



Stewardship REPORT

SUMMER 2017 DONOR UPDATE

Investing in the Future: Children's and Youth Services

Thanks to your support, we have been able to provide thousands of survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking from the Sacramento region with a safe haven and the life-changing services they needed to heal and get back on their feet.

However, WEAVE's vision is a community free of violence and abuse.

And we believe that crisis intervention is only part of the solution. Prevention

and education are critical to breaking the cycle of violence by educating the community to better understand the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking.

To this aim, WEAVE provides an array of programs working with students and young people.

And your financial contributions make a lasting impact on people of all ages in our region.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to provide thousands of survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking from the Sacramento region with a safe haven and the life-changing services they needed to heal and get back on their feet.

We cannot take on these challenges without you and other generous donors in our community.

Thank you!

The Youngest Victims of Domestic Violence

WEAVE knows that children raised in homes with domestic violence experience the same trauma as the abused parent, but they may lack the capacity to process the abuse. WEAVE has been a leader in supporting these young victims and their unique experiences. Our loyal supporters make this possible and contribute to breaking the cycle of

domestic violence with every gift.

We understand that domestic violence is linked to other forms of child abuse, and we know that more than half of the children in violent homes experience physical abuse and neglect. We hear the stories from mothers struggling to meet the most basic of needs while enduring relentless
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OUR MISSION is to build a community that does not tolerate sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking and to provide survivors with the support they need to be safe and thrive.

The Youngest Victims of Domestic Violence

(from page 1)

abuse — knowing their children are suffering. We hear from children who talk about the injuries they sustain when they try to intervene in the violence or anger the abuser.

Even when the child is not physically abused or neglected, exposure to domestic violence is one aspect of “Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).” These are stressful or traumatic events that strongly impact development and lead to a wide variety of health problems. ACEs include physical, emotional, and sexual abuse experienced by the child, and they encompass neglect and exposure to violence outside the home as well.

Decades of ACEs research shows the importance of recognizing childhood trauma and addressing the impact of toxic stress on children. Without recognition and intervention, children who live with daily exposure to domestic violence will endure lifelong barriers to healthy relationships and healthy lives.

More than half of our shelter residents are children ages 17 and younger. At the Safehouse, we offer an array of specialized children’s services to help combat the trauma these youngest victims have experienced. Your support ensures that the cycle of violence can be broken and create hope for healthy futures.

It is common for children to enter the Safehouse being very guarded. Once they realize it is a safe place, they may act out physically and verbally because they are finally able to do so without fear of violence. Children may express anger at the non-abusive parent or feel guilt for loving the abuser. All of these feelings are normal, and it is critical that children have access to therapeutic support to understand and heal.

Dedicated Children’s Counselors are onsite, just for this reason. These counselors use developmentally appropriate therapies to help children process the abuse and develop coping skills. This includes using art and



Children's Center classroom

Children need time
to just be kids.

To play. To run.
To shout with joy.

Children from violent
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sand tray therapy to help children articulate their experiences. The healing that begins and coping skills learned stay with these children long after they leave the Safehouse.

In addition, the Safehouse campus provides much more than therapy.

We know that children need time to just be kids. To play. To run. To shout with joy. Children from violent homes have not had this opportunity. They are kept close to home to avoid angering the abuser. They stay quiet for fear of triggering another violent attack. Any friendships come with the burden of keeping secret what happens in their home and limits play dates and sleepovers.

At the Safehouse, there are no secrets. The children share the experience of domestic violence, and they are provided a three-acre campus with an amazing playground, a Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom, and a Children's Center for indoor activities such as reading or baking. Playcare Advocates are

onsite to provide structured play time, one-on-one time doing puzzles, and small group activities to provide mothers and children with much needed respite.

The Safehouse campus includes a K-12 charter school, and children are required by law to be enrolled in school within 72 hours of entering the Safehouse. Returning to their school may not be safe, as the abusive parent will know their schedule and may stalk and harm the family at the school. The Safehouse Charter School is taught by a credentialed bilingual teacher who helps children stay on track and even make up academic deficiencies.

Your support allows the youngest victims of domestic violence to just be kids. Your gifts ensure they can heal, learn, and play without fear or secrets. Without you, we cannot provide this wide range of specialized services and be there for these children.



