



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.

“I believe God sent angels to watch over me and my family - you all at SURVIVORS have surrounded me with love and support and for the first time I don't feel alone.”
 - SURVIVORS' client from Central America

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Clients Experience the Power of Music

At SURVIVORS, we offer diverse forms of therapy to assist clients on their journeys toward healing and growth, including our newly launched music therapy program facilitated by a contracted board certified music therapist, who is originally from South Africa.



Music therapy instruments, generously funded by Thrivent Financial Action Team & San Diego Unified School District Community Services Association

Many organizations and institutions around the world recognize and apply the benefits of music therapy in their practices. Music transcends language barriers and social distance so the healing power of music cannot be underestimated.

Although SURVIVORS' clients are deeply affected by their torture experiences, research shows that music therapy provides many benefits for trauma survivors such as lowering

stress and reducing symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder while elevating a positive mood.

Currently, our music therapy sessions are offered virtually. During these virtual group therapy sessions, clients play instruments provided by SURVIVORS and learn new songs from each other. Trauma often prevents torture survivors from connecting with other individuals. While our clients are ethnically and culturally diverse, sharing music allows participants to learn about one another's cultures and form friendships, fostering a sense of unity.

As a client from West Africa shared, “It’s therapeutic for me. It helps me to get out of the numb. It’s fun, so much fun and it’s beautiful.” Through SURVIVORS’ music therapy, participants are free to express themselves as they wish. When individuals are tortured, they are deprived of their autonomy. Our program creates a nurturing environment that respects clients’ autonomy and cultures, which is an essential step to help them begin to regain trust in people once again and to rebuild their lives.

SURVIVORS Advocates For New County of San Diego Office of Refugee and Immigrant Affairs

SURVIVORS is pleased to announce that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the creation of the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Affairs. The new office will act as a central hub, connecting individuals and families to resources and services in San Diego County. Community members will be encouraged to identify gaps in services for the county to address.

SURVIVORS’ program manager, Dr. Mahvash Alami, advocated on behalf of our clients for the creation of this new county office. During the June 8th San Diego County Board of Supervisors' meeting, Dr. Alami was asked about the importance of such an office and described how “this office will be an important resource to help coordinate services and programs for vulnerable people who need assistance and a friendly face to begin their life in a strange land.” Our therapists, case managers, and volunteers continue to be some of the friendly faces that refugees and asylum seekers see when they arrive in the San Diego border region.

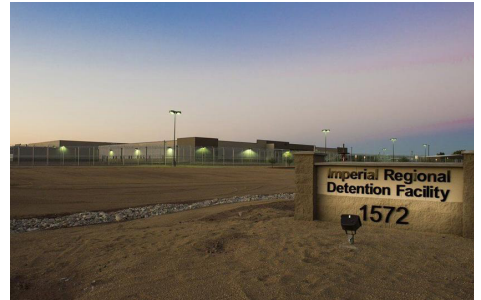


Dr. Mahvash Alami speaking at County Board of Supervisors' meeting

Torture survivors who arrive in San Diego County are often overwhelmed from being in a new country and culture. However, they are not alone. With our assistance, our clients learn about the culture of the United States, have support to enroll their children in school, receive guidance for the job market and help with securing a place to live. We also provide our clients with much needed mental health services. In support of this mission, we are happy to see the San Diego County Board of Supervisors continuing to make San Diego County welcoming for all San Diegans.

SURVIVORS Plans to Expand Into Imperial County

We are pleased to announce that we will be providing psychological and medical evaluations for clients in Imperial County who need forensic documentation for their asylum cases. Located to the east of San Diego County, next to the border of Arizona, Imperial County is home to the Imperial Regional Detention Facility in Calexico. Imperial County is geographically isolated from the rest of Southern California due to mountain ranges and desert, making access to many services difficult for its residents. The isolation of being in detention compounded by their location in Imperial County places additional strain on the asylum seekers in the facility. Elizabeth Lopez, an immigration attorney and SURVIVORS board member, works directly with detainees and describes how "My clients feel separated from the outside world in this desolate area which brings on feelings of helplessness and retriggers their trauma. To have someone to tell their fears and emotions to is maybe some of the only evidence we will have of the trauma suffered in their home country". By expanding into Imperial County, SURVIVORS will be providing the first support of its kind in the region, lessening our client's sense of isolation and supporting their asylum cases.



