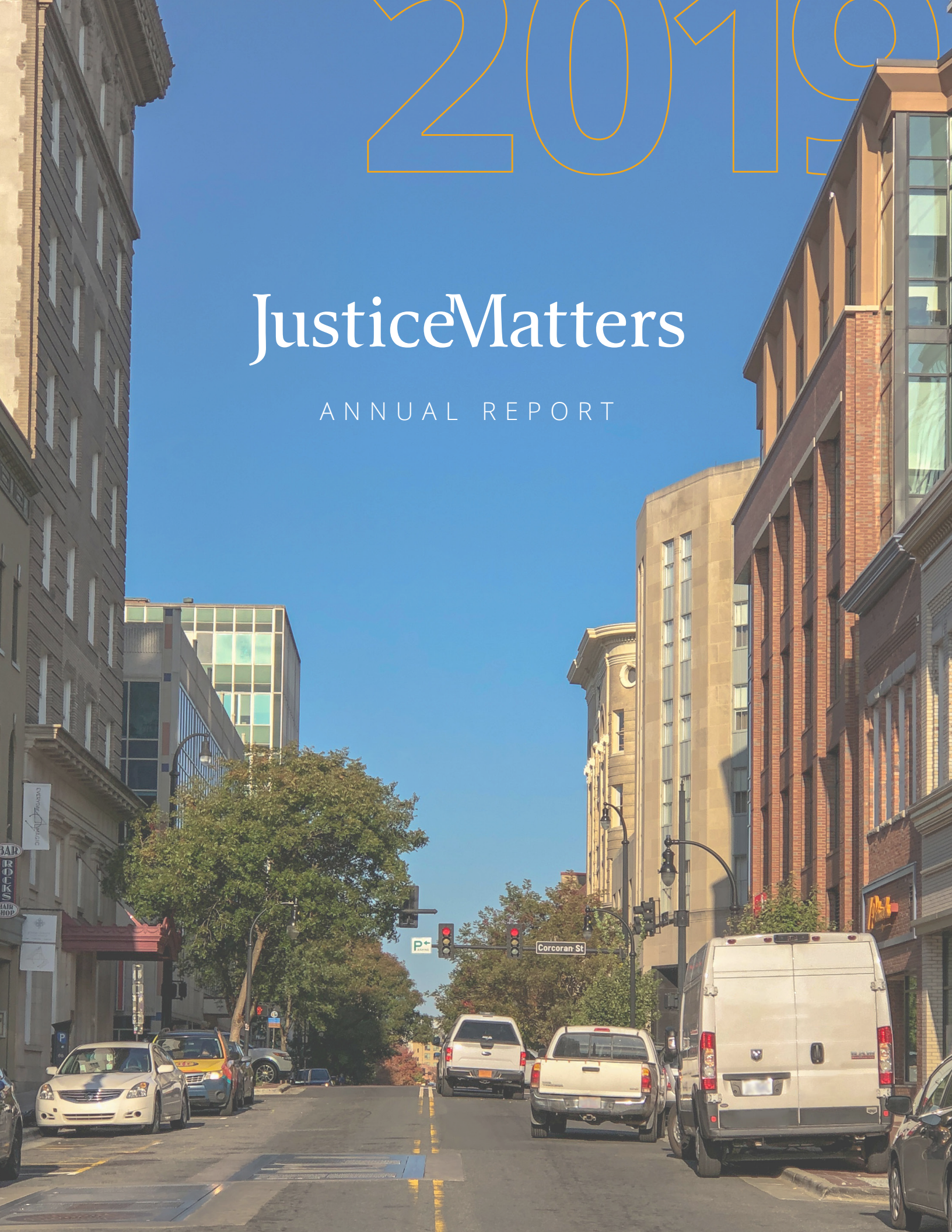


2019

# JusticeMatters

ANNUAL REPORT







# Highlights From Our History

- Incorporation with \$2,000 in seed funding

2009
- Hired Executive Director full-time

2011
- Hired second attorney part-time

2013
- Launched preventive legal services

2015
- Awarded NC GCC grant, launched Pro Se Center at Durham County Courthouse, advised on “Strengthen Human Trafficking Laws/Studies Act”

2017
- Launched state court consulting, launched Pro Se Center at Mexican Consulate, advised on “Civil Cause of Action and Expansion of Expunction Eligibility for Victims Act”

