



STANDING**TOGETHER**
TO END SEXUAL ASSAULT



Annual Report

TO THE COMMUNITY
2025



strength • diversity • empowerment

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Melissa Guillen

Dear Friends,

Each year, this report offers more than numbers and milestones. It tells a story of courage. The courage of survivors who choose to speak, to heal, and to reclaim their power. The courage of advocates who meet that bravery with steadfast care. And the courage of a community that refuses to look away.

I am one of those survivors. Many years ago, I didn't have access to an organization like STESA. If I had, I might have found justice, a faster path to healing, and I wouldn't have felt as alone as I did. That experience is why this work matters so deeply to me.

Silence can take many forms. It can sound like disbelief or dismissal or appear as avoidance—the quiet choosing of convenience over compassion.

Together, through STESA, we are breaking that silence.

This year, our organization expanded prevention programs, deepened partnerships with schools and workplaces, and provided crisis and counseling support to more survivors than ever before.

As the broader world too often chooses power over justice—blaming victims, disbelieving their truths—I hold hope that our local community will continue to stand on the right side of history and that we will continue to choose compassion over complacency, action over apathy, and courage over silence.

To every donor, partner, volunteer, and staff member who sustains this mission: thank you. Your belief in survivors and in the power of collective action ensures that healing and hope remain within reach for all who need it. Together, we are creating a community where silence no longer shields harm, and where every survivor knows: you are not alone.

With gratitude and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Guillen". The script is fluid and cursive.

Melissa Guillen
President, Board of Directors
Standing Together to End Sexual Assault

In 2024-2025...

- STESA staff and volunteers assisted **417** individual **survivors** and their loved ones with a total of **4,611 services** including counseling and emotional support, medical & legal advocacy and accompaniment, and information & referral.
- There were **4,346 community members** who learned information about the impact of sexual assault in our lives and strategies for prevention. Of this number, **2,991** were **youth**.
- **99 clients** took steps to regain a sense of confidence and power over their lives by attending counseling sessions and support groups.
- In-service trainings were provided to **295 professionals** including law enforcement, medical staff and social service professionals.
- **41 volunteers** joined our efforts to end sexual assault and gave **3,363 hours** to STESA. They provided a network of support, including crisis intervention, medical/legal advocacy & accompaniment, community education and assistance with office support and special events.

DID YOU KNOW...?

When you make a tax-deductible contribution to STESA, you help provide the following services:

- \$100** Bus tokens, taxi vouchers, phone cards, food vouchers for a survivor who doesn't have other means.
- \$250** In an emergency, provides a survivor of sexual assault a safe place to stay for 1 night.
- \$600** A self-defense class and educational materials for teens.
- \$1000** Access to STESA's 24-hour hotline for one month for survivors of sexual assault and their loved ones.

RAISE THE BAR: *Focus on alcohol abuse...*

RAISE THE BAR (RTB) is a dynamic five-year community mobilization initiative aimed at addressing the intersection of alcohol overconsumption and sexual assault, with a concentrated focus on nightlife environments in downtown Santa Barbara and the Isla Vista community.



This highly visible prevention education campaign is powered by a coalition of committed partners and stakeholders—including UCSB faculty, the university’s Alcohol and Drug Program, CARE Department, student-led organizations, local leaders, and decision-makers—united in their mission to shift social norms and end sexual violence. Now in its second year, RTB has made significant strides in amplifying its message and deepening strategic partnerships. Notably, the Isla Vista Community Services District funded test strip kits for the “IV Health & Safety Vending Machine”—the first of its kind in California. This innovative resource has provided free health and safety materials to individuals across south Santa Barbara County and beyond, expanding access and awareness.

The Pardall Center in Isla Vista has been instrumental in supporting RTB by hosting stakeholder trainings and facilitating outreach and recruitment events. Collaborations with Santa Barbara City College (SBCC), The WELL has helped bridge RTB’s efforts to the SBCC

...and its connection to sexual assault

student community, while UCSB/AS-affiliated organizations such as Take Back the Night, Life of the Party, and the Trans and Queer Commission have amplified our reach. Together, we are cultivating a culture of prevention, education, and advocacy for policy change.

