



IMPACT

2024

REPORT



HOPE IN EVERY
STEP FORWARD



ABOUT US

MISSION

We build safer communities by helping individuals make their way through conflict and crisis to a place of strength and stability.

VISION

Our vision is a safe community where individuals of all ages reach their highest potential, fostering lasting change and positive impact throughout Orange County.

SHELTERING CHILDREN

1,402

youth and family members served

92%

of youth successfully reunified with their families

SUPPORTING VICTIMS

17,246

victims of crimes served

\$4,041,219.65

in financial restitution secured for victims

COUNSELING FAMILIES

2,987

youth and family members served

9,792

counseling hours provided to youth and family members

EDUCATING COMMUNITIES

4,806

individuals received education trainings

*“Hope is not just a distant dream;
it’s the quiet assurance that
things can and will get better.
Each small step forward, no
matter how insignificant it might
seem, is a victory. Embrace
these moments with patience
and faith, and **know that you
are stronger than you think.**”*

SUPPORTER OF THE AGENCY



RESTORING HOPE FOR YOUTH IN CRISIS

We believe every young person deserves a hopeful future. Our Youth Shelters provide a safe haven for youth facing mental health struggles, homelessness, and family conflict. These are transformative spaces where hope is restored.

JOSHUA'S STORY

Joshua, age 16, felt invisible and saw no way forward. At our Shelter, he finally felt heard. Counseling helped his family communicate without anger and Joshua gained confidence. Now, he looks forward to pursuing his passion for music and art, embracing the hope he once lost.

EMMA'S STORY

Emma, age 14, lost her father and felt abandoned by her mother. Feeling isolated, she fell into depression. At Waymakers she found a place of connection. "The goofy jokes made me smile, new music opened my world, and, most of all, people who truly cared about me. They helped me rediscover a spark of hope I thought I'd lost forever."

IMPACT:

These stories highlight how our shelters transform lives. By offering individualized care and a supportive community, we help youth heal and reconnect with their families. This year, we've witnessed countless transformations.





COUNSELING FAMILIES

FOSTERING HOPE THROUGH FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

Waymakers strengthens families through counseling programs that build resilience and communication skills, empowering youth and families to overcome challenges. Youth thrive and look to brighter futures when their families are strong.

LIZ'S STORY

When Liz's 15-year-old son got involved in gangs and the juvenile justice system, Waymakers stepped in with parenting classes and counseling. Liz learned strategies through the "Parent Project®," which improved communication and respect in her family, and supported her son when he returned home. Now, Liz supports others as a Parent Mentor, saying, "I learned to help myself so I can help those around me."

IMPACT:

Liz's story highlights how family empowerment fosters hope. Our counseling programs have transformed countless families, creating stronger bonds and helping youth achieve their full potential.

SUPPORTING VICTIMS

REBUILDING HOPE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

Over the past year we served 17,246 individuals, including those affected by the tragic Cook's Corner shooting. Our team provided support in the aftermath of this horrific event, connecting victims to essential resources during critical moments.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Facing a future with significant funding cuts, our commitment to supporting victims of crime is unfaltering. Our team is adapting strategies, leveraging partnerships, and seeking additional financial resources to ensure a future where victims receive the assistance needed to heal and regain hope.

IMPACT:

Waymakers' unwavering commitment shows that everyone deserves compassion and our proactive approach remains. Our work not only aids individual recovery but strengthens the community as a whole.

INSPIRING HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

Education drives change and hope. By focusing on strategies to prevent involvement in key issues—gang activity, sexual assault, human trafficking, and substance abuse—we empower communities to create safer, healthier environments.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Know More, Do Better

500 middle school students in Orange County attended this event, led by Waymakers and the OC Human Trafficking Task Force, to learn about preventing human trafficking in alignment with the California Healthy Youth Act.

Cypress High School Mental Health Wellness Room

Five students from our Elevate Youth team successfully advocated for a campus Wellness Room, offering mental health resources and stress-relief activities. Their efforts educated over 1,000 peers, fostering a culture of emotional resilience and well-being.

The Clothesline Project

Displayed across Orange County, this project raises awareness of community violence. T-shirts share victims' experiences and messages of hope, promoting healing and inspiring change.

IMPACT:

By partnering with schools, families, faith groups and law enforcement, Waymakers is creating positive ripple effects. Through education, we ignite hope and inspire a better future and we have reached thousands with this message.





PROGRESS IS BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF HOPE

Each step taken with confidence moves individuals closer to their goals. Waymakers walks alongside those on this journey, reinforcing their hope and turning aspirations into reality through consistent support and guidance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS



Joe McCarthy
Board President
*McCarthy
Consulting Services*



Abril Turner
Vice President
Experian



Dr. Jay Lee
Secretary
Family Physician



Roxane Fuller
Treasurer
Montgomery DME

MEMBERS



Brenda Balsiger
*Retired, Orange County
Business Journal*



Francisco Barajas
Adelante Partners, Inc.



Ethan Batstone
Pacific Life



Rich Brakke
*Brakke-Schafnitz
Insurance Brokers,
Acrisure of California LLC*



Laura Chavez
Girls Inc.



Donny Delfin
Banc of California



Suzy Elliott
*Elliott Leadership
Coaching*



Daniel Garcia
A-Z Tech Support LLC



Jonathan Judge
*Atkinson, Andelson, Loya,
Ruud & Romo*



Gutha "GK" Kannan
Retired, Grifols



Mark Larsen
*Purus Wealth
Management*



Eileen McCoy
Pink Bra Project



Jason Smallwood
Customers Bank



Ann Stawicki
*Burnham Benefits
Insurance Services*



Barbara Steensland
*MAG-TROL Electrical
Distributors*



Kris Thordarson
*K2 General Contractors,
Inc.*



Greg Tippin
Newmark



P: 949.250.0488
Info@WaymakersOC.org
WaymakersOC.org

440 Exchange, Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92602

Tax ID #95-3167866



Scan to make a
donation online

WaymakersOC.org/donate