

# 2024 YEAR AT A GLANCE



## INNOVATING EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

Our Prevention Education team continues to be in high demand, known for their innovative and empowering content and educators. The team taught in 10 schools in 2024, presenting five professional trainings on the links between sexual harm prevention and healthy technology throughout the year. In total, the team served 1,471 students!

Beyond the classroom, the team developed a variety of new and exciting partnerships and opportunities. They partnered with the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) on a state-wide symposium on Moving Prevention Forward. They created and presented a new professional training, Talking Tech with Teens, at the ICASA's state-wide Rape Prevention Education symposium. They were also selected to serve on the Illinois Sexual Violence Task Force, co-sponsored by the Illinois Department of Public Health and ICASA, for two years.

"Be mindful online by thinking carefully before I post or share, ensuring my actions align with **kindness, accuracy, and respect for others' privacy.**"

– 11th grade Prevention Education student at John Hancock College Preparatory High School, on how you can be more mindful online

## DEEPENING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



2024 was a year of connecting deeply for our Community Engagement team. The team held 52 events, engaging 198 individuals! "Let's Chat Over Lunch" and "Surviving the Mic," Community Engagement's monthly virtual offerings continued to be places of connection – creating reliable and brave spaces for writing, discussion, support, collaboration, and community.

A big priority for this program in 2024 was becoming more actively engaged with local LGBTQ+ organizations, including Center on Halsted and Center on Cottage Grove, Brave Space Alliance, and Affinity Community Services. Community Engagement also connected CAASE's legal team with Brave Space Alliance, a Black trans-led organization on Chicago's South Side, to provide

information about survivors' rights. They also connected with Grapsate, a Black faith-based organization, with Casa Central, a local rape crisis center, to complete a 40-hour sexual assault training.

Creating new relationships and strengthening existing ones has led Community Engagement to deeper connections and conversations with survivors throughout the community.

## ADVOCATING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND CHANGE

Policy had an active and engaged 2024! Our policy work continues to center expanding options for survivors, holding systems and perpetrators accountable, and preventing future violence. In 2024, four of our five policy legislative agenda items of 2024 passed!

We saw the Pretrial Fairness Act (PFA) continue to be successfully implemented. The team gave 12 presentations on the new law to end money bond to community partners and organizations, including at the National Sexual Assault Conference in Washington, D.C. In March, Madeleine Behr, CAASE policy & communications director was awarded the Chicago Foundation for Women Impact Award for her work on the PFA. The Policy team was appointed by The Illinois State Board of Education to the Ensuring Success in School Law (ESSL) task force, serving as a subcommittee chair. We look forward to the ESSL being implemented in summer 2025!



Our Policy team continued to inform the public about our work in ending sexual harm in various media outlets throughout the year. They look forward to spreading more education and awareness about issues that impact survivors in the future.

## SURVIVOR JUSTICE AND HEALING

Our Legal services team served 215 clients in 2024, with 370 total matters! They had 19 pro bono clients, and 21 pro bono attorneys working with clients in 2024. It was a record year—the team served more clients than ever before, and their clients received more in financial settlements than ever before. We are honored to be part of our clients' journeys towards justice and healing.

The Legal team attended the National Sexual Assault Conference in August, strengthening and growing their community of allies and partners.

The Legal team also added a new endeavor to their work: taking on cases of survivors who are incarcerated in Illinois' women's prisons. CAASE's legal help for criminalized survivors includes criminal records assistance, resentencing and clemency petitions, civil advice and litigation, and assistance with crime victims' rights. From Title IX matters to employment cases, to cyber sexual abuse, and clearing criminal records for survivors of sex trafficking, the Legal team strives to be a dependable resource to survivors seeking justice.

"There was never a moment I doubted [my attorney's] **righteous advocacy** or her desire to **fight on my behalf**. For the first time maybe in my entire life, I felt like someone understood me and wanted to genuinely help me. . . **She believed me when no one else did.**"

– Legal Services client

# 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

[caase.org](https://caase.org)  
[info@caase.org](mailto:info@caase.org)  
(773) 244-2230

307 N. Michigan, Suite 1020  
Chicago, IL 60601

[Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Bluesky](#):  
@TheCAASE