

HER JUSTICE

Shift the Power



2020

FY

ANNUAL REPORT

Her Justice stands with women living in poverty in New York City by recruiting and mentoring volunteer lawyers to provide free legal help to address individual and systemic legal barriers.



A Commitment to Justice in Uncertain Times

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

While so many things in our lives were put on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the legal needs of our clients—and the essential services we provide—were not. We know that the health and economic impact of the current crisis disproportionately burdened women like our clients, 90% of whom are women of color and 80% of whom are survivors of intimate partner violence. 2020 further illuminated what we already knew—justice is not equally distributed in this country.

Women living in poverty, particularly Black and Brown women, are forced to rely on a civil justice system that has been historically and systematically under-resourced to access basic rights, like financial autonomy and freedom from abuse. While the system was designed to be accessible without a lawyer, those who are unrepresented often come up short, unable to navigate an increasingly complex system on their own.

For 28 years, Her Justice has been standing with women living in poverty in New York City by providing critical, free legal help for matters that are urgent in their lives. Through our pro bono first model, we insert thousands of private sector pro bono attorneys and other experts into the civil justice system each year, breaking down barriers that reinforce and exacerbate gender, racial and economic imbalances. **Today, our work is more important than ever.**

We are so proud of what we accomplished this year, serving 6,900 women and their families, achieving outcomes that empower them to make independent choices about the things they care about most in a time of great uncertainty. The numbers that you will see in this report are impressive, but they only tell part of the story. There is no way to quantify the remarkable resilience of the women we serve, our small-but-mighty team, and our steadfast volunteers and supporters.

When our world suddenly shifted, our team moved with it, adapting to the unfamiliar terrain. Our live legal helpline was brought into our homes. Virtual court appearances occurred in blazers and sweatpants. We problem-solved with clients who did not always have access to technology, in an increasingly tech-dependent legal system, and opened up safe and secure spaces in our office from which clients could appear remotely. We revamped our volunteer training programs and our community outreach efforts, and we were able to reach more people than ever before. We built coalitions and advocated for important reform at the policy level, including keeping ICE out of the courts so that our foreign-born clients could seek the justice they deserve without the fear of unwarranted arrest.

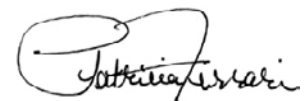
Every day, the unwavering commitment of our staff, our board of directors, and our volunteer attorneys to serve and empower women in our community astounds us. Despite the burden of collective stress and fear, we forged on.

Our community, filled with loyal, long-term supporters and new faces dedicated to justice, showed up in ways like never before. We are humbled and awestruck by the overwhelming outpouring of generosity this past year—from hours spent volunteering legal expertise to financial support that makes our mission possible.

It is with our deepest gratitude that we thank you all for joining us in our commitment to bringing forth justice for women living in poverty in New York City. **When women are lifted, their children and their communities rise with them, and there is hope for a better future.**



Amy Barasch
Executive Director



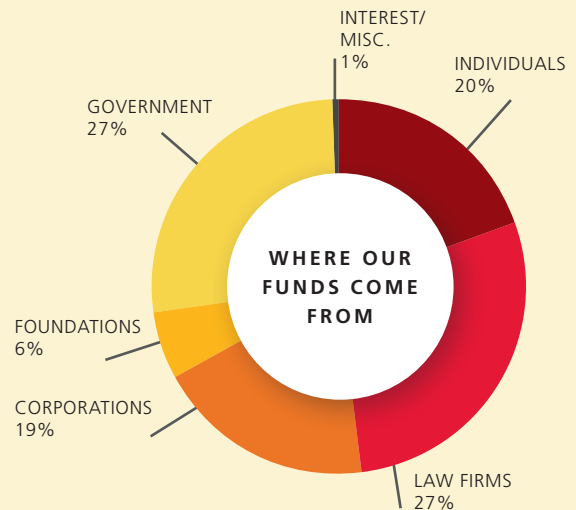
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July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020

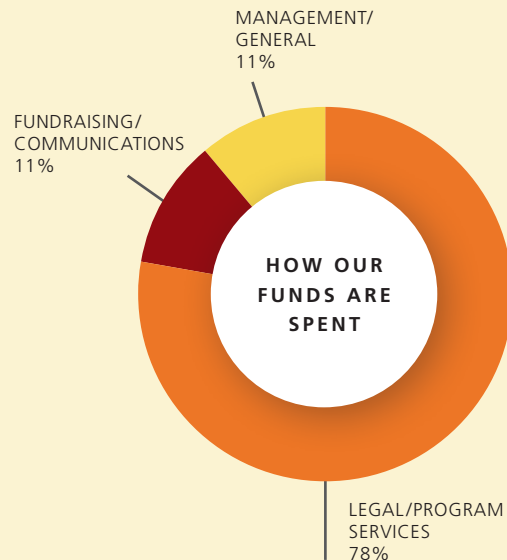
OPERATING REVENUES

Individuals	\$ 1,032,861
Law Firms	\$ 1,489,245
Corporations	\$ 995,546
Foundations	\$ 299,693
Government	\$ 1,397,811
Interest/Other Income	\$ 25,224
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	\$ 5,240,380
Donated Legal Services	\$ 38,636,825*
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 43,877,205



