356
Total
Served





Serving Our Community

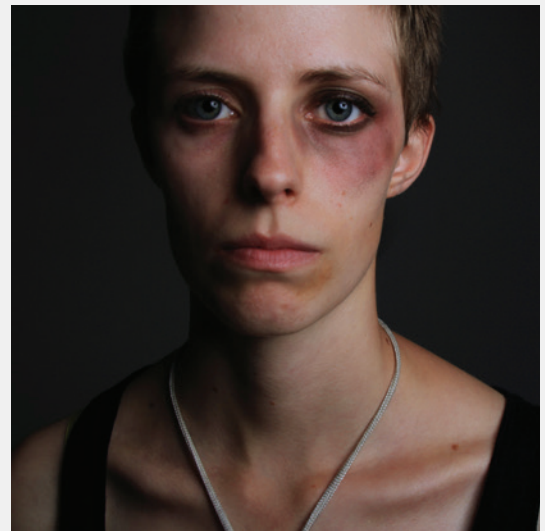
DELIVERING IMPACT

Throughout San Diego County, our community is affected by numerous economic factors, including a **high cost of living, inadequate affordable housing, and increasing levels of poverty**. For low-income individuals and families, these factors present tremendous challenges that often lead to financial insecurity and homelessness. Additionally, for those who experience domestic violence and often have no access to financial or other resources, their options for escaping an abusive environment are severely limited and frequently life-threatening.

Our comprehensive programs are focused on helping these vulnerable women, men, and children gain immediate safety, access to resources, and transformative support toward **secure housing, economic stability and long-term self-reliance**.

Domestic Violence & Homelessness: By the Numbers

- **Domestic violence affects 1 in 4 women** in their lifetime—more than breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and lung cancer combined. Despite the misconception that domestic violence only impacts women, **1 in 7 men will experience domestic violence** as well.
- 1 in 5 homicides in San Diego County were the result of domestic violence and **83% of all female homicide victims were murdered by a spouse, intimate partner, or family member**, compared to 16% of male homicide victims.
- Nearly **9,000 people experience homelessness in San Diego County** on any given night, and 48% of them are without shelter.
- Studies indicate that **50% of all homeless women and children are fleeing domestic violence**, and nearly 38% of all victims of domestic violence become homeless at some point in their lives.



BECKY'S HOUSE® PROGRAMS

6,625
individuals
served

The **Becky's House domestic violence programs** encompass The Vi McKinney Becky's House Shelter and Becky's House Transitional Housing, along with a 24-hour crisis hotline and comprehensive supportive services. With a total of 190 emergency and transitional beds, our residential domestic violence programs collectively served **551 survivors**, including 344 children.

EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **Vi McKinney Becky's House Shelter** provides 47 emergency beds for survivors of domestic violence, including women, men, and children. The shelter offers immediate protection from their abusers in our safe, confidential **30–60 day program**. Clients live in private rooms and focus on safety planning, individualized case management, legal services, counseling, and housing stability as they begin to recover from trauma.

Additionally, our 24-hour hotline provides crisis counseling, resources, and information referrals to victims and the community.

PROGRAM IMPACT

- Served **347 domestic violence survivors**, including 207 children, with protection and safe shelter along with comprehensive supportive services.
- After exiting our 30–60 day program, **64% of families moved to longer-term transitional housing or permanent housing**.
- Certified domestic violence advocates provided crisis counseling and information referrals to **6,074 callers** on our 24-hour hotline, including victims, family members, law enforcement, medical professionals, and other individuals.

6,074
calls on
24-hour
hotline



SUSAN was separated from her husband but he continued to harass her.

His last attack occurred while she was sleeping and resulted in near-fatal injuries that required hospitalization. As soon as Susan was released from the hospital, she entered our emergency shelter along with her two children. She had a full order of protection and her husband was arrested and charged with attempted murder. Susan worried about how she would provide for her children since her husband did not allow her to work for 17 years. As a result, she had no work experience and had only completed high school.

Susan and her children transferred from our emergency shelter into our transitional housing program, where she received access to resources and support toward independent living. With her case manager's guidance, Susan enrolled in computer courses, earned three certificates, and began her job search. She quickly obtained an administrative position at a legal office, enabling her to move her family into their own apartment. As they begin their next chapter, Susan continues to work and looks forward to pursuing medical billing and coding education in the fall.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT



88%
secured
permanent
housing

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **Becky's House Transitional Housing** program provides 43 units and 143 beds for women, men, and children who are overcoming domestic violence. The **12–18 month program** offers apartment-style housing units in four distinct communities along with supportive services, including individualized case management, counseling, children's activities, legal services, and employment development. Clients focus on overcoming trauma, developing life skills, improving employment, increasing income, and obtaining permanent housing.

