



WELCOME *to* JENESSE CENTER, INC.

“Creating A Community Free of Domestic Violence and Safe for All”

ABOUT

Jenesse Center, Inc. is more than just a shelter for survivors of domestic violence; we are a family institute with training & educational programs, services and outreach efforts that rebuild lives, reunite families and enrich our community. Jenesse removes barriers to peace for families.



MISSION

Established in 1980, Jenesse Center's **mission** is to restore and provide trauma informed, culturally responsive, holistic, services to individuals and families impacted by domestic violence; and to advance prevention modalities to sustain healthy and safe communities free of violence.



PHILOSOPHY



The program is based on the following philosophy and values:

- Domestic violence is a family issue
- Women and children are our primary clients
- Families should receive culturally sensitive and culturally competent services
- Children are equal victims of domestic violence
- Families must receive more than shelter – they must receive life skills
- Services must transform victims into survivors
- Services must be provided to populations that are generally turned away elsewhere
- Public opinion and public policy must be impacted to combat domestic violence

The plan for transition to self-sufficiency is self determined with program participants setting goals in conjunction with case managers.

WHY IS JENESSE UNIQUE?



- One of the oldest domestic violence intervention and prevention programs in South Los Angeles.
- Founded by five women who were survivors of domestic violence.
- Is more than a shelter
- Maintains **one** 30-day Emergency Shelter, **two** transitional shelters, **one** Education Center, **one** administrative office.
- Has its own in-house legal program.
- Offers clients comprehensive programs and services that empower and focus on self-sufficiency.
- Focuses on prevention and intervention programs that seek to challenge pre-conceived views on domestic violence.
- Works in partnership with our clients to offer services tailored to their needs and that of their children.

WHO IS SEEKING OUR SERVICES?

- 65% African-American
- Primarily female or female identifying with an average of 2.5 children
- Mainly from South Los Angeles and Surrounding Communities (Inglewood, Compton, Lynwood, Gardena, etc.) — communities which suffer from higher-than-average poverty and unemployment rates, and lower-than-average education attainment rates, factors which make it more difficult to escape from DV
- 92% of Jenesse clients have experienced severe physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime, often in the context of an intimate relationship
- 95% of female identifying clients report incomes below the federal poverty guideline and have a history of chronic poverty
- Nearly 100% of our clients pay more well over the 30% of (federal/state/local) income standard for housing because Los Angeles has one of the least affordable housing markets
- Many of our clients face additional housing barriers (evictions, convictions) due to substance abuse and mental health issues, language barriers, immigration status, lack of work history, poor credit due to financial abuse, and large family size

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

CASE MANAGEMENT

- Assists clients in assessing their needs and goals
- Coordinates the receipt of all services and participation in programmatic classes
- Advocacy for housing solutions and financial resources
- Client domestic violence certificate program

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

- Pre-employment skills certification
- Professional Education: computer skills, resume writing, career training, job search
- Financial Freedom Program: budgeting, banking, saving
- School enrollment and Online degree programs

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

- Individual, group, peer, and family counseling by trained, registered MFT counselors
- Empowerment and enrichment classes
- Substance abuse and anger management classes

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- 40 Hour Certified Domestic Violence Training
- Raising awareness in schools, businesses and the community about domestic violence
- Stop the Hurting Program for the education and prevention of workplace violence
- Health relationship presentations to adolescents

LEGAL SERVICES

- Domestic Violence Restraining Orders
- Family Law Matters
- VAWA/U-Visa/T-Visa Applications
- Sexual Assault/Stalking Issues
- Legal Education and Empowerment
- Landlord Tenant Advocacy
- Employment Advocacy
- Public Benefits Advocacy
- Court Accompaniment
- Safety Planning
- Children's Court Advocacy
- Limited Scope Representation
- Pro Bono Clinics
- Domestic Abuse Response Team (D.A.R.T.)

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT'S ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

