STANDINGTOGETHER
TO END SEXUAL ASSAULT



Annual Report

TO THE COMMUNITY

2026

strength • diversity • empowerment

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Melissa Guillen

Dear Friends and Supporters,

A lot has happened in 2026, making this year one filled with uncertainty and anticipation. Federal funding for STESA and other organizations supporting survivors of sexual assault remained a constant concern. We closely monitored developments and even traveled to the State Capitol to advocate for the resources needed to continue serving our community.

From Dolores Huerta sharing her experience of sexual assault after decades of silence, to the allegations emerging from Cornell University, one thing remains clear: there is still much work to be done. Both cases have raised questions about the timing of survivors' disclosures. Yet, in our own local work, STESA has found that fewer than 10% of survivors seek our services immediately following an assault. Rather than questioning why survivors wait to come forward, we should be asking about the conditions that make it difficult for them to do so. How can we create a society where survivors feel safe coming forward and confident that they will be believed?

This year also marked an important transition for our organization as we moved into our new office on Anacapa Street. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this move possible, and especially to the Hutton Parker Foundation for its continued generosity, first as a donor and now as our landlord. Their partnership has helped provide a new home for the work we do and the people we serve.

We enter the new year with the same sense of determination and hope. We have seen what is possible when people come together to advocate and create change. While much of STESA's work focuses on supporting survivors of sexual violence, the responsibility to challenge the attitudes and systems that allow it to persist belongs to all of us. On behalf of STESA's Board of Directors, thank you to our dedicated staff, volunteers, community partners, and supporters.

With gratitude,

Melissa Guillen

Melissa Guillen, President
STESA Board of Directors

P.S. Your commitment makes it possible for STESA to be there for survivors when they need us most.

In 2025–2026...

- STESA staff and volunteers assisted **358** individual **survivors** and their loved ones with a total of **2,153 services** including counseling and emotional support, medical & legal advocacy and accompaniment, and information & referral.
- There were **2,365 community members** who learned information about the impact of sexual assault in our lives and strategies for prevention. Of this number, **1,250** were **youth.**
- In-service trainings were provided to **224 professionals** including law enforcement, medical staff and social service professionals.
- **25 volunteers** joined our efforts to end sexual assault and gave **2,884 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.

Your contribution can make a difference in a survivor's life!

SART: *SB County's Sexual Assault Response Team*

For nearly four decades, **Santa Barbara County's Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)** has provided a coordinated, survivor-centered response to sexual assault. The team ensures that individuals have access to medical care, reporting options, advocacy, and emotional support in a safe, confidential, and trauma-informed setting. Through a longstanding partnership among criminal justice, medical, social services professionals and STESA, SART delivers comprehensive services designed to meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs.



As a key partner in SART, STESA supports survivors throughout every stage of their healing journey. Following a medical forensic examination, STESA advocates provide ongoing emotional support, crisis intervention, counseling referrals, and guidance as survivors navigate medical, criminal justice, social service, and academic systems. By helping survivors understand their options and access critical resources, advocates foster a greater sense of control, empowerment, and stability during a profoundly difficult time.

STESA's counselors and advocates work to restore survivors' sense of safety, well-being, and independence while reducing barriers to recovery. Drawing on extensive knowledge of community

resources and support systems, they provide individualized assistance and connect survivors with the services most appropriate to their unique circumstances. This continuum of care ensures that survivors receive compassionate support, practical guidance, and consistent advocacy throughout the recovery process.

To strengthen these services and meet growing community needs, **SART was awarded a $236,375 federal grant in March 2026, secured by Congress Member Salud Carbajal**, to support the relocation and renovation of its Santa Barbara facility. The new location will provide a more modern, purpose-built environment designed to enhance privacy, comfort, accessibility, and safety for survivors seeking care.

The **SART Relocation Project** represents a significant investment in the future of survivor services in Santa Barbara County. In addition to improving the space for medical forensic examinations, the facility will support greater collaboration among partner agencies and expand access to essential support services. These enhancements will help ensure that survivors receive compassionate, coordinated care in an environment that promotes dignity, healing, and hope.

As SART approaches its 40th year of service, the partnership remains a powerful example of how collaboration, expertise, and community commitment can improve outcomes for survivors and strengthen access to justice and healing throughout Santa Barbara County.





