



COMMUNITY
LEGAL SERVICES IN
EAST PALO ALTO

2014

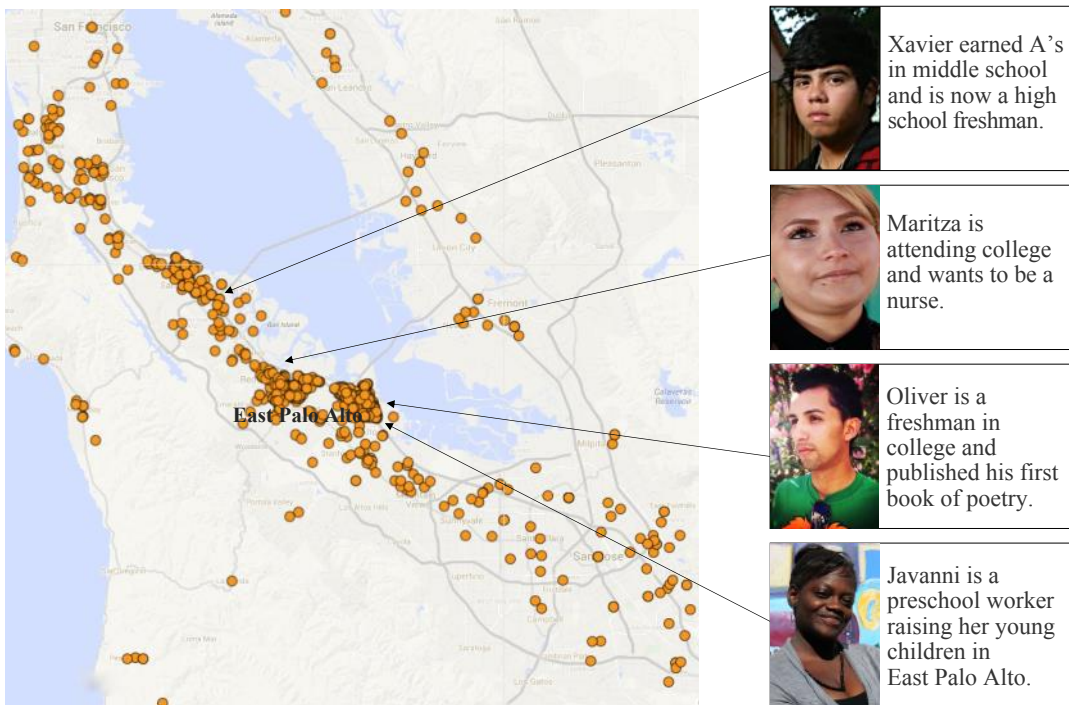
Annual Report



Our mission is to provide transformative legal services that enable diverse communities in East Palo Alto and beyond to achieve a secure and thriving future.

Our goal is to support individuals and communities in effecting significant, positive changes. We effect our transformative impact by coupling direct services with community education, technical assistance, policy advocacy, and impact litigation. Our ultimate goal is to support community members in achieving a secure, stable, and thriving future.

There are over 1500 dots on this map, and each one represents a community member we helped in 2014.



Sundiati Acoli Freedom Award

We were honored to receive this award from Youth United for Community Action at their 20th Anniversary Celebration on October 5, 2014.

We received this award in recognition of our advocacy for East Palo Alto residents and our service to the community. YUCA is an important partner in our work to enable diverse communities to achieve secure and thriving futures.

