

# 2019 year at a glance

## WALKING WITH SURVIVORS

CAASE was chosen to implement the Rights In Systems Enforced Project ("RISE Project"). It aims to **raise awareness of victims' rights and increase victim access to no-cost legal services to help them assert and enforce their rights in the criminal justice system.** This award will substantially increase CAASE's capacity for direct services by creating a new division within our existing legal program called Victims' Rights Representation ("VRR") and invest in our holistic approach to changing systems—a method we've practiced since our founding.

As we started implementing this exciting expansion, CAASE's Legal Team provided free, expert legal services to 152 survivors of rape and commercial sexual exploitation in Chicago. Our attorneys were also busy educating the legal community. They connected with, trained, and added 70 members of the private bar to our Pro Bono Project; 4 of the new members were matched with CAASE clients.

## ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

Our commitment to centering and incorporating survivors' voices and experiences was reaffirmed by the **establishment of our new Community Engagement Department.** We welcomed a director and manager to lead this work. They hosted **monthly writing workshops and open mics for over 100 survivors** and have partnered with allies to bring workshops to women incarcerated at Cook County Jail. We continued presenting to the public about how to address sexual harm, in all participating in **37 panels, trainings, presentations, and speaking engagements, which reached a total of 1,457 people.**

Our community showed up for us, too. 71 people joined the Race for CAASE team and raised funds to support CAASE's Prevention Programs. 'Celebrating Allies', our annual fall fundraiser, was attended by 150 Supporters and friends of CAASE. They helped the event net a **record-breaking \$40,325 to support our programming.**

## EMPOWERING YOUTH TO END SEXUAL HARM

CAASE's Prevention Team educated **4,098 youth across the city of Chicago.** Our programs remain in high demand, and referrals from established institutions regarding our great work developed into 3 new school partnerships. To accommodate our popularity, we hired another Prevention Educator.

The team revised our signature programs in order to maintain cultural relevance for our students and **trained 22 facilitators** on the revamped material. 2019 also brought expansion to our curriculum. We added a fifth session specifically centered on consent so we could dive deeper into the topic. Students noted its importance in their surveys. One student wrote, "The information that stood out most to me was the consent talk because we need to know and be aware of what we give consent to." **Participants demonstrated an improved understanding of consent and sexual assault** on their post-workshop surveys and also frequently stated they wanted to learn even more about it.

## WORKING TO END SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

In 2019, changes were proposed to Title IX, a federal law that helps prevent gender discrimination in education. The alterations would harm and discourage survivors from coming forward. **CAASE's policy team worked to oppose them and organized 7 trainings on the issue with local universities.** We also helped students to submit comments to the government about how the changes would impact them.

CAASE became a founding member of the Chicago Prevention Alliance, which will create, promote, and facilitate the implementation and institutionalization of a diverse array of educational tools and practices that prevent acts of sexual harm against, or by, youth.

We spent much of the year researching and compiling a report about how prostitution laws are enforced in Chicago. Our findings expose many ways institutions and policies in our city can better respond to people experiencing commercial sexual exploitation. We look forward to sharing it with you in 2020.

Additionally, our policy team worked to end the root causes of sexual harm (including sexual assault and sexual exploitation) by **advocating for laws that reduce poverty, reform the criminal justice system, and provide more options to survivors.** We opposed the criminalization of both victims and poverty while advocating for just and humane penalties for perpetrators. As always, we spent the year collaborating with various like-missioned coalitions.

## HIGHLIGHTS



2X

secured funding to double our legal department



70

pro bono attorneys added to our project



4,098

youth empowered with Prevention Education



37

trainings engaged our community



CAASE addresses the culture, institutions, and individuals that perpetrate, profit from, or support sexual exploitation. Our work includes prevention, policy reform, community engagement, and legal services. Learn more at [caase.org](http://caase.org).

RISE is a national project of the National Crime Victim Law Institute made possible with funding from the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. RISE aims to provide crime victims with access to no cost legal services to aid enforcement of their rights. Six legal clinics are funded through RISE. For more information about this national rights enforcement initiative, visit the RISE Project website. [https://law.lclark.edu/centers-national\\_crime\\_victim\\_law\\_institute/projects/RISE/overview/](https://law.lclark.edu/centers-national_crime_victim_law_institute/projects/RISE/overview/). This presentation was made possible by a subgrant from the National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) pursuant to award number 2018-V3-GX-K018, awarded to NCVLI by the Office for Victims of Crime

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