A MESSAGE TO FLORENCE PROJECT DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It was quite a year for the Florence Project, our 25th! As we reflect on 2015, immigration is once again in the national spotlight. The numbers of immigrants and refugees fleeing harm is only increasing, a trend that we fear will continue long into 2016. We remain the only free legal services provider in Arizona for detained immigrant children, women, and men in need of legal assistance and representation.

Our staff continues to pioneer innovative legal strategies for our clients, and our work serves as a model for partners across the country. Our work is only made possible by your support. Thank you!

As you have likely heard, numbers of unaccompanied refugee children fleeing harm and violence in Central America are again on the rise. Our staff have been working non-stop to provide “know-your-rights” presentations and individual legal screenings to each child in immigration custody. Because of high numbers, it is not uncommon for our legal assistants and attorneys to meet with over 120 children in one day. They sit with children and hear stories of gang violence and domestic abuse, and assess their legal cases.

I think of our client Javier, who was left an orphan and forced to work in the fields when he was only 9 years old. He later fled violent gang recruitment and sought protection in the U.S. While only children, our clients display incredible grit and perseverance. With your support, we can continue to represent children like Javier.

There are also many detained immigrant women and men in Arizona who depend on the services of the Florence Project. One such client, Addis from Ethiopia, recently won asylum with the help of Florence Project pro bono attorneys, Yaser Ali, Esq., and Lilia Alvarez, Esq., after spending more than two-and-a-half years in detention. If not for the many hours those attorneys committed to the case, Addis would not be free today. I also think of former client Diana, a mother of two U.S. citizen daughters, separated from her family and detained for more than four years while she fought her domestic violence asylum case. Diana won her case and had a joyous reunion with her family because of the collaboration of Florence Project staff attorneys Charles Vernon, Esq., and Tally Kingsnorth, Esq., and pro bono attorneys from Perkins Coie, LLP, including Howard Cabot, Esq., Joshua Crum, Esq., and Heather Hamel, Esq. Our clients, like Diana, are resilient, strong individuals, who inspire us every day. Diana’s victory would not have been possible without our steadfast supporters, legal staff, and our pro bono community.

We are also grateful to Perkins Coie, LLP, for supporting our new Legal Director position, which will allow us to deepen our advocacy and impact, handling challenging legal cases, strategic appeals, and national legal advocacy initiatives with partner organizations. In addition, last year we were able to greatly expand our social services program, thanks to generous support from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. We now have three social workers on staff, and we continue to pioneer holistic services and strengthen one of the first legal and social services models in the country.

Your yearly support brings light and hope to the many immigrant children, women, and men the Florence Project serves. Despite the current political discourse on refugees and immigrants, we’ve moved into the New Year with renewed energy and obligation to provide quality legal services to detained immigrants in Arizona. We thank you for supporting our work this past year, and ask that you continue to partner with us in the year to come.

(Names have been changed to protect privacy)

- Lauren Dasse, Esq
Executive Director

MISSION AND VISION

Our mission is to provide free legal and social services to detained adults and unaccompanied children facing immigration removal proceedings in Arizona.

Our vision is to ensure that all immigrants facing removal have access to counsel, understand their rights under the law, and are treated fairly and humanely.

^ From Left to Right:
Dan Bagatell, Esq.
Partner, Perkins Coie, LLP

Paul Eckstein, Esq.
Partner, Perkins Coie, LLP

Laura St. John, Esq.
Florence Project Legal Director

Dan Barr, Esq.
Partner, Perkins Coie, LLP

Lauren Dasse, Esq.
Florence Project Executive Director
Florence Project donors (you!) and pro bono attorneys bring hope, safety, and justice to children escaping abuse, abandonment, and neglect, and women and men fleeing harm in their home countries.

