**A colorful hummingbird logo

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**ORGANIZATION’S NAME:** San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. (SDVLP)

**PROJECT NAME:** *North County Domestic Violence Clinic*

**ORGANIZATION’S WEBSITE:** [www.sdvlp.org](http://www.sdvlp.org)

**PROJECT BUDGET: $**189,080

**AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM RSFWF:** $75,000

**ORGANIZATION’S ANNUAL BUDGET** $4,431,190

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** SDVLP’s *North County Domestic Violence Project* provides free legal services to victims of domestic violence, helping them to obtain life-saving protective orders and remain safe from abuse.

**NEED/SOLUTION:** Unfortunately, domestic violence is at an all-time high and increasing. SDVLP is the only organization providing legal representation to victims of domestic violence on-site at the North County Courthouse. Survivors often arrive at the clinic scared, traumatized, and overwhelmed by the daunting task of navigating the court system without an attorney.

At the clinic, SDVLP staff attorneys and volunteer attorneys interview clients, draft all necessary court forms, and draft compelling statements describing the abuse so that survivors can file a successful temporary restraining order request and receive an immediate protective order that same day. Clients leave the clinic with a renewed sense of safety and hope.

Clients served in the clinic are also often referred to SDVLP’s family law team for further free legal representation with issues survivors often encounter when they are trying to escape abuse, such as divorces, spousal support, and child custody orders needed to protect themselves and their children.

**IMPACT:** A $75,000 grant from ***Rancho Santa Fe Women’s Fund*** would represent 40% of SDVLP’s 2024 *North County Domestic Violence Project*. While they receive funding from the San Diego County Superior Court and State Bar of California, that level of funding has remained unchanged for several years despite increasing operational costs and increasing client load. Funding from the RSFWF would be dedicated to maximizing the capacity of the North County DVRO clinic to serve additional clients, reduce waiting times, and increase the number of survivors who receive representation at their court hearings, thereby increasing the likelihood that they will obtain permanent protective orders.

This project has well-documented results. In 2022, 2,074 clients received free services from the NCDV at a cost per client of approximately $100. The clinic benefitted from the commitment of 25 volunteers who collectively contributed 2,240 volunteer hours, providing legal assistance to clients seeking emergency protection from abuse. All volunteer attorneys are licensed California attorneys working under the supervision of the Senior Staff Attorney and receive appropriate training to deliver trauma-informed legal representation to victims of domestic violence.

**SITE VISIT DETAILS**

**RSFWF Site Visit Leader:** Kathy Sage

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, February 27th at 1:00 PM