

SEEKING WELCOME FINDING BELONGING

- ANNUAL REPORT 2016 -



Dear Friends,

For 20 years, Survivors of Torture, International (SURVIVORS) has been a safe haven for torture survivors and their families. In 2016, as negative rhetoric about refugees and other newcomers increased, it became apparent how meaningful it was for San Diego's torture survivors to live in a welcoming community. Clients began to express feelings of fear and uncertainty, but they also expressed a feeling of being truly welcome and at home in one place – at SURVIVORS.

Thanks to your support, torture survivors felt a sense of belonging as they healed physically and psychologically, learned how to read, write, and speak English, and how to navigate the public transportation system. Together, we reduced the barriers that torture survivors faced to fully participate in the community, and we built bridges between torture survivors and long-time residents. In 2016, 313 individuals such as yourselves – as well as volunteers from Intuit, Kaiser Permanente, and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church – donated time, expertise, and resources to support the mission of SURVIVORS. You celebrated with us as we became an official LiveWell San Diego partner. Together, we spread the word that the strongest societies are those where all people feel valued and fully participate alongside their neighbors in the social and economic well-being of their communities.

Your dedication makes the life-changing work at SURVIVORS possible. As they heal, torture survivors start to identify ways to creatively contribute to their new neighborhoods. They feel more included as they learn how they can invest their time, money, and hopes in San Diego. Your generosity paves the way for them as they find their own paths to make contributions to the cultural fabric of our community. Thank you for your compassion and belief that San Diego is stronger when we are inclusive. We look forward to working together to continue building a welcoming community for torture survivors where they feel they can truly belong.

Sincerely,


Jeanette Barrack, Board Chairperson


Kathi Anderson, Executive Director



P.S. In 2016, SURVIVORS served **297** children with healing and community-building services through an afterschool program and group outings. Like their parents and other clients, they report that they are making new friends, feeling more focused and present, participating more at school or work, and have a real a sense of belonging in San Diego.



You

can join
the conversation



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Twitter.com/notorture

Seeking Welcome - Finding Belonging

Survivors of Torture, International (SURVIVORS) was incorporated in February 1997 in response to a need in our community to bring assistance to an underserved population who was struggling with the wounds of politically-motivated torture. It is now estimated that at least 35,000 survivors of torture live in San Diego County and 1.3 million live in the United States. Torture survivors may be left with lifelong physical and mental health problems if not treated by trained professionals.

For 20 years, SURVIVORS has engaged a caring network of professionals – board members, interpreters, therapists, physicians, dentists – and all of you in the community to help us rebuild lives and restore the hopes of people who have survived unspeakable abuses. Your compassion and commitment have made it possible for more than 2,000 clients and their families from more than 80 countries to find courage and strength.

As a community, San Diego has a long tradition of embracing and welcoming torture survivors – refugees, asylum seekers, and other newcomers – to become a part of the social and cultural fabric of our region. *SURVIVORS is often the first place torture survivors feel a true sense of belonging from the time when they were forced to flee their home countries.* Your generosity provides these vulnerable individuals with services and support to help them feel welcome and to become self-sufficient and healthy members of their families and of our community. We look forward to working with you to welcome many more torture survivors to San Diego and to help them once again feel a true sense of belonging.

Survivors of Torture, International's mission is to:

- Facilitate the healing of torture survivors and their families
- Educate professionals and the public about torture and its consequences
- Advocate against torture

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SURVIVORS is an IRCT-accredited
torture treatment center



You

**contributed to
the health and
well-being of
survivors**

Kami's* Healing Story

** Name has been changed to protect client's identity*

Kami is a young woman from Africa who dreamed of becoming a doctor. Her father worked for the government when she was young. Then, a new leader took power and tortured anyone affiliated with the previous government. One day, police officers broke into her home. They killed Kami's father, kidnapped her mother, beat Kami and her brothers, and promised they'd be back. Kami and her siblings had no choice but to flee the country immediately.



Unfortunately, Kami and her brothers were separated on the journey. When Kami arrived in San Diego she was completely alone. Thankfully, she found a pro-bono immigration attorney who referred her to SURVIVORS for a psychological evaluation and a medical affidavit, which helped her receive asylum, but Kami felt scared. She was having night terrors and did not trust new people. However, at SURVIVORS, she felt at ease. She wasn't sure why, but SURVIVORS' office felt welcoming and warm from her very first step through the front door.

Supported by SURVIVORS, she began to see a therapist and to take psychotropic medications under the care of SURVIVORS' psychiatrist to help her sleep at night and focus during the day. She received assistance in finding a place to live and a retail job near her new home. She also attended group therapy and the Healing Club where she met other torture survivors and started to feel that she belonged in San Diego. She even joined an adult beach volleyball league and made numerous friends. A few months later, Kami felt well enough to apply to a nursing program where she was accepted and offered a scholarship.