PRO BONO ATTORNEYS IN 2015

Carmen Abarca-Wilson, Abarca Wilson Law Office, PLC

Mario Acosta Jr., Mario Acosta Law Office

Sara Agne, Snell & Wilmer, LLP

Lillian Aponte

Alexander Arpad, Fennemore Craig, PC

Elizabeth Balfour, Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP

Jill Bloom, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bensenn, & Loewy, LLP

Dustin Cammack, Stetson & Johnson, LLP

Jorge Castañeda, Castañeda Law

Paul Charlton, Stetson & Johnson, LLP

Shuting Chen, Law Office of Shuting Chen

Jason Choy, Kirkland & Ellis, LLP

Holly Cooper, UC Davis School of Law

Quintin Cushman, Stetson & Johnson, LLP

Katie Dick, Google

Jena Decker-Ro, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bensenn, & Loewy, LLP

Seth Draper, Salvatierra Law Group, PLLC

Bo Dui, Perkins Coie, LLP

Stephan Eggum, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bensenn, & Loewy, LLP

Jesse Evans-Schroeder, Law Offices of Matthew H. Green

Judy Flanagan, Judy C. Flanagan, PC

Lorenzo Frausto, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bensenn, & Loewy, LLP

Ken Frakes, Bergin, Frakes, Smalley & Oberholtzer, PLLC

Anuessa Ghandi, National Immigrant Justice Center

Matt Green, Law Offices of Matthew H. Green

Seth Guertz, Snell & Wilmer, LLP

Anthony Guidice

Patrick B. Hall, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Kara Hartzler

Shannon Hennessey

Kari Hong, Law Offices of Kari Hong

Saul Huerta, The Huerta Law Firm, PLLC

Joy Isaacs, Snell & Wilmer, LLP

Bob Jobe, The Law Offices of Robert Jobe

Sital Kalantry, Cornell Immigration Appellate Clinic

Bryan Kim, Lewis Rosa Rothgerber Christie, LLP

David Koch, Dechert, LLP

Katie Ruhl, Ruhl Immigration, PLLC

Anthony Seletz

Seth Goertz, Snell & Wilmer, LLP

Jena Decker-Xu, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bensenn, & Loewy, LLP

Laura Murray-Tjan, Federal Immigration Appeals Project

Adam Kaplan, Honeywell International

Estelle McKee, Cornell Immigration Appellate Clinic

Frank Long, Dickinson Wright, LLP

Jill Bloom, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bensenn, & Loewy, LLP

Katie Ruhl, Ruhl Immigration, PLLC

Sandy Sheridan-Requeur, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bensenn, & Loewy, LLP

Christina Powers, Law Office of Christina L. Powers

Nina Rubin, Bacon Immigration Law and Policy Program

Adam Reich, Thorpe Schwer, PC

Juan Rocha, Law Office of Juan Rocha

Vicenta Rodriguez Baezuelo, Baezuelo Law Office

Katie Ruhl, Ruhl Immigration, PLLC

Mercedes Ryderen, Burns Law Office

Jesse Salen, Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP

Erin Schaad, Erin Schaad Law

Robert Schaffer, Lewis Rosa Rothgerber Christie, LLP

Margarita Silva, M Silva Law Firm, PLC

Spencer G. Schruff, Thorpe Schwer, PC

Gregory Schneider, Squire Patton Boggs, LLP

Nicole Simmons, Bowman and Brooke, LLP

Frances Sjoberg, Lewis Rosa Rothgerber Christie, LLP

Kelly Smith, The Law Offices of Kelly A. Smith

Javier Sobampo, The Sobampo Law Firm, PLLC

Daniel Stewurt, Latham & Watkins, LLP

Tim Strong, Stetson & Johnson, LLP

Olga Chantel Tomchin, Transgender Law Center

Claudia Valenzuela, Heartland Alliance

Carline Zelol, Dechert, LLP

Grant Wahlquist, Latham & Watkins, LLP

Hillary Walsh

Anita P. Wu, Latham & Watkins, LLP

Stephen Yale-Loehr, Cornell Immigration Appellate Clinic

Zereb Zwick, National Immigrant Justice Center

Koren Zwick, National Immigrant Justice Center

Florence Project Pro Bono Attorney

Shannon, long-time Pro Bono Attorney for the Florence Project and her client.

“Working with the Florence Project has meant so much to me. It has really enriched my life. The Florence Project provides me with the opportunity to help children in need. The possibility that you can help facilitate a positive fresh start for a child who has been traumatized and in need of a champion is what keeps me coming back as a volunteer.”

Shannon Hennessey

Florence Project Pro Bono Attorney

FLORENCE PROJECT CHAMPIONS

Florence Project donors (you!) and pro bono attorneys bring hope, safety, and justice to children escaping abuse, abandonment, and neglect, and women and men fleeing harm in their home countries.