Children's Center library



Children's Center play area

The Story of Tucker

Tucker is young boy who was at the Safehouse in 2008 when he was 8 years old. You might have seen his story in the past, but it remains a powerful description of one child who was supported by WEAVE and our programs for young victims.

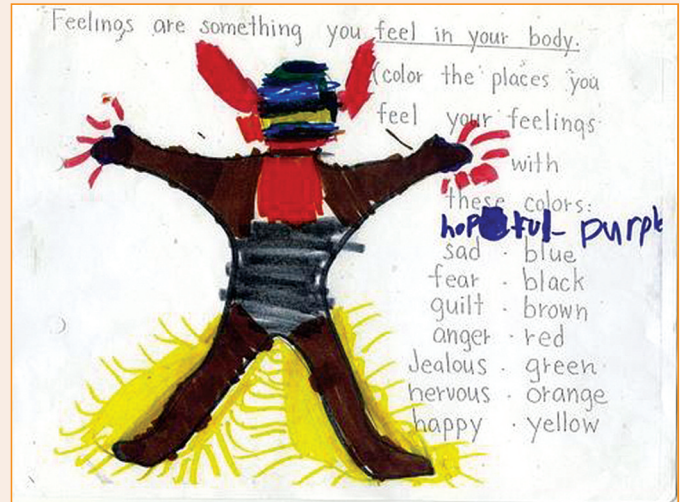
When Tucker arrived at WEAVE, his emotions were unpredictable. One day he would cling to his mother and barely interact with other children. Other days, he played and participated in group activities. His temper was unpredictable. Tucker would often lash out at his mother or siblings, as well as other children, over the smallest issue.

Tucker began working with the Safehouse Children's Counselor to process the abuse he experienced. The violence in Tucker's home had been extreme, frequent, and going on his entire childhood. He did not have the skills to understand what was going on, and the insistence that he keep the violence a secret meant he had never been able to talk about it — with anyone.

The Children's Counselor used different techniques to help Tucker. Sand tray therapy was used to give him a venue to show what had gone on at his home and to then talk about the feelings that were associated with the abuse. Art therapy was also used to help Tucker better articulate his experience.

One of the art therapy tools used was to have Tucker draw a picture of himself and color in where he felt different emotions. The picture was colored over several sessions, focusing on different emotions each time.

Tucker used black to show fear in his brain and stomach. He talked about feeling sick whenever his parents would start arguing. He put black around his eyes and talked about hiding his face when his father would hit his mother. He outlined his body with black marker to show how he felt scared everywhere.



Tucker's self portrait

Tucker colored his ears, finger tips, and chest in red for anger. He talked about feeling anger in his heart and he felt steam coming out of ears, like on the cartoons. He talked of wanting to hit his father, so he would know what the abuse felt like.

Tucker covered his arms and legs in brown to show guilt. Tucker had reached an age where he felt responsible for the violence and believed he should intervene to protect his mother but feared his father.

Towards the end of his stay at the Safehouse, the Children's Counselor asked him how he was feeling, knowing that he and his mother would be moving into an apartment of their own in a few days.

Tucker used a yellow marker to color his smile and to encompass his legs. He was happy — and relieved — that they would be moving to a safe apartment. He shared that he was “jumping with joy” about going to a new school and living with his mom in their own house.

He asked the Counselor what the color for hope was. Together they decided that purple would be Tucker's color of hope. Tucker took the purple marker and covered his eyes and smile. He told his Counselor that he had hope now — hope that the violence was finally over ... hope that he would no longer have to keep secrets ... and hope that his mother would never be hurt again.

Engaging Youth in Creating the Schools and Communities They Deserve

Your donations support youth working to change their school campus culture by providing education about healthy relationships, consent, teen dating violence, and sexual assault. With your help, we are able to empower youth in our communities to create lasting change. Below you can read about some of the work you are supporting in our region.

Through school based clubs that use youth development principles, we support tweens and teens in identifying the greatest challenges facing their campuses. Club STRONG programs bring together a core group of leaders at every grade level to create youth-led activities. MyStrength Clubs work specifically with young men to explore the influence of gender socialization, the impact of gender roles, and how these influence relationships.

The clubs are supported by a WEAVE Educator. The Educator also provides classroom education to all students. The trainings focus on understanding the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships, teen dating violence, consent, and sexual assault and harassment.

