



eNews Update

Building a community of healing for survivors of torture.



Dear Friends,

Donate today to support
Survivors of Torture
International!

The new film "Zero Dark Thirty" has been a popular topic in the media lately, with the main question being around the accuracy of the film and whether it lends credence to the myth that torture is an effective tool in extracting information.

[Senators John McCain, Carl Levin, and Dianne Feinstein have stated that the film is inaccurate,](#) reprimanded the filmmakers, and now are launching an investigation into what the CIA may have shared with the filmmakers about the hunt for Osama Bin Laden. We at SURVIVORS are very pleased the senators have been forthright in the erroneous portrayal of torture. We are also glad it is bringing the topic of torture to the forefront of people's minds.

While our organization cannot make a judgment on the accuracy of the film, we can say that torture is always wrong. We can personally attest to the devastating aftermath of torture on the people we help. We see the long-lasting effects of torture that result in injuries, depression, anxiety, fear, mistrust, and isolation.

The majority of our clients were not tortured for information, but most often because of their identity. Factors such as their ethnicity, religion, or political beliefs made them targets for those in power who wanted to stay in power. They were tortured to shatter their spirits and bodies, to instill fear in them and their neighbors, and to tear apart communities.

With your support, we help torture survivors heal through a holistic program that is based on each individual's needs. Through therapy, social services, and access to medical services, torture survivors are rebuilding their lives here in San Diego. We facilitate the healing of torture survivors and empower them to become productive members of our society. While this day to day work goes on, and our clients make small steps to healing, it is not generally given as much attention as a block buster film, but in our eyes it is even more monumental. Thank you for the support that makes our work possible.

Sincerely,
Kathi Anderson
Executive Director

Thoughts from Our Clients



"I am humbled by your generosity and continued support. Thank you so much for believing in my dream. Your support renews my hope at times when I feel very hopeless." -A female client from the Middle East

"Thank you so much. I'm sure that God put you in my path. I do not know what I would have become without you, throughout this long and tough period. I will never thank you enough. I cannot thank you enough." -A male client from Africa

News

National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs' 5th Annual Research Symposium



SURVIVORS' executive director, Kathi Anderson, is headed to Washington, D.C. in February for the [National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs' \(NCTTP\) 5th Annual Research Symposium, "Torture Treatment: Clinical, Community & Policy Interventions, Outcomes."](#) The symposium is a chance for members of the consortium to come together to share best practices, current trends and challenges in the field of torture treatment, as well as to advocate collectively against the use of torture around the world. Anderson serves on the executive committee of the board of the NCTTP.

The symposium is also open to the public, and if you will be in Washington, D.C. on February 13, we encourage you to attend to have the chance to learn first-hand from experts on the topic of torture and torture treatment from across the nation.

While in D.C., Anderson will also make multiple congressional visits to raise awareness about the importance of providing treatment to torture survivors.

Journey to Healing Tours



"I haven't been able to stop thinking about your tour all day." - 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 over 70 countries where our clients were tortured in their home countries (above).

Our next Journey to Healing tours are **Tuesday, February 12, 5:30-6:30 pm** and **Wednesday, February 27, 5:30-6:30 pm**. [See the schedule for additional dates here](#).

We will not be asking for donations. We will welcome your feedback. Call our office at 619-278-2400 or email us to reserve your spot today!

SURVIVORS Hiring Part-Time Psychiatrist and Contract Therapists for Home Visits

SURVIVORS is hiring a part-time psychiatrist to assist SURVIVORS' clients with their psychiatric needs. The psychiatrist sees clients at our Old Town office twice a month for initial assessments and ongoing medication management.

SURVIVORS is also looking to expand its network of contract licensed mental health therapists. In particular, we need clinicians who are able to do home visits in the East County area of San Diego, such as El Cajon. SURVIVORS has had an increase in the number of clients who are home-bound due to health reasons and transportation barriers.

If you or someone you know would be interested in joining our team of mental health clinicians, [please contact SURVIVORS](#).

Tax-Free IRA Gifts Reinstated for 2012

Congress passed legislation recently that extends the IRA charitable rollover. This law also lets individuals who are 70½ and older to make special gifts to charity. Individuals who took a taxable distribution from their IRA in December 2012 can avoid taxes on the distribution by making a gift to charity by January 31, 2013. For more information contact your personal financial representative or tax accountant or [see this article on Forbes](#).

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



Combined Federal Campaign: Federal employees can pledge some or all of their Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to SURVIVORS and talk up our work among your colleagues. **Our agency code is 24619.** We receive CFC donations from across the country, each of which really make a difference in our ability to serve our clients!

California State Employee Charitable Campaign: 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 reregister (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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