OUR MAJOR DONORS IN 2015*

Susan Anderson
Al Arpad
Joseph & Susan Arpad
Dan Bagatell
Nadine Basho
Ellen Basso
Charles & Allison Blanchard
John & Bonnie Bouma
Chris Brejie
Howard G. Buffett Foundation
Milagros Cisneros
Margaret Diaz
Arlene Diskin
Paul & Flo Eckstein
William Fairbourn
Ira & Susan Feldman
Noel & Anne Fidel
Laura Glass-Hess
Marc Goldfeder
Peter Guerrero
Frances & Larry Hammond
Emily Harville
Leticia Hernandez
Elizabeth & Junius Hoffman
Celeste Howard
Margaret Kirch
Mary Ann Kirch
Ira Kurzban
Yali Lincroft & Peter Lincroft
R.A. & Rebecca Montano
Luís & Mary Navarro
Conor Oberst

Randall & Gina Papetti
Arthur Piccinati
Norma Price
David Regenold & Hang Nguyen
Roberto Reveles
Jose De Jesus & Nina Rivera
James Seletz
James Seward & Julie Karcis
Margarita Silva
Margot Zaterman
American Immigration Lawyers Association

Anonymous
Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education
Combined Federal Campaign of Maricopa County
Community Foundation for The National Capital Region

Fennemore Craig Law Firm

Kanana Foundation

Lewis Rosa Rothgerber Christie, LLP

Little Chapel of All Nations

Lutheran Immigration And Refugee Service

Perkins Coie, LLP

Puzaukas Family Foundation

Snell & Wilmer, LLP

Social Glue Project INC

Steele Foundation, Inc.

Sunnynvale Presbyterian Church

US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

Vera Institute of Justice

William K Perry Farms

*Donors of $1,000 or more in 2015
YOUR SUPPORT ENSURES QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION & KEEPS FAMILIES TOGETHER

FLORENCE PROJECT CLIENTS

- Over 3,000 immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking women and men detained daily in Florence or Eloy, Arizona.
- Over 1,500 unaccompanied children detained daily in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, who are escaping abuse, neglect, or violence back home.
- The Florence Project exists because there remains no public defender system in immigration court. We are there to meet this need.

Thanks to your support, our clients do not have to represent themselves in court alone.

Many of our clients are the primary breadwinners for their families and have lived in the United States for years. Others are fleeing persecution and violence. Our clients also include children traveling alone who have suffered severe abuse in their home countries, or on the journey to the U.S. Some of the women we work with are survivors of domestic violence. Finally, we also represent clients with severe mental illness.

YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO SERVE THOUSANDS OF CLIENTS EACH YEAR – RESILIENT AND COURAGEOUS INDIVIDUALS WHO INSPIRE US EVERY DAY. THANK YOU.

4,451 Immigrant and refugee women and men received legal services in 2015
151 Immigrant and refugee women and men received social services in 2015
7,455 Unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children received legal services in 2015
107 Unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children received social services in 2015

*name has been changed to protect privacy
A CORNERSTONE OF OUR LEGAL WORK IS THE “KNOW YOUR RIGHTS (KYR)” PRESENTATIONS GIVEN TO WOMEN AND MEN IN DETENTION

• A KYR presentation provides critical information on navigating immigration court and educates detainees on their basic rights while in detention. Because these are civil, not criminal proceedings, an individual has the right to an attorney, but only if they can afford one. **There is no public defender system in immigration court.**

• After a KYR presentation, detainees are given the opportunity to receive an individual case evaluation with the Florence Project legal team.

• Your support ensures that the estimated 8 in 10 detainees who cannot afford an attorney are educated on their basic rights and given the tools to fight their immigration cases.

*Without the knowledge learned during a KYR presentation and Florence Project representation, clients would likely be deported back to their home countries – back to the very violence and extreme poverty they seek to escape. Thank you for your generosity that helps inform and represent our clients.*

ANOTHER IMPORTANT PIECE OF OUR WORK IS PRO SE ASSISTANCE.

• Your support allows us to directly represent some, but not all, adults in detention. To stretch every donation and reach the most people, the Florence Project pioneered the Pro Se Assistance Program. Through the combination of a “Know Your Rights” presentation and an intensive case assessment interview, the legal team is able to assist clients to fight their own immigration cases successfully.

