We are pleased to share with you this Impact Report from fiscal year 2016-2017. It was a pivotal year for Center for Community Solutions (CCS) as we embarked on implementing a new strategic plan that was born out of a 2015 visioning process that included participation from our key stakeholders — board members, donors, community partners, volunteers, and staff.

CCS was established in 1969 as a grassroots effort by individuals who sought to find solutions to a growing community problem — domestic violence and sexual assault. Since our inception, the organization has evolved to become a leader in creating innovative solutions that empower survivors to achieve safety and self-sufficiency.

Last year, we served 21,624 individuals through our comprehensive programs that offered solutions for safety, stability, justice, healing, and prevention. In the pages that follow, you will see the impact of your support. Thank you for your belief in our mission and for your partnership support as we continue our quest for deeper, broader, and more encompassing solutions so that one day, together, we can truly end this violence.

With gratitude,

Verna Griffin-Tabor
CEO/Executive Director

Stephanie Wagner
President, Board of Directors
SOLUTIONS FOR Safety, Stability, Justice, Healing and Prevention

1,416 individuals received legal services
1,342 individuals received advocacy services
627 adults and children received 3,362 counseling sessions
12,749 individuals received education on domestic violence, sexual assault, and healthy relationships
21,624 total individuals served
248 women, men, and children received 10,386 nights of safehousing
5,242 calls received on 24-hour hotline
31,533 impressions made during general and outreach events
282 volunteers
22,205 hours

“CCS has provided my family with a safe space to fall apart, be nourished and learn new skills. They supported my personal and family growth in a new healthy way. Thank you CCS and staff!”
Solutions for Safety — 24 Hour Hotline

Every hour of the day and night, staff and volunteers answer hotline calls to ensure support and resources are available to those who need them. Callers range from community partners such as law enforcement or social services agencies, to family, friends, and the survivors themselves when impacted by intimate partner violence or sexual assault.

“I learned that I can make a better life for myself and I can be my own advocate (and that I don’t have to go back to the abuser). Everyone on the staff was wonderful. All of you were so encouraging and helpful. I was so blessed to be able to stay here. Thank you.”

“I got what was necessary to move forward — stability and being safe. Thank you for everything!”

Solutions for Safety and Stability — Advocacy Services

**Domestic violence** advocacy services included safety planning, lethality assessments, court accompaniment, connections to vetted resources, and translation services.

**Sexual assault** advocacy services offered 24/7 in-person advocacy and accompaniment to survivors during forensic exams. Follow-up services included accompaniment to law enforcement interviews, continued support with resources and options, and direct help for emergency essentials. Special services included rental assistance and Survivor Wellness Day programs.

**Child advocates** worked with youth to help them identify and cope with their emotions, pinpoint their unique strengths and skills, and get along better with others. To improve a child’s post-traumatic experience, advocates assisted parents with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) within schools, provided court accompaniment, connected families to vetted referrals throughout San Diego county, and helped families gain financial assistance for basic needs.

- **Clients**: 1,342
- **Contacts**: 5,885
- **Forensic exams**: 421
Solutions for Safety and Stability — Residential Services

CCS is committed to client-centered services by listening to clients’ needs rather than imposing how we believe their time could be most useful. We support our clients by accommodating their complex needs and atypical family compositions. We are their partner on their journey to self-sufficiency, as they define it.

10,386 bed nights

248 adults & children

“...They gave a lot of help with what I needed, and overall, they are beautiful people. I feel more sure of myself and my kids are better. I received all of the help I needed. Thank you to all of the staff at Hidden Valley House.”

Solutions for Safety and Justice — Legal Services

Our dynamic legal team provided high-impact help in three areas: 1) Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) assistance, 2) direct representation of clients on targeted legal issues, and 3) High Risk Team* coordination.

Clients received comprehensive legal screenings, safety planning, help completing DVROs, consultation on family law matters, court-hearing preparation, and limited direct representation.

With an emphasis on sexual assault survivors, direct representation services were offered countywide. Our legal team helped survivors face the legal “fall-out” of victimization on issues of privacy, safety, housing, employment, education, family law, income, and immigration.

CCS coordinated High Risk Teams in Central, East and North San Diego County.

*High Risk Teams are cross-agency teams that meet regularly to review domestic violence cases at high level of risk for homicide. These teams include local law enforcement, both District and City Attorney’s Offices, Probation, Adult Protective Services, and others.
"They gave me hope and support to keep fighting my battles and other issues that occurred after the incident. With their help, I was able to grow as a person."

Solutions for Healing — Counseling Services

Our counseling team’s mission is to work with survivors to help them understand the nature of invasive trauma symptoms, help develop skills to combat these symptoms, and foster a safe space where survivors are heard, validated, and can envision a healing path forward.

We provided individual and group counseling services that consistently showed a 15%-20% positive increase in our client’s sense of well-being. Clients reported feeling able to reframe their traumatic experience as something that happened to them rather than defining who they are as a person.

627 clients
3,362 sessions

"I am not alone. [My children] are more happy and less scared. The staff is great. I want to thank all of you for your support. I am so grateful."

Solutions for Prevention — Education and Outreach Services

We believe in engaging the community through education and outreach efforts that seek to change accepted ideas about domestic violence and sexual assault, using age appropriate methods from a culturally humble perspective.

CCS offered a wide array of outreach and education efforts through our CCS advocates, therapists, attorneys, and prevention staff. These programs addressed audiences throughout the San Diego community, including schools and universities, faith-based organizations, military agencies, and community partners. We were invited to showcase our world-class services at both statewide and national conferences.

265 trainings
12,749 individuals engaged
208 community outreach events
31,533 impressions made
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Our Mission
To end relationship and sexual violence by being a catalyst for caring communities and social justice.