

August Newsletter: Why We're Trauma-Informed



Los Angeles
Center for
Law and Justice

August 2021 Newsletter

Note: LACLJ serves survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and some client stories may be triggering.

Dear LACLJ Supporter,

I want to share an amazing outcome we celebrated this month with a survivor. Stephanie's* story touched all of us at LACLJ.

Stephanie came to the U.S. undocumented when she was only eight years old. As a teen, she was assaulted. Someone attacked her and tried to strangle and rape her. Stephanie worked with law enforcement to report and investigate the assault. She was then referred to LACLJ and we helped her apply for a U Visa.

Five years later, in 2021, we received a Request for Evidence (RFE) from USCIS. She had been arrested four different times since the assault and USCIS was prepared to deny her application.

Stephanie's LACLJ legal team quickly went into action. **Her attorney helped Stephanie process her emotions and her behaviors related to her trauma.** Since the assault, whenever someone comes up to her in an aggressive or startling manner, Stephanie's immediate reaction is to defend herself, leading to her arrests.

Since the assault, Stephanie had also experienced the passing of her mother, self-medicated with alcohol and became homeless. LACLJ connected Stephanie with a shelter, food banks and access to mental health services. We also responded to the

RFE and explained how her trauma impacted her behaviors.

This month, Stephanie was placed on the U Visa waitlist and received her work permit! We're working on getting her transitional housing and she is looking forward to getting a job and becoming self-sufficient.

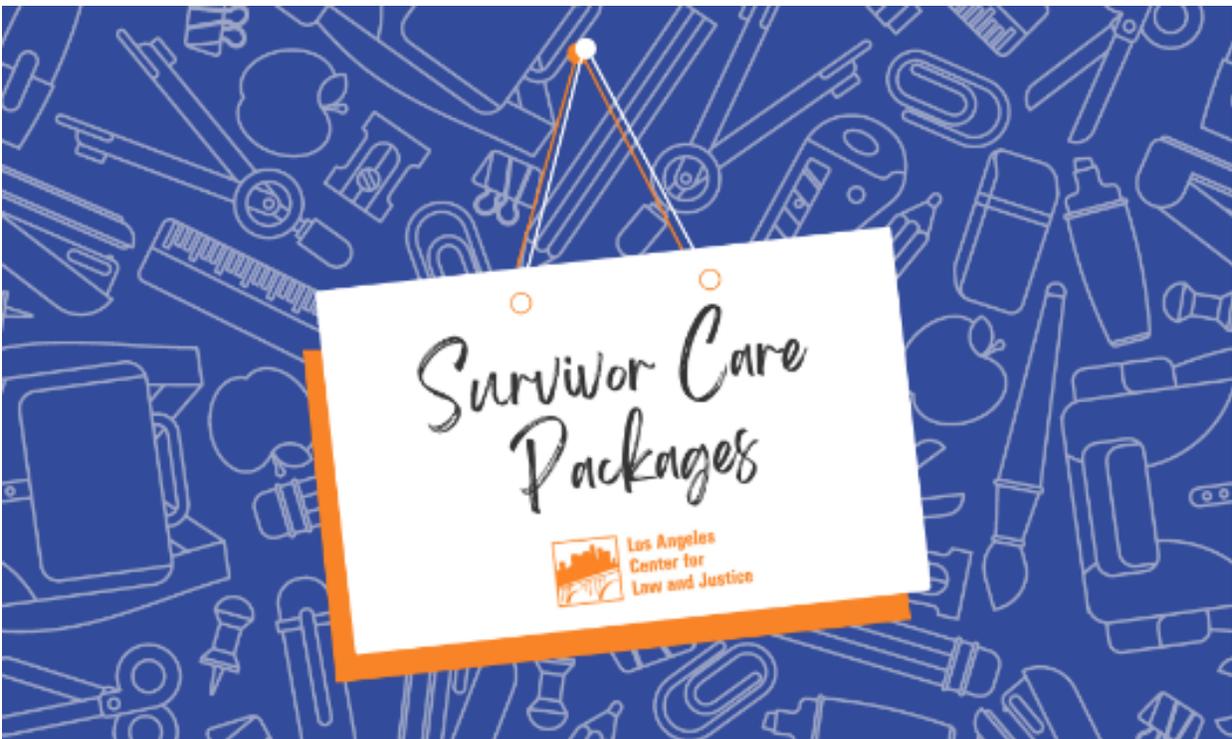
This is why our trauma-informed model is so important. Stephanie was on a path that would lead to more trauma and suffering. Now, she has the chance to move forward with her healing and has hope for the future.

Warmly,



Norayma Cabot
Executive Director

P.S. As a past supporter, thank you for making a difference for Stephanie. You can give other sexual assault survivors a chance to heal by [giving a gift](#) today.



Send a Survivor Care Package to families this year! Survivors are calling LACLJ, sharing how difficult it is to buy all the school supplies, technology and masks their children need to be successful and stay safe.

You can directly help survivors and their families by sending a Survivor Care Package. Supporters can [purchase items here](#) and mail them to our office where we will distribute to families in need.

Show survivors they are not alone and have a community that can help them through difficult and uncertain times.



Celebrating Survivors - LACLJ's 2021 Livestream Gala

Missed this year's gala livestream? You can watch the full program now and hear the incredible stories of survivors in our community and our amazing 2021 honorees. We also had a special performance from Mariachi Divas to celebrate!

As Actor/Writer/Director Noah Wyle said during the event, "A restraining order means so much more than a piece of paper to a survivor. It means recognition that the violence they experienced was wrong. It means an opportunity to live without fear of being hurt. It's justice being served."

Thank you to all who join our mission to secure justice for survivors. You are making a difference and a real impact in our community.

[Click here](#) to check out our 2021 Honoree Tribute Pages

*Name and photo changed to protect client privacy

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