*Direct representation and the Pro Se Assistance Program allow us to help more detainees each year. Thank you for making this happen with your support!*  

Impact of your support:

- **4,451** Detained adults participated in “Know Your Rights,” presentations in 2015

- **2,484** Detained adults provided intensive case assessment and pro se assistance in 2015

- **22** Women and men with severe mental illness represented by a Florence Project staff attorney in 2015

- **28** Women and men directly represented by a Florence Project staff attorney in 2015

- **60** Women and men provided pro bono (volunteer) attorneys in 2015

“LISA*”

Lisa is a lesbian woman from El Salvador who suffered years of discrimination and physical and sexual assaults based on her sexual orientation. She was raped by a gang member who wanted to “convert her” to be heterosexual. Lisa also suffered persistent violent attacks when she was in public with her partners. Fleeing her persecution, Lisa was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the spring of 2015. With the help of Florence Project attorneys, Lisa filed a request for release on bond with ICE. Her request was denied citing she was a flight risk, despite strong community support. Lisa and Florence Project attorneys submitted a second request for a bond, this time with strong evidence illustrating community support for Lisa while she fights her case outside of detention. This time ICE granted Lisa an incredibly high bond of $15,000.

Community groups in Tucson heard the news and rallied for Lisa; these community groups paid the bond and now Lisa is living at Casa Mariposa in Tucson, AZ. Thanks to your support and Florence Project attorneys, Lisa can now pursue a better and safer life.

*Name changed to protect privacy*
YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES SAFETY & HOPE TO CHILDREN

Phoenix & Tucson PROGRAMS

CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

• 2015 proved to be another year with incredibly high numbers of unaccompanied children fleeing abuse, abandonment, and violence in their home countries.

• Thanks to your support, the Florence Project was able to provide “know-your-rights” presentations and legal assistance to nearly 20% of the almost 40,000 children detained in the United States in 2015.

• In addition, the Florence Project provided individual legal consultations and case analysis to 17% of all unaccompanied children detained in the United States in 2015. Thank you!

“MELANIE”

Melanie comes from the Western Highlands of Guatemala where she grew up in a very large family. Her father hit her when he drank. He left welts on her body and he would yell at her. On multiple occasions, he forced her out of the house leaving her with no place to go except to seek refuge in the nearby mountains. Melanie was too embarrassed to go to a neighbor’s home. Her childhood was marked with hunger, fear, poverty, and chronic abuse.

She left her home country at age 17 because she could no longer live in a violent household. A few months after entering the United States, the Florence Project made contact with Melanie, and after learning her story, the legal team offered representation. Our attorney filed her asylum application, and referred her case to the Florence Project social worker, so Melanie could talk with a counselor.

She was reunited with a supportive, caring older sister who has provided her with a new home and new opportunities. Most importantly, Melanie was afforded hope and the promise of stability and safety. Thank you for your support, which makes this and other victories possible.

*Name changed to protect privacy
HELPING CHILDREN ALONE & AWAY FROM HOME
Phoenix & Tucson PROGRAMS continued

CHILDREN’S SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

- **Mental Health** – Most children are suffering from trauma, either from abuse, neglect, or violence at home, or from their journey to the United States. Most children we see need counseling, and the Children’s Program Social Worker makes sure they get the help they need.

- **Housing Crisis** – Many times our clients are on the verge of homelessness. In these cases, our Children’s Program Social Worker coordinates with community groups and volunteers to find children temporary, or sometimes permanent, housing. The stability of a home makes a big difference in a successful legal case.

- **Educational/Social Support** – Our children clients are in the United States often for the first time in their lives. Here we help them enroll in school, mentorship or vocational programs, and meeting basic needs like food, clothing, and school supplies.

- **Legal** – Our Children’s Program Social Worker coordinates with clients to make sure they attend appointments and hearings for their legal cases.

The Social Services Program works in conjunction with and complements our legal services to increase the likelihood for success for our clients’ cases. For example, children and young adult clients would not be released from detention while they fight their legal cases without the social services team finding safe housing for them. Clients also need help meeting their basic needs such as enrolling in school, finding a counselor, or helping secure identity documents. In the world of unaccompanied children there is almost no way to distinguish between the legal and social needs of clients because they are deeply interconnected. I am extremely grateful to our donors who make this work possible.

