



BUILDING A BRIGHTER
FUTURE TOGETHER

JusticeMatters

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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We celebrate the child who drew this picture for Will, an attorney on our team. We want all people we serve to find hope and justice at the end of the rainbow.

LETTER FROM LIBBY

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Dear friend,

As I reflect on 2023, I celebrate a year of hard-won growth and impact as we addressed human trafficking in North Carolina, reducing the risk of exploitation and helping survivors rebuild their lives.

Over the past year, we've strengthened our teams and infrastructure for greater sustainability. We've laid the groundwork for program evaluation to support continuous improvement, strengthening our services. All the while, we've been strengthened by generous partners like you!

At its core, this work for freedom and flourishing is the work of partnership, coming alongside each other in mutuality—affirming the image of God in each of us, and the interconnectedness of our lives.

Our staff comes alongside each client who engages our services. Over the months and years of representation, our attorneys listen, learn, and hold each client's trauma history in order to effectively protect their rights and pursue their goals. Our clients trust us with some of the most painful moments of their lives, while continuing the hard, day-to-day work of endurance and healing in order to build a brighter future for their families.

We honor each client who entrusts their story to us. As we partner together to overcome injustice, we witness the power of faith, hope, and love.

In 2023 we responded to a record 1,543 callers requesting services. As in years past, most callers were referred by service providers, public agencies (courts, social services, schools), and former clients. We honor these partners—it takes all of us to build a more just community.

Finally, I honor you for partnering with JusticeMatters in the beautiful ways you do—giving, advocating, praying, and serving. I invite you to join me in celebrating the fruit of our partnership and deepening our partnership in the year ahead.

On behalf of JusticeMatters' Board of Directors and staff, and in honor of those we serve, I'm delighted to share our 2023 Annual Report!

For freedom and flourishing,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Libby Coles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "L" and "C".

Libby Magee Coles, Esq.
Founder & Executive Director

YEAR IN REVIEW

Fiscal Year 2023 Highlights

In 2023 we responded to 1,543 calls requesting legal assistance, a record number. As in years past, we consistently operated at capacity without advertising or outreach.

1,543

CALLERS REQUESTED SERVICES

578

RECEIVED INFORMATION &
REFERRALS FOR SERVICES

559

CLIENTS SERVED*

160

CHILDREN AND DEPENDENT
ADULTS IMPACTED**

**provided legal consultation(s), legal services, or representation.*

***the legal status and/or security of these individuals was directly impacted by services provided to their parent or caregiver, our client.*

We provide free, trauma-informed legal services that prevent human trafficking and help survivors rebuild their lives.



Lelé ("baby") was gifted to us by a client we represented this year, helping her rebuild her life and reunite safely with her sister after nearly two decades apart. A globally-renowned handmade doll, Lelé displays the culture and craft of artisans in Mexico, the client's home country. And, Lelé reminds us of the resilience of all those we serve, like Ms. Thomas.*

We represented Ms. Thomas through the court process to secure legal custody of her granddaughter, Lauren*. Abused by her mother's violent boyfriend, Lauren spent much of her childhood searching for love and safety. As a teenager she started selling her body for a safe place to live—older teens had introduced her to a man who offered drugs and an "easy way" to survive.

Angry and hurting, Lauren started skipping school and was suspended for fighting. When the Department of Social Services intervened, Lauren told her social worker that she would run away and never be found if she was returned to her mother's home.

Ms. Thomas was determined to provide a safe, stable home for Lauren, but she faced an insurmountable obstacle. It costs thousands of dollars to hire an attorney to secure custody—the legal authority to provide the stability of a permanent home and obtain academic services, medical care, and therapy for Lauren.

We were honored to represent Ms. Thomas for free, through the generosity of our supporters. Awarded custody, Ms. Thomas can now provide the stability and support Lauren needs to begin to heal and complete high school.

Together with caregivers like Ms. Thomas and supporters like you, we reduce the risk of exploitation and promote lifelong wellbeing—transforming the trajectory of children's lives.

** To protect client identity, we've utilized a pseudonym and woven several stories together into this composite story.*



Human trafficking is the exploitation of vulnerability for profit. At JusticeMatters we help our clients overcome legal barriers to safety, stability, and services—reducing risk of exploitation and promoting restoration and wellbeing.

Some of our clients have survived human trafficking. Many more are at heightened risk of exploitation due to lack of legal status in the United States, lack of legal security in a family, or prior experience of trauma.

As we protect the rights of our clients and provide trauma-informed legal services, we reduce the risk of exploitation and help survivors rebuild their lives.



We address factors that cause vulnerability, reducing risk and strengthening protections against exploitation.

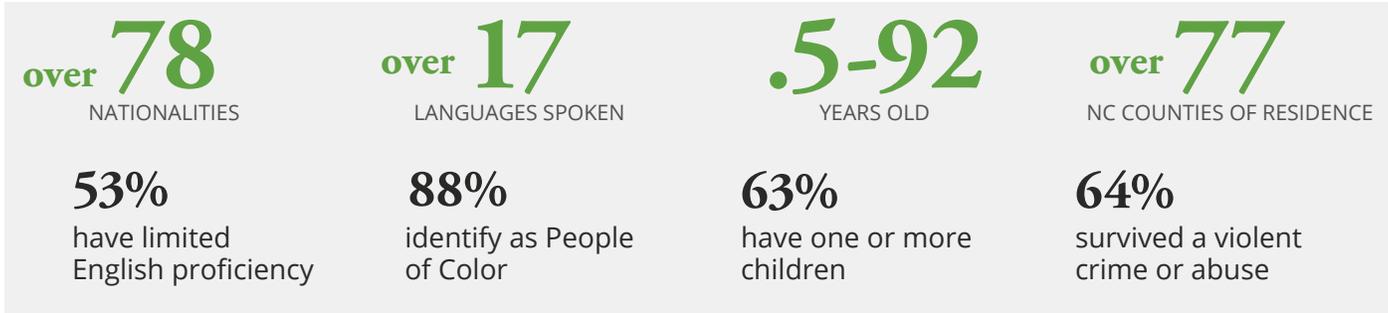


We equip survivors with legal tools to safely report crimes, access medical and mental health services, reunite with family, and secure education and employment.