2019
- Volunteer Executive Director (Libby Coles) elected by board, launched legal clinics

2010
- Launched restorative legal services

2012
- Secured first T Visa for survivor client, Executive Director appointed as inaugural chair of NC Human Trafficking Commission

2014
- Hired behavioral health professional, solidifying commitment to trauma-informed legal practice

2016
- Launched Wake County office, advised on “Human Trafficking Restorative Justice Act”

2018



## A Letter From Libby



Dear friends,

On November 9<sup>th</sup> we marked 10 years of service. Since 2009, JusticeMatters has provided trauma-informed legal services and promoted just policies and practices for the flourishing of our neighbors. We have much to celebrate!

In the past 5 years alone, we’ve served over 1,300 clients, trained over 3,000 professionals, and provided expert testimony to shape 3 bipartisan bills. Together we’ve witnessed light break through darkness and life triumph over death.

Yet, human trafficking ravages—violating the inherent dignity and worth of our neighbors. Human trafficking is a multibillion-dollar industry in the United States, thriving at the intersection of vulnerability and greed. We cannot ignore this injustice.

As we enter our second decade, we are poised to leverage our experience and expertise to make an even greater impact. Our foundation is firm—we are grounded in our mission to address the roots and repercussions of human trafficking and fueled by our vision for the freedom and flourishing of all.

Thank you for your partnership. As we celebrate the past, I invite you to engage with JusticeMatters at a deeper level in the coming years—to work and journey with us toward a more beautiful and equitable future.

May God give us strength!

Gratefully,

*Libby Coles*

Libby Magee Coles, Esq.  
Founder & Executive Director

### Board of Directors:

- Jason Brege, Esq.

Partner, Smith Anderson LLP - Raleigh, NC
- Heather Horton, CPA

CFO, NC Department of Commerce - Raleigh, NC
- Andre Mann

Partner-Impact Investing, Heirloom Investment Mgt - Raleigh, NC
- Rhonda McNairy, CPA

Community Member - Raleigh, NC
- Robin Muse, Esq. (Chair)

Attorney - Raleigh, NC
- Mary Stonecypher, CPA

Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP - Charlotte, NC
- Ashley Treible

Community Member - Durham, NC
- Neal Winterhof

Private Investor - Durham, NC
- Jeffrey Wolfe, Esq.

Managing Attorney, Forrest Firm - Winston-Salem, NC
- Harriet Worley, Esq.

Attorney - Raleigh, NC



# About JusticeMatters



Human trafficking is the exploitation of our neighbors for labor or commercial sex acts through force, fraud, or coercion. Legal services and advocacy are critical both to promote restoration and prevent initial and future victimization. Many survivors of human trafficking—and those with heightened vulnerability—cannot afford these services.

Our team addresses the roots and repercussions of human trafficking by providing trauma-informed legal services and promoting just policies and practices throughout North Carolina.

We are honored to equip our clients with the legal tools they need to better protect and provide for themselves and others, and we are honored to advocate for justice in societal systems and structures.

Ultimately, we envision the freedom and flourishing of all!

Staff: 14

Counties Served: 52

Offices: 2  
Durham, NC  
Raleigh, NC

# 2019 Services

On a budget just under \$800,000, we provided services valued at approximately \$2,400,000 on the market.

## 2019 Direct Services: Seeking Justice for Individuals and Families

500+  
Individuals Served

Preventive Services  
*protecting the vulnerable*

Restorative Services  
*helping survivors rebuild their lives*

500+  
Additional Children Impacted  
*(beneficiaries of services provided to their parents/caregivers)*

## 2019 Systemic Services: Promoting Justice in our Community and Culture



### Training & Education

Equipped groups/agencies to better prevent and identify/respond to human trafficking.

300+ Professionals Trained

1500+ Citizens Educated

- Launched "Trauma-Informed Legal Practice" CLE to promote client and attorney wellbeing.



### Advocacy

Advanced best practices and innovative policies.

- Advised on legislation strengthening NC's response to human trafficking.
- Advised on creation of NC's Standards of Service for Survivors.
- Launched consulting to help NC state court system better identify and respond to survivors.



### Leadership

Led/supported collaborative efforts, serving on 14 task forces and expert advisory teams.