– Anna Marie Smith
Florence Project Children’s Program Social Worker

IN PURSUIT OF A BETTER & SAFER LIFE
Florence & Eloy PROGRAMS continued

ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Our Social Services Program coordinates supportive social services for some of the most vulnerable detained individuals, including the mentally ill, survivors of torture, LGBT clients, asylum seekers, domestic violence survivors, people with significant medical issues, and parents in immediate risk of losing custody of their children because of detention.

Types of Social Services Cases - Florence & Eloy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parental Rights Support</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torture &amp; Trauma Survivors</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Issues</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious Medical Issues</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release Requests &amp; Planning</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other – LGBT, domestic violence survivors, etc</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Florence Project adult clients received social services case management in 2015

107 Unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children received social services case management in 2015

151 Florence Project adult clients received social services case management in 2015

“...The focus of our social services work is supporting the immigration cases of our clients and helping them adjust to life as new Americans.

Below are some of the types of social services we provide our children clients.

The Social Services Program works in conjunction with and complements our legal services to increase the likelihood for success for our clients’ cases. For example, children and young adult clients would not be released from detention while they fight their legal cases without the social services team finding safe housing for them. Clients also need help meeting their basic needs such as enrolling in school, finding a counselor, or helping secure identity documents. In the world of unaccompanied children there is almost no way to distinguish between the legal and social needs of clients because they are deeply interconnected. I am extremely grateful to our donors who make this work possible.”

– Anna Marie Smith
Florence Project Children’s Program Social Worker
BUILDING COMMUNITY
Outreach, Collaboration, & Advocacy

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Partnerships with Casa Mariposa, the Puente Movement, the Phoenix Restoration Project, Youth Adelante, and the Arcoíris Liberation Team continue to strengthen community support for our clients through letter-writing, visitation, and post-release hospitality.

Participation in local and national advocacy initiatives on issues such as the proliferation of for-profit immigrant detention centers, oppressively high parole bond fees, comprehensive immigration reform, family detention and separation, the detention bed mandate, and Border Patrol abuse.

Community outreach by the numbers:

- 7 trainings on family unity with 119 participants.
- 38 trainings with 738 participants including public defenders, community organizations, and immigration lawyers on topics such as the overlap of criminal and immigration law, basic deportation defense, representing unaccompanied immigrant children, asylum law, and the Florence Project’s work.
- 82 volunteers contributed their time and skills to the Florence Project in 2015, including attorneys, physicians, mental health professionals, interpreters, and country conditions researchers.
Florence Project staff first met Leo in the Eloy Detention Center in early 2012. He was a long-time Lawful Permanent Resident with eight U.S. citizen children, all living in California. Leo also resided in California before being placed in Immigration custody in Arizona. He was determined to fight his case to stay in the U.S., even though he was far from his family and regardless of how long it would take. Leo was working on his own on an argument for termination of his case. His argument was that the U.S. Government had no right to deport him. Florence Project Staff Attorneys helped Leo with his termination argument before the Immigration Judge, and then on an appeal before the Board of Immigration Appeals. His case was denied, and the Florence Project appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Since Leo’s case was before the Ninth Circuit, he was now eligible for a bond hearing. The Florence Project geared up to request the bond hearing when suddenly, Leo vanished from the Eloy Detention Center. As our staff desperately tried to locate him, he appeared in Alabama at the Etowah County Jail. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had transferred Leo without any notice to his legal team and sent him even farther away from his family.

Despite his transfer to Etowah, Leo’s case would remain with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The transfer did, however, complicate his bond hearing. Specifically, the Florence Project was applying for a Casas bond hearing, a right for detainees in the Ninth Circuit, which includes Arizona, but a Casas bond hearing is not a right that exists for those detained in other circuits. Nonetheless, the Florence Project argued that DHS could not deny an individual his right to a “Casas” bond hearing simply by transferring him to another jurisdiction. After much back and forth, DHS agreed to hold a “Casas” bond hearing by video. Unfortunately, the Immigration Judge denied the bond in that first hearing.

Undeterred, the Florence Project filed another appeal, this time challenging the Judge’s denial of bond before the Board of Immigration Appeals. That appeal was successful, but at the consequent second bond hearing before the Immigration Judge, Leo was again denied.

At this point, it would have been easy for Leo to give up. But he showed amazing perseverance. Because the case was now headed to the 9th Circuit and, in 2015, the Florence Project did not have the capacity to continue representation at this level, Leo needed a pro bono attorney.

