



# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

# 2025

Transformation Towards Resilient Growth

# ABOUT US: OUR LEGACY & MISSION

## THE WORLD'S FIRST FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

### A Revolutionary Beginning

In **2002**, the San Diego Family Justice Center Justice Center (SDFJC) made history by opening its doors as the **first center of its kind in the world**.

Before our founding, survivors of domestic violence were often **forced to navigate a fragmented system**—traveling to police stations, hospitals, and counseling offices across the city just to find safety. We pioneered the **"co-located" model**, bringing law enforcement, medical professionals, counselors, legal advocates, and more, together under one roof. We became known as the **"One Stop Shop."**

**Our Core Philosophy:** We believe in **bringing all the services to the survivor in one location, not the survivor to the services.**

### Comprehensive Care in One Location

Today, the SDFJC remains the heart of our City's response to interpersonal violence. We provide a trauma-informed sanctuary for those experiencing:

- Domestic & Teen Dating Violence
- Sexual Assault & Sex Trafficking
- Elder & Dependent Adult Abuse
- Gun Violence
- Strangulation & Stalking
- Family Violence



*A single location. A coordinated response. A path forward.*

# WELCOME FROM CITY ATTORNEY HEATHER FERBERT



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

As the San Diego Family Justice Center - *Your Safe Place*, embarks on its 24th year of serving our community, I'm thrilled to share the incredible work of our team and partners with you. Their dedicated efforts and your unwavering support have been instrumental in achieving these milestones. Together, we are creating a brighter future for our community.

It is a privilege to provide a safe, confidential, one-stop service center to anyone experiencing domestic violence; teen dating violence; family, elder and dependent adult abuse; sexual assault; sex trafficking; stalking; strangulation; and child abuse. As your San Diego City Attorney, it is my distinct privilege and pleasure to continue the great work of the SDFJC. I am committed to building on our successes and ensuring that we remain a beacon of hope and support for those in need.

We continue to provide client-centered, culturally informed services to all. Over the last year, we secured additional state funding for the SDFJC's integrated work with the City Attorney's Gun Violence Reduction Unit to help clients protect themselves from the risk of gun violence. Working as a team, we assisted clients in obtaining Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Gun Violence Restraining Orders, and other gun-prohibiting orders because we know women are more than 500 times more likely to die from domestic violence if the abuser has a gun in the home.

Looking to the year ahead, I'm proud to support the SDFJC's exciting move to a new, expanded, and accessible location in Kearny Mesa. Thanks to the support of the Mayor and City Council, along with government partners and donors, this new facility will increase our capacity to serve the community with justice and compassion.

*None of the SDFJC's accomplishments would be possible without the hard work of our staff, community partners, interns, and volunteers. Thank you all for being a part of this work with us.*

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San Diego City Attorney

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on 2025, I am proud to share the SDFJC's Annual Impact Report, which highlights the collective efforts that continue to support survivors across San Diego.

What makes this work especially remarkable is the scale of what we accomplish with a dedicated team of just **14 staff members**. Every day, this small but extraordinary team provides life-changing services to individuals and families experiencing violence, crisis, and trauma. From emergency intervention and safety planning to advocacy, referrals, and coordinated care, our dedicated team works tirelessly to ensure survivors have access to the resources they need to move forward with safety and dignity.

While our team may be small, the impact of this work is made possible through the strength of our more than 100 community partners who collaborate with us to deliver comprehensive, trauma-informed services. Together, we form a powerful network committed to supporting survivors and strengthening pathways to healing, justice, and stability.

This report reflects our team's incredible commitment, compassion, and care, as well as the vital support of our partners, donors, volunteers, and interns. The numbers and stories within these pages represent lives touched, families supported, and communities strengthened.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we continue building a safer, more supportive community for those who need it most.



*Diane Doherty*

Executive Director

# SDFJC: A GLOBAL BLUEPRINT

Impact Area	Our Contribution
<i>Established in 2002</i>	The first center of its kind, globally.
<i>The "San Diego Model"</i>	Adopted by the Department of Justice and replicated in 25+ countries.
<i>23 Years of Service</i>	Over two decades of breaking the cycle of violence in our community.

## CELEBRATING 23 YEARS OF IMPACT

In 2025, the SDFJC marked 23 years, reflecting more than two decades of providing coordinated, trauma-informed services to survivors and their families. Since opening in 2002, the SDFJC has remained a trusted resource, offering safety, support, and a path toward healing in a compassionate, client-centered environment.



*Their support helped me feel **less alone** and **more confident** in navigating the resources available to **protect myself and my family**. I'm truly grateful for the compassion and professionalism they showed during such an **important moment** in my life. - Survivor*

# 2025 YEAR IN NUMBERS

Behind every number is a life changed.



# 25,790+



DIRECT SERVICES PROVIDED TO CLIENTS BY THE SDFJC CARE TEAM

## 7,800+

CONNECTIONS TO  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS

## 15,569

CALLS FOR HELP  
HANDLED

## 190+

CLIENTS SERVED AT  
MOBILE CLINICS  
(713 SERVICES)

## 4,100 +

HOURS OF  
COUNSELING



## 3,140

LEGAL SERVICES



# 58%

CLIENTS CONTINUE TO RETURN  
FOR ONGOING SUPPORT

an average of

# x4

# 2025 YEAR IN NUMBERS

Behind every number is a life changed.