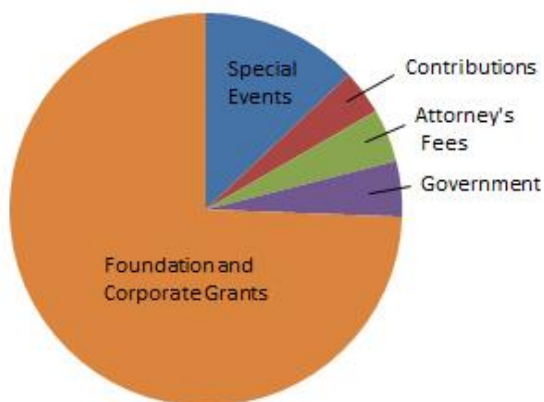
Statement of Financial Position*

* As of June 30, 2014

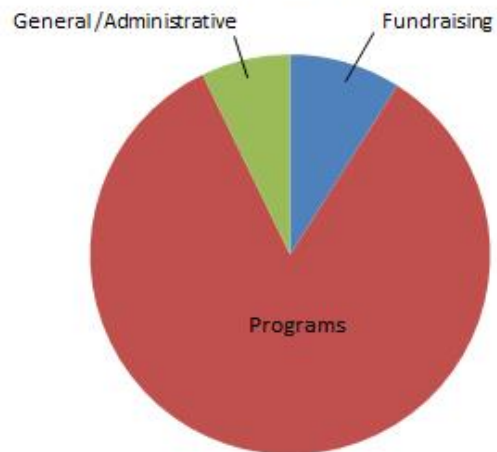
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$644,020
Accounts receivable	\$147,639
Prepaid expenses	\$20,844
Property and equipment, net	\$962,973
Total assets	\$1,775,476

Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$56,870
Notes payable	\$348,800
Accrued interest	\$13,952
Unrestricted net assets	\$1,066,591
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$289,263
Total assets	\$1,775,476

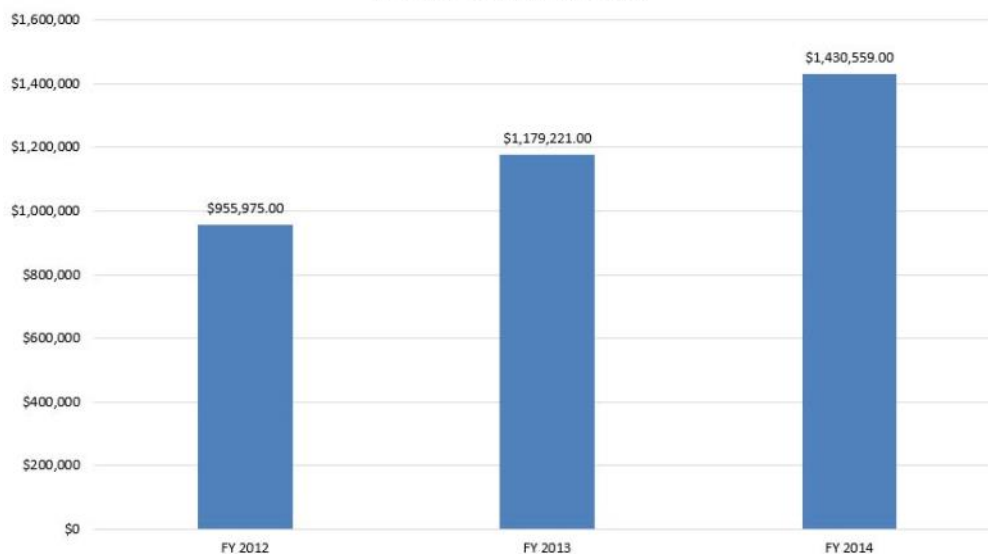
Revenue



Expenses



Revenue Growth 2012-2014



Immigration



Our immigration program provides life-changing assistance to immigrant populations, including victims of crime or domestic violence; abused, abandoned and neglected children; individuals in deportation proceedings; and college-bound youth.

In July 2014, the Administration announced a policy prioritizing the rapid deportation of immigrant children and families. Many of the children and families fled violence and threats of harm or death to themselves or close family members if they remained in their home countries. Given the life-and-death consequences facing these children and families, obtaining legal counsel is paramount.



The new policy has drastically impacted children and families trying to navigate the complex immigration legal process. The need for legal advice is overwhelming. Unaccompanied children and families do not have the resources to pay for private representation, and Bay Area non-profits do not have the resources to represent all of the unaccompanied children and families. Undaunted, we have collaborated with other Bay Area organizations to spearhead a response to this crisis and ensure these children and families are able to exercise their right to seek protection under our laws.



Client Highlight:

Darwin came to the U.S. from El Salvador at the age of twelve. He is legally blind and has volunteered as a counselor-in-training at a residential camp for visually-impaired children. In 2013, he received a Youth of the Year Award from the San Francisco Youth Commission for his exceptional leadership and civic engagement. We helped Darwin obtain immigration relief. He is now able to pursue a college education without fear of deportation. He is currently abroad in Paris for the semester, studying world religions and foreign political and economic systems.