PROGRAM IMPACT

- Provided safe housing and comprehensive supportive services for **204 domestic violence survivors**, including 137 children.
- Fully integrated two **male domestic violence survivors** into our transitional housing program, enabling them to gain complete access to supportive services, which are often limited in the community.
- After completing our transitional housing program, **88% of families secured permanent housing** along with economic stability.
- **94% did not return to their abusers** and successfully achieved independence.

JASON was in a long-term relationship and the abuse had escalated from financial and emotional to sexual assault and physical abuse.

Jason feared for his life, but as a man he didn't feel he had any rights to domestic violence services. Jason was ashamed and afraid, and he hid his abusive relationship from his family and friends. During the last incident, Jason was home studying late when his partner arrived home intoxicated. What began as verbal abuse quickly escalated into punching and attacking Jason with a lamp. Neighbors heard Jason's plea for help and called 911. When law enforcement arrived and arrested Jason's partner, he knew this was his opportunity to leave while he was still alive.

Jason left his hometown and fled to San Diego alone. He found himself in a new town with unfamiliar resources and knew, as a male victim, he would have additional challenges accessing domestic violence services. Jason resided in two emergency shelters before entering our Becky's House Transitional Housing program. Through the support of our program, Jason is safe with stable housing and able to work closely with his case manager to develop individual goals toward his own independence. He is making great progress and has secured part-time employment and resumed his online education towards completing his master's degree.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

1,031
individuals
served

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our Legal Services program provides domestic violence survivors with **free assistance for family law matters**, including divorce, restraining orders, child custody and visitation, paternity, child and spousal support, and limited attorney representation.

Conducted by licensed attorneys, legal interns, and professional staff, services are provided through walk-ins and appointments, along with mobile legal clinics in underserved communities throughout San Diego County.

All genders of low-income, domestic violence survivors are able to meet with attorneys and legal staff to gain knowledge of their legal rights and options for protection. As part of our free individualized services, clients receive assistance with legal documents, court escorts, representation, and ongoing support throughout the legal process.

PROGRAM IMPACT

- Provided greater access to legal services through **increased clinic and appointment hours** at the downtown location. **Doubled legal clinic hours** in Oceanside and **introduced new clinics** in Encinitas and Hillcrest with partner agencies.
- Two licensed attorneys, supported by legal interns and professional staff, provided **1,699 family law client visits** for domestic violence survivors.
- Dedicated legal interns provided over **1,300 service hours** to support our increased client need.
- Staff attorneys provided **legal representation for 36 clients** throughout their legal proceedings. The representation process can be lengthy and includes preparing clients for hearings, representation at court hearings, conducting client and witness interviews, communicating with opposing counsel, and preparing court documents and filings.



1,699
family law
client visits

JULIANA, a 19-year old mother with a five-month old baby, came to us for legal help. She had a restraining order against her abuser, the father of the baby, and was facing an upcoming custody court date. The father had an attorney and had previously been awarded primary physical custody of the baby. Juliana was pregnant with her abuser's second child and was trying to navigate the legal process. With the guidance and expertise of our staff attorney, who represented her in the custody case, Juliana was able to obtain joint legal custody and increase physical custody of her baby. Juliana still has ongoing legal issues and continues to rely on our services, including working towards gaining full custody of her children. Additionally, Juliana successfully completed a parenting course and is now receiving counseling to help overcome her trauma and move toward a life of independence.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

PASSAGES PROGRAM

104
women
served



72%
secured
permanent
housing

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Passages provides 62 beds of transitional housing along with comprehensive supportive services for homeless women. The **18-month program** serves low-income, single women who would otherwise be forced to live in the streets, their vehicles, or other places not intended for human habitation.

While living in shared or single units, Passages clients build life-skills and receive individualized case management, counseling, financial literacy training, legal services, and employment development. Most of these women are victims of domestic violence or other significant trauma, and have little or no income. Additionally, they often face barriers including mental health issues, unique medical needs, or substance use disorders. Through personalized goals, women focus on stabilization, addressing barriers, and developing plans to obtain employment and permanent housing.

PROGRAM IMPACT

- Served **104 homeless women** with stable housing and comprehensive supportive services.
- After completing our program, **72% of women secured permanent housing** along with economic stability.
- With the support of their case managers and career counselor, **51% of women gained or increased their employment income** during their stay. **90% of women secured income from other sources**, including obtaining or increasing mainstream benefits, such as cash aid and medical assistance, as a result of our client advocacy.