# 170,000 +

DIGITAL REACH OF CRITICAL SAFETY RESOURCES

EMERGENCY SHELTER SUPPORT  
PROVIDED TO  
**250 CLIENTS AND  
225 CHILDREN**



**1,290 DAYS**  
OF SAFE HOME MONITORING

**>170**  
FORENSIC SERVICES



FINANCIAL ABUSE IS  
THE #1 REASON  
SURVIVORS STAY OR  
RETURN

**680 +**



FINANCIAL &  
EMPLOYMENT  
SERVICES PROVIDED



**37%**



OF CLIENTS REPORT STRANGULATION

**1,560**

DAYS OF SAFE  
COMMUNICATION  
ACCESS PROVIDED

# CLIENT IMPACT STORIES

## FROM FEAR TO PROTECTION

A survivor and his young daughter were living in constant fear as an abusive family member repeatedly violated a restraining order through ongoing stalking, often near the child's school. Despite reporting to police multiple times, there was not enough evidence to act. With support from the SDFJC, the survivor was able to safely document the abuse and provide additional digital evidence. For the first time, his experience was validated—giving him a path toward protection, accountability, and peace of mind.



## A NEWBORN IN CRISIS

After fleeing domestic violence with her newborn, a mother arrived at the SDFJC with nothing—and no way to feed her baby. When her newborn struggled to latch, the situation became urgent. The SDFJC responded immediately, providing what she needed to nourish her child. In a moment of crisis, this ensured the baby could eat, grow, and remain safe—while the mother focused on rebuilding their future.

## A PATH TO SAFETY

A survivor escaping trafficking fled suddenly and sought refuge in a public office as it was closing. The trafficker was actively searching for her and she had no safe place to go. The situation was urgent and high-risk. The SDFJC acted quickly to secure emergency shelter and keep the client free from harm. This critical intervention created a window of safety—allowing the survivor to take the next steps toward long-term stability and freedom.



## RESTORING DIGNITY

A survivor lost her upper teeth during a violent incident, leaving her unable to speak or smile comfortably—and at risk of losing employment opportunities to move forward. With support from the SDFJC, she received a temporary denture, restoring her confidence and daily functioning. Soon after, she secured a job—turning a moment of trauma into a step toward independence and healing.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEER IMPACT

Through the SDFJC’s community events—including the **Backpack Drive, Halloween Costume Party, Holiday Initiatives,** and family-centered gatherings, hundreds of children and families impacted by violence learned about community support and received essential resources.

We extend our sincere gratitude to **Mayor Todd Gloria and City Councilmembers** for their continued support and for showing up alongside our families at these events.

This work would not be possible without the dedication of our **community partners, volunteers, and interns.** In 2025, volunteers contributed nearly **2,000 hours** of time and talent. From preparing supplies, to welcoming and assisting families, to providing resources at events, their compassion and commitment positively impact the individuals we serve.



# ADVANCING PROTECTIONS FOR OLDER AND DEPENDENT ADULTS



In 2025, our office supported **Assembly Bill 561**, which was signed into law and strengthened protections for older and dependent adults. This legislation removed long-standing barriers by allowing clients to electronically file restraining orders and attend court hearings remotely—making it easier for survivors to access critical legal protections. These SDFJC services empower survivors and ensure they can seek safety with greater accessibility and dignity.

# GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION



The San Diego City Attorney's Office secured a \$1 million grant to expand critical efforts in reducing gun violence, with the SDFJC serving as a key partner in this work.

This funding supports enhanced crisis intervention services and behavioral threat assessments, expanded safe-storage initiatives, and increased public education—strengthening prevention and community safety across San Diego. This grant has allowed the SDFJC to launch its restorative justice program focusing on repairing harm.

# POWERED BY PARTNERSHIP

The SDFJC expanded its impact through the generous support of our valued partners, including the **Your Safe Place Foundation, The Golden Door, the Orange County Community Foundation, Rancho Bernardo Rotary, Art Pratt Foundation, STAT! Soroptimists Together Against Trafficking, and others.** Your continued investment has been instrumental in helping survivors access safety, stability, and hope. Thank you!



# HONORING OUR TEAM

For many clients, the first interaction with the SDFJC begins at the Welcome Desk. This moment is often filled with uncertainty, fear, or urgency, and it is met with compassion, professionalism, and care.

Our **Welcome Desk Team, Care Coordinators, Interns, and Volunteers** play a critical role in creating a safe and supportive environment from the very first point of contact. They provide **confidential**, immediate crisis response; assist with **safety planning**; and **connect clients to essential services** and resources tailored to their needs. Their ability to respond with empathy, dignity, and cultural sensitivity helps build trust and ensures that each client feels seen, heard, and supported as they begin their journey toward safety and healing.

The impact of this work is profound. By guiding clients through some of their most difficult moments, these amazing team members help lay the foundation for stability, empowerment, and long-term support. We appreciate you, SDFJC Care Team!



*“After a long day of what seemed like defeat in the courtroom. I came to Family Justice Center and their **gentleness** and **determination** to make me **feel safe and heard** really helped remind me that I can **keep fighting for justice for me and my children.** - Survivor”*



# TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING SAFER FUTURES FOR SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES ACROSS SAN DIEGO

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Every number in this report represents a life touched, a barrier removed, and a step forward.

None of this would be possible without our **community partners**, donors, volunteers, interns, and supporters.

## Thank you for standing with us.

Your support helps survivors find safety, hope, and healing.



**COMPASSION**  
drives our work.



**PARTNERSHIP**  
strengthens  
our impact.




**HOPE**  
lights the path  
forward.



**SAFETY**  
changes  
lives.

Together, we create  
a stronger, safer  
San Diego for all.





# CONTACT US

We are excited to share that the SDFJC will be **relocating to an expanded space in 2026**, allowing us to better serve our community and continue growing our impact. Stay tuned for more details!

## Contact Information



**Phone**  
619-533-6000



Your Safe Place



SCAN ME