



# **ALWAYS**

**Arizona Legal Women And Youth Services**

**PRESENTED TO  
THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON CHILD SAFETY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT  
BY VALENTINA RESTREPO MONTOYA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Thank you for  
having me!*



# **About Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services (ALWAYS)**

Who do we serve?

- Trafficking survivors of all ages; and
- People under 25 who have experienced crime, homelessness, and/or the foster care system.

What do we help with?

- Family Law Issues;
- Immigration Applications; and
- Criminal History Repair.



**VALENTINA RESTREPO MONTOYA**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**MARISSA ANDERSON**  
**MANAGING ATTORNEY**



**SHANA DAWSON FISH**  
**STAFF ATTORNEY**



**MARINA PETERSON**  
**PARALEGAL**



**GRACIELA GOMEZ CRUZ**  
**SOCIAL WORKER**

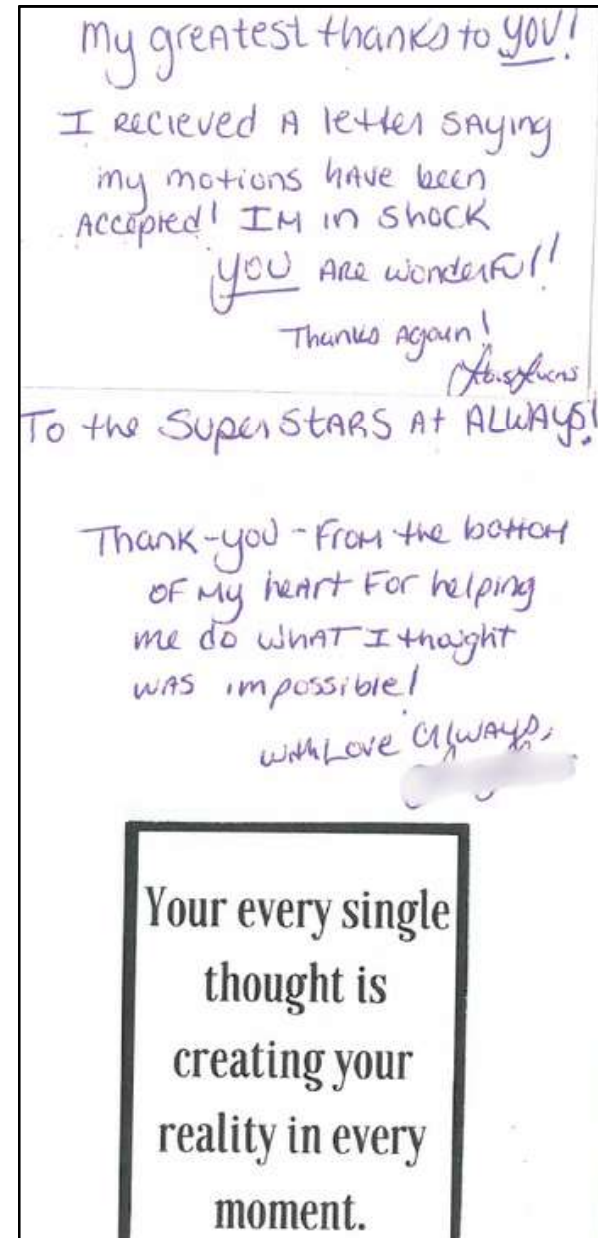


**RACHEL HOLESHA**  
**LEGAL ADVOCATE**



# Family Law Help

- Orders of Protection;
- Divorces and Annulments;
- Legal Decision Making and Parenting Time (aka "Custody");
- Child Support;
- And More!





# Immigration Law

- T-Visas for survivors of trafficking;
- U-Visas for survivors of crime;
- Protection under the Violence Against Women Act;
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status;
- DACA Renewals;
- Employment Authorization Documents;
- Lawful Permanent Residence (aka "Green Cards");
- US Citizenship (N400s, N600s).



# Criminal History Repair Services

- Good Cause Exceptions for Fingerprint Clearance Cards;
- Dropping Down Undesignated Felonies to Misdemeanors;
- Sealing Records;
- Expunging Records.



# Safe and Stable Families



*Alejandro*

Securing a guardianship petition for a 17-year-old from Mexico.

*Elisa*

Working to make adoption possible for a 14-year-old refugee from Congo.