JANE entered Passages after a stay at an emergency shelter. She had become homeless after the failure of her personal skin care business and inability to pay her rent. At the same time, she was also hospitalized for depression. After a period of stabilization and adjustment to first-time homelessness, Jane focused on her employment goals with the support of our program staff. She was a skilled esthetician and was motivated to secure employment in that field. After working with her career counselor and several months of focused job searching, Jane secured employment with a popular spa and salon. Her case manager provided support including resources that helped Jane repair her credit and gain approval to rent again. Jane achieved her goals and proudly moved out to her own apartment shortly before her scheduled program exit.

FRANCIS came to Passages as a victim of domestic violence and human trafficking.

The trauma left her struggling to make sense out of her life. Through case management, individual therapy, and support groups, Francis made great strides in working through her past pain. She began to turn her life around and reclaimed her self-respect, confidence, and dignity. She became a mentor to young girls to help them recognize the signs of an abusive relationship. Francis focused on her goal of independent living and worked with her case manager to identify permanent housing options. Her diligence paid off when Francis secured housing months before she was due to exit the program. She has proven that hard work and support can open doors to a new beginning.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

596
individuals
served



35,000
meals
served

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Cortez Hill Family Center provides 45 units and 150 beds of interim housing along with supportive services for homeless families with children. The **120-day program** serves low-income, single and dual parent households with children who would otherwise be forced to live in the streets, their vehicles, or other places not intended for human habitation.

Promoting family unity, each household lives in their own unit and receives meals, individualized case management, counseling, children's activities, legal services, and employment development throughout their stay. Through personalized goals and objectives, families focus on stabilizing their household, increasing their income, and securing long-term stable housing.

PROGRAM IMPACT

- Served **173 homeless families**, comprised of 222 adults and 374 children, with interim housing and comprehensive supportive services.
- Provided **more than 35,000 meals**, enabling families to focus their limited financial resources on other household priorities.
- After only 120-days in our program, **47% of families improved their housing status by securing longer-term transitional or permanent housing.**
- With the support of their case managers and career counselor, **33% of adults had employment income** after completing the program. **98% of adults secured income from other sources**, including obtaining or increasing mainstream benefits, such as cash aid and medical assistance, as a result of our client advocacy.

The HOPE FAMILY entered Cortez Hill Family Center with their combined seven children, ages 2 to 11 years old. They had been renting an apartment and were abruptly asked to vacate by their landlord.

Unable to find an affordable place for their large family, they soon became homeless and began living in motels and sleeping in their vehicle. The related expenses made it difficult to save money while being homeless.

During their stay in our program, Mrs. Hope was able to maintain her employment in North County, continue her online education, and gain more favorable employment. Mr. Hope was the primary caretaker of their children and their family goals were to save money and secure permanent housing without having to relocate to another state or enter another shelter. The family achieved their goals by saving over \$3,000 and working with their case manager to access housing resources and obtain short-term rental assistance. After only 90 days in our program, the Hope family signed a lease agreement for their new home. As soon as they are settled in, Mr. Hope plans on returning to school to obtain his GED certification and work on securing his own employment. Their focus and commitment kept their family together and has restored their life of peace and self-sufficiency.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT



Community Engagement & Awareness

As an established leader with a longstanding legacy in the region, YWCA of San Diego County actively raises awareness of domestic violence and homelessness. Our efforts focus on the engagement and education of the community through robust partnerships with volunteers, philanthropists, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and other social service agencies and community associations.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- **Dedicated volunteers provided more than 7,700 hours of professional services**—including legal, case management, childcare, counseling, medical, and other therapeutic support—for our residential and community clients.
- **Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® engaged more than 500 men, women, and children** in raising awareness of domestic violence in the community and encouraging friends and colleagues to understand and take action against the insidious cycle of abuse.
- **In the Company of Women welcomed more than 800 corporate professionals, philanthropists, and community members** to further understand the complexities of domestic violence and homelessness, and the impact of our comprehensive programs and services.

Corporate, Foundation & Community Partners

In fiscal year 2014–2015, YWCA of San Diego County relied on the generosity of our dedicated corporate, foundation, and community partners, including the following champion-level contributors, who make our continued work possible. Their unwavering support, coupled with our individual donors, allows us to sustain and enhance the 24/7 operation of our residential programs and supportive services.



If you or someone you know needs help, call our 24-hour domestic violence hotline at 619.234.3164.

MISSION

Empowering women, men, and children to break the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness, and achieve self-sufficiency.



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