



# Huntington Beach News



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## Community News

### Waymakers Awarded \$10,000 Grant From Employees Community Fund of Boeing California in Support of the Huntington Beach Youth Shelter

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**HUNTINGTON BEACH...**Waymakers, a nonprofit organization that builds safer communities by helping individuals make their way through conflict and crisis to a place of strength and stability, has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California (ECF). The employee-nomination funding will support Waymakers' Huntington Beach Youth Shelter.

"This generous gift from the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California comes at a critical time when we've seen a steady increase in need for our services during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Ronnetta Johnson, the executive director of Waymakers. "We will not only be able to continue providing critical resources for youth in our community as needs rise during the pandemic, but also provide them with a safe and stable place during an unprecedented season."

Waymakers provides crisis residential services for teens in Orange County through their innovative programs, shelter care and educational support. The shelter program provides emotional stability through counseling, life skills development, integration of healthy habits and coping skills, counseling and educational coaching.

The Huntington Beach Youth Shelter is a short-term intervention "safe-haven" for runaway, homeless, abused, or those struggling with mental health issues, ages 11-17, and provide 24-hour supervision in a home-like and supportive environment. The program aims to achieve the following goals: recovery and stabilization for children after a suicide attempt or threat, family strengthening and reunification, homeless prevention, diversion of at-risk youth from the juvenile justice system, and school drop-out prevention.

While the Waymakers' youth shelters remain open to those with the most critical need, and all other Waymakers' programs remain fully operational, staff have implemented social distancing, client health screenings, enhanced sanitizing procedures and have created innovative service delivery patterns that adhere to the restrictions mandated by COVID-19 to meet the needs of all clients. Youth shelters continue to teach youth and their families key coping skills that will not only help them become resilient throughout this global pandemic, but also throughout their lives.

Boeing's ECF is an employee-managed nonprofit—one of the largest of its kind in the world—that traces its roots back to 1948, when its predecessor organization was started at McDonnell Aircraft. Over the last 70 years, ECF has contributed approximately \$1 billion to help nonprofits in Boeing communities. Through purposeful investments, employee engagement and advocacy efforts, Boeing supports partnerships and programs that align with their business, create value and help build better communities. Boeing focuses on opportunities that "inspire our future, empower our heroes and strengthen our homes." Currently, more than 120 Boeing employees serve on local chapter grant making committees.

For more information on Waymakers, visit [waymakersoc.org](http://waymakersoc.org).