

OPEN DOOR LEGAL



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



The hands of an ODL Family Law Client and domestic violence survivor, with her daughter.

A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD

Dear partners of Open Door Legal,

Public infrastructure only proves its value when it is tested. In 2025, that test arrived for Open Door Legal. City budget reductions forced difficult decisions across the legal aid ecosystem, and for an organization built on the belief that access to civil legal help should be reliable – not occasional – the moment demanded more than endurance. It required clarity of purpose and collective commitment.

This year, I had the privilege of serving on the board and, for the first time, offering public comment on behalf of the organization. Speaking in that forum made tangible what our work represents: not simply a set of services, but a civic promise. We met residents facing eviction notices, unresolved debt, workplace conflicts, and family instability – the kinds of issues that quietly determine whether someone's life stays steady or begins to unravel. The need did not shrink with funding pressures; it became sharper.

Open Door Legal's vision is ambitious: to become the first city in the country where anyone can receive civil legal help when they need it – universal access not as charity, but as public infrastructure. Rather than retreat, the team adapted in pursuit of that goal. New funding sources were pursued, partnerships strengthened, and the model continued to take shape so legal help is available early, before problems cascade into crisis. Preventative justice stabilizes housing, preserves employment, and reduces downstream strain on public systems. The law becomes a stabilizer instead of a last resort.

This year reminded us that universal access is not a theoretical aspiration; it is a commitment that must withstand real-world constraints. The community's support – donors, partners, volunteers, and advocates – allowed the organization to keep moving toward a city where legal help is expected, not exceptional.

Thank you for standing with us through a year that tested the model and strengthened the conviction behind it. The work continues, and with it, the blueprint for a more dependable form of justice.

Warmly,
Poonum Kaberwal
Open Door Legal Board Member



2025 CLIENT OUTCOMES

\$4,317,118

TOTAL DEBT
CANCELLED

625

CLOSED CASES

631

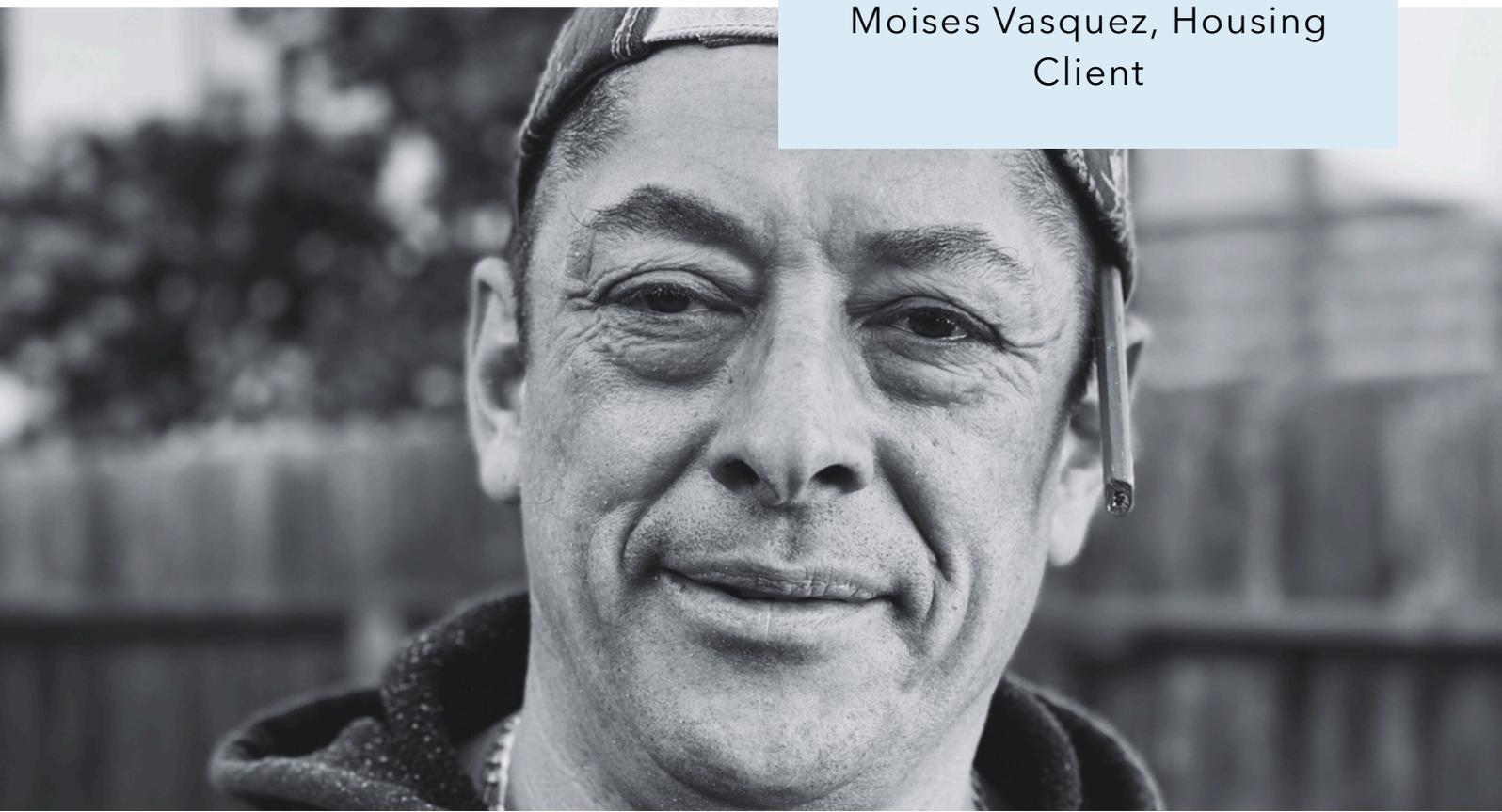
CASES OPENED,
LIKE MOISES:

"The manager increased my rent to over \$2,000 from \$900 per month for my bedroom. That was crazy.

I had three days left to respond, and ODL took me in short notice, and they helped me right away.

You guys prevented me from going to the streets with all of my stuff in three days. They saved me from being homeless."

Moises Vasquez, Housing Client



FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

1,336

**ACTIVE CASES,
LIKE CASEY'S:**

"I did a ton of research to find Open Door Legal and there's nothing else like it.

Legal issues are complicated and scary. I was in over my head and didn't know how to do it myself. I can't think of anything in my life when I felt more out of depth.

It's really lonely to be trying to stand up for yourself, and with Open Door Legal, I got to have somebody who supported me."

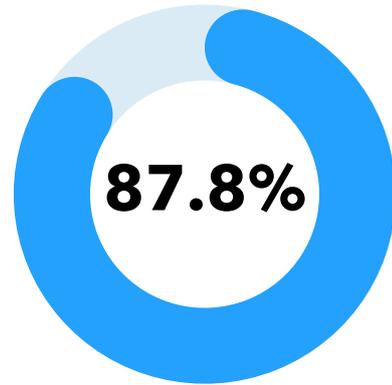
Casey Selden, Civil Litigation Client

\$8,926,540

TOTAL REVENUE

\$6,610,654

TOTAL EXPENSES



**OF CLIENTS REPORT THAT
STAFF ALWAYS TREATED
THEM WITH RESPECT**



WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



GOOD PAPER



School of Law



Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation



CRANKSTART



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THANK YOU FOR BEING A
PARTNER IN THE WORK

**THE LAW
BELONGS
TO ALL
OF US**

*This financial statement is unaudited at this time. To access our
current transparency records:*

<https://opendoorlegal.org/transparency>

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