



THE SURVIVOR

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.

“SURVIVORS is exactly where broken souls can be healed. This is a place, I found my long gone home and started a new life. I am very grateful for the services and support.”

- SURVIVORS' client who wishes to remain anonymous

P.O. Box 151240
San Diego, CA 92175-1240
Ph.: 619-278-2400
Fax: 619-294-9405
survivors@notorture.org
www.notorture.org
www.facebook.com/notorture
www.instagram.com/survivors_sandiego

COVID-19: The Focus Is Still on Client Healing... Even While Socially Distanced

As the world responds to the widespread effects of COVID-19, SURVIVORS continues to serve our clients in the most impactful ways possible.



Garcia delivering drop-offs to clients

1 We adopted user-friendly, client-focused video platforms and one-on-one support for virtual therapy and case management. “We have been supporting our clients to help them become more computer literate, for example, teaching them how to access telehealth,” says Winona Garcia, senior mental health specialist.

2 Access to resources remains difficult for our clients who are some of the most vulnerable residents of San Diego. Many in the hospitality industry have had their work hours cut and they are not eligible for most benefits. Also, as of August 2020, the waiting period for asylum seekers to apply for a work permit in the United States was increased from 180 to 365 days. Garcia adds, “Imagine waiting a year to work and having no other stable means of financial assistance.” SURVIVORS has increased support to clients by enlisting volunteers to drop off packages of food, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and face masks.

3 For our newcomer students in the Cajon Valley Union School District, news of widespread losses as a result of COVID-19 has “retriggered traumatic grief and increased anxiety and irritability,” says Jack Brennan, children and family therapist. Our clinicians have proactively responded by utilizing creative virtual art therapy, interactive card games, and trauma-informed activities to support the social, emotional, and developmental needs of vulnerable students.

4 We continue to connect with our community and valued donors, remotely. “Since March, we’ve hosted more than 250 guests on virtual *Journey to Healing* tours to foster a welcoming community

for our clients and their families.” says Katrina Pimental, operations manager. As we hosted our first-ever virtual fundraiser, our generous underwriters allowed 100% of donations to go directly to client services.

5 For clients who are held in detention facilities as they await their immigration court hearings, this hardship can be especially difficult. SURVIVORS continues its Cards of Hope project by sending handwritten letters to clients to remind them that they are not alone.

... and Even When in Mexico

SURVIVORS is located less than 20 miles from Tijuana, Mexico, the busiest land border crossing in the western hemisphere. The changes to U.S. asylum policy immediately affected our clients and demanded a swift response. The Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) or “Remain in Mexico” policy implemented in June 2019 has impacted thousands of asylum seekers. Due to MPP paired with COVID-19 risk factors, those seeking legal, humanitarian protection in the United States, some of whom are torture survivors, were left without our type of assistance. As a result, SURVIVORS felt compelled to provide services to asylum-seeking torture survivors in Mexico.

Our recent partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) allows us to expand our services to ensure that torture survivors are assisted at the border. We have found that asylum seekers who have immigration lawyers and professional psychological and medical evaluations have an approximate asylum grant rate of 80%. With the support of the UNHCR, we are now able to provide remote psychological evaluations to clients in Tijuana. We will expand to providing in-person evaluations as soon as it is safe to do so. “The “Remain in Mexico” policy may keep asylum-seeking torture survivors “out of sight” but they are never “out of mind” at SURVIVORS. Additional information on MPP is available at: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/tag/remain-in-mexico>

Increasing Medical Knowledge Benefits Survivors

Though torture research is available worldwide, most physicians in the United States are often unaware that some of their patients may have been tortured. While San Diego is home for many torture survivors, a lack of awareness in healthcare of how to recognize torture survivors could mean that many may be left untreated.

For this reason, SURVIVORS' pro bono medical evaluators, Dr. Lydia Grympa and Dr. George Longstreth, took the initiative to write an article concerning a relatively unknown (in the U.S.) physical sign of torture to be published in March in The American Journal of Medicine titled "Foot Torture (Falanga): Ten Victims With Chronic Plantar Hyperpigmentation." The article describes falanga as a repetitive and blunt trauma inflicted on the soles of the feet as a form of torture. Falanga can immobilize victims, limiting their walking abilities for up to 10 weeks and can cause wounds that are recognizable for a decade. The authors note that "knowledge of this finding should also help physicians who care for tortured patients." Publications of this nature assure that torture survivors can be better served by trauma-informed healthcare practices. We are grateful for these physicians who sought to contribute to healing of torture survivors locally and worldwide. The article is now available online at PubMed (PMID #32941848).



Pro Bono physician completes a medical evaluation for a client

Thank you to our 2020 Helping Survivors Heal Virtual Fundraising Event Underwriters!

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CONSTRUCTION

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MUFG Union Bank Foundation

Nautilus General Contractors, Inc

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Thrivent Financial Office of Jonathan Doering and

Matthew Molstre

Supporting Our Local Legal Service Providers

Supporting survivors of torture requires a vast network of community members and multi-disciplinary partnerships. When our clients seek legal assistance, it is often necessary to disclose personal details regarding the extreme trauma and unimaginable events that led to fleeing their homes. In the legal profession, it is normal to experience secondary traumatic stress, or vicarious trauma, while engaging empathetically with a client. Jim Friedrich, a contracted licensed clinical social worker of SURVIVORS, said, "The symptoms experienced

by these workers often mirror what the victims of torture have described and can truly be traumatic." In response, the UNHCR made it possible for us to partner with a Minnesota-based sister organization, The Center for Victims of Torture, to provide resiliency support and training for legal service providers in San Diego focusing on:

1. Balancing boundaries with the demands of the profession;
2. Understanding and processing feelings of helplessness; and
3. Fostering long-term sustainability in the field of immigration.