*Victoria*

Obtaining a work permit for a young woman who lives with her undocumented grandmother.

*Abha*

Winning Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for a 16-year-old Mayan mother.

*\* Names changed to protect client confidentiality.*



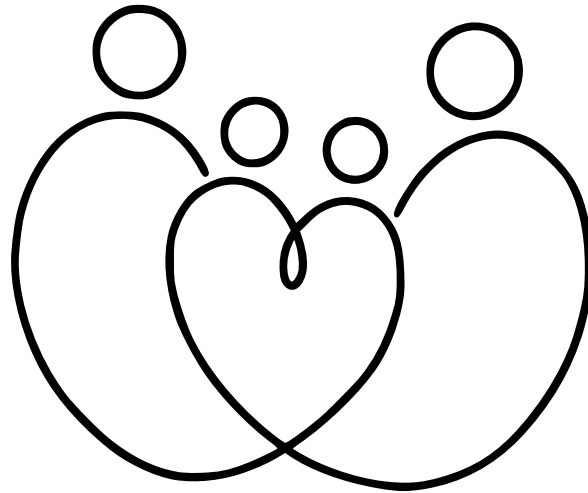
# Safe and Stable Families, Cont'd.

*Nicole*

Winning a \$20,000+ child support award for a mother of two sons.

*Juliana*

Reuniting a Honduran trafficking survivor with her three children.



*\* Names changed to protect client confidentiality.*



# **ALWAYS' Services are Available in Fluent English and Spanish**

The organization's advocates also provide legal and social services to people who speak Farsi, Vietnamese, Senegalese, and more, using professional interpreters.



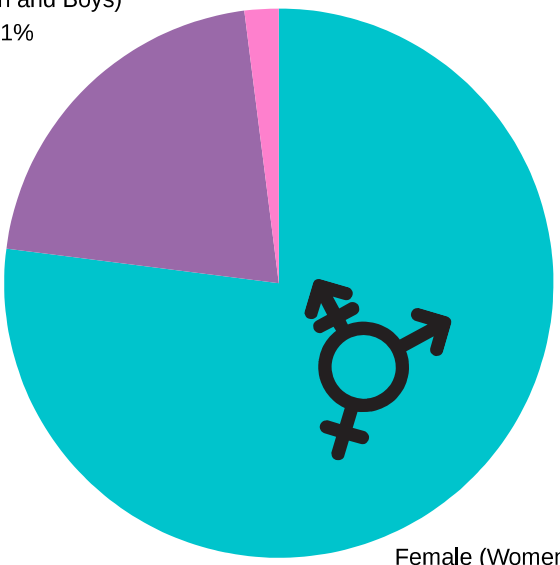
## **ALWAYS' Staff Regularly Undergo Training to Ensure Representation is Trauma-Informed**



# **In 2023, ALWAYS Provided Services to 124 Clients in 174 Matters**

These figures do not include much of the support the organization provided to members of the community through drop-in clinics, tabling events, shelter visits, trainings, and other outreach efforts.

