





NAVIGATING CHANGE PROMISING COMMUNITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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the conversation

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Navigating Change - Promising Community

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

Healing is a journey that is unique to each person. Healing can be physical, psychological, and/or spiritual. Each of our clients takes a different path to healing, and we accompany them every step of the way. Because healing does not happen in a vacuum, it requires trust, support, and community.

For 23 years, SURVIVORS has engaged a caring network of professionals – board members, therapists, physicians, dentists, interpreters – and all of you in our community to help those who have survived unspeakable abuses rebuild their lives and restore their hopes.

Through the gifts and support we receive from you and our community, we are able to comprehensively and effectively tailor the healing of torture survivors and their families to each individual. Your compassion and investment have made it possible for thousands of torture survivors and their families from more than 90 countries to find the courage and strength to restore their physical, emotional and/or spiritual health.

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

SURVIVORS is an IRCT-accredited
torture treatment center



You contributed to the health and well-being of survivors

Photograph:
SURVIVORS' staff pose
for a photo at award re-
ception with nominator
Sasha Moore (fifth from
left) and County Public
Health Officer Dr. Wilma
Wooten (sixth from left)
after accepting the Live
Well San Diego Public
Health Champion Award
on behalf of our agency
and clients.

Dear Friends,

We did not expect to reflect on 2019 in the middle of an unprecedented, global public health crisis. As the COVID-19 pandemic changes the world, as we know it, and leaves us with an unpredictable future, one certainty is that SURVIVORS will continue to be a source of stability and support for torture survivors, a very vulnerable population in San Diego County. Our consistent presence in our community for the past 23 years has given us a singular perspective to the unique needs of torture survivors.

2019 was a year of exponential growth for SURVIVORS. Despite changes in restrictive immigration policies throughout last year, the need for our services increased with SURVIVORS receiving



an unprecedented number of client referrals resulting in a significant demand for our services, including medical and psychological evaluations to support asylum cases, psychiatry, therapy, and case management. To meet the increased needs of our clients, we recruited new forensic evaluators, scaled up our therapy program to serve additional newcomer youth with the on-boarding of a second full-time children and family therapist, and expanded our network of mental health contractors.

We continuously initiated and deepened partnerships with local, national, and international organizations to share best practices and expertise. With time, intentional efforts, and your support, we continued to build a healing community in San Diego, and beyond,

that is not only welcoming to torture survivors but also informed and educated about the unique needs of this resilient community. The critical support of our board, staff, contractors, volunteers, and donors ensured that hundreds of torture survivors and their families received the specialized care they needed and deserved.

As we navigate the changes of the upcoming months, and years, the need for community will be more consequential than ever. As SURVIVORS is the only accredited torture treatment agency in San Diego County, it is important we remain steadfast in our mission and stand as a beacon of hope for all torture survivors. Our ability to remain nimble and creative allowed us to navigate the noteworthy challenges and triumphs of 2019 and will allow us to rise to each occasion in the future to ensure we provide critical care to this underserved population.

We would like to thank you - our donors and benefactors - that have made it possible for us to be a part of the San Diego community for the past 23 years and helped us become a safe harbor for torture survivors. We know that with your dedicated support we will ensure SURVIVORS continues to be the solid ground on which torture survivors rebuild their lives for decades to come.

We wish you and your loved ones health and wellness as we support our families and communities through COVID-19 and beyond.

With gratitude,


Jean Graves, Board Chairperson


Kathi Anderson, Executive Director



It is a privilege to be part of the San Diego community. Thank you for honoring us with the following award in 2019:

2019 Live Well San Diego Public Health Champion Award
Live Well San Diego

You helped torture survivors and their families heal

Photograph: Client
Kassie* creates a vision
board in therapy to look
toward her future and
dream big.

* Client's name is
changed to protect her
identity.



It Takes a Community to Heal from Trauma

Kassie* is a ten-year-old girl from Central America who was forced to flee her home country with her mother and siblings. Kassie was only five years old when she witnessed her father's murder in her own living room after he refused to work for a cartel. Following his death the family continued to receive threats. After three years of living in fear, Kassie's family fled to the United States to seek asylum. They tried to rebuild their lives but Kassie struggled. To help Kassie adapt to overwhelming changes, her mother asked for SURVIVORS' guidance.

When we first met Kassie, she was isolated, anxious, had difficulty concentrating in school, and was prone to angry outbursts. She worried that she was being watched or followed and became distraught when her father was mentioned in conversation. Her mother and teacher were hopeful she could heal at SURVIVORS. Kassie decided to participate in individual therapy, family therapy, and clinical case management to help treat her trauma symptoms. SURVIVORS was able to provide hygiene items and clothing to help her feel secure. She learned emotional regulation, story-telling, and coping skills including prayer, family time, and extra credit homework. She found a trustworthy community at SURVIVORS. She could be a child again.

Kassie's symptoms greatly decreased and she is now in the top of her class. Her confidence blossomed and she made many friends at school. According to her mother, Kassie is now "happy and confident." Kassie told SURVIVORS that she is dreaming of her bright future and that when she grows up, she "wants to be a doctor because I am smart and I want to take care of others."

You educated the public about torture and its consequences

Photograph: SURVIVORS' staff and interns pose with medical and psychological forensic evaluators and immigration attorneys at "providers' conversation" dedicated to how best to serve asylum seeking torture survivors living in San Diego County.



A Professional Community Dedicated to Torture Survivors

The healing that sustains SURVIVORS' clients not only happens at our agency but also throughout the county. As immigration policies continuously shifted throughout 2019 including a decrease in refugee numbers, an increase in asylum seekers affected by the Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP), and uncertainty regarding public charge, SURVIVORS stood as a source of knowledge and information for both our clients and the public.

