SURVIVORS Makes Changes to Our Newsletter

Our hardcover newsletter is undergoing some changes. It is now fewer pages and will only be issued twice a year. We are hoping this change will be temporary as we know how popular our newsletter is.

The main reason for this change is that our funding has not kept pace with our increasing client needs. More torture survivors than ever are walking through our doors and what they need to heal has become even more complex. As a result, we came to the conclusion that we need to cut back on our newsletter, not client services. In the meantime, we are working diligently to secure additional funding from individuals, like you, as well as from foundations and other sources.

Since the very first issue of our newsletter in June 1998, we have appreciated receiving valuable feedback about content and style. We are asking you to continue this tradition by completing the brief questionnaire on page 4 and mailing it back to us in the enclosed envelope.

Please let us know if you would like to remain on our mailing list.

We look forward to hearing from you as we value our relationship with you. We would also like to encourage you, if you haven’t already come on a Journey to Healing tour, to visit us at our office and learn more about Survivors of Torture, International in a more personal way.

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Mission Statement

Survivors of Torture, International:
• Facilitates the healing of torture survivors and their families;
• Educates professionals and the public about torture and its consequences;
• Advocates for the abolition of torture.

Human Rights Watch Film Festival Comes to San Diego January, 2013

The Museum of Photographic Arts, in community partnership with SURVIVORS, is honored to host the third year of the Human Rights Watch Film Festival in San Diego, a powerful film event that the New York Times called the “cinematic conscience of the world.” As the world’s foremost showcase for films with a distinctive human rights theme, Human Rights Watch allows courageous individuals on both sides of the lens to empower audiences with the knowledge that they can make a difference. For a list of films and ticket information, please visit www.mopa.org/hrwff. The film festival runs January 24-28, 2013.

“Call Me Kucho” is one film to be screened at the festival

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Working with Youth Torture Survivors

youth takes a special approach. “You can’t just invite young people into a formal therapy session and expect that they will immediately feel comfortable sharing their story,” said Tricia Hilliard, SURVIVORS’ senior mental health clinician. “Our first priority is to build trust by normalizing that this process takes time and that we understand how hard it can be at first. It’s our responsibility to make sure we are going at the pace of the clients, addressing their priorities first while providing psychoeducation and building relationships. It is my job to help them feel safe and become comfortable with the therapeutic process. Drawing or playing are ways we can discuss their lives and what happened to them.”

“We are prepared to meet with youth and their families in their home environment or on their school campus, wherever they feel more comfortable,” said Hilliard.

Drawing by one of our clients depicting his family home and beloved dog

Please let us know if you still would like to be on the mailing list, the kind of content you would prefer and in what format you would like to receive the newsletter in the future. You can also to do this by going to our website www.notorture.org/newsletter_survey.php and completing the questionnaire electronically or emailing the information to survivors@notorture.org or calling us at 619-278-2421.
Abel’s Journey to Hope and Healing

When *Abel first arrived at SURVIVORS, it was because his attorney had referred him here for a psychological and medical evaluation for his case to seek political asylum in the United States. He was still in shock after his long journey from a country in East Africa, where he had been imprisoned and tortured for his political beliefs.

At SURVIVORS, after his evaluation sessions, he started seeing one of our therapists on a regular basis. “I found these to be very helpful for the depression I was feeling,” he said. He also got a bus pass and assistance with additional basic needs. After a while Abel received permission to work. He got a job at a local fast food restaurant. Later, he drove a taxi. Around this time he won his asylum case and knew he could make plans for the future. His dream was to work in human rights and help others. Now he is working at an agency that does just that. “I get to help other people solve their problems. It feels great,” Abel said. He recently called SURVIVORS’ office to give us an update on his new job and to thank us for all our assistance.*

*Client’s name has been changed to protect his privacy.

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These tours are not fundraisers and are always on hour or less. A recent tour guest said, “Your Journey to Healing tour had a huge impact on me.”

The upcoming tours are listed on the back of the newsletter. To RSVP, email survivors@notorture.org or call 619-278-2421.

Everyday, our clients inspire us as they triumph over the torture that they experienced. In turn, we feel compelled to not only serve them in the most caring and professional way humanly possible but to also in turn share with you how important it is to create a community of healing. Thank you for your past support and for your ongoing words of encouragement and financial gifts.*

Thrivent Financial Opportunity
SURVIVORS has just been enrolled in Thrivent Choice, the charitable grant program of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a welcome funding source for 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations nationwide.

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, you likely are aware of this easy, convenient way to help support what matters most to you. The Thrivent Choice program offers ways members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable grant funds each year.