OPERATING EXPENSES

Legal/Program Services	\$ 4,030,598
Fundraising/Communications	\$ 558,852
Management/General	\$ 554,955
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 5,114,405
Donated Legal Services	\$ 38,636,825*
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 43,781,230
NET INCOME	\$ 95,975
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,629,393
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 786,157
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 4,843,236



* Unaudited as of December 15, 2020

For every \$1 donated, Her Justice delivers approximately \$8 of legal services directly to our clients at no cost to them.

“I just want to thank Her Justice and especially my attorney for giving me the chance and the opportunity to raise my voice for things that matter to me.”

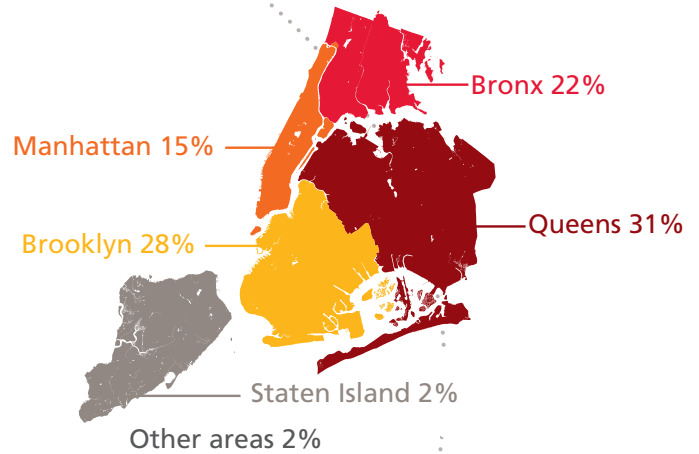
Her Justice client

Who We Serve

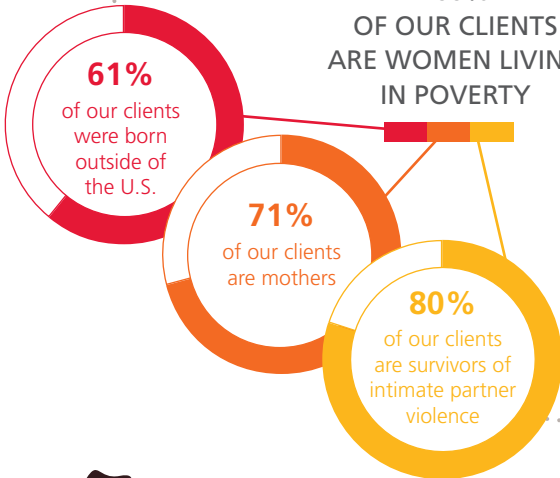
- Native American/ Other 2%
- Asian or Pacific Islander 9%
- White 10%
- Black 25%
- Hispanic 54%



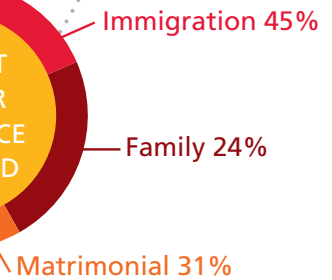
WE SERVE WOMEN IN ALL FIVE BOROUGHS OF NEW YORK CITY



100% OF OUR CLIENTS ARE WOMEN LIVING IN POVERTY



SUBJECT MATTER OF SERVICE PROVIDED



“My lawyer and Her Justice changed my life. I feel free now to make my dreams come true, my life better—not just for me, but for my daughters.”

Her Justice client



Every Her Justice client has an urgent legal need.

Whether it's Mary,* who recently lost her job due to COVID-19, while her husband, who remains employed, has stopped paying the child support he owes; or Grace,* who needs a divorce in order to avoid responsibility for the increasing debt her husband is racking up in her name; or Natalia,* a survivor of human trafficking seeking the right to work so that she can support herself and her children free from abuse...

Her Justice stands with women when they need it most.

*Name changed to protect client privacy

The Power of Pro Bono

HER JUSTICE STANDS WITH WOMEN LIVING IN POVERTY BY:

Providing critical free legal services to women who couldn't otherwise afford it, women who must go through the civil justice system to access basic rights, like financial autonomy and freedom from abuse;

Advocating for important reform at the policy level to address inefficiencies and inequities within the system that negatively impact our clients; and

Using our pro bono model to disrupt the civil justice system itself by inserting thousands of well-trained and resourced, private sector, volunteer attorneys into the system every year.

In FY 2020

14

Her Justice lawyers

mentored

1,765

volunteer attorneys

serving

6,902

women and their children

for a total of

63,554

hours donated,

representing

\$38,636,825

in value.



With Gratitude

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\$100,000+

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