THE FALL 2026

SLSLS St. Louis Survivors Legal Support

SLSLS Press

Because every survivor deserves a lawyer by their side.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

For survivors of intimate partner violence, leaving an abusive relationship is not an event – it is a process. When navigating the legal system is a part of that process, having an attorney by their side is critical.

St. Louis Survivors Legal Support believes that access to justice should never depend on someone's ability to pay. Through free legal representation and compassionate advocacy, SLSLS helps survivors secure orders of protection, pursue custody of their children, and take any other necessary steps toward safety.

Survivors often face barriers to accessing legal and other services. Outside of the courtroom, SLSLS works to reduce those obstacles, making it easier for survivors to get the help they need.

This Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we celebrate the survivors who inspire our work and the volunteers and supporters who make it possible.

Our Impact in 2026

FROM JANUARY 1ST—OCTOBER 20TH

375 **Survivors** receiving free legal and advocacy services

185 **Clients' children** gaining safety and stability

82% **Increase in survivors** served over the same period in 2025



Welcome to the Team!

Megan Duncan

Advancement Manager



In April, Megan joined our team as SLSLS' first Advancement Manager. Megan previously worked as the Director of Annual Giving at a local university. She is helping strengthen donor relationships, expand fundraising efforts, and build community support for our mission.

SLSLS Staff

Michael Burton
Founder and Executive Director

Tali Katz
Deputy Executive Director

Ema Remtula
Director of Client Services

Kimberly Birdwell
Director of Community Engagement

John DeMoor
Custody Attorney

Aruna Tailor
Outreach Advocate/ Specialist in Immigration Services (OASIS)

Kylie Cain
Office Administrator

Megan Duncan
Advancement Manager

Jessie McClanahan
Special Process Server

Breaking Down Barriers to Safety

At SLSLS, we are doing more than providing free legal representation. **We are identifying and removing the real-world barriers that stand between survivors and safety.**

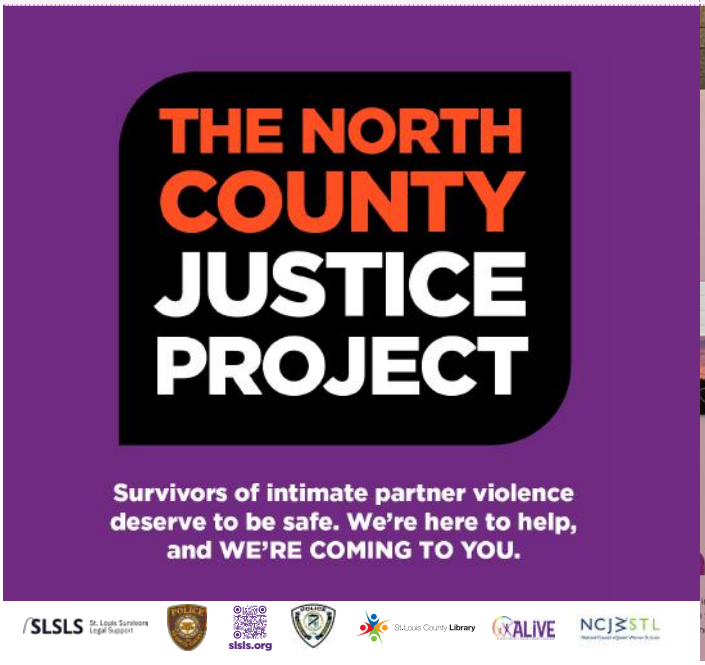
Access to Justice Should Not Depend on Your ZIP Code.

The Barrier

Approximately two-thirds of St. Louis County residents seeking orders of protection live in North County. **For them, reaching the courthouse in Clayton can be a major obstacle.** With no direct public transportation route, multiple transfers can turn the trip into an hours-long journey. Many survivors with small children simply opt to not even try to get to the courthouse.

Our Response

SLSLS' North County Justice Project brings free legal assistance to neighborhood libraries and police departments. At these locations, survivors can meet with advocates, electronically file petitions for orders of protection, and connect with free legal services and other resources. Earlier access to help makes further abuse less likely.



Survivors Should Not Have to Choose Between Their Safety and Their Pets' Safety.

The Barrier

Abusers often harm or threaten to harm pets to maintain power and control over their partners. As many as 48% of survivors with pets delay leaving an abusive relationship out of concern for their pets' safety. Moreover, 71% of pet owners that move into domestic violence shelters report that their partner threatened, injured, or killed their pet.

Our Response

Through our collaboration with Purina's Purple Leash Project, we are raising awareness of the connection between animal abuse and intimate partner violence — and the protections available to survivors and their pets. **78% of the full orders of protection that SLSLS has obtained have included pet-protection provisions.**



Survivor Spotlight

"I tried to make this happen multiple times on my own, but it was only with you all as a team with me that actually made it possible." Tiffany, Survivor

For years, 34-year-old Tiffany lived in fear of the man with whom she shared a home and a child. She endured relentless verbal harassment, threats, intimidation, and physical violence.

Eventually, Tiffany left, taking her young son with her – but the abuse continued. Her former partner messaged her dozens of times a day, threatened to find her, and used their child to manipulate her.

Determined to protect herself and her son, Tiffany sought an order of protection. **With SLSLS by her side, Tiffany received a 10-year full order of protection – and custody of her son.**

In a heartfelt message to the SLSLS team, she shared: "I tried to make this happen multiple times on my own, but it was only with you all as a team with me that actually made it possible."

Today, Tiffany and her son are building a life defined not by threats and intimidation, but by safety, stability, and the simple joys of childhood.

"Everyday in our home the loudest sound is my son's laughter."

Watch More Survivor Stories

Click this image to hear from three survivors whose stories SLSLS helped change.





Your Generosity Changes Lives

Your support makes it possible for SLSLS to provide free legal representation and advocacy to even more survivors who seek safety for themselves and their children.

It costs SLSLS approximately $2,500 to provide free legal and advocacy services to one survivor of intimate partner violence.

$2,500

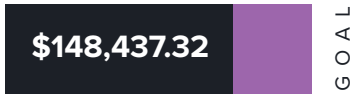
MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY

Volunteer Spotlight

4th Annual Jim Holloran Memorial Happy Hour Fundraiser

On October 7, more than 300 guests, including 18 survivor-ambassadors, gathered to celebrate SLSLS' mission and the volunteers who make our work possible.

Together, we've raised $148,437.32 toward our $200,000 goal!



Thank you to our generous sponsors, donors, volunteers, and everyone who made the evening possible!



2026 Jim Holloran Legacy of Advocacy Awards

Congratulations to our five honorees! These extraordinary volunteers' passion and commitment to justice have made a lasting difference to so many SLSLS survivors.



From left to right: **Taren Walton** (Helping Hurting Hearts Ministries); **Thomas Magee** (HeplerBroom); **Emilee Hargis** (Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner); **Paul Brusati** (Armstrong Teasdale). Not pictured: **Nicole Wurm** (Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner).

Hear From Our Volunteers

Click this image to hear from the 2026 Honorees about why they volunteer with SLSLS.



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