The Florence Project called Bob Jobe from the Law Offices of Robert B. Jobe (a top immigration firm in the country) and asked for his help. Without even hearing what the case was about he said “Whatever you need, we’ll do it.”

Thus Leo’s case before the Ninth Circuit moved forward. Anna Benvenue, Esq., Florence Project pro bono attorney from Robert B. Jobe’s office, handled the 9th Circuit appeal, eventually winning a hearing with the Board of Immigration Appeals. Meanwhile, Mike Mehr, Esq., a Florence Project pro bono attorney also from the Law Office of Robert B. Jobe, simultaneously filed a promising post-conviction relief petition to illustrate Leo was not deportable from the U.S. Anna argued the case at the Board of Immigrations Appeals and ultimately won an outright termination order to completely dismiss the case!

After years of fighting, Leo won his case. He was released from Etowah Jail on Christmas Eve 2015 and reunited with his family, after nearly four years of detention. Thank you for making this Merry Christmas possible with your support!
I served on the Florence Project Board to honor my grandparents, all of whom sought refuge, freedom, and opportunity in this land. I served on the Board to challenge our country to better honor the dream that drew so many of our ancestors to these shores. And I served on the Board because many immigrants in detention, if only informed of their rights and helped to assert them, have viable legal defenses against deportation, including solid claims to asylum and residential status under U.S. law. Helping such people is, for me, what it means to be a lawyer.

- Honorable Judge Fidel
FLORENCE PROJECT STAFF
(as of December 31, 2015)

ADMINISTRATION
Lauren Dasse, Esq., Executive Director
Christian Avila, Office Coordinator
Jamie Martin Bengston, Operations Manager
Hugo Polanco, Development & Outreach Coordinator

FLORENCE & ELOY TEAMS
Laura St. John, Esq., Legal Director
Rekha Nair, Esq., Florence/Eloy Managing Attorney
Annabel Barraza, Legal Assistant
Lola Sophia Bovell, Esq., Staff Attorney
Liz Bradley, Esq., Staff Attorney
Carmen Smith-Estrada, Legal Assistant
Ben Harville, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney
Jasmina Nogo, Esq., Staff Attorney
Charles Vernon, Esq., Pro Bono Coordinator

SOCIAL SERVICES TEAM
Kaitlin Porter, LMSW, Social Services Coordinator
Liz Casey, Social Worker
Anna Marie Smith, Children’s Social Worker

FINANCIALS

Federal Government Subcontracts 74%
Foundation Grants 17%
Individuals 6%
Law Firms 2%
Religious 1%
Corporations 1%

TOTAL REVENUE: $2,476,091.21

Program Services 85%
Office Overhead 7%
Building Cost 5%
Management & Fundraising 3%

TOTAL EXPENSES: $2,219,926.73
MISSION & VISION
Mission: Our mission is to provide free legal and social services to detained adults and unaccompanied children facing immigration removal proceedings in Arizona.

Vision: Our vision is to ensure that all immigrants facing removal have access to counsel, understand their rights under the law, and are treated fairly and humanely.

ABOUT THE FLORENCE PROJECT
The Florence Project participates in local and national advocacy and outreach initiatives to amplify the voice of immigrant detainees and ensure they are treated fairly and humanely. We also act as a national resource development center for “know your rights” materials for detainees, legal service providers, and community organizations.

FLORENCE PROJECT’S HISTORY
The Florence Project was created in 1989 in response to a plea from Immigration Judge John J. McCarrick, who publicly urged Arizona attorneys to fill the gap in representation created by the absence of a public defender system in immigration removal proceedings—a gap that in his view threatened the statutory and constitutional rights of detained indigent immigrants. In response, attorney Chris Brelje, supported by his law firm Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie (Lewis and Roca at the time), spent a year establishing the project in Florence.

With services first limited to Florence, AZ, the Florence Project expanded in 1998 to include legal services to immigrants detained at the Eloy detention center, then in 2000 to provide legal services to unaccompanied immigrant minors. In 2007, the Integrated Social Services Program was established to address the diverse social service needs of especially vulnerable clients. From 2007-2012, the Florence Project ran the Arizona Defending Immigrants Program, providing training and consultations to public defenders about the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. Today, the Florence Project is home to 45 staff and served nearly 12,000 people in detention in 2015.