We promote policies and practices to address the root issues of systemic injustice that contribute to vulnerability.

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



Ally, Survivor Network North Carolina

"We're honored to have JusticeMatters as Survivor Network North Carolina's first ever ally!"

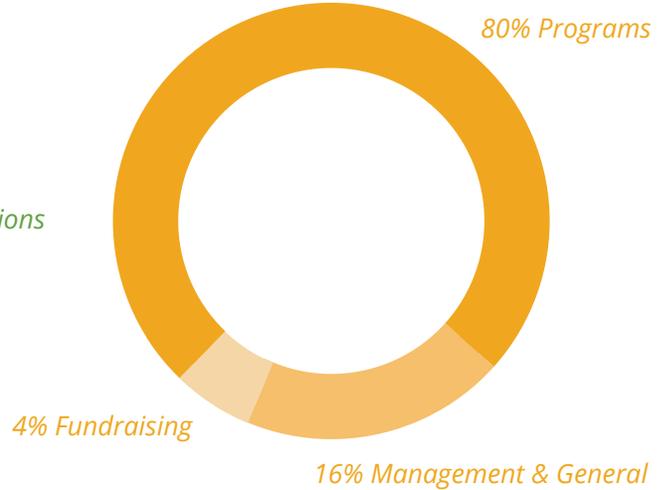
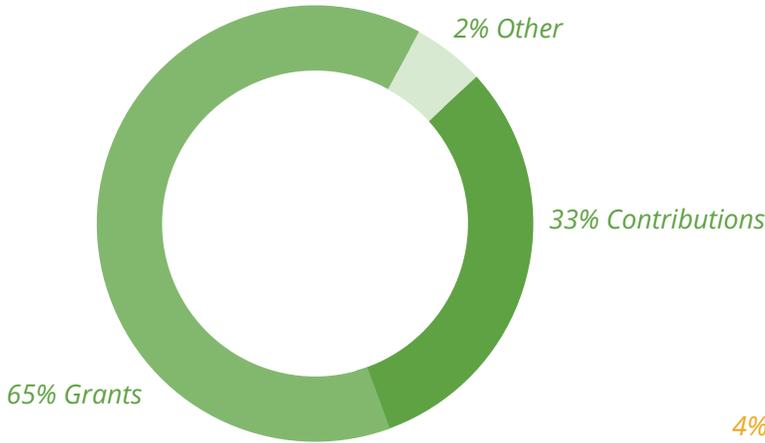
—Shelby Thompson, Associate Director, Survivor Network North Carolina

FINANCIALS

Your generosity sustains this work.

REVENUE: \$1,483,208

EXPENSES: \$1,606,021



THANK YOU TO OUR GRANT FUNDERS

We are honored to partner with these funders toward our common goals:

City of Durham • City of Raleigh
Duke University Health System, Building Healthy Communities Charitable Grant Fund
GlaxoSmithKline, LLC, IMPACT Award • NC Governor's Crime Commission
NC Human Trafficking Commission • NC State Bar IOLTA • Wake County
Women's Giving Network of Wake County

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A Note
From Our
Treasurer

We are grateful to you, our donors, and to our generous God for supplying all our needs. JusticeMatters' work could not continue without your support. Thank you!

This year the timing of our Annual Report allows us to include audited financials for FY2023, which ended September 30, 2023. In FY2023 our revenue was just below \$1.5M and expenses were just over \$1.6M. Our strong cash reserves absorbed that difference, and we project an increase in both revenue and cash reserves in FY2024. We have engaged a new CPA firm, TJT, and are grateful for their nonprofit expertise as we steward the resources entrusted to JusticeMatters."

—Mark Atkinson, Board Treasurer

Sustaining gifts help us plan ahead. Consider making a monthly gift at justicemattersnc.org/donate.



Partner with JusticeMatters for the freedom and flourishing of all!



Our approach is grounded in both the reality of injustice and vision for a more just and equitable world—a world where no one is exploited, a world of freedom and flourishing. Realizing this vision takes all of us.

We are all called to generously invest the good gifts God has given us—our resources, skills, education, expertise, and influence—to "seek justice" and "defend the oppressed" (Isaiah 1:17). Join us!

CONNECT

Meet Libby for coffee; connect us with others who seek justice.

libby@justicemattersnc.org

LEARN

Invite our staff to present to your business, congregation, class, giving circle, or group.

justicemattersnc.org/get-involved

GIVE

Your generosity makes this work possible!

justicemattersnc.org/donate

ADVOCATE

Join our mailing list to learn more about human trafficking and how you can stand with survivors in North Carolina.

justicemattersnc.org

PRAY

May God continue to give us strength for today—and hope for tomorrow!



JusticeMatters

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*Joyfully designed and developed by Hey Awesome Girl | heyawesomegirl.com
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