STESA SUPPORTERS

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

$100,000+

Department of the US Treasury
Patricia Bragg Foundation

$30,000–$999,000

Santa Barbara Foundation
Thatcher Foundation
Wood-Claeyssens Foundation
Yardi Systems

$5,000–$29,999

Harriet Eckstein & Alan Irwin
Eau Claire Community Foundation
Hammond Family Foundation
Latkin Charitable Foundation
Montecito Bank & Trust
Stella/James Melillo Foundation

$2,000–$4,999

David & Christina Bennett
Leslie Brtek
Norean Dreier
Isla Vista Community Services District
Mechanics Bank
Nye, Stirling, Hale, Miller & Sweet
Stacey Risotti
Susan Rose
Tomchin Family Charitable Foundation

$1,000–$1,999

American Riviera Bank
Heather Ames
Anonymous
Central Coast Community Energy
Jacqueline Duran
Dodd & Beth Geiger
Debra Geiger & Eliot Crowley
Adam Graham & Katherine Szopa
Edward Graper
Gregg Hart for Assembly 2026
Blanca Guillen
Robert Hunt
Teri Jory
James Kyriaco
Scott McCann & Therese Phillips
Christin Medina
Glen Phillips
Santa Barbara Adventure Company
Segovia Financial
Sevita
Mishelle Sotelo
Linda Tuomi

$500–$999

Mary Atchley
Miguel Avila
Central Coast Community Energy
Community West Bank
Katherine Gray DeWitt
Anna DiStefano & Deb Karoff
Gabe Escobedo
Eric Friedman
Devon Geiger Nielsen
Michael Gerber
Elsa Granados
Melissa Guillen
Cheri Gurse & Carol Keator
Timothy Hale
HUB International Insurance Services
Hannah-Beth Jackson & George Eskin
Cathi Lamberti
Law Offices of Henry J. Bongiovi
Erik Lucero
Steve Milam
Dhiraj Nallapaneni
Gail Oshrenko & Oran Young
Lisa Rothstein
Santa Barbara Women Lawyers Foundation
Kate Silsbury
The HoHum Fund

$200–$499

Natalia Alarcon
Shaun Burree
Suze Cluderay

Barbara Conviser
Sarah Craig
Ann Daniel
Patricia Foley
Garber Garbett Charitable Fund
Robert & Sherry Gilson
Cassandra Glanville
Patricia Griffin
Patricia Guillen
Perri Harcourt
Joan Hartmann
Mary E. Howe-Grant
David James
Rao & Vijiya Jammalamadaka
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Karen Littlejohn
Arlene Mendez
Judith Milam
Laurence Murdock
Emily Nordee
Laurie Siegel & Joseph Nosofsky
Susan Parker
PayPal Giving Fund
Marnie Pinsker
Linda Sanders
Jackie Santana
Jo-Ann Shelton
Jennifer Smith
The Connolly Family Trust
The Manger Scout Fund
Russell Werner

$100–$199

Spencer Brandt
Lois Capps
Abigail Cordova
Sarah Beth Dempsey
Patricia & Thomas Foley
Patricia Gainey
Andy Gersoff & Julie Yamamoto
Joanna Guan
Lisa Guravitz & Fred Shaw
Zoe Iverson & Gib Johnson IHO Linda Sanders
Juggler's Festival
Dawn & Joel Kaufman
George & Mildred Kaufmann
Arthur E. Kennedy
Lori Lewis
Davina Marquez
Adriana Montano
Michael Montgomery
Kellen Olson
Lucia Overgaag
Jeanene Pierce
Robyn Posin
Patricia Reilly Stark
Thorn Robertson
Kathleen Scarminach
Christiane Schlumberger
Beth Schneider
Sharon O. Goldman Living Trust
Lynne Sprecher
David Stone
Susanna G. Williams Revocable Trust
Winfred Van Wingerden & Sheila Batson
Nancy Weiss
Charles Wolfe
Megan Zink

Up to $100

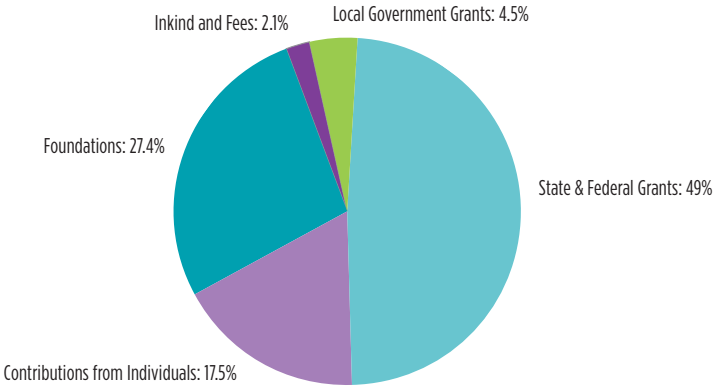
Anonymous
John Bell
Larry Bickford
Suzette Carter
Tim & Janey Cohen
Gideon Cohn
Debbie Colton
Rita Drobnis
Rece Graham
Peter Hasler
Deepz Jhangiani
Makayla Johnson
Teresa Jurado
Griffyn Klemm
Claudia Knudson & Dean
Joshua Lembek
Priscilla Liskey
Nancy Lonshein
Macy's
Barbara Morton
Racquel Naranjo
Lydia Ochoa
Donald Poppe
Theresa Yandell

Thank you for helping us do this vital work.

