

thesecondstep.org

# Report to the Community

July 2023-June 2024

The Second Step is a community of survivors, advocates, and volunteers who foster the safety, stability, and well-being of those who have experienced domestic violence.

### **Programs**

## Legal **Services**



Our team of attorneys provides free legal services to survivors. Legal issues include family law, immigration, restraining orders, and housing.

## **Transitional** Living



We offer a continuum of services, including transitional housing and flexible funds aimed at helping families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing.

## Prevention. **Intervention &** Education



Our domestic violence advocates work with survivors on safety planning, accessing resources, and achieving long term stability. Our team also provides outreach and education in the community.

Breaking free from an abusive relationship is complex. The Second Step partners with survivors to help them remove obstacles to independence, advance their lives, and achieve long-term stability.

Our wraparound services help over **400 survivors** and their children each year. Follow Rita's journey below. It showcases the hope and joy our transformational services create.

One Survivor's Path to **Independence** 

Rita had seen some red flags in her relationship but had not recognized the danger she was in. A friend encouraged her to join a domestic violence training at The Second Step.

After the training, Rita reached out to our advocates to access resources and support.

Rita created a plan with our advocates to safely leave her abusive relationship.

"I am finally divorced. I feel safe. I feel joy. My children see me happy and living my own life now."

Throughout the process, our advocates continued to provide safety planning and emotional support.

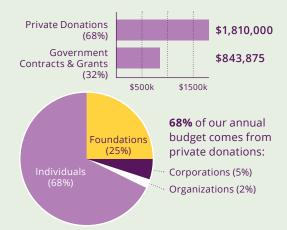
After extensive preparation, our staff attorneys represented Rita in court, obtaining a divorce and child custody agreement.

Our attorneys secured a restraining order for Rita and

her children.

## **Our Donors Help Survivors**

Total FY25 Budget: \$2,653,875





### **FAMILY LAW**

149 survivors sought legal representation for matters ranging from divorce to child custody.



### **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT**

Prevention, Intervention & Education Advocates provided healing-focused care to 196 survivors.



### HOUSING

This year, our advocates provided 89 clients with housing support services.



### RESTRAINING **ORDERS**

**87** survivors represented by our staff attorneys obtained restraining orders, often the foundation for true healing and independence.