Kami hasn't been to SURVIVORS in a few years, but she calls from time to time with news of her brothers making their way to San Diego or just to say hello because, in her own words, "SURVIVORS is my home. Everyone there is my family. I share the best news of my life with you first!" Today, Kami is doing well. She is working with the military as a translator and medical educator. She tells us, "San Diego is my home!"

You

educated the public about torture and its consequences

Photograph: Left, Pat Olafson, volunteer, shared a client story at a SURVIVORS' *Journey to Healing* tour. Right, Executive Director Kathi Anderson speaks at "Quarterly Conversations in Global Health" hosted by the University of California, San Diego.



Fostering a Sense of Inclusion by Educating Our Community

Members of the community who recognize the hardships torture survivors endured and the sacrifices that they have made to rebuild their lives in a safe place are more likely to be welcoming neighbors. Your support of SURVIVORS builds a more inclusive community for torture survivors and their families when professionals, students, faith leaders, and other community members are educated about torture and its consequences. In 2016, SURVIVORS trained **more than 3,600** people about the plight of torture, its impact, and possibilities for healing.

In 2016, a group of Peace and Justice students from the University of San Diego (USD) attended a *Journey to Healing* tour at SURVIVORS. After learning the importance of raising awareness to build an inclusive community for torture survivors, they organized an interdisciplinary event at USD called, "Survival After Torture: A Night of Art, Resilience, and Healing." This event included presentations by local experts highlighting the work of SURVIVORS and client-written poetry performed by spoken word artists. More than 100 guests were in attendance, increasing the number of people who gained an understanding of the unique needs of torture survivors.

A former client, who happened to be in the audience and was pursuing a master's degree in nonprofit management, identified himself and spoke to the value of the healing services at SURVIVORS, how he benefited from them, and the sense of inclusion that he felt in San Diego, thanks to the work of SURVIVORS and its supporters.

You

helped torture survivors and their families heal

Photograph: Left, SURVIVORS' June 26th Healing Club is an event where torture survivors, staff, and volunteers meet one another and talk about the meaning of June 26th, the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Right, San Diego State University Social Work Interns: Zsuzsa Kasselmann, Kari Medina, Shannon Wills, and Donna Tang.



Facilitating Healing and a Sense of Acceptance

Each year, interns from San Diego State University's School of Social Work join SURVIVORS' team to support the mission and supplement their education with real-world experience. Social work interns meet with new clients, update treatment plans, provide therapy for individual clients, and facilitate group therapy sessions, such as after school programs for newcomer youth.

Social work interns at SDSU are required to do multiple internships. They said that SURVIVORS was very different from any of their previous experiences. "At SURVIVORS, the staff embodies the mission and recovery model. It's a way of being for everyone here. I've never seen anything like this before. You feel a sense of belonging from the moment you walk in," said Zsuzsa Kasselmann, MSW intern. Shannon Wills, MSW intern stated, "The values of SURVIVORS are integrated in every aspect of the organization." Both Zsuzsa and Shannon mentioned feeling unconditionally accepted at SURVIVORS and seeing this acceptance extended to everyone involved – from volunteers, interpreters, and contracted professionals to clients and their families.

Donna Tang, MSW administrative intern, shared that she loved how much the interns were "put to work" and were truly part of the clients' journeys to healing. She and the others agreed that they felt valued, trusted, and autonomous. They compared this to clients' experiences – the clients themselves choose from the menu of services at SURVIVORS. Similarly, the interns expressed gratitude for the "open-door policy" at SURVIVORS. They said they had never been told that a staff member was too busy for their questions. Clients appreciate the open-door policy as well. Many apologize for "burdening" staff, who immediately assure them they are happy to assist them. The most valuable lesson, according to the interns was the vicarious resiliency that they learned from the clients themselves.

You

advocated for
torture
survivors

Photograph: Left, Ramy Kaufler, SURVIVORS' finance manager shows his support for the "Welcoming City" resolution, adopted by Encinitas, the first city south of Los Angeles, in 2016. Right, Community Relations Intern Taylor Zerby attended the International Nonprofit Fair in Balboa Park.



Advocating for the Welcoming of Torture Survivors Locally and Globally

SURVIVORS advocates in many public offices and at events year-round for the rights of torture survivors. In 2016, SURVIVORS advocated against negative rhetoric about refugees and immigrants, discriminatory legislation, and closing our country's doors to newcomers. We advocated for anti-torture legislation, and, at such a critical time, worked together with you to adopt "Welcoming City" resolutions in Encinitas, Lemon Grove, and Solana Beach to make sure torture survivors and other newcomers to our county have the opportunity to live without fear and receive the services they need to heal, to have hope, and to fully integrate into their new home.

