



# Stewardship REPORT

SPRING 2017 DONOR UPDATE

## Breaking Down Barriers

Here at WEAVE, we spend a lot of time talking about barriers. This may mean obstacles such as lack of transportation or a primary language other than English.

Regardless of the barrier, the WEAVE team approaches each situation with the commitment to remove that barrier and make it easier for survivors to access the support and resources they need to be safe and thrive. This includes multi-disciplinary teams to tackle every challenge and to deliver every service.

It is also very important to us that we have a diverse team to support survivors, so each person who needs support can develop a strong connection to the person helping them and can feel more understood throughout their interactions with WEAVE.

Our approach prioritizes delivering services in a client-centered and community-focused model. For example, we don't want location of services to be an additional barrier, so we

have increased the options for trained advocates and counselors to be available through different partnerships across the community.

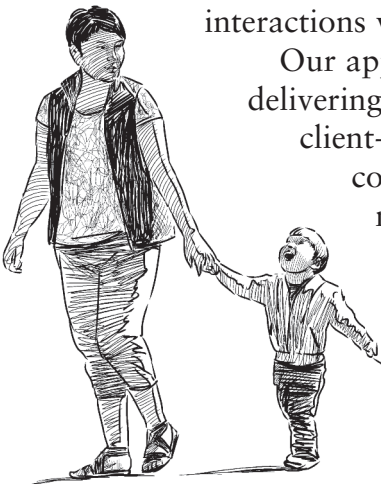
This includes WEAVE Counselors or Advocates being available at five different Family Resource Centers. WEAVE maintains a similar relationship with the Sacramento Native American Health Center (SNAHC) where WEAVE employees are embedded at the agency and can respond within minutes to a SNAHC patient who indicates they are experiencing domestic violence or discloses sexual trauma. WEAVE's Domestic Violence Response Team with the Elk Grove Police Department is another example where a WEAVE Advocate works out of the police department and responds to every victim of domestic violence or sexual assault who has contact with law enforcement.

By placing advocates throughout the community and empowering them to creatively respond to the barriers of the survivors they meet, WEAVE continues to build an approach that places the survivor's needs as the priority and allows us to deal with each situation holistically.

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!



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# Legal Assistance

**W**EAVE offers a variety of legal workshops to address common legal barriers faced by survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking — including restraining orders, custody, and dissolution.

Attorneys and trained Legal Advocates can support survivors in securing a Domestic Violence Restraining Order or Civil Order of Protection, custody filings, and dissolution

filings. Immigration assistance is available to victims who qualify, including visas and VAWA petitions which provide legal protections to immigrants who are dependent upon their abuser for their immigration status.

Limited scope legal representation is available based on availability, with attorney representation prioritized for those victims who are at the greatest risk for escalating physical assaults without legal interventions.

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## Barriers: Housing

**I**t was very clear that this client was afraid to tell her story and was not comfortable asking for help when she first came to WEAVE.

However, she knew that she could not live with the abuse anymore. Her children had witnessed the most recent incident, and that was when she knew enough was enough.

The Legal Advocate was able to build trust and the survivor decided that she wanted to enter our Safehouse. During her stay, she excelled at finding employment, enrolling herself and her children into counseling, and beginning the divorce process. Her remaining challenge was finding stable and affordable housing. She was granted extended housing, and during that time, she worked diligently on improving her financial solvency and independence, starting a savings account and working on her credit.

Eventually, she found higher paying employment, so she could finally be independent and provide a life for her and her children that was free of abuse. While her journey will be life-long, filled with healing and facing other obstacles, she now has confidence in herself, since she was able to show herself that she is able to do anything, regardless of what may stand in her way.



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## 24/7 Crisis Stabilization

One of our most prominent resources is the 24/7 Support and Information Line that takes 10,000 calls each year.

Calls come from survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking as well as family, friends, and co-workers who are seeking information.

WEAVE also offers walk-in triage services.

These appointments allow a survivor to meet with a trained advocate who can support them while helping them plan for their safety. Advocates can provide further reassurance by linking victims to other community resources and referring survivors to other WEAVE services such as legal assistance and counseling.

## Safe Shelter and Housing

WEAVE offers an array of safe housing options for survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking.

WEAVE's Residential Campus includes an 18-suite Safehouse where families stay in private rooms spread over three wings with shared bathrooms, kitchens, and living spaces. The Safehouse includes onsite supportive services.

The campus also includes four transitional housing cottages, offering homes to families or two single survivors. Transitional housing provides a "next step" for those who have completed the Safehouse program but still need support in order to be self-sufficient and safe.

WEAVE operates Open House which uses one-bedroom apartments to accommodate survivors who may not be comfortable at the Safehouse. This may include survivors with chronic medical conditions that require them to have control over their living space. Survivors with service animals also benefit, as do male and transgender survivors. Five apartments are dedicated to emergency housing, with two units used for transitional housing. A staff person lives at the site to ensure safety, while each client works with an Advocate to access other services including

legal assistance and counseling.

WEAVE implements a human trafficking grant that provides safe shelter for adult victims of sex trafficking. Lotus House is a confidential shelter that is operated in partnership with My Sister's House. In addition to Lotus House, WEAVE rents two apartments for transitional housing for sex trafficking survivors and a three bedroom home that is used for both emergency shelter and transitional housing for sex trafficking survivors.

Every survivor who stays in a WEAVE shelter or transitional housing program is supported through comprehensive services based on their needs. WEAVE staff support and encourage survivors to access the resources they need to address their personal barriers.



# Embedded Advocates & Mobile Advocacy

**W**EAVE increasingly uses a mobile advocacy model that includes dispatching advocates to respond to victims throughout the community as well as locating advocates within other agencies.

This approach eliminates transportation barriers for victims while also building trust in WEAVE through partnerships with respected organizations that reflect the diversity of the region.

Our 24/7 Sexual Assault Response Team sends an advocate to the hospital to support every victim of sexual assault who is undergoing an evidentiary examination and to link the victim with legal, counseling, and advocacy services to support their healing. A WEAVE Advocate is available to accompany survivors to follow up medical appointments, law enforcement interviews, and meetings with the District Attorney's Office, as well.

Similarly, WEAVE dispatches advocates at any hour to respond to child victims of sex trafficking who have been rescued by law enforcement or Child Protective Services. WEAVE is the only organization in Sacramento

County providing 24/7 response to child victims of sex trafficking.

In partnership with Sutter Health, WEAVE's Violence Prevention Navigator is a resource for area hospitals and law enforcement. The Navigator can respond throughout the community to meet with victims who are identified in emergency departments and during law enforcement interventions. The Navigator is essential in helping stabilize a victim in crisis, screening for barriers and needs, and linking victims to the appropriate services.



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## Conclusion

From a survivor who has been working very hard on the impact of her sexual trauma: "I can't believe how different I feel. When I first came here (to WEAVE) I thought the pain I was feeling was going to eat me alive. Now it doesn't hurt so much anymore. And if it starts hurting, I know how to help myself, feel it, and then let it go to get on with my day. I am the one in control!"

It's only with your support that we are able to help the survivors who come to WEAVE. When you give, you allow us to meet each person where they are, giving them the tools to be in control and to build a better life.



1900 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 [www.weaveinc.org](http://www.weaveinc.org)  
Office Phone: 916.448.2321 Support & Information Line: 916.920.2952