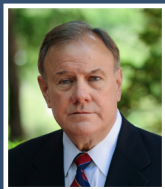




Texas Appleseed

# OUR MISSION

*Texas Appleseed's mission is to promote social and economic justice for all Texans by leveraging the skills and resources of volunteer lawyers and other professionals to identify practical solutions to difficult, systemic problems.*



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**3,100+**  
**HOURS DONATED**

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**\$1.5<sup>+</sup>**  
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# 2014 PROJECTS

PROTECTING CHILD REFUGEES • DISASTER RECOVERY & FAIR HOUSING  
PAYDAY & AUTO TITLE LENDING REFORM • DISMANTLING THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE  
CRIMINAL DISCOVERY REFORM • FOSTER CARE • DIVERSITY LEGAL SCHOLARS  
MENTAL HEALTH & THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM • JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

## DISASTER RECOVERY & FAIR HOUSING

Texas Appleseed fought for the rights of low-income families to rebuild their homes after Hurricanes Ike and Dolly. After a four-year battle, ground was broken in September 2014 to rebuild Galveston public housing as part of mixed-income developments. We partnered with Texas Low Income Housing Information Service (TxLIHIS) to ensure that federal dollars were earmarked for rebuilding public housing and helped negotiate a rebuilding plan with the City and the Galveston Housing Authority. Also in 2014, we were able to see results of our HUD-approved Conciliation Agreement with the State of Texas, which resolved fair housing complaints we filed with TxLIHIS. The percentage of funding for home repairs for the poorest Texans has doubled: from 29% before the Conciliation Agreement to 60% after.



*The Melendez family, in Cameron County, was able to rebuild their Hurricane Dolly-damaged home with help from a pilot project aimed at finding new ways to ensure housing is rebuilt more quickly after a disaster in Texas.*



## PAYDAY & AUTO TITLE LENDING REFORM

Ten new cities adopted Texas' unified ordinance in 2014, adding basic, practical standards to control predatory payday and auto title lending practices. We worked closely with a number of those cities, including Midland, Amarillo and Brownsville. In February 2014, we submitted a complaint to the Texas Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner, documenting the wrongful use of criminal complaints by payday loan businesses to collect on defaulted loans. The complaint led to an investigation of one major business, with an order to pay a \$10,000 fine and restitution to the impacted consumers. We further documented over 1,500 instances of criminal complaints wrongfully filed by payday loan businesses in eight Texas counties. In December 2014, we submitted an official complaint to state and federal agencies urging regulatory action.



## DISMANTLING THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

Texas students who are truant—often for complex reasons such as chronic medical issues, homelessness or undiagnosed special education needs—are sent to adult criminal courts where they pay large fines and even serve jail time as a result. In 2014, our nonprofit collected and analyzed years’ worth of truancy data from numerous sources, and observed JP courts across Texas, for purposes of our 2015 report, *Class, Not Court: Reconsidering Texas’ Criminalization of Truancy*. In 2014, we also quickly responded to the news that school districts were arming themselves with military weapons through the federal government’s 1033 Program, which provides military surplus to local law enforcement. We drafted a letter to the Department of Defense, signed by over 20 advocacy organizations across the U.S., calling for an end to the program for K-12 schools. Some districts willingly decided to relinquish the weapons in response. In 2014, we also produced a free video series in English and Spanish with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid called *Youth in Court*, which explains to youth charged with low-level crimes how to navigate the court process and prepare a defense. It has garnered more than 8,000 views on YouTube.

## PROTECTING CHILD REFUGEES

When tens of thousands of children fled violence in their home countries of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala in the spring of 2014, Texas Appleseed quickly responded and began work on systemic ways to help child refugees coming to the U.S. for safety. Texas Appleseed and MALDEF filed a civil rights and fair housing complaint with HUD against League City, Texas, based on its passage of a resolution banning the housing or detention of child refugees. The complaint was the first action of its kind nationally. HUD has opened a federal compliance review of League City.

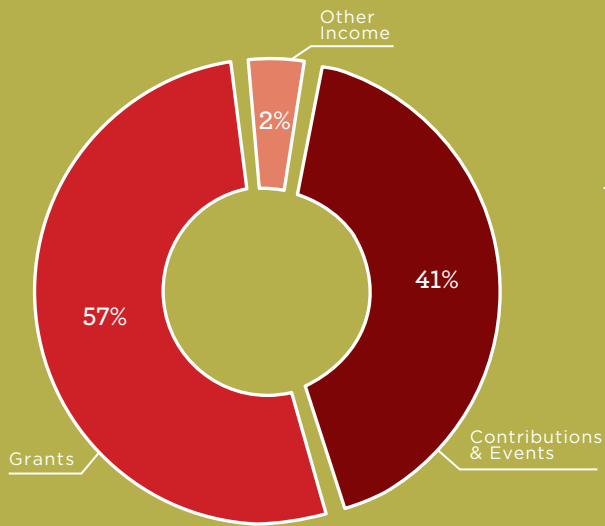


Photo Credit: Eugenio del Bosque Gómez

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

EXTRACTED FROM AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014

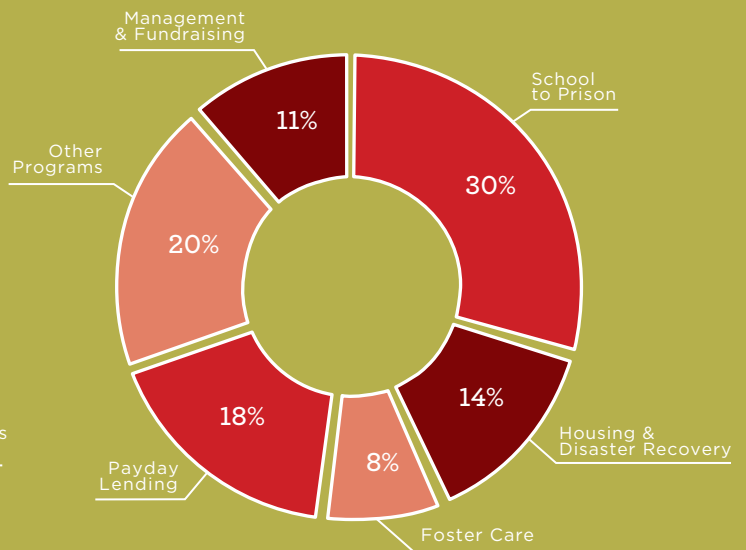
## REVENUE



## TOTAL REVENUE

\$1,269,241

## EXPENDITURES



## TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,355,742

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