To whole-heartedly serve our clients at SURVIVORS, it means that we promote self-care for those who are in service roles themselves. This partnership makes it possible to invest in the health and well-being of our colleagues in the legal profession. Friedrich reported, "The response of immigration attorneys to these training sessions has been strong and they are quite responsive to the opportunities being offered through the group process and individual coaching." SURVIVORS knows this training is mutually beneficial for our clients and their advocates.

Support SURVIVORS through alternative giving and everyday activities.

Visit notorture.org/donate to learn more.



SURVIVORS is an IRS 501(C)(3) non profit. **Eighty-six cents out of every dollar raised goes directly to SURVIVORS' programs.** We are eligible to receive tax-deductible gifts to the extent allowed by the law.

Our Federal Tax ID Number is 33-0743869.



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Healing Society Members who have made five-year pledges of \$1,000 or more per year. **Thank you!**

Anonymous	Denise & James Francis	Melvin & Jane Kieschnick	Howard & Lianne Moseley	Mahesh Podar
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Individual & Family Financial Supporters who gave June 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020. **Thank you!**

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Organizations That Financially Support SURVIVORS who gave October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. **Thank you!**

Amazon Smile	Law Offices of Jonathan D. Montag	Rehab Strategies	The California Endowment
Cajon Valley Union School District	Lawyers Club of San Diego Fund for Justice at The San Diego Foundation	San Diego County Health & Human Services Agency	The Kroger Company
California State University-San Marcos	Michael Ehrenfeld Company	San Diego Unified School District, Community Service Association	The Peacemakers Fund
Calvary Lutheran Church, Solana Beach	Molina Healthcare	San Diego Women's Foundation	Thrivent Financial Office of Jonathan Doering & Matthew Molstre
Change A Life Foundation	MUFG Union Bank Foundation	SERRV International	Thrivent Financial - Thrivent Choice Dollars
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Clipper Club of La Jolla Presbyterian Church	Nautilus General Contractors, Inc.	State of California Office of Emergency Services	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Curology, Inc.	Pasadena Community Foundation-in memory of Patrick Otis Healy	Structural Technologies	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
Grossmont Healthcare District	Pacific Synod- ELCA	The Benevity Community Impact Fund	Universal Spirit Center
Jacob Dean Construction	PayPal Giving Fund	Intuit Matching Program	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement
Josephson, Werdowatz & Associates, Inc.	Preen Publishing, LLC		
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Law Office of Schoenleber & Waltermire			

We apologize for any errors or omissions and extend our gratitude for support that may not have been recognized. Please contact us at 619-278-2400 for corrections.

Client Services: Despite the stay-at-home orders implemented in San Diego in March 2020, SURVIVORS has continued to positively impact torture survivors through a variety of client-focused, trauma informed, safe and precautionous methods. Please refer to the examples of services to the right.

SURVIVORS' Services	Number
<i>Virtual Therapy Sessions</i>	308
<i>Guests at Virtual Journey to Healing Tours</i>	256
<i>Handwritten Cards of Hope for Detainees</i>	129
<i>Basic Needs Packages Drop-Offs</i>	88
<i>Newcomer Student Virtual Sessions</i>	38
<i>Essential Supplies and PPE Donors</i>	20
<i>Delivery Volunteers and Interns</i>	16

SURVIVORS Earns a "Give with Confidence" 100/100 Rating




SURVIVORS is proud to announce that our strong financial health and ongoing accountability and transparency have earned a 100/100 rating from Charity Navigator's new Encompass Rating System. This score designates SURVIVORS as an official "Give with Confidence" charity. Since 2001, Charity Navigator has been America's largest unbiased and trusted independent charity evaluator, with more than 8.5 million annual users. We hope this will introduce our work to new supporters who can help us advance our mission to help torture survivors and their families rebuild their lives. Charitable giving information, free of charge, is found here: <https://www.charitynavigator>.

Notice of Blackbaud Breach

It is our responsibility to notify you that our database vendor, Blackbaud, has informed us of a data security breach. Blackbaud discovered and stopped a ransomware attack before any encrypted files were breached. SURVIVORS was not an affected party. Sensitive data, such as credit card information, is not stored on our Blackbaud database. We do not believe you need to take any further action. As a reminder, we do not solicit donations via phone calls so be aware if you are telephoned by someone claiming to be us, especially if they don't specifically say they are with "SURVIVORS of Torture, International."




 Survivors of Torture, International
 P.O. Box 151240
 San Diego, CA 92175-1240

SURVIVORS' audited financial statements, completed by Somnberg & Co. CPAs for fiscal year 2020, are found at GuideStar.com

To find out about SURVIVORS contribution to The American Journal of Medicine!

LOOK INSIDE!

#Giving Tuesday: December 1 marks the beginning of the charitable giving season. Your generous donations support our clients and their families as they rebuild their lives.

CARES Act 2020: Your charitable contributions now allow you to have greater tax deduction options. From 1% of your adjusted gross income up to \$600, your donations can provide even greater benefits this giving year.

#GIVINGTUESDAY



IRCT-accredited torture treatment center

SURVIVORS is an International Council for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims