



# IMPACT

2023 Annual **Impact** Report

## Mission

To provide a safe space where each individual's needs are met, clients feel validated, families are protected, and survivors can reclaim their lives.

## Vision

At *Your Safe Place*, survivors of domestic violence, family violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, and sex trafficking can seek justice, begin healing, and reclaim their lives.



*YSP*, a division of the San Diego City Attorney's Office, is staffed by 14 full-time City employees. The majority of all funding for *Your Safe Place* comes from the People of San Diego and the State of California.

Supplemental services are provided by community partners at no cost to *YSP*, the City of San Diego, or *YSP* clients.

## Welcome from the City Attorney



*Dear Community Partners, Regional Stakeholders, Donors, and Friends,*

As *Your Safe Place* celebrates our 21st anniversary, I'm proud to share with you some of the ways we are improving clients' lives and having a lasting impact on the region.

In 2023, it was once again our privilege to provide a safe, confidential, one-stop service center to anyone fleeing gender-based violence and other forms of domestic abuse. Our services are always client-centered, culturally-informed, and available to all, regardless of background or circumstances.

We continue to strengthen ties with the City Attorney's Gun Violence Response Unit to help clients at risk of becoming gun violence victims. Last year alone, we were able to assist more than 100 clients who reported threats or harm involving firearms. This is critical work, as we know women are more than 500 times more likely to die from domestic violence if the abuser has a gun in the home.

We also made major gains last year in expanding services to diverse and underrepresented communities throughout San Diego County thanks to our mobile clinic program. To better serve some of our youngest clients, we also marked a milestone with the opening of the Children's Forensic Interview Center on *YSP* premises.

Thanks to the hard work of our staff, community partners, interns, and volunteers, we plan to expand all of these services in the year ahead. Thank you for being a part of that work with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mara W. Elliott". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Mara W. Elliott**, *San Diego City Attorney*

## Message from the Executive Director



We are pleased to present *Your Safe Place's* Annual Impact Report. As you read, you'll see the incredible impact *YSP* has had in San Diego. This report celebrates our shared achievements in providing hope to those who need it most.

As we reflect on 2023, I extend my deepest gratitude to the *YSP* team, community partners, interns, volunteers, and donors for showing up every day dedicated to supporting our clients.

The devotion shown by each of you has been pivotal to our success, deeply impacting our community. Your work in meeting our clients where they are, supporting their healing, and advancing their hope has been exceptional.

Achievements accomplished by everyone involved over the past year have proved essential for *YSP's* success in serving our clients. I am grateful for your commitment to excellence and honored to work alongside each and every one of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Doherty".

Diane Doherty, Executive Director

“The first step for many people is asking for help. When that happens, we want to be there to provide for their needs.”

— Diane Doherty, Executive Director, *YSP*

## Celebrating a Year of Empowering Change and Healing

*Your Safe Place (YSP)* provides vital support through safety planning, counseling, housing, restraining orders, and advocacy—all essential for breaking the cycle of violence and empowering survivors. More than a support service, we are a key contributor to San Diego's safety and well-being, significantly enhancing community resilience. *YSP* has made transformative changes in many lives and communities this year. We measure success by the profound impact on those we serve.

*Thank you for being a crucial part of our journey.*



“Being **helped** and not judged made me feel more than **welcome** at *YSP*.”