Eligible benefit members are designated Choice Dollars which they can direct, thereby recommending charitable grant funding for their choice among thousands of 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations, now including SURVIVORS.

If you are eligible to participate in Choice Dollars, or are uncertain about your eligibility, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.

Women PeaceMakers Visit SURVIVORS

University of San Diego’s Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice celebrated the 10th year of its Women PeaceMakers Program. Each year, the women visit SURVIVORS. This year was no different, but what made their recent visit even more special was that one of the Women PeaceMakers, Ludmila Popovic, is the founder and executive director of the Rehabilitation Center of Torture Victims Memoria, or RCTV Memoria, the only such organization in Moldova working with survivors of torture, and a fellow member of the International Rehabilitation Council for Victims of Torture.*

From left to right: Suzanne Bacon, SURVIVORS’ community relations manager, Women PeaceMakers Ludmila Popovic of Moldova and Alice Nderitu of Kenya; Kathi Anderson, executive director of SURVIVORS, and Women PeaceMaker Radha Paudel of Nepal. (Not pictured Women PeaceMaker Nancy Sánchez of Colombia)

About Us
Survivors of Torture, International was incorporated in February 1997 in response to a need in our community to bring assistance to a segment of the population that struggles with the wounds of politically motivated torture. It is estimated that at least 11,000 survivors of torture live in San Diego County and 500,000 live in the United States. Torture survivors may be left with lifelong physical and mental health problems if not treated by trained professionals.

Since 1997, SURVIVORS has engaged a caring network of professionals — board members, interpreters, therapists, physicians, dentists — and all of you in the community who give support and encouragement in many ways. To date we have served more than 1,500 clients from over 70 different countries. Your support enables us to help torture survivors rebuild their lives. Treatment helps survivors heal, reconnect with their families, go back to school, and find employment.

Eighty-nine cents of every dollar raised goes directly to SURVIVORS’ programs.

Thank you to all of our financial supporters!

Because of you, survivors are rebuilding their lives. We are grateful. These lists cover the period of May 1 - September 30, 2012. We apologize for any errors or omissions and extend our gratitude for support that may not have been recognized. (Please contact us at 619-278-2400 with corrections.)

Healing Society Members
Members of the Healing Society make generous five-year pledges
Kathi Anderson & Jesse Rivera
Jane & Dale Bacon
Jeanette Barrack
Ann & Richard Durham
James & Denise Francis
Jean M. Greaves & Greg Olmstead
Jim Hanson
Dr. Jim Jaranson Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation

Individual Financial Supporters
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Kathleen Bolus
Kaitlyn Breitkreutz
Kathryn Brinton
Rahughh Brouwer
Robert Brown
Anita Bunting
Francine Busby
Fran Butler-Cohen
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Judith Carter
Deborah Casher & John Quart
Jack Cassidy & Janice Steinberg
Charlene Clingman
Lana Coburn
Marjorie Cohn
Diana Vellos Coker
Yolanda Collier
Susannah Conn
Scott Cook
Barbara D’Aversa
James & Tica DeHarportte
Cynthia Dillon
Joel Dinsdale
Michele Dunne
Pamela & Gary Dykstra
Jeff Elias
Paula Elizabeth & Ross Putnam
Candy Elson
Duchess Emerson
George & Ethel Falk
Christina Fink
Sean Flaherty
Betsy Frank
Sonora & Joseph Frisch
Diane Gage
Ramón & Glória Galindez
David Gangsei & Lindy Laub
Rex Garmire
William K. Gilchrist
Jeanne Giff
Geraldine Gomez
Arthur Gonzalez, Jr.
Mildred Gordon
Mariana Grasela
Laura Jean Hageman & Thomas Bond
Michael Hagenow
Ginger & Jim Hallenberg
Kate & John W. Hambleton
Stephanie Hanson
Lucy Hargett
Nancy & Michael Harrelson
Marian Hart & Wayne Liebold
Joseph & Elizabeth Heidler
Lois Hellberg
Paola Herrera & Tim Botsko
Philip Herron
Anne Hoiberg
Margarit
Hollenbeck
Matthew Holt
Nancy & Reid Hoover
Scott & Paola Hornbuckle
Lynne H. Howard
Dalia & Gordon Hunt
Sarah Jaygoosi
Darwin Johnson
Penny M. Johnson
Ralph Johnstone
Jessica P. Jollett
Jennifer P. Jonsson
Patricia & Lewis Judd
Mark Kaban
Trina & Ted Kaplan
Susanne Kasischke-Miller
Shahido Kempton
David Kieschnick
Malvin & Jane Kieschnick
Janice Kim
Apara Kohls
Hunt Koniker
Maria Kreckel
Latte Lama
Shirley Lamyi
Davud Latorre
Dennis & Beverly Lauck
Rebecca LeVasseur
Michael & Linda Levin
Carolyn & Richard Lieb
Tammy Lin
Midburn Line
April Linton
Dan Little
Maria Llanas
Jacinta Loehren
Susan & Peter Mackauf
Gail & Phillip Marshall
Richard Mason
David Mason
Terry & Mercedes McCaffrey
Elena McCollin
Chris McCormick
F. Marjan Mcgee
Martha McPhail
Sharon Mehlman
Andrea Michel
Elizabeth Michel & Arnie Markman
Linda Moore
Carol Morabito
Rebecca Mortines
Bill Mueller
Donovan Myers
Johny & Johan Neels
K-Rae Nelson
Jane & David Nessig
Deana & Barclay Noble
Richard Nolan
Jan Nordby
Laura O’Connor
Amy & Melvin Okamura
Lavern Olberding
Don Ontage
Margaret & Richard Palmer
Micah Parzen
D’Ann Paton
Natalie Pearl
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Carolyn Pincus
Susan Pollock
James Poulson
Alby Quinlan & Alan Schmidt
Bill & Martha Radatz
Ron & Nicola Ranson
Sean Riordan & Dalia Chanem
Edna & Daniel Robertson
Barbara Rojas
Marlene Ruiz
Deanna Sampson
Heidi & Jonathan Schroffel
Alisa Shorago
Sylvia Silveira-Castro
Davon Starn-Sivekney
Alison St John Inglis
Nicolea Stary
Brigit Sullivan
David Switzer
Facka Tafara
Carolyn Tager
Andrea Taylor
Donna Thompson
Richard Tirado
Mortezah M. Vaghefi
Nicolle Wel
Cheryl Waleczak
Nicolle Wel
Victoria C. Wilson
Deanna Wolf
Denise & Tony Yousif
Rick Zemlin

Organizations That Financially Support SURVIVORS
Chula Vista Presbyterian Church
County of San Diego, Health and Human Services
Funding Factory
Gerson Law Firm APC
High Conflict Diversion Program, LLC
Human & Civil Rights Organizations of America, a Federation in the Combined Federal Campaign
Intuit Foundation
Donation Matching Program
Josephson Werdlowitz & Associates, Incorporated
Julius J. Pearl Fund at The San Diego Foundation
Justus Enterprises Inc.
Business Copier Solutions/BCS
Law Offices of Sandra M. Wagner
Price Charities
San Diego County Employees Charitable Organization (CECO)
San Diego Lions Welfare Foundation
San Diego Repertory Theater
The Kroger Company
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement

The California Endowment
Alliance Healthcare Foundation
American Immigration Lawyers Association
Barrett Medical
California Institute for Mental Health
California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC)
Certified Hand Solutions
Change A Life Foundation

November 2012 / volume 15, issue 3
151 new clients were served during fiscal year 2012* (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 30, 2012)

Our clients were tortured due to their race, religion, nationality, social group, or political opinion.

*In addition to 89 ongoing clients

Client Demographics

Geographic Origins

- Africa: 69
- Middle East: 49
- Latin America: 22
- Asia: 8
- Eastern Europe: 3

Ages

- 5-13: 12
- 14-17: 9
- 18-24: 30
- 25-44: 81
- 44-64: 19

Gender

- Males: 70
- Females: 81

Please fill out this slip and mail it back to us in the enclosed envelope to continue receiving “The Survivor” (or email us at survivors@notorture.org, call 619-278-2421, or visit: www.notorture.org/newsletter_survey.php)

Name________________________________________
Email ________________________________
Address Line 1 (or send us this entire page with your address label)
_____________________________________
Address Line 2________________________
Phone:_______________________________

____Yes! I would like to continue to receive “The Survivor” in printed format.
____Yes! Keep me on your mailing list, but only electronically, please.
____No, please take me off your mailing list.

Portions of the newsletter I most enjoy are (select your top 3):
___Client stories
___Updates on advocacy
___Financial contributors
___Ways to help SURVIVORS
___Upcoming events
___Book and film reviews
___Other________________________

Other comments?

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For more information go to www.notorture.org/events or call 619-278-2400.

SURVIVORS

San Diego, CA 92175-1240

Change Service Requested

Survivors of Torture International

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5 The Strength to Survive. The Power to Heal