WEAVE works closely with Hiram Johnson High School and Will C. Wood Middle School on an immersion model that is part of a statewide prevention education program. Our Educators also implement clubs at West Campus High School, A.M. Winn School, and North Area Community School.

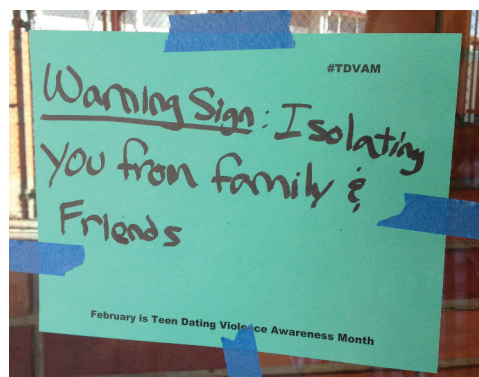
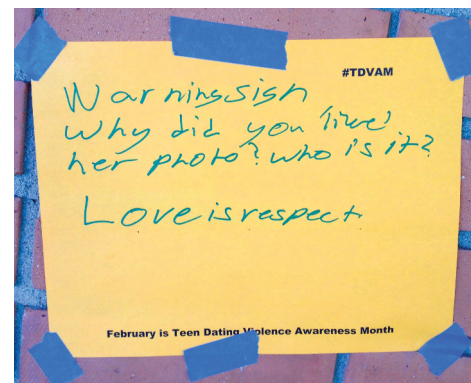
WEAVE and The Met High School have created a program where youth receive education and opportunities to explore concepts more deeply through additional projects. Freshman students focus on gender socialization while sophomores deeply discuss

healthy versus unhealthy relationships and understanding red flags in dating relationships. Juniors focus their learning on consent and sexual assault.

Youth ages 16 to 24 participating in the Sacramento Job Corps program receive monthly training over a six month period.

Prevention and education are key to ending behaviors and attitudes that encourage violence in intimate relationships. We are making good progress, but there is so much more that needs to be done. However, by showing the positive impact of education in these schools, we are establishing a foundation of understanding that can be replicated as funding allows. And, we continue to advocate for greater funding that will allow us to do more.

With your help, we are creating tailored prevention education models that respond to the needs of each school site and the experiences of the students. You are part of creating a generation of youth who are creating campuses that celebrate healthy relationships.



Supporting Survivors on Our Community College Campuses

Sexual assault of college-aged women continues to be a significant issue, and it has a substantial impact on young women's educational experience.

Too often, we hear the stories after campuses fail their students. Additionally, these cases highlight that when victims report assaults to their schools, including law enforcement and counseling centers, their reports are not kept confidential. In fact, schools have latitude in who can be made aware of sexual assault reports, and victim approval for sharing is not required. In these situations, victims feel even further violated by sharing the details of their attack, in addition to not receiving the support they need and deserve.

Your support is having a positive impact on college students who experience sexual

assault and domestic violence right here in our community. You are contributing to a model that ensures access to confidential reporting with the full support of the campus.

Demonstrating its commitment to its students, the Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) proactively sought to strengthen resources for its students who experience sexual assault or domestic violence. LRCCD recognized WEAVE as the community's

undisputed expert in supporting survivors, and they have partnered with us to establish a Confidential Advocate for students.

The Confidential Advocate spends one day per week at each of the LRCCD campuses. The Confidential Advocate meets with students who have experienced sexual

assault or domestic violence, provides them with information about all of their options in reporting, and is instrumental in linking survivors with other resources. This may include supporting the survivor in making a formal report or accessing additional WEAVE resources. The choice is the student's and they are able to make informed decisions knowing they have the support of the Confidential Advocate. The Confidential Advocate also provides classroom education focusing on healthy versus unhealthy relationships, sexual assault, and consent.

The Confidential Advocate expands an existing partnership with LRCCD. WEAVE has been working with Cosumnes River College for several years to engage students in improving the campus culture in response to domestic violence and sexual assault. Through a campus-based club, classroom education, engagement events, and student internships, WEAVE is working with faculty and administrators to demonstrate the value of a supportive campus environment that engages the diverse student population.