Palo Alto Weekly

Local Non-Profit aids
in Central American
immigrant crisis
August 1, 2014

“Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto has served as a resource for Central American children fleeing intense gang violence & unstable family situations... help[ing] them secure legal relief, which can range from asylum to a special status for juveniles who have been abused, abandoned or neglected by one or both parents.”

Housing

The housing crisis in the Bay Area continues, with rents rising faster than income for working class people. Sadly, working class tenants in San Mateo County who are displaced from their homes by rising rents, medical emergencies, or job loss are finding it increasingly difficult to find other affordable housing in the Bay Area. Their most affordable housing option is usually their current home. Our housing team fights for tenants who are trying to avoid becoming homeless as they face the consequences of this heated rental market. We fight especially hard for East Palo Alto tenants facing eviction because East Palo Alto's rent stabilization ordinance keeps rent levels affordable.



Over the past year, we have helped hundreds of families avoid homelessness, repair dangerous conditions, and resolve other housing issues. With the support of our volunteers, we will help hundreds more families in the coming year.

Client Highlight:

Vanessa is a single mother of three who works as a dental assistant. Vanessa lived in a rent-stabilized apartment in East Palo Alto for two years before Equity Residential began evicting her from her home. Before she found her apartment, Vanessa and her children lived in a homeless shelter, and she feared she would be forced to return to the shelter with her family. She knew she could not afford a new apartment in this housing market. Vanessa began packing her boxes, and, heartbroken, she put her name on a wait list for a homeless shelter. We helped Vanessa to investigate the case and to negotiate a settlement that allowed her to stay in her apartment with her family.



Bloomberg Businessweek

In Silicon Valley, a New Investment: Eviction
April 7, 2014

East Palo Alto “is where Silicon Valley’s cooks, janitors and housekeepers live, often working second jobs to hang on to their homes as rents soar and wages stagnate.” “Attorneys have helped residents ward off eviction by presenting evidence [of] possible violations of the rent stabilization ordinance” and demonstrating that the City’s largest landlord “had been aware of flaws in units, such as broken heaters or missing door locks, and did not correct them within a reasonable time frame.”

Anti-Predatory Lending

Our Anti-Predatory Lending program seeks to halt and remedy the destructive consequences of foreclosure in the communities we serve. We counsel homeowners facing default and help them remain in their homes, if possible. We also help residents impacted by foreclosure overcome legal challenges and rebuild their lives. We also share our expertise via educational presentations for homeowners, workshops for young people and trainings for service providers.



We are also part of a collaborative endeavor to increase low-income residents' financial literacy. Secure Future\$, a collaboration between our agency, Nuestra Casa and Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, delivers English and Spanish language community financial skills program that helps residents learn to effectively manage their personal and household finances, participate in the banking system, build and repair credit, and establish assets. Last year, over 220 residents enrolled in Secure Future\$ classes, and we are excited to continue this program in 2015.

In addition, our ongoing collaborative advocacy and education work with Nuestra Casa around anti-payday lending legislation yielded a significant win this year. On August 26, 2014, the city council of Menlo Park voted unanimously to ban payday lenders from their jurisdiction. Our advocacy also led the City of San Mateo to undertake a study of options to regulate payday lending.

Client Highlight:

Richard Woods, a 34-year-old with a 3-year old toddler, came to our partner Samaritan House for rental assistance. Mr. Woods went to Check'n'Go in San Mateo for a payday loan when he and his wife fell behind on rent. In addition to the upfront payday interest fees, he incurred bank fees for non-sufficient funds. After a month of financial coaching and assistance, Mr. Woods began to turn things around. He opened an account at the San Mateo Credit Union, paid current his rent, and began to act on a plan to rebuild his credit and begin saving. And he got out of payday lending debt.



THE DAILY JOURNAL

The Peninsula's homepage

*City may regulate payday lenders:
San Mateo city officials looking at
land use, promote educational
outreach
July 16, 2014*

Community Legal Services' anti-payday lending campaign spreads to San Mateo, which "is joining cities across the county in considering restrictions of payday lenders ... and promoting educational programs to prevent consumers from furthering the cycle of debt."