In response to these changing policies, SURVIVORS recognized it was critical to collaborate with our key partners. We organized "providers' conversations" to allow for rich and meaningful communication among SURVIVORS' staff, volunteer forensic medical evaluators, psychological evaluators, and immigration attorneys. These ongoing "providers' conversations" created opportunities to share best practices, discuss changes in policies that affected torture survivors, and nurture a supportive professional network. The goal of these conversations was to ensure we were serving asylum-seeking torture survivors with the best knowledge and tools available. The "providers' conversations" provided our key partners with the knowledge they needed to help achieve the best client outcomes, such as helping torture survivors win their asylum cases.

SURVIVORS is dedicated to training professionals and the public to better understand how to identify, attend to, and refer torture survivors. In 2019, we trained nearly **3,000** professionals, students, and community members at speaking engagements and events, such as our "providers' conversations" and *Journey to Healing* tours. Through every collaboration SURVIVORS fostered a welcoming and informed community for torture survivors to rebuild their lives.

You advocated for torture survivors

Photograph: Signs advocating against torture and in support of torture survivors held by SURVIVORS' community members for a international campaign on social media.



Advocating for a Welcoming California

SURVIVORS recognizes that it requires local, national, and international advocacy to meet the needs of our clients. Over the past 23 years we have served torture survivors regardless of immigration status; however, over the decades the majority of our clients have been asylum seekers. In 2019, 83% of our clients and their families were asylum seekers. Since 1997, SURVIVORS has been amplifying the voices of asylum seekers and advocating for their unique needs even before migrant caravans dominated the media. As asylum seekers made national news and refugee numbers declined, SURVIVORS found it critical to bring the topic to center stage and advocated for a statewide conversation.

Executive Director Kathi Anderson serves as vice-chairperson of the California State Advisory Council on Refugee Assistance and Services (SAC) of the Refugee Programs Bureau. The SAC's purposes are to analyze critical issues affecting refugees and assure citizen involvement in policy discussions crucial to the development of a cost-effective, sensitive, comprehensive, and successful refugee resettlement program. Consisting of representatives from Sacramento to San Diego, the SAC is an excellent forum for shifting the refugee conversation to be more inclusive of asylum seekers.

SURVIVORS moderated panels of cross-sectional experts to discuss policies impacting asylum seekers in California and their significant medical and mental health needs. These discussions promoted the potential for asylum seekers in California to heal from their traumas including their experiences crossing the border. Statewide collaboration will assist asylum seekers to rebuild their lives in a welcoming California.

In 2019

through your gifts to
SURVIVORS you...

These figures reflect October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

cared	for 427 clients including 65 children (83% asylum seekers, 8% refugees, 9% legal permanent residents or naturalized citizens) as they began to heal with the help of comprehensive psychological, medical, and social services.
smiled	with 83% of our clients who stabilized or improved their overall well-being.
welcomed	clients from 47 countries, the majority having come from Cameroon, Mexico, Iraq, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, and Honduras.
communicated	in 55 different languages with our clients through the help of professional interpreters.
linked	199 clients and their families to 616 social services, including assistance with finding housing, food, and educational and employment resources.
connected	106 clients to 785 medical services, including primary care, dental care and medication coverage.
tended	to the psychological needs of 74 individual clients with 312 direct mental health services and to 49 individual clients who completed 214 psychiatry appointments.
supported	asylum-seeking clients' legal cases with 834 professional hours to complete 119 psychological evaluations and 480 professional hours to complete 96 medical affidavits.
trained	2,643 professionals, students, and community members to understand torture and its consequences.
inspired	102 volunteers, who donated thousands of hours to SURVIVORS, creating a welcoming and healing community.
hosted	32 Journey to Healing tours for 269 guests to educate our community about the importance and value of helping survivors heal.
engaged	14,100 readers of SURVIVORS' newsletters and e-newsletters worldwide.

You invested in our society

Your gifts to SURVIVORS are well spent and an important investment in our society. In 2019, by helping torture survivors heal, you empowered them to use their unique gifts in giving back to our community. The 2019 financial audit by Sonnenberg and Company, CPAs shows that SURVIVORS' administrative costs are far below national averages.

Operating Expenses



Support & Revenue

Grants & Contracts	\$ 1,196,024
Contributions	246,390
Donated Goods & Services	115,406
Other Operating Revenue	5,844

Total Support & Revenue \$ 1,563,664

Expenses

Program Services	\$ 1,225,206
Supporting Services	
Management & General	129,200
Fundraising	67,407
Total Supporting Services	196,607
Total Expenses	\$ 1,421,813
Change in Net Assets	141,851
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	833,407
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 975,258

To see a list of financial donors, please visit our website: www.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, 2018, through September 30, 2019, by Sonnenberg and Company, CPAs. The full audit is available at <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/33-0743869>.

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 158,844	Accounts Payable	\$ 101,831
Grants Receivable	210,654	Accrued Liabilities	30,848
		Deferred Revenue	-
Contributions Receivable	344,989	Total Liabilities	\$ 132,679
Refundable Deposits & Prepaid Expenses	54,236	Net Assets	
Furniture & Equipment	20,852	Unrestricted	\$ 626,610
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-20,852	Temporarily Restricted	348,648
		Total Net Assets	\$ 975,258
		Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 1,107,937

Board of Directors	Staff	Board Emeritus Society
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SURVIVORS is a Better Business Bureau accredited charity and a GuideStar Exchange Platinum Participant.

