

2025

YEAR AT A GLANCE



REACHING NEW CORNERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

In 2025, the Community Engagement team reached 61 community organizations, colleges, and universities, engaging with over 180 people. We also hosted or participated in over 60 public awareness events!

The team continued to venture into new spaces where survivor support is needed. One of our biggest priorities for 2025 was making new connections in faith-based communities, where there is often an added layer of stigma in addressing sexual harm. Despite the challenges, these faith-based



partner organizations were eager to start open and needed conversations. To address this, the team created special programming, including a personalized event for our partner, Grapsate, a Black faith-based organization, during Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Community Engagement also connected them with a local Rape Crisis Center who trained them and participated in a SAAM panel. A CAASE attorney participated, too, sharing as much knowledge and options as possible with this group.

Other new partnerships in 2025 included Bally's Casino and Strugglebeard Bakery. Spreading awareness is an invaluable part of the fight to end sexual harm, and we're so thrilled that our Community Engagement team focuses on activating more allies in our mission.

EXPANDING OPTIONS FOR INCARCERATED SURVIVORS

2025 was another record-breaking year for CAASE's Legal Services team, which took on 28 pro bono cases, served 244 clients, and helped with 408 total matters.

In September, we filed seven lawsuits against prison officials at Logan Correctional Center, Illinois's largest women's prison, for sexual abuse of women in custody by corrections staff. Partnering with multiple pro bono firms and the Uptown People's Law Center, CAASE brought these cases as part of our Criminalized Survivors Project, which helps currently and formerly incarcerated survivors of sexual harm. This project has grown exponentially since its start in 2024, with CAASE attorneys handling 85 different cases for criminalized survivors in 2025.

CAASE attorneys presented at various local conferences as well as national and international events such as the Crime Victim Law Conference in Portland, the Victim Rights Law Center National Sexual Assault Conference, and an event hosted by the Women's Human Rights Institute of Korea and the U.S. Embassy Seoul.

Our attorneys continue to do innovative work that supports survivors navigating the aftermath of sexual harm so that healing and justice are a closer reality.

"I think everyone should have access to this kind of service. It played a **pivotal role in my healing.**"

– Legal Services client

CELEBRATING STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

Last school year marked a special milestone for our Prevention Education program when we officially reached 40,000 students since the program's start! Prevention partnered with 11 schools and served 3,197 students.

We hosted a brand-new prevention-focused spring fundraiser called A CAASE of Empowerment, which was a huge success! It was a special evening where guests participated in a prevention workshop and saw how we approach the ever-evolving landscape in schools and in young people's lives.

Our Prevention team also presented at the National Sexual Assault Conference in Anaheim, California, and at ICASA's state-wide Rape Prevention Education conference. Partners across the country have taken an interest in the way CAASE's program creates engaging, non-judgmental workshops for youth. We're thrilled to see our curriculum making an impact both in classrooms locally and with partners across the country to uplift and cultivate young people's safety. Collaborating is powerful in preventing sexual harm.



"Because of what I've learned, I will show **compassion**, be mindful, not hold people to harmful norms, be **respectful**, and **ask for consent**."

– 9th grade Prevention Education student

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS VIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

As CAASE's work with incarcerated and criminalized survivors became a focal point of our Legal Services in 2025, it did for our policy work too. In public policy, we see firsthand that ending gender-based violence requires criminal justice reform. This year, we prioritized that through our work with criminalized survivors, including those who have been harmed in the sex trade.

In 2025, we were proud to see the Prostitution Investigation Act signed into law! It requires that state law enforcement agencies prohibit officers from engaging in penetrative sex acts with individuals they are investigating for prostitution. We knew this was an issue from our Policing & Enforcement of Prostitution Laws in Chicago research. The law also mandated the creation of systems to automatically expunge most felony prostitution convictions.

Our Public Policy and Advocacy work and wins are only possible through the coalitions we partner with. In particular, membership in The Network and collaborating with other members to address gender-based violence helps make progress in improving the lives of survivors in our communities and beyond. We look forward to continuing our efforts to make our systems less traumatizing and more supportive for survivors.

ABOUT CAASE

VISION

CAASE envisions a community free from all forms of sexual exploitation, including sexual assault and the commercial sex trade.

MISSION

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.

OUR WORK

Prevention Education

CAASE creates and implements educational curricula that empower high-school-age students to help put an end to sexual violence and exploitation.

Public Policy and Advocacy

CAASE advocates for legislative and policy reforms that provide support for survivors of sexual harm, and hold systems accountable for addressing and ultimately preventing the root causes of sexual violence.

Community Engagement

CAASE encourages a better understanding of sexual harm among diverse communities and helps them take action against it.

Legal Services

CAASE represents survivors of sexual violence and exploitation in civil litigation, as victims' rights representatives in the criminal justice system, and as advocates for public policies that increase the efficacy of criminal and civil laws pertaining to sexual violence and exploitation.



VALUES

Social and institutional systems do not adequately serve survivors of sexual violation which disproportionately harms people from marginalized communities, including girls and women, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, people living in poverty, and immigrants. To best support survivors, CAASE confronts the inequities that fuel or intersect with sexual harm. Our dedication to this work is reflected in our values.

Dignity

We respect the inherent humanity of all people and strive to expand opportunities for personal autonomy

Accountability

We answer to survivors and collaborate with allies as we seek to hold those responsible for harm accountable.

Progress

We create individual, institutional and cultural change by using innovative approaches to ending sexual harm.

Equity

We commit to building a world where every person, with consideration for their intersecting identities and unique circumstances, has the same access to opportunity and power.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH CAASE

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