



eNews Update

Building a community of healing for survivors of torture.



Dear Friends,

Donate today to support
Survivors of Torture
International!

Many of us have heard about the [sequestration](#) and are starting to see the effects of federal budget cuts impacting many sectors and organizations in our community. As of the sending of this enewsletter, we are unsure of how the sequestration may affect our federal funding. In response to the Torture Victims Relief Act, we receive support from [Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement](#). We have not yet been informed how their cuts will affect our own funding for next fiscal year. However unwelcome, we are preparing for what this could mean for our services.

What we hadn't anticipated, however, was that the sequestration would have an unexpected ripple effect directly on our clients. You may be aware that when people seek asylum, they can be detained in a detention facility located near our border. President Obama made a policy change in 2009 that said that when asylum seekers meet certain conditions, they can request to be released into the community. While being detained in a maximum security facility is an additional trauma for any torture survivor, it also means a guaranteed meal and a place to sleep, in addition to being placed on an expedited legal calendar.

However, with the sequestration, many of our clients who are currently detained are being released into the community, perhaps without choice or work authorization until they are granted asylum in an increasingly more backlogged court system. While we are glad that they are no longer suffering from being detained, this situation does create new challenges for them and additional demands on our agency to provide vital social services to meet their most pressing needs. While our main focus is helping torture survivors heal from their trauma, it is hard for them to concentrate on therapy and heal while they are wondering where the next meal will come from or where to sleep at night.

We welcome support and input from you, and your involvement to help us offer assistance to these brave, resilient and yet very vulnerable individuals as they transition into becoming healthy, productive members of our community.

Sincerely,
Kathi Anderson
Executive Director

SURVIVORS Partners with Mo'olelo Theater for "Extraordinary Chambers"



Extraordinary Chambers

A Play by David Wiener

June 6–30, 2013

SURVIVORS is proud to be a partner organization for Mo'olelo's upcoming play written by David Wiener and directed by Seema Sueko. "Extraordinary Chambers" is the story of an American couple who travels to Cambodia for an innocent business trip, but become personally entangled with Khmer Rouge survivors. The genocide, complicity, survival and greed collide in this play that shines a light on the Cambodian experience and asks how far are we willing to go to survive?

SURVIVORS is assisting the theater staff by providing information about the effects of torture. The cast of the play will attend a Journey to Healing tour to help in the preparation of their roles.

On Sunday, June 9, SURVIVORS' executive director, Kathi Anderson, will speak at the talk back after the 2 pm show, along with Jerry Gray, a licensed clinical social worker, who has been involved in torture treatment and anti-impunity work for 25 years throughout the world including Cambodia.

Support SURVIVORS when you purchase your ticket for any performance! Enter the code SURVIVORS online or mention SURVIVORS over the phone, and \$5 of each ticket will be donated to SURVIVORS.

The play will be showing from June 6-30, 2013, at Mo'olelo at The 10th Avenue Theatre, 930 10th Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101. For tickets and information, please visit www.moolelo.net or call (619) 342-7395.

SURVIVORS Partners with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture



SURVIVORS is joining with the [National Religious Campaign Against Torture \(NRCAT\)](#), whose purpose is to "mobilize people of faith to end torture in U.S. policy, practice and culture." SURVIVORS will be participating in the efforts to urge Senator Dianne Feinstein to provide leadership to the Senate Intelligence Committee to release its 6,000 page report on CIA torture. By fully understanding what happened in the past, we can better prevent it from happening again in the future.

Many faith groups share common goals with SURVIVORS and support our work. If you would like to join us in this campaign, there are several things you can do:

- 1) [Click here](#) to tell your representatives to support the Torture Victims Relief Act, which provides vital funding for torture treatment centers such as SURVIVORS.

- 2) Urge your congregation or faith group to show NRCAT's film "Ending U.S.-Sponsored Torture Forever" before June 30, 2013, [described here](#). Contact SURVIVORS for more information.

- 3) If you are a religious leader who would be willing to send a letter to Senator Feinstein to ask her to release the report, please [contact SURVIVORS](#) to get involved.

SURVIVORS Receives Grant for Computers from San Diego County Employees' Charitable Organization



SURVIVORS' executive director, Kathi Anderson, recently attended the [San Diego County Employees' Charitable Organization \(CECO\)](#) awards breakfast to receive a grant for the purchase of new computers.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of the CECO program and San Diego County employees, whose contributions make a big difference for over 60 programs in San Diego County. In addition to this year's much-needed computers, in the past SURVIVORS has received CECO grants that allowed us to purchase equipment for our medical exam room and our kitchen," said Kathi Anderson.

Journey to Healing Tours



"I was surprised that I was so moved. I wasn't expecting I would be so touched by your tour." -
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 **Thursday, April 11, 5:30-6:30 pm, Thursday, April 25, 5:30-6:30 pm, and Wednesday, May 8, 8:00-9:00 am.** [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 Looking for Mental Health Professionals in East County and Volunteer Drivers

SURVIVORS is looking to expand its network of contract licensed mental health therapists. In particular, we need clinicians who work or 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 in East County as well as those 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.](#)

SURVIVORS is also seeking volunteer drivers to help transport clients to their clinical appointments. Volunteer drivers provide rides for SURVIVORS' clients who can't drive or lack the ability to use public transportation. This program allows clients to keep essential appointments for counseling, medical care, and other services. Most of these appointments occur during weekday work hours. Volunteer drivers help clients feel comfortable by providing a reliable and friendly environment during their rides, and may sometimes assist or advocate for clients during an appointment.

If you or someone you know would be interested in a rewarding volunteer experience, [please contact SURVIVORS.](#)

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

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 makes 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 register again (which needs to be done each September), simply log on to the [Ralphs](#)

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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