

## Community News

### Waymakers Raises \$11,500 During Virtual 5K

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*The McCarthys Way to Go volunteers*

**HUNTINGTON BEACH...**The nonprofit Waymakers hosted a Virtual 5K and raised \$11,500! The funds will benefit Waymakers' programs and essential services available during the COVID-19 pandemic including the Huntington Beach Shelter.

Waymakers is a nonprofit organization that builds safer communities by helping individuals make their way through conflict and crisis to a place of strength and stability, hosted their Way2Go! Virtual 5K on October 24 and 25, raising \$11,500 to support their mission. The funds raised during the event will benefit Waymakers' programs and essential services available during the COVID-19 pandemic including counseling, therapy, conflict resolution, support services for victims of crime, and prevention and education programs.

Participants enjoyed the 5K from anywhere and chose to run, walk, ride, roll or simply join a team and cheer on their family and friends from the comfort of their home.

"We're thrilled with the success of our first ever virtual fundraiser to ensure everyone's safety," said Ronnetta Johnson, executive director of Waymakers. "We're so grateful to everyone who participated to help raise crucial funds allowing us to continue to provide vital assistance to individuals in crisis, and help meet the increasing needs for our essential resources for the youth and families we serve in Orange County during these difficult times."

Proceeds of the family-friendly virtual 5K will support Waymakers' general services as they continue providing essential resources on the frontlines of COVID-19, including crisis intervention, counseling, and support services for victims of crime including domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault. All Waymakers' programs are fully operational. Counseling for youth and families, support services for victims of crime, and conflict resolution for community members are being provided through electronic means, including play therapy for young children and assistance for victims of sexual assault and human trafficking.

To meet basic needs of their vulnerable clients, staff are facilitating no-contact delivery of essentials (groceries, gift cards, rent checks, etc.) to enhance safety and stability. The Waymakers' Youth Shelters remain open to those with the most critical need and staff have implemented social distancing, client health screenings, and enhanced sanitizing procedures while teaching children and families coping skills that will help them become resilient throughout their lives, not just during this pandemic. Waymakers' prevention and education programs are still going strong through the development of online classes and media campaigns.

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