STESA BUDGET 2025–2026

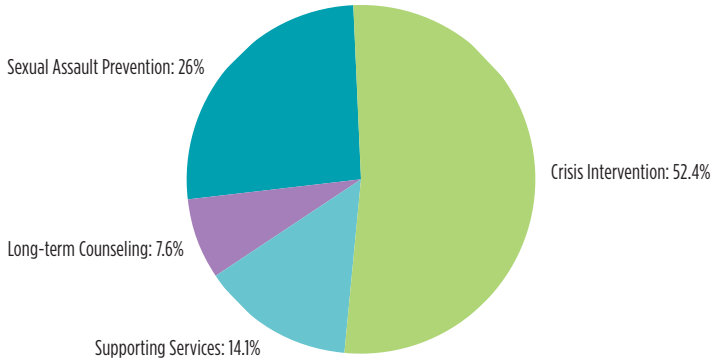
STESA's Total Income *for FY '25–'26 was $1,552,481.*

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 '25–'26 were $1,235,232.*

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

610 Anacapa Street, Suite A Santa Barbara CA 93101

Linda Sanders of **One on One Fitness** is kicking off **April 2027, 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!

One on One Congratulates STESA!

One On One would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to STESA on the opening of your beautiful new location on Anacapa Street. This exciting milestone reflects your continued growth, dedication, and commitment to serving survivors and strengthening our community.

Your new facility represents so much more than a change of address. With additional counseling rooms, STESA will be able to provide greater access to vital support services and create more opportunities for healing and empowerment. The larger multipurpose space will enhance your ability to offer self-defense workshops, volunteer training, educational programs, and community outreach activities that help prevent violence and build resilience.

The expanded office space also provides a welcoming and productive environment for staff whose compassion, expertise, and tireless efforts make such an extraordinary difference in the lives of so many individuals and families. By creating room for growth, collaboration, and innovation, STESA is positioning itself to meet the evolving needs of our community for years to come.

We are inspired by your vision and grateful for the invaluable work you do every day. This new space is a testament to the impact of your organization and the trust the community places in your mission. We look forward to seeing all that STESA will accomplish in this wonderful new home and the even greater impact you will continue to make throughout Santa Barbara County.

Congratulations on this remarkable achievement!





This year's **Chocolate de Vine** event centered on the theme, ***From Silence to Justice,*** highlighting the transformative power of courage, advocacy, and accountability in advancing justice and healing for survivors of sexual assault. Throughout the evening, the theme served as a powerful reminder that lasting social change begins when survivors are believed, supported, and empowered to share their stories.

More than 150 guests gathered in support of STESA for an evening of exceptional food, wine, chocolate, and community. The event featured keynote speaker **Tim Hale**, a Santa Barbara-based attorney whose work has helped shape national conversations about institutional accountability and survivor justice. Over the course of his distinguished career, Hale has secured hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements on behalf of survivors, including his involvement in historic clergy abuse settlements totaling more than $858 million.



During his remarks, Hale emphasized that meaningful legal victories and institutional reforms are only possible when survivors find the courage to come forward and speak their truth. He also challenged common misconceptions about sexual assault, noting that public discussions often focus on the most

extreme forms of abuse and violence. In reality, sexual assault exists on a spectrum and can include unwanted behaviors and actions that may not be overtly violent, yet still cause profound and lasting harm. Regardless of how an assault occurs, survivors deserve access to healing, support, and justice. His message reinforced the importance of creating communities that listen without judgment, respond with compassion, and hold perpetrators and institutions accountable.

At a time when organizations and institutions nationwide continue to face scrutiny for failing to protect those entrusted to their care, STESA remains steadfast in its commitment to creating systemic change. Through prevention education, survivor advocacy, crisis intervention, and community engagement, STESA works toward a future free from sexual violence while ensuring survivors and their loved ones have access to critical resources and support.





In recognition of his extraordinary contributions, Tim Hale was presented with a special award. The inscription read: *"With deep appreciation to Tim Hale for his transformative advocacy, his dedication to survivor safety and empowerment, and his enduring contributions to a more just and compassionate community."* His work and the continued generosity of STESA supporters help strengthen the movement toward justice, healing, and prevention.



We look forward to seeing you next year—

Chocolate de Vine
Saturday, May 22, 2027!
St. Barbara Event Center

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.

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Margarita Martin del Campo Christin Medina Christina Ortega
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Glen Phillips
Gail Rappaport
Catherine Remak
Susan Rose
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Dr. Elliot Schulman
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Nancy Weiss
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Dilling Yang
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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)

610 Anacapa Street, Suite A
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

sbstesa.org

24-Hour Hotline: 805.564.3696