



eNews Update

Building a community of healing for survivors of torture.



Dear Friends,

For some people, the word "torture" is too awful to even contemplate. People may be hesitant or afraid to hear more about the work we are doing because it can be so upsetting to learn of the horrors that people around the globe are facing. Here at Survivors of Torture, International (SURVIVORS), we recognize that torture is a difficult topic to discuss, but we also know that it is infinitely worse to experience it firsthand. That's why it's so important for us to be here to provide a lifeline to those who have survived torture.

Our caring and knowledgeable staff and clinicians have the expertise to help those who have survived severe trauma. Our clients feel safe knowing that we won't back away from hearing their stories and sharing their pain. We know that with the right support, our clients can experience joy again. Every day we are inspired by our clients' resiliency and courage to rebuild their lives. We are not alone in our support of torture survivors, and for that we thank you.

- Thank you for joining us in our [social media campaign](#) in honor of June 26, the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.
- Thank you to all of you who have learned how SURVIVORS is helping torture survivors heal by attending one of our [Journey to Healing tours](#).
- Thank you for your [financial contributions](#) that make our work possible.
- Thank you for letting our elected officials know that our work is important to you.

Until the freedom of oppressed ones from the iron claws of tyranny and cruelty, and the development of justice and equality, I hope that the door of love and compassion at Survivors of Torture, International will remain open. - Quote from a male client from the Middle East

Sincerely,
Kathi Anderson
Executive Director

SURVIVORS Welcomes New Board Member Mel Kieschnick



SURVIVORS is pleased to welcome Mel Kieschnick to its board. (Photo shows Mel (right) with his wife and son.) Mel is a retired educator with considerable international work experience. He has worked with refugees in Asia and new immigrants in New York City. He has served as both staff and board member for national and international organizations that support emerging ministries of health and hope. His primary life work has been in Lutheran education and schools at all academic levels. As the Director of Parent Effectiveness Training, he has provided parent-child education to parents and human services professionals around the world.

"My life's journey has brought me into contact with persons from all over the world and I value our shared common humanity. I became aware of Survivors of Torture, International just as it began its work in San Diego. Kathi (SURVIVORS' executive director) has been a great model and inspiration for me as she assists people, always affirming their dignity and possibilities. I am fortunate in having had experience in fund development efforts of not-for-profit organizations. It is also my hope that my experience in giving testimony to the state legislatures of California, Michigan and New York and to the U.S. Senate will enable me, through Survivors of Torture, International, to also be a public advocate on behalf of persons seeking sanctuary and a full life in the United States of America."

SURVIVORS Awarded Grant by Kaiser Foundation Hospitals



KAISER PERMANENTE.

[Kaiser Foundation Hospitals](#) recently awarded SURVIVORS a \$10,000 grant for medical services for uninsured torture survivors. "We are grateful for Kaiser Foundation Hospitals' financial support," said Kathi Anderson, SURVIVORS' executive director. "Our clients often have medical problems resulting from the torture they suffered as well as general health concerns. This support allows us to provide vital medical services to our clients."

In addition to the funds provided, SURVIVORS has had a proud relationship for many years with pro bono physicians from Kaiser Permanente who perform medical examinations for our asylum-seeking clients. Kaiser Permanente provides the malpractice insurance for its physicians to volunteer with us, making this volunteer work possible.

SURVIVORS Awarded Grant by Women of the ELCA



[Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) recently awarded a grant of \$3,000 to Survivors of Torture, International to heal the scars of torture endured by women and children. The funds will be used to provide urgently-needed medical services to 15 clients.

Women of the ELCA offer grants to support healing and wholeness for women of all ages through the affirmation and advancement of women's emotional, physical, and spiritual health. This is the second time SURVIVORS has received support from this organization. If you would like SURVIVORS' executive director Kathi Anderson to speak at your congregation or faith group, please contact us at (619) 278-2400 or email us at survivors@notorture.org.

SURVIVORS is Collecting New Backpacks for Back to School Youth



SURVIVORS is currently requesting new backpacks to help our school-aged clients and families prepare for the back-to-school season. About 10 percent of SURVIVORS clients are under the age of 18 and are enrolled in a variety of schools in San Diego County. If you would like to donate backpacks or school supplies, please contact us at (619) 278-2400 or email survivors@notorture.org

SURVIVORS is Hiring a Grants Manager



SURVIVORS is hiring a grants manager who will be responsible for managing all aspects of grant proposals and reports, including researching and identifying new prospective funding sources such as foundations, corporations, government, faith-based organizations and associations.

SURVIVORS always welcomes your input on additional funding sources to help us provide important services to torture survivors living in San Diego. For more information or to apply, [please click here](#). We are moving quickly, so get your applications in soon!

Journey to Healing Tours



"Thank you for such an inspiring tour. My guest and I learned so much about the programs and services offered by your organization." - Comment from a recent tour guest

Our Journey to Healing tours continue to be a wonderful way to introduce or reintroduce people to SURVIVORS. Come meet our staff, volunteers, and hear from a client about how we are creating a safe haven for torture survivors, helping them to rebuild their lives, and building a welcoming community. See our map up close that shows the more than 80 countries where our clients were tortured in their home countries (above).

Our next Journey to Healing tours are **Tuesday, August 6, 5:30-6:30 pm** and **Thursday, August 22, 5:30-6:30 pm**. [See the schedule here](#). We will not be asking for donations. We will welcome your feedback. Call our office at (619) 278-2400 or email us at survivors@notorture.org to reserve your spot today!

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial are designated Choice Dollars that can be directed to SURVIVORS. If you are eligible to participate in Choice Dollars, or are uncertain about your eligibility, visit <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/>, contact your local Thrivent Financial representative or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836). You can always call SURVIVORS for assistance as well (619) 278-2400.

Ongoing Opportunities



Get a Tax Benefit
Donate a Vehicle to
Survivors of Torture, International


Vehicle Donation

- Any Vehicle, Anywhere
- Running or Not
- **Free**, Easy, Fast

Get a Tax Benefit and a big "Thanks" from us

www.notorture.org
877-999-8322

powered by

V-Dac

Donate your car, truck, or RV to benefit SURVIVORS through the [V-DAC program](#).



California State Employee Charitable Campaign: It's that time of year again! State employees can pledge some or all of their California State Employee Charitable Campaign (CSECC) contributions to SURVIVORS and talk up our work among your colleagues. **Our agency code is 16890.**

Support SURVIVORS through Ralphs!



SURVIVORS is registered with Ralphs' Community Contribution Program. If you shop at Ralphs and you register as a supporter of SURVIVORS, Ralphs will contribute to the organization every time you make a purchase.

To sign up or register again (which needs to be done each September), simply log on to the [Ralphs website](#), and click "enroll" under "participant." Our Agency code is **84761**.

Social Networks: Connect with SURVIVORS on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).

Goodsearch: Support SURVIVORS by searching or shopping online through [Goodsearch.com](#)

Recycle for SURVIVORS: You can give your used cell phones, ipods, and other small electronics directly to SURVIVORS to recycle or resell through our online thrift shop. Call us at (619) 278-2400.

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.*

Consider being a sponsor of our 2013 Helping Survivors Heal Fundraiser. [Contact us for more information.](#)

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