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April 2025, RTB partnered with the St. George Youth Center to host a town hall, inviting community members to share perspectives, propose solutions, and engage in dialogue with local professionals. This event underscored the importance of inclusive engagement, prompting RTB to expand its focus to low income families living in Isla Vista, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and Spanish-speaking residents in Isla Vista—ensuring that underserved voices are central to the movement for lasting social change.

Looking ahead, RTB will prioritize community-based data collection led by student volunteers and UCSB faculty from the Department of Communication. *This research will inform the development of educational materials and guide the implementation of Bystander Intervention Training for bar staff in nightlife venues.* These efforts will support the implementation of training within alcohol-serving establishments—equipping staff with the tools to foster safer environments for customers.

RTB is also forging strong relationships with local bar owners to co-create customized training programs tailored to their venues. Through robust community engagement and cross-sector collaboration, RTB is laying the foundation for cultural transformation in nightlife settings.

Rethink your drink.

We invite community members, students, and leaders who are passionate about driving meaningful, sustainable change to join us in this collective effort. Together, we can build a safer, more inclusive community—one conversation, one partnership at a time.

STESA SUPPORTERS

STESA was able to address its Mission with the support of these individuals and businesses in the past fiscal year.

Thank you for helping us do this vital work.

\$30,000+

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Katharine Gray Dewitt
Gregg Hart
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Family Trust

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Ethan Bertrand
Sarah Craig
Yesenia Curiel
Stephan Carlan
Ann Daniel

Esmeralda Estrada
 Robert & Sherry Gilson
 Davina Gomez
 Patricia Griffin
 Perri V Harcourt
 Douglas Russell Hayes
 Tom Hoffman
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 Jammlamadaka
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 Christiane Schlumberger
 Beth Schneider
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 Judith Silverman
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 David Stone
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 Ernesto Verburgt
 Russell S Werner
 Wildcat Lounge

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 Anonymous
 John Bell
 Abida Bibi
 Dolphia Blocker

Pamela Cady
 Gideon Cohn
 Abigail Cordova
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 Andy Gersoff
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 April Thede
 Linda Tuomi
 Molly Velarde
 Juliet Velarde Betita
 Kyle Von Eenennaan
 Jeffrey Walsh
 Charles & Deborah Wolfe

Up to \$100

Anonymous
 Anonymous

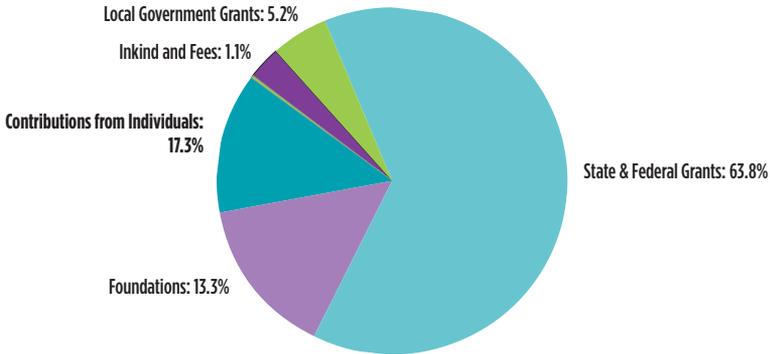
Carina Atchley
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 Hannah Sullivan
 Emi Umezawa
 Desiree Vetere
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STESA BUDGET 2024-2025

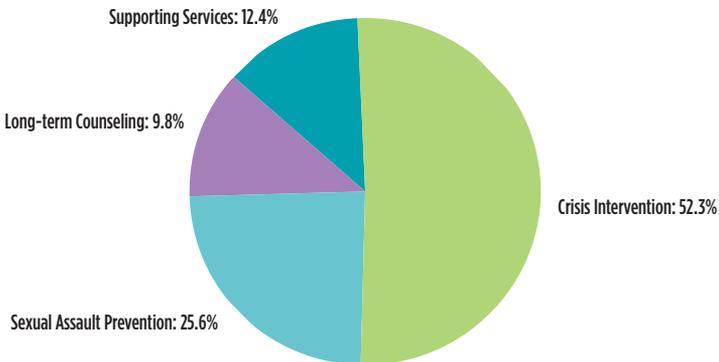
STESA's Total Income for FY '24-'25 was \$1,372,501.

This graph illustrates the importance of local contributions to STESA's operations and provision of services to survivors of sexual assault, as well as the work towards eliminating sexual assault from our society.



