



Lighting the Path Forward
ANNUAL REPORT
2021



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Lighting the Path Forward

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 about 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. It 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 25 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 for torture survivors and the abolition of torture.

SURVIVORS is an IRCT-accredited
torture treatment center



You
contributed to
the health and
well-being of
survivors

Dear Friends,

2021 proved to be another year of challenges and successes. COVID continued to dominate how and where we were able to provide services that would keep our staff and clients safe. We learned we could offer music therapy virtually thanks to the expertise of an innovative board-certified music therapist who had worked across international borders. Our clients benefited from this new approach.

SURVIVORS formed other new partnerships, including Feeding San Diego, to help overcome the reality of food insecurity that some of our clients unexpectedly experienced. In a period of uncertainty and misinformation, they trusted SURVIVORS to have their most basic needs met and to receive accurate information about vaccinations on an updated basis.

Later in 2021, the County of San Diego awarded SURVIVORS a four-plus-year contract to provide mental health services to torture survivors throughout San Diego County, building on SURVIVORS' success demonstrated through two prior County of San Diego contracts. This new contract allows SURVIVORS to hire a medical director, paired with a nurse practitioner student; increase psychiatric services; expand mental health therapy and case management; and double the size of SURVIVORS' clinical team. These improvements provide for more integrated care not only between mental and physical health services, but also between SURVIVORS and other providers in the community. SURVIVORS is grateful for its partnership with the county to attend to even more torture survivors in San Diego with the utmost quality and seamless care possible.

After 25 years of leading SURVIVORS, I announced my retirement. I am genuinely proud of the positive impact SURVIVORS has had on the lives of thousands of torture survivors and their families who have greatly benefited from our diverse, yet tailored, services. I am also very proud that torture treatment has been woven into the fabric of the community of San Diego and beyond.

Jean Greaves, SURVIVORS' board chair, stated, "We thank Kathi for her years of leadership, and the board and staff are excited that Kathi will be able to enjoy retirement after years of passionate and tireless work in building SURVIVORS." The mission of SURVIVORS, however, has always been much larger than my vision or leadership. SURVIVORS stands poised to embark on the next 25 years with a local, national, and global reputation as a known leader in the torture treatment field.

2022 also marks SURVIVORS' 25th anniversary, a time to not only reflect on the past, but also to look to the future. When SURVIVORS was founded in my home in 1997, by George Falk, Bill Radatz and me, the goal was to create an organization specifically designed to care for torture survivors who were invisible and marginalized in our community. SURVIVORS has grown significantly since then. We have facilitated the healing of over 3,000 survivors of torture, educated countless professionals and members of the public and built a team of expert staff, contractors and volunteers who respond to the changing world to provide the best support possible to torture survivors in San Diego.

SURVIVORS is in a strong and robust position for what the future may hold, and our 25th anniversary is a time to not only look back but, more importantly, to also look forward to what we can accomplish in the next 25 years. As we have been moving on this path of hope and healing, I have repeatedly found myself feeling incredibly grateful to our community of supporters. Together, we have built a foundation for a welcoming community for torture survivors and their families to live healthy and productive lives, a foundation that has been rooted in mission since 1997 and, with your support, will flourish for the next 25 years and beyond.

With gratitude,



Kathi Anderson, Executive Director



You

helped torture survivors and their families heal



Facilitating Healing One Survivor at a Time

Angeline*, a single mother of two small children and a full-time nurse in her home country in the Caribbean, was tortured for nine years due to an extended family member's political activism. She finally was able to flee and upon arriving in the United States, she applied for asylum with assistance from an immigration attorney. She was referred to SURVIVORS for comprehensive, much-needed healing services: a medical affidavit, a psychological evaluation, individual therapy, psychiatry, medical care and social services case management.

While Angeline continues to wait for her asylum case to be adjudicated, she has greatly benefited from the holistic care she has received. She is determined to start a new life where she is free from danger and can be productive. SURVIVORS provided financial support for her to learn how to drive and get her driver's license. She became a certified nursing assistant after taking nursing courses sponsored by SURVIVORS. "I am a hard worker. I have returned to my route in life. I thank God. I thank SURVIVORS," Angeline shared with our staff.

We are so proud of Angeline and the hundreds of other torture survivors we served in 2021. They have reclaimed the lives that their torturers had tried to destroy. They have been rebuilding their lives in the United States in a safe, healthy way and on a solid foundation of specialized care, trust and hope that SURVIVORS provides.