The Imperial Regional Detention Facility in Imperial County

Unfortunately, the challenges for Imperial County do not end there. Detained asylum seekers in the county have little to no services available to support their mental health, medical well-being, and asylum cases. This presents an opportunity for SURVIVORS to directly serve clients in Imperial County, utilizing a similar model as in San Diego County with a network of professionals providing psychological and medical evaluations. Based on ongoing requests from the legal community currently assisting detainees, the planned expansion builds equity to ensure that these communities receive the care they deserve. The challenges Imperial County present will not disappear anytime soon; however, we look forward to bridging the divide between the two counties through serving clients in detention in Imperial County in the near future.

Volunteers Help Vulnerable Clients Get Vaccinated

Getting the COVID-19 vaccinations has been challenging for some San Diegans, and especially for our clients. For the communities that we serve, SURVIVORS is a trusted source of information about COVID-19 and the vaccines. Our goal has been to keep clients informed and supported throughout the pandemic. We continue to provide accurate and timely instructions from public health leaders to clients and their families.

Through our COVID-19 vaccination campaign, SURVIVORS' trained and experienced volunteers have been calling clients and their families in Arabic, Spanish, and English to educate them about the benefits of vaccination. When asked about her ex-

perience as a volunteer, Sasha Moore explained, "Many clients said that they wanted the vaccine, but they didn't know how to get an appointment or where to go. This really highlighted the need not only for accessible healthcare, but also the need for assistance in navigating a complex healthcare system through



Nance Lovell, SURVIVORS' senior mental health specialist getting vaccinated

an organization that clients can trust." Volunteers create a safe environment to address client's questions about vaccinations. This level of trust has allowed volunteers to reassure clients about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines.

As part of our COVID-19 program, SURVIVORS sends emails and printed informational brochures, resource sheets, videos, and even child-friendly education pamphlets in multiple languages. Fully-vaccinated volunteers help drive clients to their vaccination appointments. The ongoing COVID-19 education program started in April 2020 with the vaccination campaign starting in February 2021. To date, we are pleased and relieved that no client under SURVIVORS care has died due to COVID-19.

Helping Survivors Heal Virtual Fundraiser

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

8 AM & 12 PM (you choose)

Registration information for online link to follow



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

Anonymous	Denise Francis	James Jaranson	Matthew Molstre	Sharon Payne
Joyce Anderson	Jan Gallo	Carl Josephson & Laura Harris	Gene Morones	Natalie Pearl Ilaraza
Kathi Anderson & Jesse Rivera	Jean Greaves & Greg Olmstead	Melvin & Jane Kieshnick	Howard & Lianne Moseley	Sandra Peters
Jeanette Barrack	Lydia Grympa & Bob Oakley	Angela & Matthew Kilman	Tom & Brooke Nagle	William & Martha Radatz
Steve & Carmen Berry	Lydia Grympa & Bob Oakley	Rebecca LeVasseur	Darrell Netherton & Robert Wheeler	Grant Reeder
Candace Carroll & Len Simon	Gregory Hall	George & Karen Longstreth	Jan Neuhaus	St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, San Diego
Maryann Dean & Bill Barclift	Emily Hart & Philip Kuey	Ann McDonald	Pat Olafson	Richard & Tracy Vevia
Jonathan Doering	Rick & Ann Hein	Kate Miller	Kathleen Owens	Scott Williford
Ann & Rich Durham	Paula Herring & Tim Botsko			

Individual & Family Financial Supporters who gave October 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. **Thank you!**

Anonymous	Susan Corrigan	Nancy Holland	Dianne McKay	Enid Singer
William & Seema Aceves	David DeBus & Denyse Beaudet	Carol Holler	Jean Meadowcroft	Joe & Beth Slevcove
Jane Affonso	Alicia DeLeon-Torres	Dusty & Jean Holycross - in honor of Pastor George & Ethel Falk	Elizabeth Michel & Arnie Markman	Randy Smith
Dee Aker	Maria Depedraza	Linda Howard	Cynthia Miller	David, Kathryn, & Keiana Snell
Cheyenne Aldridge	Andrew Dettling	Myles Huck	Dawn Miller	Melina Sophinos - in memory of Irene Cornish Thompson
Caroline Altmann	Shawn Dooley	Miriam & Alexander Iosupovici	Carol Morabito	Richard Stravinsky & Astrid Falkenberg
Carol Andersen	Ginny Dunn	Clare Israel	Michele Moura	Nancy Sweeney
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Daisy Barajas	Christine Evans	Tom & Shari Johnston-O'Neill	Patricia Nelson	Loren Tarmo
Elizabeth Barnhart	Mary Fabri	Charlene Jones	Jane Nesvig	Sandra & Martin Tarmo
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Janet Bentley	Dawn Formo	Judith Keenan	Elizabeth Payne	Lily Viera
Mark Berger & Jacquelyn Tolley	Marlene Forney	Karen Keilt	Mike Peloquin	Kevin Vu
Susan Berkowitz	Mark Freeman & Alison Brysk	Deborah Kennedy	Sharon Perkowski	George Wang
Judith & Paul Bernstein	Piedad Garcia	Mojgan Khademi	Ruth Perlin	Brian Washington
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Margie & Roger Coats	Michael & LeAnn Healy	Elena McCollim	Eleanor Shimeall	
Shaina Conforth	Sara Hench	F. Marian McGee	Alisa Shorago	
	Jane Hoey			
	Leslie Hoffman			