STESA's Total Expenses for FY '24-'25 were \$1,339,828.

These expenses show the client-centered expenditures that provide immediate, as well as on-going services to the survivors of sexual assault and their families.



believe ♥ *listen* ♥ *support*

ONE ON ONE FITNESS STUDIO



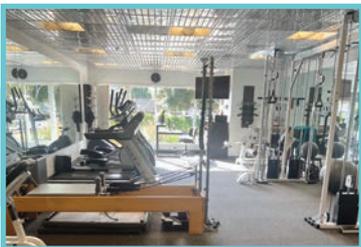
Linda Sanders of **One on One Fitness** is kicking off **April 2026, Sexual Assault Awareness Month**, by sponsoring a fundraising effort to raise critical funds for STESA.

Drop in and see Linda to learn more about functional training at her studio: TRX, kettle bells, Landmine, cardio blasts, yoga, stretching, and much more at Linda's location: **1253 Coast Village Rd., Suite 103**.

Reach your fitness goals, get in shape, stay in shape with nationally-certified personal trainers.

Please help Linda meet her fundraising goal. To contribute to this effort, contact Linda Sanders, oneononesb@gmail.com.

Your participation is vital. All proceeds will go directly to STESA!



*Visit **ONE ON ONE FITNESS** and learn more about the benefits of functional training!*



STESA THANKS THE COMMUNITY FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER!

STESA held its annual Chocolate de Vine fundraiser with new and longtime supporters.

On May 17, 2025, Standing Together to End Sexual Assault (STESA) hosted over 150 guests at the Saint Barbara Events Center for its Annual Chocolate de Vine event.

For the past 15 years, Chocolate de Vine has been a hallmark fundraising event for STESA, joined by community supporters of the organization, and local wineries and chocolatiers. Returning supporters were excited to gather once again for this beloved annual event, celebrating the shared commitment to supporting survivors, their loved ones, and STESA's work in the Santa Barbara community.



our work continues...thank you for your support!

New supporters left the evening happy and inspired, eager to get more involved in attending, and even planning Chocolate de Vine for next year. Funds raised at Chocolate de Vine directly support STESA's work in addressing sexual assault in the community. STESA's mission focuses on empowering and healing survivors and their loved ones, and creating social change to eradicate all forms of sexual and gendered violence.



As STESA Board President, Melissa Guillen, noted in her speech at the event, STESA meets survivors where they are, taking a step back when they aren't ready to move forward, taking a step forward with them when they are ready. STESA's empowerment model in survivor-centered advocacy efforts has shaped its monumental presence in Santa Barbara and the broader international community.

Save the date to support STESA at next year's Chocolate de Vine event, which will be on Saturday, May 16, 2026! Although the event is still some time away, community members can continue to support STESA year-round by visiting <https://sbstesa.org/get-involved/>.

Now, more than ever, amidst funding uncertainties in sexual assault prevention and education at the state and federal level, supporting STESA in sustaining its vital work is critical.



We look forward to seeing you next year—
Chocolate de Vine
Saturday, May 16, 2026!



STANDING TOGETHER TO END SEXUAL ASSAULT

Standing Together to End Sexual Assault (STESA) is a community-based organization working toward a world free from sexual assault. STESA has served southern Santa Barbara County since 1974.

The organization is dedicated to supporting and empowering sexual assault survivors, their family members and friends, and to eliminating all forms of sexual assault from our society.

STESA supports sexual assault survivors throughout the initial crisis and subsequent stages of healing. Through community education, training and activism, STESA is committed to creating attitudes and beliefs which support the prevention of sexual assault.

Board of Directors 2025

Melissa Guillen, <i>President</i>	Stacey Risotti, <i>Treasurer</i>		
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Honorary Board 2025

Pamela Bellwood-Wheeler	David Edelman	John Palminteri	Dave Sullins
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Margaret Connell	Judy Malmgren	Susan Rose	Ron Zonen
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In Memoriam

Susan Bower Larry Crandell Ghita Ginberg Dr. Ursula Henderson
Harriet Miller Tom Parker Tom Sneddon William "Tom" Thomas Michael Towbes

STANDING TOGETHER TO END SEXUAL ASSAULT (STESA)

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Santa Barbara, CA 93101

sbstesa.org

24-Hour Hotline: 805.564.3696