Small Business Legal Advice

In summer 2014, Skyline College asked us to find a transactional attorney who could present practical legal concepts to an assembly of students ages 17-60 with varying degrees of business knowledge and experience. We connected Skyline with a volunteer attorney who presented on business incorporation and contracts to the introductory business class.

The presentation was part of a newly developed program to provide low-income small business owners with access to legal advice from experienced transactional attorneys. One of our volunteers uses his background as former in-house counsel to assist our clients with contract performance disputes, choices between business entities, compliance with regulations, and operational matters. This volunteer's expertise was crucial in helping one client resolve a contract dispute.

Through informational presentations and individual consultations at regular clinics, we provide many small business owners in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties with access to legal information and full representation so they too can create healthy businesses that contribute to the growth of our community.



Consumer Protection



We help people with a wide range of legal problems through our consumer protection work. These issues include consumer fraud, insurance, bankruptcy, car financing, contracts, and real estate issues. Hundreds of clients received services through our consumer program last year. The majority of services are provided through clinics designed to

leverage volunteer resources. For example, volunteer attorneys from the Consumer Law Center of San Jose host free bankruptcy and debtor's rights advice clinics at our offices every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. At other clinics, volunteers, including attorneys, trained law school students, summer associates from local firms, and law firm associates conduct interviews, write legal memoranda, provide advice, and advocate as appropriate in each case. Clients with more complex legal problems are referred to attorneys from local firms who provide their services free of charge.

Pro Bono

At its heart, our Pro Bono program directs resources into underserved communities by matching private attorneys with residents in need of legal services through workshops, clinics, and direct referrals.

Earlier this year, we partnered with Google on a panel aimed to inspire and encourage immigrant youths to embark on intellectual and professional pursuits beyond what they might have imagined.



“Believe in yourself. The world may not be telling you that you are worthwhile, but you are.” Juan Lang, a security engineer at Google, Inc., told the audience of young immigrants and their families who were collected in the Google dining hall, awaiting assistance from volunteers on their Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) applications. Sarahi Salamanca, a recent recipient of the DACA Champion of Change award by the White House, was adamant that the young people in the room “dream big.”

Although there are many challenges facing undocumented youth, as the panel demonstrated, each youth has enormous potential and an opportunity to pursue their dream. As the panel ended and the youth began meeting with the Google volunteers, everyone felt inspired. Some were inspired to work hard in school and achieve their goals. And others were inspired to work hard to ensure these youths have a chance to follow their dreams.

Volunteer Highlight:

“When I reflect on my interpreting work with Community Legal Services, I think ‘Action.’ I think this is where the vision of helping people is really happening. Personally, I feel that I grow as a person and as a professional because I am empowered by the work. As much as I feel that I am helping someone, I am grateful because I feel they are helping me.”

-Eduardo Muñoz, Volunteer Interpreter



442 Volunteers*
16,228 Hours Donated*
\$3,908,193 Market Value of Donated Services*

*In calendar year 2013

Supporters

FY 2014: July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014

\$50,000+	Grove Foundation, Heising-Simons Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, SingleStop USA, Inc., Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Skadden Fellowship Foundation, State Bar of California
\$25,000+	Fenwick & West LLP, Greenberg Traurig LLP, Silicon Valley Campaign for Legal Services, Sobrato Family Foundation, U.S. Department of Justice, Zellerbach Family Foundation
\$10,000+	County of San Mateo, DLA Piper LLP, Facebook, Inc., Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Hurlbut-Johnson Fund, The Morrison Foerster Foundation, Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, Sand Hill Foundation, Sobrato Organization, Stanford Public Interest Law Foundation, van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation, Vera Institute of Justice, Inc., White and Case LLP, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation
\$5,000+	Atkinson Foundation, Bay Area Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Collaborative, City of East Palo Alto, Cooley LLP, Dorsey and Whitney Foundation, Equal Justice America, Kilpatrick Townsend and Stockton LLP, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Latham and Watkins LLP, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, Palo Alto Community Fund, Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund, Perkins Coie, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw-Pittman LLP, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Colin Stretch, Wells Fargo Foundation
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