In April, SURVIVORS' executive director, Kathi Anderson, who also served as the chair of the San Diego Refugee Forum in 2016, spoke at an event entitled "U.S.-Japan-Korea: An Exchange of Good Practices for Refugee Social Integration." In attendance at this cross-cultural exchange were Japanese and Korean leaders in the emerging refugee resettlement programs in their respective countries. SURVIVORS shared best practices to educate the new Japanese and Korean programs about the large percentage of the refugee and asylum-seeker populations who are also torture survivors. Drawing upon her 20 years of service in the torture rehabilitation field, Kathi shared valuable information for the new refugee resettlement professionals to advance the torture treatment field in their home countries. The leaders from Japan and Korea were grateful for the professional expertise Kathi shared with them. They are looking forward to welcoming torture survivors to their own countries and will look to the example set by SURVIVORS and San Diego.

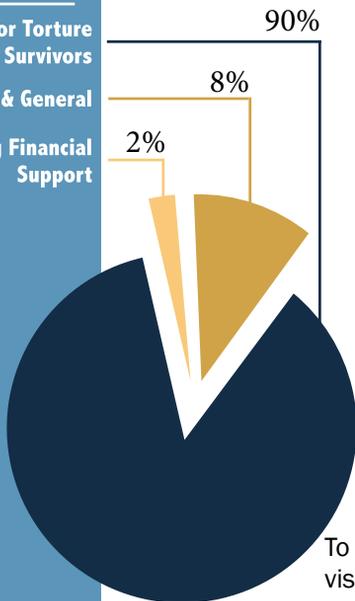
You

invested in our society

Your gifts to SURVIVORS are well spent and an important investment in our society. By helping torture survivors heal, you empower them to use their unique gifts in giving back to our community. The 2016 financial audit by Sonnenberg and Company, CPAs shows that SURVIVORS' administrative costs are far below national averages. Ninety cents of every donated dollar directly benefits local torture survivors.

Operating Expenses

Services for Torture Survivors
Management & General
Securing Financial Support



Support & Revenue

Grants & Contracts	\$ 832,867
Contributions	110,966
Donated Goods & Services	60,601
Other Operating Revenue	1,043

Total Support & Revenue \$ **1,062,439**

Expenses

Program Services	\$ 956,901
Supporting Services	
Management & General	85,776
Fundraising	22,683
Total Supporting Services	108,459
Total Expenses	\$ 1,065,360
Change in Net Assets	(2,921)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	401,052
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 398,131

To see a list of financial and in-kind donors, please visit our website at notorture.org/thank-you-to-our-individual-donors. Thank you for your gifts!

The following is SURVIVORS' financial statement, audited for the time period of October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016, by Sonnenberg and Company, CPAs. The full audit is available at www.bettergivingsd.guidestar.org.

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 441,214
Grants Receivable	36,428
Contributions Receivable	180,731
Refundable Deposits & Prepaid Expenses	7,735
Furniture & Equipment	28,956
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-25,754
Total Assets	\$ 669,310

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 18,910
Accrued Liabilities	62,880
Deferred Revenue	-
Total Liabilities	\$ 81,790

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 398,131
Temporarily Restricted	189,389
Total Net Assets	\$ 587,520
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 669,310

Board of Directors

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SURVIVORS is a Better Business Bureau accredited charity and a GuideStar Exchange Platinum Participant.



In 2016

through your gifts to
SURVIVORS you...



smiled

with **240** clients (**66%** asylum seekers, **24%** refugees, **10%** legal permanent residents or naturalized citizens) as they began to heal with the help of comprehensive psychological, medical and social services.

welcomed

clients from **38** different countries, the majority coming from Iraq, Mexico, Iran, Afghanistan, and Syria.

conversed

in **47** different languages with our new clients through the help of interpreters.

provided

932 social services, including assistance with finding housing, food, educational opportunities, and employment resources for clients and their families.

tended

to the mental health needs of torture survivors with **1,415** therapy sessions and **187** psychiatry appointments.

supported

asylum-seeking clients' legal cases with **387** professional hours for psychological evaluations and **111** professional hours for medical affidavits.

celebrated

with **36** clients who won their asylum cases, found safety, and were able to petition for their families to join them.

visited

our website, www.notorture.org, **37,211** times.

trained

3,373 professionals, students, and community members about torture and its consequences.

inspired

313 volunteers who donated **4,805** hours to SURVIVORS.

informed

293 guests at our *Journey to Healing* tours about the importance and value of the mission of SURVIVORS.

reached

11,019 subscribers of SURVIVORS' newsletters and e-newsletters locally, nationally, and worldwide.



SURVIVORS
OF TORTURE
INTERNATIONAL®