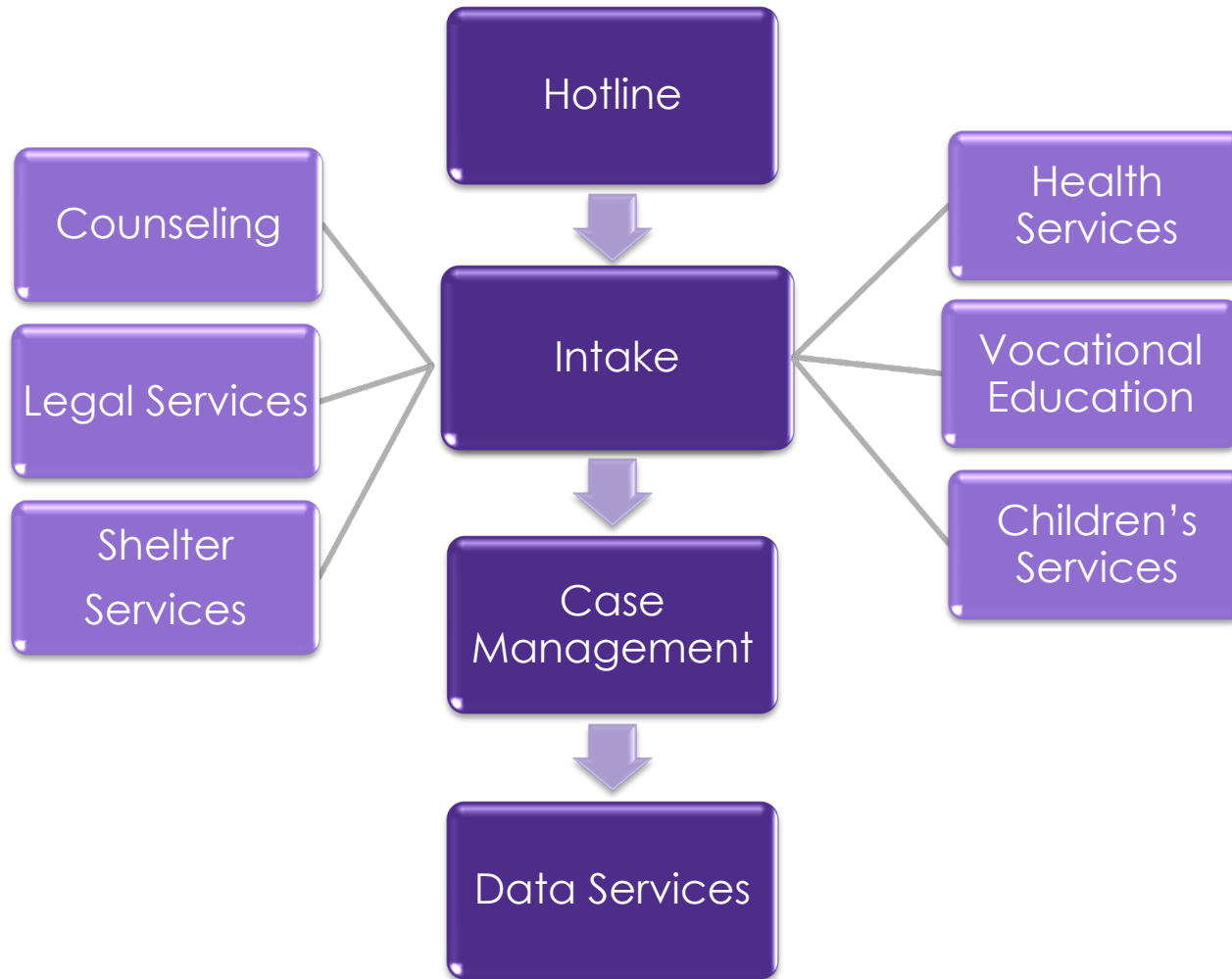
- Parenting classes
- Children's case management; individual and family counseling
- Tutoring and educational activities
- JMAC: After school parent-child relationship building program

HEALTH

- Health coordinator assess all incoming clients
- Health care referrals and follow-up services
- Health educational classes: preventative medicine, nutrition, fitness and healthy living

All programs and services are provided **free** of charge.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES



Culturally Competent Services



- Data shows that African-American women experience DV at a rate 35% higher than that of white females and 22% higher than women of other races
- DV homicide is *the* leading cause of death among African American women ages 15-34 and is a leading cause of death among African American women overall
- Domestic violence is a complex issue in the African American community with cultural, historical, social and economic implications that affect how African American women access intervention services.
- DV poses a threat to AA communities and families, yet many African American women are reluctant to seek intervention services due to what they perceive is a lack of sensitivity about their cultural norms, and an inability to understand their basic educational, economic and mental health needs.

Kasturirangan, Krishnan, and Riger, (2004)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

- Families reside 30 – 45 days
- On site case management
- All meals and other necessities are provided
- Relaxation Area
- Children's Play Area
- Separate Apartment Units for HT Victims



EMERGENCY SHELTER



When families arrive at Jenesse's Emergency Shelter, they are welcomed into a safe place, greeted by staff who say, "You are safe now. Let's begin the healing process and start you on your new journey to self-sufficiency."