Male (Men and Boys)  
21%

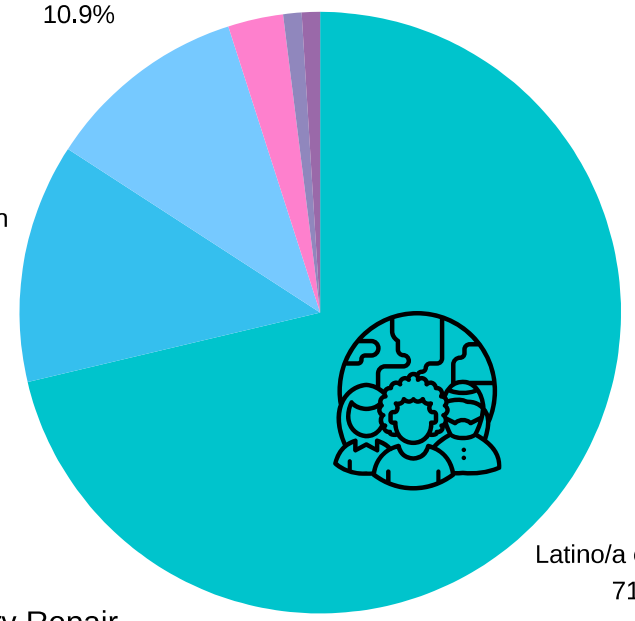


Female (Women and Girls)  
77%

White or Caucasian  
10.9%

Asian  
3%

Black or African American  
12.9%



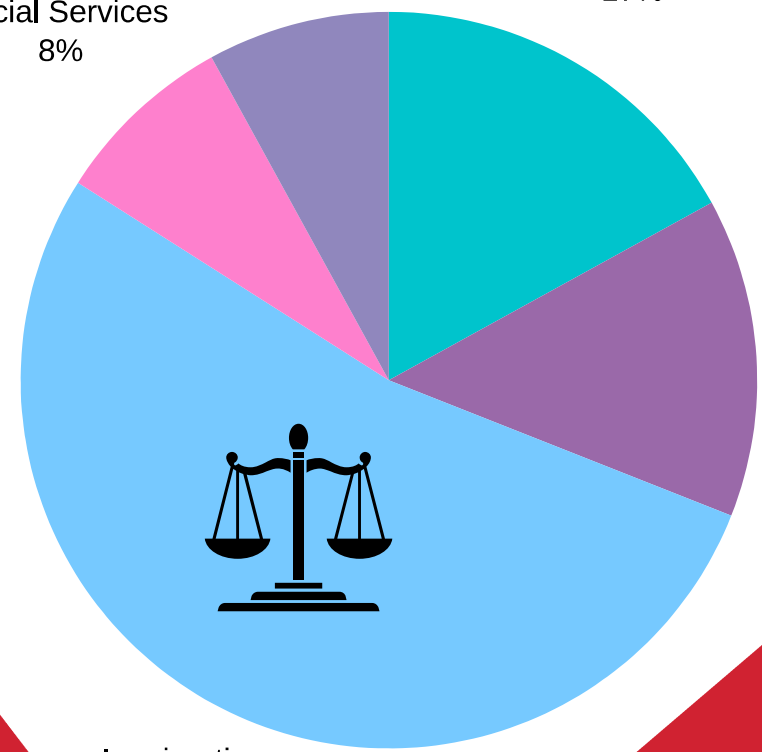
Latino/a or Hispanic  
71.3%

Other  
8%

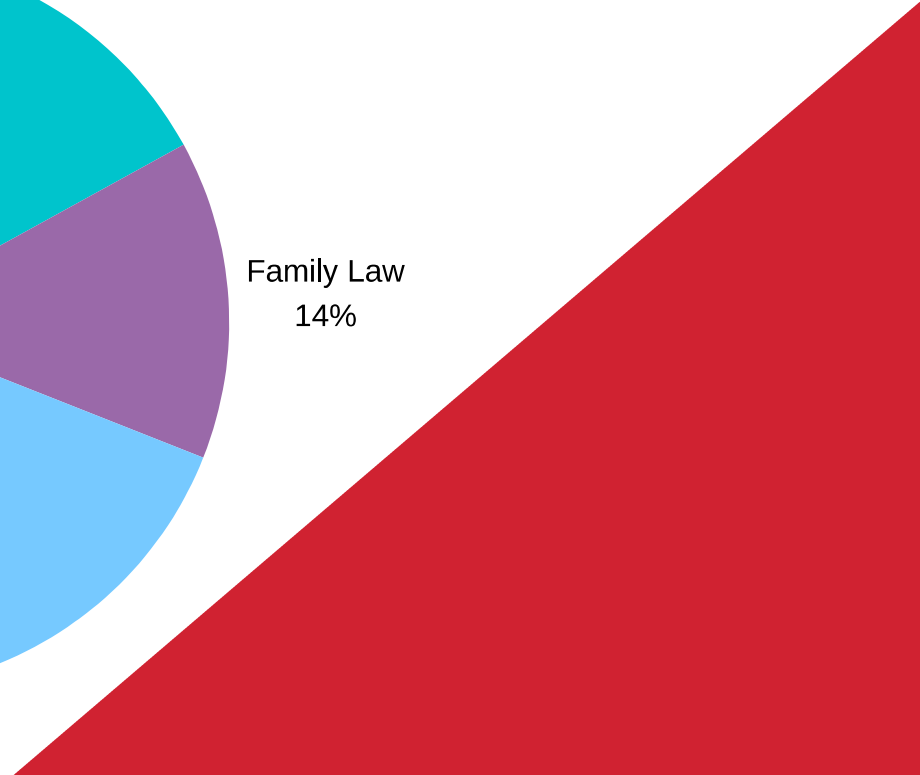
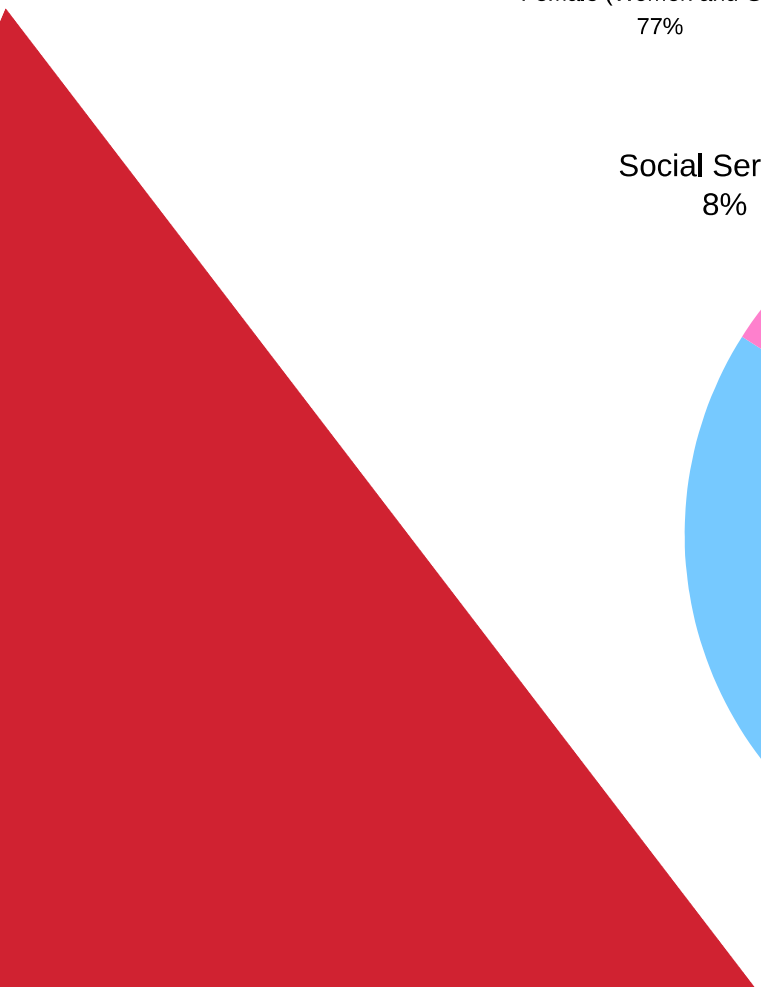
Criminal History Repair  
17%

Social Services  
8%

Family Law  
14%



Immigration  
53%



# **Trafficking Victims Made Up 43% of ALWAYS' Clients in 2023**



Up from 21% the previous year.



## **33% of ALWAYS' Clients were Victims of Sex Trafficking**



## **10% of Clients were Victims of Labor Trafficking**

# Other Figures

88% of Clients were Victims of Crime (Including Trafficking)

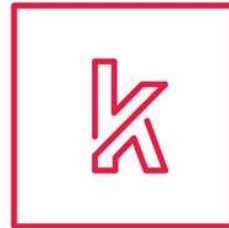
46% of Clients were Youth in Foster Care



# ALWAYS Received Referrals from the Following Partners in 2023



Phoenix Children's



KEYS TO SUCCESS



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY



PHOENIX DREAM CENTER



CHICANOS POR LA CAUSA



FLORENCE IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RIGHTS PROJECT



Children's Action Alliance

LA FRONTERA ARIZONA

Your partner for a safe, strong, and healthy community.



Catholic Charities COMMUNITY SERVICES



NATIVE AMERICAN CONNECTIONS



SOUTHERN ARIZONA LEGAL AID, INC.

**& Law Enforcement Agencies, Prosecutors' Offices, Defense Attorneys' Offices**



# Questions?

*Visit* [www.alwaysaz.org](http://www.alwaysaz.org)

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*Email* [valentina@alwaysaz.org](mailto:valentina@alwaysaz.org)