ANNUAL REPORT 2018

GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR,
YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE,
THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF YOUR TEEMING SHORE.
SEND THESE, THE HOMELESS, TEMPEST-TOSSED, TO ME:
I LIFT MY LAMP BESIDE THE GOLDEN DOOR.
EMMA LAZARUS

WWW.STEPFWD.ORG
ANNUAL REPORT 2018

MISSION STATEMENT
To provide specialize legal services to low-income communities.

PHILOSOPHY
As an agency, we specialize in serving victims of crime, particularly victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. We pride ourselves on being culturally competent, victim-centered, and trauma informed.

Step Forward Foundation began as a family-based charitable project. As the founder became a licensed attorney, the vision shifted to its current mission of offering legal services to underserved communities. This is the primary reason that we are headquartered in Morgan Hill, California - so that we may better serve the southern portion of Santa Clara County and the surrounding southern counties, including San Benito and Monterey.

Over the last several years, the team has grown into a family of its own, boasting four attorneys, one DOJ Accredited Representative, two paralegals, and one legal assistant. Our open space office facilitated and encourages collaboration among team members and fosters lasting relationships.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Residents line up for a meal at Dilley’s South Texas Family Residential Center, the largest immigrant detention center in the United States. ILANA PANICH-LINSMAN (Photo credit: https://www.texasobserver.org/eye-on-texas-family-detention-dilley/)

Thanks to a generous donation by CarbonFive, STEP Forward was able to send three attorneys and one legal assistant to Dilley, Texas for a week to assist detainees at the ICE detention facility. The trip was coordinated through the CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project. The staff were there from Sunday night, September 30, through Saturday morning, October 6. Though they were not allowed to enter the facility itself, or take photos, they met with women and children in a portable building just outside the facility, where they counseled them on the Credible Fear Interview process and asylum, or other, eligibility and process. They worked nearly 12-hour days Monday through Friday, pausing only to eat and sleep.

Awards

April 11, 2018
Karen was honored with the Unsung Hero Award by the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking, appearing with her one-month-old baby, Adrienne in tow.

April 14, 2018
Karen was honored with the Young Alumnus Rising Star Award by the Santa Clara Law Alumni Association, at the annual Celebration of Achievement.

October 5, 2018
Karen was honored with the Melinda “Mindy” Zen Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Award by the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council.
**CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS**

- Hispanic: 80.9%
- White (Non-Hispanic): 11.4%
- Asian: 7.7%

**CASES OPENED**

- U Visa
- VAWA
- T Visa
- SIJS
- Asylum
- Removal
- AOS
- Appeals
- Family Law

* based on cases filed in 2018

**WHAT ARE THESE CASES?**

- **U Visa**: Victims of a qualifying crime
- **VAWA**: Abused spouse or child or a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- **T Visa**: Victim of human trafficking
- **SIJS**: Unaccompanied minor who has been abused, neglected, or abandoned
- **Asylum**: Fear of persecution on account of a protected ground
- **Removal**: Deportation defense
- **AOS**: Application for permanent residence
The staff at Step Forward Foundation is proud of the large caseload that we carry individually and as a team. Our team-based approach enables us to serve as many people as possible. We pride ourselves on efficiency in addition to high-quality legal advice.
REVENUE

63% increase in PUBLIC SUPPORT

69% increase in GROSS RECEIPTS

FINANCIALS

EXPENSES

$110,155 net income

$13,928 fees paid on behalf of client

$10,823 liability insurance

$8,936 printing and postage

$18,800 rent
FUTURE PROJECTS

FAMILY LAW
We have recently added a new family lawyer, enabling us to expand our ability to serve victims of violence in family court, with DVROs, divorce, child and spousal support, and custody.

MONTEREY
2019 began with a new funding opportunity from CalOES, which expands our service area into Monterey County, from which several clients were already traveling for our services.

VIDEO CONSULTS
In addition to serving additional counties, we are implementing video consultations as an alternative to physical travel to our office, including a secured laptop available in Hollister.

PARTNERS & COALITIONS

Bay Area Legal Aid
Working Together for Justice

Community Solutions
Eliminating Racism
Empowering Women

YWCA

Santa Clara Law
Est. 1911