With the guidance of a case manager, they begin this journey with the reassurance that every need will be provided for and a caring team of staff are there to walk them through the healing process.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

SITE A

- Families may reside up to 2 years
- Sixteen 1-Bedroom Units
- Furnished Apartments
- On-site Case Management
- Confidential Counseling
- Children's Play Area
- Nahla's World Children's Center
- Nestlé Learning Center
- Starlight Center



Nestlé Learning Center

- Computer lab
- Classroom
- Tutoring and homework
- Group Sessions



Starlight Center

- Counseling
- Library and Reading Room
- Health Screenings
- Special Events



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

SITE B

- Families may reside up to 2 years
- Six 2-bedroom units
- Six 3-bedroom units
- Furnished Apartments
- On-site Case Management
- Confidential Counseling
- Children's Play Area
- Picnic Area



EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Transitioning into a New Life

Jenesse Center, Inc. is more than a shelter. It is a family institute that takes a holistic approach to ending the cycle of domestic violence through education.

Shelter and drop-in program participants attend classes at the Educational Center Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in subjects ranging from mental health, parenting, computer skills and financial literacy.

- Computer Lab/Classroom
- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Legal Services
- Health Services
- Childcare Facility
- Lunch Provided
- 24-Hour Hotline

Vocational Education Program

- Computer Skills
- Continuing Education/Job Acquisition
- Resume Writing/Mock Interviews
- Dress for Success
- Job Search Strategies



IN-HOUSE LEGAL SERVICES

Jenesse Center's Legal Services Program

est. 1999

Since 1999, Jenesse Center has provided **holistic, trauma-informed, direct legal services** at no charge to the families in our programs struggling through issues such as paternity, child custody, support and visitation, divorce and legal separation, juvenile dependency court matters, immigration issues, credit/debit issues, landlord tenant matters, and more. Clients receive an array of services including explanation of legal rights, responsibilities, and options; assistance in completing and filing legal pleadings; preparation of declarations and motions; explanation of court process; hearing preparation and accompaniment; and **representation** in select family law and immigration cases (**U-Visa, T-Visa, VAWA Petitions, Battered Spouse Waivers**) as resources permit.



JENESSE CENTER, INC.
LEGAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT

CAPACITY

4 FULL-TIME STAFF ATTORNEYS
**8 FULL-TIME ADVOCATES AND
PARALEGALS**

INGLEWOOD DV CLINIC



Jenesse Center's
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
LEGAL CLINIC**

Located in the Inglewood Courthouse

Since opening in 2001, Jenesse services an average of 1300 clients per year.

In 2001, Jenesse Center added the **Domestic Violence Clinic at the Inglewood Courthouse** to our complement of legal services. The Clinic is the *first court-based clinic* in Los Angeles County operated by a domestic violence shelter program. ***Services are free and available in the client's preferred language.*** Clinic staff assist survivors in completing the restraining order application and declaration, provide a detailed explanation of the court process, including what to expect when they appear before the judicial officer, how to file and serve the Temporary Restraining Order ("TRO") on the restrained party, and how to prepare for the restraining order hearing. Clinic staff discuss safety planning and provide referrals for supportive services based on information disclosed during the intake process. Clients needing additional legal services are connected with Jenesse's in-house legal services program for further assistance.

PROJECT FREEDOM

- A Collaborative Pro Bono project with BWL, Jenesse Center, and the Inglewood Courthouse Helping Domestic Violence Victims Transition from Crisis to Safety
- Representation in Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) Hearings
- DVROs are successful 69% of the time in stopping the abuse, allowing the parties to peacefully separate, implementing emergency custody orders that keep children safe
- Studies shows that having an attorney improves the likelihood of obtaining a DVRO from 32% to 86%
- Over 80% of family law litigants in LA County are self-represented. These cases are often legally and factually complex and often impacted by domestic violence
- Self-represented family law litigants often make critical mistakes regarding issues such as safety, support, and child custody
- **PROJECT FREEDOM** seeks to improve victims' ability to successfully escape abusive relationships through robust legal assistance at an early stage of the proceedings

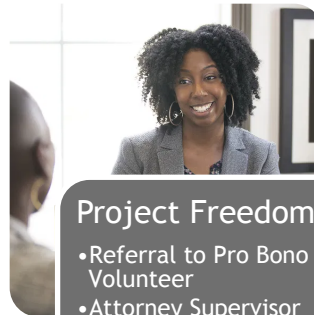
PROJECT FREEDOM

PROCESS:



Jenesse

- Intake
- Screening
- Refer case to staff attorney for further review
- Staff Attorney conduct initial consult with client



Project Freedom

- Referral to Pro Bono Volunteer
- Attorney Supervisor Assigned
- Advocate Support Continues



Pro Bono Attorney

- Meets with Client
- Prepares case for Hearing
- Represents Client at Hearing

PROJECT FREEDOM

PREPARATION:

1

Orientation/Training

2

Observation/Q & A

3

Case Accepted for
Representation



Jenesse Center, Inc.

24/7 HOTLINE

1-800-479-7328

www.jenesse.org