# Our Impact

Human trafficking is the second most lucrative illicit industry in the world. North Carolina is believed to have **one of the top 10 highest rates\*** in the United States.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is the exploitation of our neighbors for labor or commercial sex acts through force, fraud, or coercion. Legal services and advocacy are critical both to promote restoration and prevent initial and future victimization. Many survivors of human trafficking—and those with heightened vulnerability—cannot afford these services.

## SYSTEMIC SERVICES

### Promoting Justice in our Community and Culture

We promote policies and practices to confront the industry of human trafficking, addressing the root issues of systemic injustice that cause and/or contribute to our clients’ vulnerability to exploitation in the first place.

We recognize and value the collective impact of working in tandem with our many public and private collaborative partners.

## DIRECT SERVICES

### Seeking Justice for Individuals and Families

We provide trauma-informed family law and humanitarian immigration legal services, equipping our clients with the legal tools they need to protect and provide for themselves and the children in their care.

## PREVENTIVE SERVICES

We address factors that cause and/or contribute to vulnerability, reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors.

*For example, we equip caregivers with legal tools to provide safe, stable homes for the children in their care—preventing these children from entering the child welfare system, which increases risk of exploitation. And, we represent foreign national survivors in obtaining legal status and work authorization, empowering our clients to engage safely in our community and better protect and provide for their families.*

## RESTORATIVE SERVICES

We provide survivors with the legal tools they need to secure justice and rebuild their lives.

*For example, we equip survivors with legal tools to safely report crime to law enforcement, access medical and mental health services, reunite with family, and secure education and employment. And, we assist foreign national children who have survived abuse, neglect, or abandonment to obtain a secure legal connection to a caregiver.*

We are honored to equip our clients with the legal tools they need to protect and provide for themselves and others, and we are honored to advocate for justice in societal systems and structures. Together with our clients, we are strengthening our community and building a brighter and more equitable future!

Access to stable housing, food, transportation, and medical care are primary determinants of overall wellbeing. We equip our clients to overcome legal obstacles to these and other necessities, including physical safety, legal status, employment, education, social services, and reunification with family.



# Our Clients

Our clients are our neighbors and represent the diversity of ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, and religion in our community. We are honored to provide legal representation and together call North Carolina home!

**Ages: 4–72**      **Nationalities: 65+**

As we celebrate our 10th year of service, we are more convinced than ever that *justice matters*.

## Justice matters to Martha\*...

a grandmother committed to providing a safe home for her three grandchildren—shielding them from the risks associated with entering the child welfare system—as their mother struggled with alcoholism after their father was murdered. Exhausting her savings to feed and clothe her grandchildren, Martha couldn’t afford to pay an attorney to obtain legal custody—the legal authority required for her to make all the decisions parents make for their children, including medical and educational decisions. When Martha tried to enroll the oldest in kindergarten, Durham Public Schools referred her to JusticeMatters for legal services.

Our team was honored to represent Martha through the court process to obtain custody, and today she has the legal tools she needs to protect and provide for her grandchildren. Now, Martha can enroll them in school, sign field trip permission slips, take them to the doctor and dentist, and register them for dance and karate. We look forward to hearing about their adventures in the years ahead!

## Justice matters to Paul\*...

a teenager from West Africa who dreamed of attending school and playing basketball in the U.S. When he was recruited by a “coach” to attend a private high school as a student-athlete, his family gave everything they had to pay for his student visa, plane ticket, and the coach’s “expenses”. However, when Paul arrived in NC, he realized his family had been deceived. Paul was housed in an unfurnished apartment with several boys from various countries, including the U.S.

Every morning he was dropped off outside various local grocery stores and ordered to raise money for his “sports team”—money the “coach” pocketed. The “coach” coerced Paul into this work by withholding Paul’s passport, claiming he was waiting on final documents for Paul’s student visa. Paul grew increasingly desperate as time passed, and finally convinced the “coach” to allow him to attend the local public high school. There, a teacher earned Paul’s trust and helped him report the “coach” to law enforcement, who referred Paul to JusticeMatters for legal services.