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

You advocated for torture survivors

Photograph:
Dr. Mahvash Alami
speaking behind a plexi-
glass barrier at County
Board of Supervisors'
meeting in support of
creating the Office of
Immigrant and Refugee
Affairs



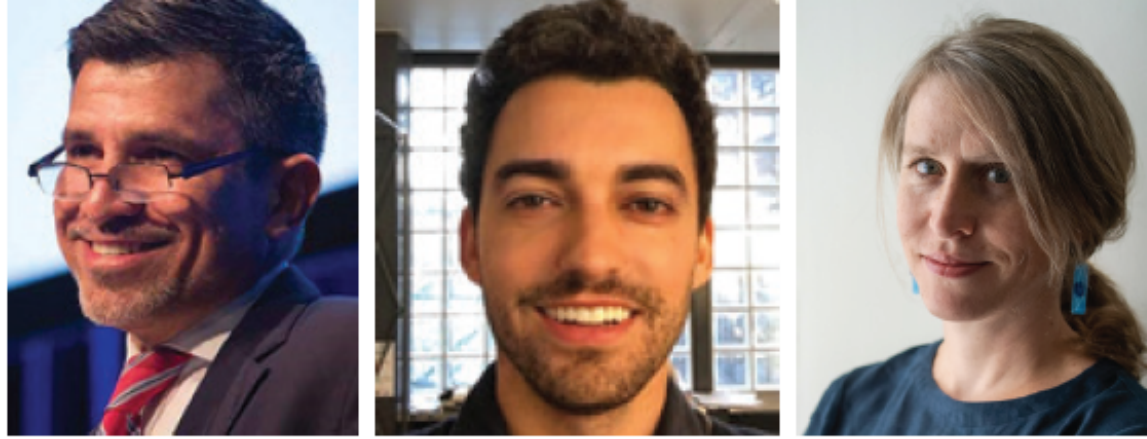
Advocating Globally and Locally

In 2021, SURVIVORS participated with the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) in its successful advocacy for the recognition and use of the IRCT's "Global Standards for Rehabilitation" by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Torture Victims (UNVFVT) based in Geneva. The IRCT is a Copenhagen-based organization representing more than 160 members from 76 countries. In 2001, SURVIVORS became an accredited member of the IRCT. Not only has SURVIVORS maintained its good standing, but also in 2016 the membership elected Kathi Anderson as the only North American representative to serve on the IRCT's executive committee and later she was chosen as its treasurer. She virtually attended an historic governance meeting in which the UNVFVT adopted a set of global standards establishing a minimum level of services that torture treatment centers worldwide will be inspired to provide.

Locally in 2021, SURVIVORS successfully advocated for the County of San Diego to establish the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, which was unanimously approved. SURVIVORS further advocated for the County of San Diego to establish an Immigrant Rights Legal Defense Fund (IRLDF). This was also approved, making San Diego County the first border county in the United States to provide for free legal representation to asylum seekers and others in removal proceedings who face deportation. Critical to asylum-seeking torture survivors being granted asylum is the forensic documentation (also supported by the IRLDF) that SURVIVORS' physicians and mental health clinicians provide.

You educated the public about torture and its consequences

Photograph:
The United Nations In-
dependent Expert Victor
Madrigal-Borloz, Liaison
Officer Nathan Williams,
and Journalist Nadja
Drost



Overcoming Barriers and Demonstrating Resiliency

In 2021, SURVIVORS invited United Nations' experts to virtually speak with our community about the nexus between their work and SURVIVORS' mission. Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, addressed the global prevalence of torture perpetrated against the LGBTQ+ community and their need for professional care. He noted that SURVIVORS was known internationally for providing specialized treatment needed for vulnerable populations.

On a separate occasion, Nathan Williams, liaison officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, spoke about the ongoing identification of torture survivors on the U.S./Mexico border and the legal support they need, especially while the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) and Title 42 expulsions were still in force. He pointed out that the legal documentation provided by SURVIVORS for their cases has been crucial in ensuring torture survivors have equal access and protection.

Additionally, Pulitzer Prize and Emmy Award-winning journalist Nadja Drost joined us virtually to describe her reporting of the Darién Gap, the only land crossing from Colombia through Panama consisting of a large watershed, jungle and mountains. The journey through the Darién Gap en route to the United States is long, demanding and treacherous, made by hundreds of our clients who have had to flee torture, risking death to find safety.