—Survivor

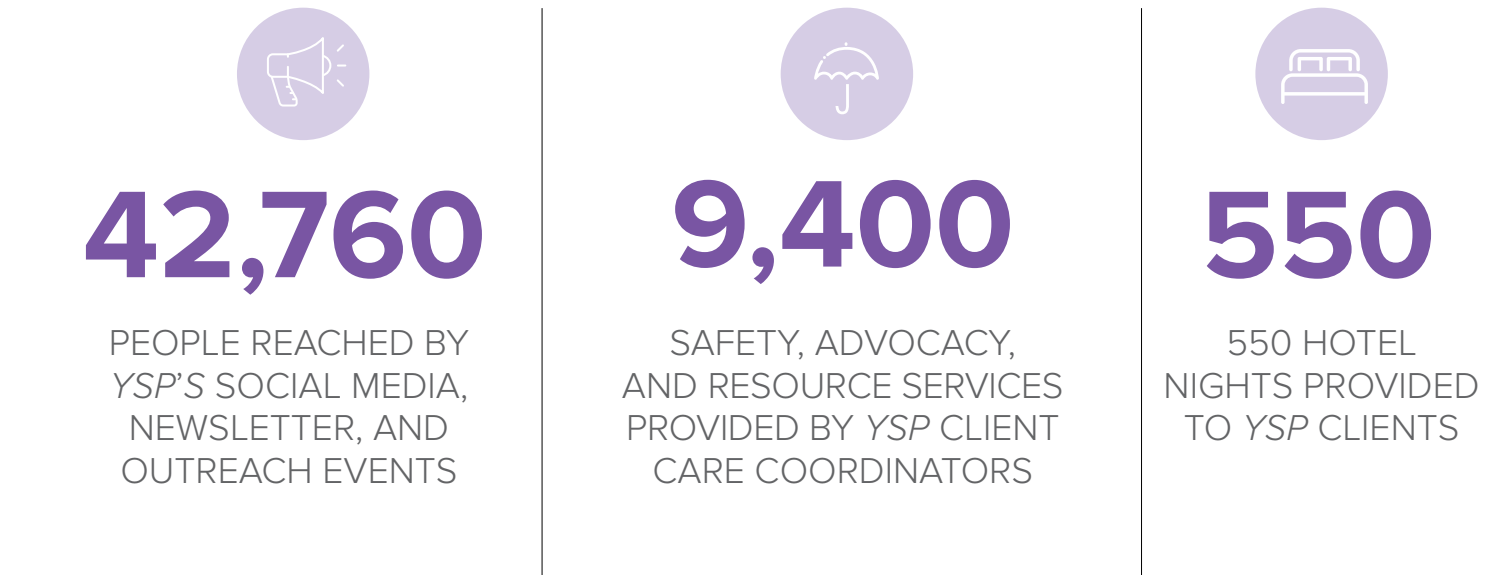
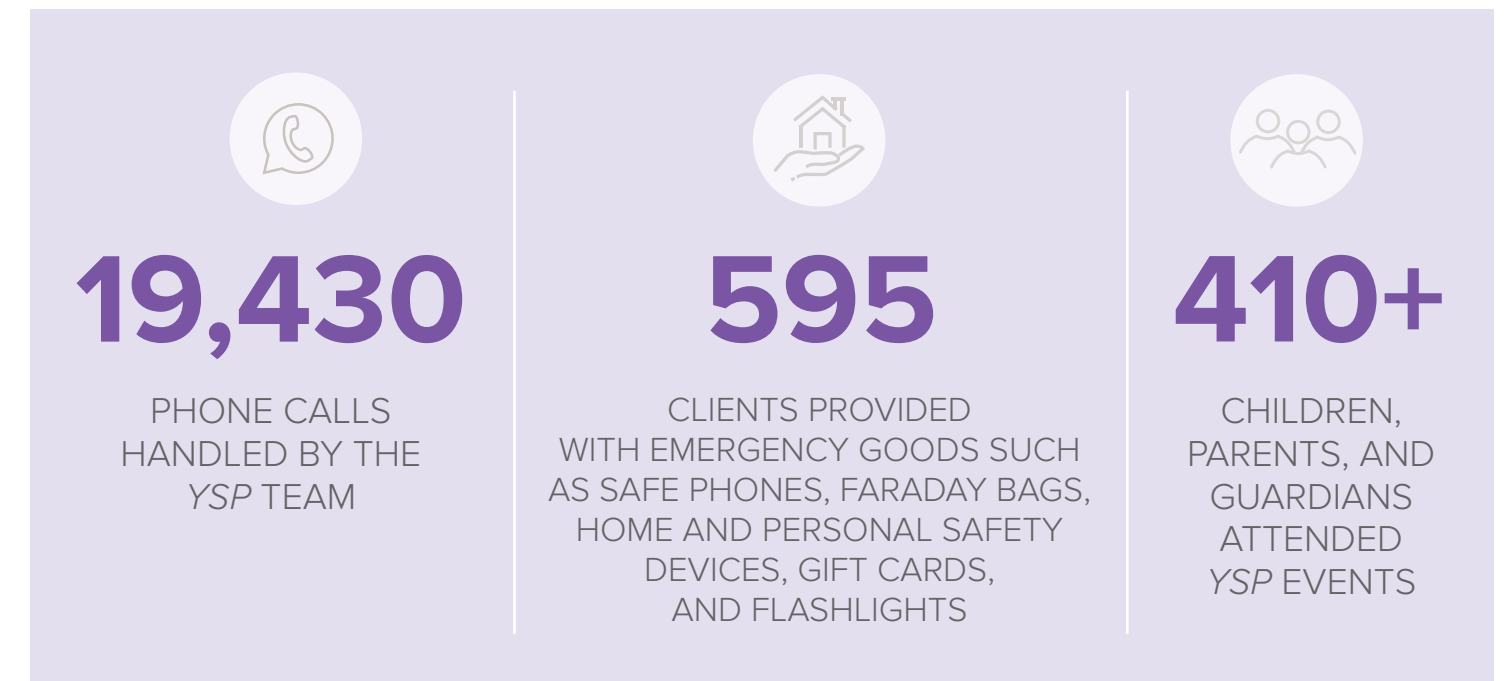
# Remarkable Achievements

## MEASURING IMPACT

YSP proudly reflects on a year of significant achievements. This success is a testament to the commitment and collaborative efforts of YSP's team, volunteers,

and community partners, as well as the support from the *Your Safe Place* Foundation. Together, we delivered trauma-informed services to

those in need, resulting in meaningful impact in the lives of those we assist.



# Client Success Stories



## OVERCOMING TRAUMA WITH COURAGE AND SUPPORT



A resilient immigrant survivor approached YSP after a traumatic experience involving torture and assault by an ex-partner. With YSP's support, she obtained an Emergency Protective Order and participated in a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) examination. Her journey involved collaboration with numerous community partners: **San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program**, **Home Start**, and **Rady Children's Hospital: Chadwick Center**. She is now rebuilding her life and securing a new home.

## FROM VULNERABILITY TO EMPOWERMENT: A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE



After enduring domestic violence, a determined survivor contacted YSP for help and underwent a Domestic Assault Forensic Exam (DAFE). With YSP's guidance and support from the **San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program**, she obtained a temporary restraining order and move-out order against her abuser. Her path to recovery included therapy, support groups, and legal consultations, culminating in a return to her professional life.

## A NEW BEGINNING: TRIUMPH OVER LONG-TERM ABUSE



Fleeing an 18-year abusive relationship, a brave survivor contacted YSP for assistance. With YSP's help and community resources like **La Maestra** and a local shelter, she managed to secure her own apartment and a job as a case manager.

## FINDING STRENGTH AND SAFETY AMIDST ADVERSITY



A survivor came to YSP facing harassment and threats from a former partner after ending their relationship. YSP, alongside community partner **Center for Hope and Strength**, provided counseling that significantly improved her ability to manage anxiety. She received a restraining order and is also pursuing a U visa, offering her additional security against her abuser's threats.

# The Year Ahead

YSP will continue to expand services geared toward client empowerment by focusing on these major objectives in 2024.



## EXPANDED FORENSIC SERVICES

With generous funding from **Golden Door**, YSP launched the Children's Forensic Interview Center in 2023. Community partner, **Rady Children's Hospital: Chadwick Center**, provides child centered forensic services to youth experiencing or witnessing abuse. YSP also currently provides forensic interviews and exams for adults, including domestic and sexual assault forensic exams and receives essential support from community partners, **Palomar Health** and the **San Diego Police Department**. YSP looks forward to expanding its adult forensic services with the assistance of the **San Diego Sheriff's Office**. This will eliminate lengthy travel times for those seeking health care following sexual assaults and domestic violence.

## OPERATION SAFE HOTEL

**Your Safe Place Foundation, Home Start**, the **San Diego Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit**, and the **Rotary Club of Rancho Bernardo** have partnered to support safe, emergency housing for domestic violence survivors during weekends and evenings. **Home Start** will work to provide the emergency hotel rooms for YSP clients, enhancing our efforts to provide immediate, safe housing. Both **Home Start** and YSP will also provide supportive services for the well-being of the clients, their children and pets.

## INCREASING MOBILE CLINIC SITES

YSP launched mobile clinics in 2022 and, in 2023, hosted 91 clinics, supporting over 192 clients, and providing over 520 services. Through our mobile clinics, YSP has expanded to reach diverse and marginalized communities, ensuring that our efforts to foster safety and prevent violence are accessible to all, especially those in greatest need.



# Working Together to Increase Our Impact

YSP expresses our thanks to **Your Safe Place Foundation, Golden Door, Little Help Fund, and UCSD**, for their generous support this year. Their assistance has been pivotal in empowering and aiding our community, enabling us to make a real difference in the lives we touch.

We express our deepest appreciation to each of YSP's **Client Care Coordinators**. Your dedication and empathy have been a guiding light for survivors seeking help at YSP. Your tireless efforts and support have not only provided immediate comfort but also a pathway to healing and empowerment. Thank you for all that you do!



Client Care Coordinators







# Our Partners



We are grateful to all of our community partners for their support and collaboration over the past year. Your contributions have been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals and make a significant impact.



## YSP Values

 <b>WELCOMING</b>	 <b>PERSONALIZED</b>	 <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	 <b>TRAUMA-INFORMED</b>	 <b>JUDGEMENT-FREE</b>	 <b>EMPOWERING</b>
<p>YSP offers a safe and nurturing space. Confidential services are free to anyone in need.</p>	<p>YSP staff create personalized safety strategies to protect all clients.</p>	<p>YSP's services are guided by protocols that protect the confidentiality of our clients' personal information and communications.</p>	<p>Our trauma-informed services ensure compassionate and empathetic support.</p>	<p>YSP provides a supportive and judgement-free environment where every person is met with dignity and respect.</p>	<p>We encourage self-reliance and decision-making, so that individuals can take charge of their own journeys.</p>



**Together we Thrive.**

We invite you to explore and tour YSP by emailing [infoysp@sandiego.gov](mailto:infoysp@sandiego.gov)





**YOUR SAFE PLACE - A FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**  
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