Organizations That Financially Support SURVIVORS who gave July 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021. **Thank you!**

Benevolent	Given to Give Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation	MUFG Union Bank Foundation	State of California Relief Grant Program
Bruce M. Abrams GLBT Torture Survivors Fund	Grossmont Healthcare District	Mutual of America Foundation	Stryker Slev Law Group
Cajon Valley Union School District	Hologic Charitable Fund	Native Interpreting	Tea & Empathy Counseling
California Office of Emergency Services	Hurwitz Holt APLC	Nautilus General Contractors, Inc.	The California Endowment
California State Compensation Insurance Fund	International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims	Pacifica Synod - ELCA - Matthew 25 Fund	The Kroger Company
California State University San Marcos	Jacob Dean Construction	PayPal Giving Fund	The Peacemakers Fund
Calvary Lutheran Church, Solana Beach	Josephson Werdowatz & Associates, Incorporated	Price Philanthropies Foundation	Thrivent Financial Office of Jonathan Doering & Matthew Molstre
Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego County	LANsolutions LLC	Rehab Strategies	Thrivent Financial - Thrivent Choice Dollars
Center for Victims of Torture	Law Office of Schoenleber & Waltermire	San Diego County Health & Human Services Agency	Transition Staffing Group
Christ Lutheran Church, Pacific Beach	Law Offices of Jonathan D. Montag	San Diego Unified School District, Community Service Association	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Chula Vista Presbyterian Church	Lawyers Club of San Diego Fund for Justice at The San Diego Foundation	San Diego Women's Foundation	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
Curology, Inc.	Micah Turner Massage Therapy	San Marcos Lutheran Church	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement
	Michael Ehrenfeld Company	Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, La Mesa	Welcome Home New Americans
	Molina Healthcare	Southern California Immigration Project	

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Clients by Region of Origin

In 2021, SURVIVORS has served clients from 45 countries. Though we are located in the San Diego border region, home to the largest land border crossing in the world, and share a border with Mexico, this year has been historic as it is the first time in our 24 years that the largest percentage of our clients are from Latin America.

Regions

Percent of Clients

Latin America	38%
Africa	34%
Middle East	17%
Asia	7%
Central & Eastern Europe	4%

Irene Cornish Thompson

July 15, 1942 - March 22, 2021



We are saddened to share the news of the passing of Irene Cornish Thompson, LCSW, who died peacefully surrounded by her family from complications of COVID-19. Irene had contracted with SURVIVORS as a mental health clinician starting in 2009. Honoring her work, her family requested donations be directed to SURVIVORS.

Irene touched the lives of many people, helping them to survive, grow, heal from trauma, and thrive. She was a gifted therapist, educator and mentor who graciously gave her time and professional expertise to support SURVIVORS' mission. She had a keen ability for connecting with everyone in a way that made them feel special. She will be missed.

SURVIVORS Earns BBB Accreditation

For another year, SURVIVORS is proud to announce that we have met all the standards for the Better Business Bureau's Standards for Charity Accountability. These standards are based on how charities are governed, spend their money, represent themselves, and disclose information to the public.



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SURVIVORS is an IRS 501(C)(3) non profit. Eighty-six cents out of every dollar raised goes directly to SURVIVORS' programs. Our Federal Tax ID number is 33-0743869

Raise money for SURVIVORS at no cost to you! When you use your Ralphs' card, a percentage of your purchase can be donated directly to SURVIVORS. Just link your account to benefit SURVIVORS. To enroll, go to www.ralphs.com and log in. Click on "Community Contributions" and search for "Survivors of Torture, International" or "AA669" then select "Enroll". It's that easy to make a significant impact in helping to fulfill our mission!

Support SURVIVORS While Shopping at Ralphs



To find out about SURVIVORS' expansion into Imperial County