In 2021

through your gifts to
SURVIVORS you...

These figures reflect October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021.

cared

for **228** clients including **27** children (**72%** asylum seekers, **13%** lawful permanent residents or naturalized citizens, **7%** asylees, **7%** other statuses, **1%** refugees) 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 mental health.

welcomed

clients from **43** countries, the majority having come from Iraq, Mexico, Guatemala, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Russia.

communicated

in **27** different languages with our clients through the help of professional interpreters.

tended

to the psychological needs of **73** individual clients with **708** direct mental health services and to **63** individual clients who benefited from **330** psychiatry appointments.

connected

76 clients to **333** medical services, including primary care, dental care and medication coverage.

linked

161 clients and their families to **624** social services, including assistance with finding housing, food, and educational and employment resources.

supported

asylum-seeking clients' legal cases with **255** professional hours to complete **48** psychological and medical evaluations.

engaged

13,053 readers of SURVIVORS' newsletters and e-newsletters worldwide.

inspired

32 volunteers who donated thousands of hours to SURVIVORS, creating a welcoming and healing community.

hosted

20 Journey to Healing tours for **259** guests to educate our community about the importance and value of helping survivors heal.

trained

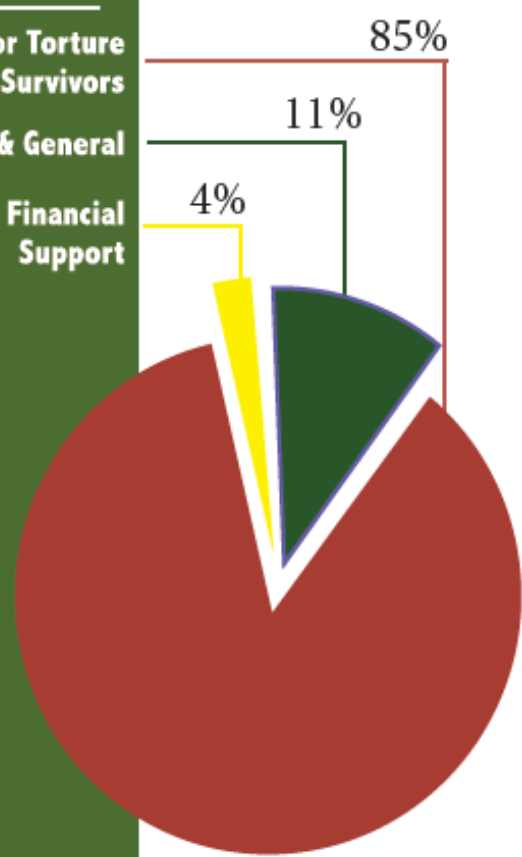
742 professionals, students, and community members to understand torture and its consequences.

You invested in our society

Your gifts to SURVIVORS are well-spent and an important investment in our society. In 2021, by helping torture survivors heal, you empowered them to use their unique gifts in giving back to our community. The fiscal year 2021 financial audit by Sonnenberg and Company, CPAs shows that SURVIVORS' administrative costs are far below national averages.

Operating Expenses

- Services for Torture Survivors
- Management & General
- Securing Financial Support



Support & Revenue

Contributions and Grants	\$ 319,331
Government Grants	928,156
Donated Goods & Services	12,186
Other Operating Revenue	27
Program Service Fees	10,335

Total Support & Revenue \$ 1,478,479

Expenses

Program Services	\$ 1,235,218
Supporting Services	
Management & General	162,519
Fundraising	56,850
Total Supporting Services	219,369
Total Expenses	\$ 1,454,587

Change in Net Assets	23,892
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	1,176,894
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 1,200,786

To see a list of financial donors, please see our newsletter: www.notorture.org/newsletters. Thank you for your gifts!

The following is SURVIVORS' financial statement, audited for the time period of October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, by Sonnenberg and Company, CPAs. The full audit is available at <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/33-0743869>.

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 335,956	Accounts Payable	\$ 64,219
Grants Receivable	222,755	Accrued Liabilities	66,763
Contributions Receivable	297,755	Deferred Revenue	-
Refundable Deposits & Prepaid Expenses	51,348	Total Liabilities	\$ 173,374
Furniture & Equipment	15,657	Net Assets	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-12,141	Unrestricted	\$ 851,421
		Temporarily Restricted	349,365
Total Assets	\$ 1,374,160	Total Net Assets	\$ 1,200,786
		Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 1,374,160

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