Our team was honored to represent Paul in obtaining a T Visa—immigration relief for survivors of human trafficking—that empowered Paul to remain legally in the U.S., assist law enforcement in the prosecution of his trafficker, and complete high school. No longer controlled by his trafficker, Paul is enrolled in college and working to support his family as he pursues his dream of becoming an engineer.



artwork courtesy of a JusticeMatters client

## Justice matters to Amy\*...

a young professional from East Asia who survived a violent, state-sanctioned crime in her home country and fled to the U.S. to escape the perpetrators. Alone and working as a waitress in NYC, she met a woman from NC who offered her a full-time job and help with college tuition—an opportunity that would make it possible for her to support her aging parents as they struggled to provide for her little girl back home. When Amy arrived in NC, however, the woman isolated her and forced her to work at her illicit massage business (IMB), providing sex acts to men who purchased her for their pleasure and then rated her online for other buyers. Amy felt trapped since she didn’t know how to speak English or whom she could trust. The woman convinced her that the police would arrest her and send her back to her home country if she left her protection. Finally, local law enforcement raided the IMB and connected Amy with a service provider that referred her to JusticeMatters for legal services.

Our team was honored to represent Amy in obtaining a T Visa—immigration relief for survivors of human trafficking—that empowered Amy to remain legally in the U.S., assist law enforcement in the prosecution of her trafficker, and reunite with her daughter and husband. Today, Amy is on a path to healing—rebuilding her life, completing a college degree, and caring for her daughter with the loving support of her husband and church community.

## Justice matters to Rachel\*...

a young woman who was sexually abused by family members and entered the child welfare system at age 13. After over a dozen different foster care placements, Rachel aged out of the foster care system without a permanent home. A survivor of trauma with no family or community support, she found solace in the arms of a man who offered her love and a place to stay. However, after the man romanced her, he coerced her into an opiate addiction—solidifying his power and control over her—and then sold her for sex, advertising her online and profiting from her repeated rape. Rachel was trapped, addicted to a powerful, illegal substance she couldn’t afford on her own, and afraid of being arrested and incarcerated. Ultimately, law enforcement did arrest Rachel on drug charges but recognized her as a survivor of human trafficking—prosecuting her trafficker and connecting her with services.

Our team was honored to advocate for Rachel as law enforcement and prosecutors sought to make sense of her situation. JusticeMatters represented her as a victim-witness—ensuring her rights were protected during the investigation and prosecution of her trafficker. Today, Rachel seeks healing, supported by several of our community partners, and is working hard to build a life for herself in our community.

## Justice matters to Eva\* and Daniel\*...

who was told at 11 years old that she must become the girlfriend of a cartel member or her 13-year-old brother, Daniel\*, would “pay the same price his cousin did”—his life. Fleeing their home country in Central America, Eva and Daniel began the long journey to seek safety in the U.S. with their aunt, who had cared for them since the death of their mother and abandonment by their father. Their aunt never made it to the U.S., dying in an accident along the way. Eva and Daniel found themselves in a new country, alone, and shouldering enough hurt and pain for a lifetime. However, their adult cousin and her husband, Maria\* and Ray\*, stepped up to provide a home for Eva and Daniel in NC, and they were referred to JusticeMatters by a former client who attended their church.

Our team was honored to represent Maria and Ray in obtaining legal custody of Eva and Daniel, and then to secure lawful permanent residency (a “Green Card”) for Eva and Daniel through a form of immigration relief for children who have been abused or neglected. Today, Eva and Daniel have the opportunity to begin healing and pursue their education, safe in the loving care of family and in therapy with one of our partner agencies.

## Justice matters.

Please visit [JusticeMattersNC.org](https://JusticeMattersNC.org) to get informed, contribute your skills and resources, and journey with us.



# 2019 Finances

We offer legal services at no cost to our clients—no one should be denied access to justice because they cannot afford it.

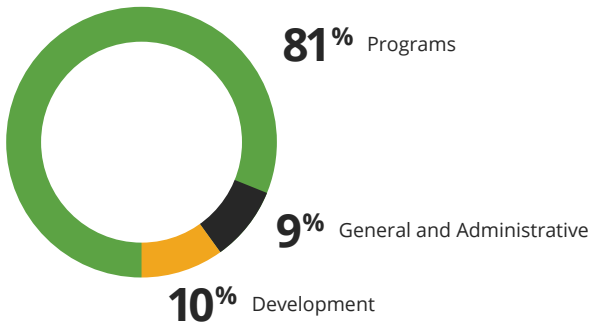
## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

|   |           |                   |
|---|-----------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                           |           |                   |
| Total Checking/Savings                  | \$        | 108,003.95        |
| Accounts Receivable                     | \$        | 57,602.90         |
| Total Other Current Assets              | \$        | 784.73            |
| Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets         | \$        | 5,248.06          |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                     | <b>\$</b> | <b>171,639.64</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                      |           |                   |
| Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses     | \$        | 667.40            |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                       |           |                   |
| With Donor Restrictions                 | \$        | 39,880.61         |
| Without Donor Restrictions              | \$        | 131,091.63        |
| <b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>                 | <b>\$</b> | <b>170,972.24</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b> |           |                   |
|   | <b>\$</b> | <b>171,639.64</b> |

## Consolidated Statement of Activities

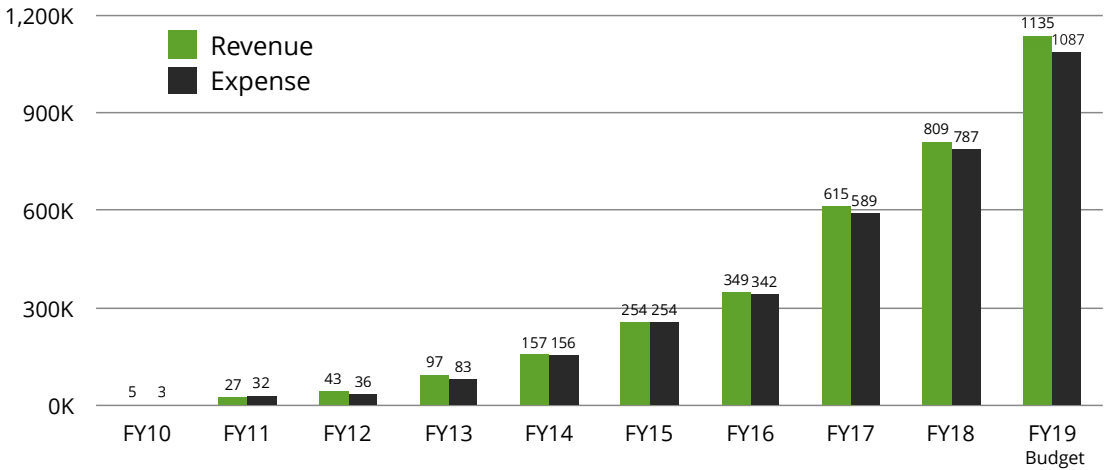
|   |           |                   |
|---|-----------|-------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                             |           |                   |
| Contributions Income                      | \$        | 349,008.77        |
| Grant Income - Reimbursement for Services | \$        | 393,308.22        |
| Grant income - Restricted                 | \$        | 60,000.00         |
| Other Services Income                     | \$        | 6,324.82          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                       | <b>\$</b> | <b>808,641.81</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                           |           |                   |
| Program Services                          | \$        | 643,860.27        |
| Fund Development                          | \$        | 76,984.18         |
| General & Administrative                  | \$        | 65,839.61         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                     | <b>\$</b> | <b>786,684.06</b> |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>                         | <b>\$</b> | <b>21,957.75</b>  |

## FY 2018 Expenses



JusticeMatters is honored to be supported by generous champions, clients, giving circles, congregations, corporations, foundations, and a grant awarded by the NC Governor’s Crime Commission.

## Budget Growth



## Where we’re headed

As we enter our second decade, we are poised to leverage our experience and expertise to make an even greater impact.

Over the next five years, we will advance three primary missional goals:

- 1 Ensure every survivor of human trafficking has access to trauma-informed legal services
- 2 Equip every key justice system actor to identify and respond to survivors of human trafficking
- 3 Ensure our state laws comprehensively address human trafficking, from prevention to restoration

It will take the expertise, assets, and influence of each one of us, doing our part, to expose and eradicate the human trafficking industry in North Carolina.

Please visit [JusticeMattersNC.org](https://JusticeMattersNC.org) to partner with us in building a more beautiful and equitable future—a future of freedom and flourishing!



Human trafficking violates  
the inherent dignity and  
worth of our neighbors.

We cannot ignore this injustice.

JusticeMatters

*Offices in Durham, NC and Raleigh, NC | 919.794.7511 | [www.JusticeMattersNC.org](http://www.JusticeMattersNC.org)  
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