The project has included a variety of campus-wide engagement opportunities including an annual Clothesline Project during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, where students create t-shirts that share their own experiences with domestic violence or create messages of intolerance for domestic violence. A similar Denim Day event was held in April in response to Sexual Assault Awareness Month, as well. These activities are now expanding to other campuses in our region to further communicate a message of support for students and to promote awareness of the Confidential Advocate as a resource for all students.

WEAVE is working ... to demonstrate the value of a supportive campus environment that engages the diverse student population.

When Children Are Sex Trafficked

The reality of sex trafficking of children is difficult for any of us to think about. The initial reactions of horror and anger are justified. And while we may want to think this happens “somewhere else,” it is a reality in our community.

The good news is that, as a WEAVE supporter, you are part of helping to provide hope for these young victims.

When suspected sex trafficking of a child is reported, an investigation is immediately opened by Sacramento County Child Protective Services. Our community recognizes that these children are victims of sexual abuse and require an immediate and trauma-informed response. Skilled social workers respond with a focus of ensuring the child’s safety. When trafficking is confirmed or it is determined that a child is at significant risk for trafficking, WEAVE is engaged as part of a collaborative effort to help.

WEAVE is the only organization partnering with Child Protective Services to provide 24/7 response to these children, and we could not do this without your support. Our Advocates respond to children as young as nine years old and begin to establish a relationship with them.

Responding to sex trafficking of children is not easy, and it takes considerable skill. The children often have histories of significant abuse at the hands of parents or caregivers, and the trafficker may be a family member. Often, the child identifies the trafficker as an intimate partner and may not initially consider themselves a victim. They have likely been in and out of the foster care system and

have not had a stable home life. These factors make these children incredibly vulnerable, and traffickers identify vulnerable children and know how to exploit their past experiences.

Too often, the trafficker is the sole source of survival for the victim, and the dependence creates a trauma bond where the victim is loyal to and dependent upon the person responsible for their victimization. Our goal is to establish a rapport with the victim so they realize there are other adults who can support them. Some will accept help right away, while others may take weeks, months, or even years before they can trust enough to be willing to take the risk to leave their abusive situation. No matter how long it takes, we will be there for these young people, without judgement.

The work is not easy, and each partner continues to learn as our community collaboration evolves. Thankfully, with your support, we can make a commitment to helping these children and continue to work towards a model that recognizes their significant trauma histories, that provides access to appropriate crisis intervention and long-term therapeutic healing, and that works to address the root sources of trafficking. We cannot do this difficult and challenging work without you.

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Engaging and Supporting Vulnerable Youth

Over the past year, we have focused on better understanding the barriers experienced by homeless and LGBTQ youth who have experienced sexual victimization and exploitation. Our partners include the Sacramento LGBT Community Center and Wind Youth Services, and along with your support, together we are helping a young population with very specific needs.

We established drop-in art groups at both organizations, as a way to engage youth and build trust. A series of focus groups with the youth followed, to better understand their hopes, dreams, challenges, and frustrations. The effort has established a foundation of information that the organizations can use to build programming that responds to the needs of homeless and LGBTQ youth who are vulnerable to sexual violence and

experience very distinct barriers to accessing services.

The project was launched with seed funding from Raliance, which was formed by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center and other national entities through funding from the National Football League (NFL). Increased access to counseling and supportive services has been augmented by donations from generous donors like you. We look forward to continuing our work with community partners and ensuring that we are removing barriers in a meaningful and sustainable manner.

Together we are helping a young population with very specific needs.

As a service to loyal supporters, WEAVE offers free educational seminars to address personal planning needs. These seminars are led by Tracy Potts of Legacy Law Group and address when a personal or family trust should be created, essential planning documents everyone needs, how to plan for the needs of children and aging parents, how to reduce tax burdens through current and deferred gifts, and how to support organizations and issues of importance through current and deferred gifts.

Workshops will be offered at WEAVE at 1900 K Street from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm on the following dates:

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

To reserve your space, contact Shan at sharklroad@weaveinc.org or 916.319.4981.

WEAVE offers outreach presentations to local schools, teen groups, faith groups, businesses, neighborhood groups, law enforcement, healthcare professionals, and any other interested parties in Sacramento County.

You may request a presentation at any time, and presentations can be tailored to meet your organization's specific needs. We appreciate the opportunity to share our vision of a community free of violence and abuse with friends and neighbors in our region. To learn more or to request a presentation, please visit www.weaveinc.org/prevention-education.



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