



EMPOWERING A PATH TO PROGRESS

IMPACT REPORT 2022



Helping
those in need,
EMPOWERING
vulnerable youth,
and **GIVING A**
VOICE to victims
all start with a
PATH TO SAFE
and reliable
resources and
support systems.

Since the early 1970s, Waymakers has paved the way to progress for countless individuals and families.

Take a moment to learn how we are **EMPOWERING THOSE IN NEED** through the exciting new programs featured in this report.

OVERCOMING CRISIS WITH CONNECTION

At age 15, Kylie unexpectedly had to move in with her grandmother as her primary caregiver. Kylie quickly became overwhelmed; she lived in a new town, attended a new school, and her grandmother had many health concerns. Kylie desperately missed the support she used to have from her close friends.

One day Kylie didn't come home. Concerned, her grandmother called the police. When they found Kylie, she seemed disorientated and frightened.

Fortunately, Waymakers Youth Shelter was the perfect fit for Kylie and her grandmother. Kylie received counseling, and learned the skills she needed to deal with her anxiety, and to make healthy connections with new friends.

Waymakers also assisted Kylie's grandmother to find in-home resources to help with her health concerns, alleviating some of the pressure on Kylie.

Today, after graduating from Waymakers Youth Shelter Program, Kylie is on the path to a positive future.





OUR MISSION

It is Waymakers' unending mission to build **SAFER COMMUNITIES** by **HELPING INDIVIDUALS** make their way through conflict and crisis to a place of strength and stability.

MAKING
AN
IMPACT

**RESOLVING
CONFLICTS**

2,203

disputing parties

**SUPPORTING
VICTIMS**

19,892

crime victims served

\$1.9m

financial restitution
secured for victims

COUNSELING FAMILIES

3,245

youth and family
members served

7,763

counselling hours
provided to youth
and family members

EDUCATING COMMUNITIES

4,652

individuals received
education trainings

SHELTERING CHILDREN

1,292

youth and family
members served

94%

of youth successfully
reunited with their
families

FINDING PATHS THAT **EMPOWER YOUNG ADULTS**

Young adults often feel pressure to achieve academically, earn their way in the world, or be a success socially. For young people dealing with mental health issues, those pressures can be overwhelming, putting them at high risk for psychiatric hospitalization, substance use, exploitation, committing criminal acts, or homelessness. **Waymakers' newest crisis residential shelter focuses on the needs of young adults, aged 18-25.**

For those dealing with a mental health crisis, being in the shelter allows time for healing, provides a sense of safety, and offers the resources needed for stability. Our approach is to communicate with clients to determine their personal needs and create individually tailored program goals that highlight their strengths, engage their interests, and focus on long-term wellbeing. All clients work on strategies that empower positive outcomes, build self-confidence, and improve social skills.

Achieving long-term wellbeing requires an emphasis on the development of coping skills and support systems. This includes a structured daily schedule to assure a healthy diet, sufficient sleep, and compliance with medical protocols. Each client learns stress-reducing coping skills and problem-solving techniques. Additionally, every client is connected with treatment providers and other needed resources to facilitate an effective continuum of care. Working with the long view in mind, our goal is to guide positive and lasting change.





ELEVATING YOUTH **VOICE AND LEADERSHIP**

Adolescence is a time of exploration, testing boundaries, and learning how to interact with the world. Young people looking for an escape from stressful circumstances can find themselves at risk for substance use, truancy, or other detrimental behaviors that can lead to social, physical, and mental health problems.

Waymakers' newest project is Elevating Youth. Funded by the Sierra Health Foundation, this project promotes youth development and education through a variety of alternative activities to de-stress through outlets other than drugs or alcohol. Recently, in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Anaheim, Waymakers hosted an Art Night for Youth. The event was led by a professional artist who provided

participants with step-by-step instructions and guidance for their art projects, so that each person could find success.

Waymakers has been taking proactive approaches to address substance use concerns for more than three decades. Facilitating student-led leadership development programs allows us to focus on social and emotional development while educating students on the risks of substance use. This strategy helps youth to learn skills in the areas of communication, organization, planning, and public speaking. They are creating culturally appropriate platforms and leading the way for their peers. Waymakers is proud to walk alongside these amazing young people as they become exemplary leaders in substance use prevention.

MAKING PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The complex needs of human trafficking victims require a comprehensive community response, a wide scope of assistance, and long-term case management. The loss of identity, home, or family that many human trafficking victims suffer is often incomprehensible. Trying to address those needs, especially for those new to this area of service provision can be overwhelming.

Waymakers co-founded the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force in 2004 to help tackle these needs. For more than a decade, we've been a sought after training and technical assistance partner for service providers seeking to combat human trafficking with our victim-centered and trauma-informed approach. We help to facilitate collaborative partnerships between law enforcement, victim services, prosecution, government entities, non-profit organizations, community organizations, and volunteers.

In early 2022, Waymakers took on an exciting new project! The Northern California Coalition to Safeguard Communities (NCCSC) contracted us to provide training and technical assistance to a collaborative of professionals in five counties: Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Lake, and Butte. Waymakers' objective is to help these rural mountain areas respond to an exponential increase in human trafficking. The project goals are to enhance the understanding of human trafficking victims needs, teach best

practice service models, and facilitate collaborative approaches within and among the counties. Waymakers' work with these communities has facilitated meaningful progress in their ability to address human trafficking. We look forward to our impact as we support service providers and the survivors they serve.

50

LIFE-CHANGING YEARS

**Waymakers will
celebrate 50 years
of service to Orange
County in 2023.**

Stay tuned for
more news ahead.





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