



# Stewardship REPORT

FALL 2018 DONOR UPDATE

## Supporting the Diverse Needs of Survivors

Survivors of domestic and sexual violence are like fingerprints — each unique to the person. WEAVE recognizes that the personal experiences of each survivor affect their ability to heal. Each survivor deserves a tailored response that honors their experiences.

Delivering truly survivor-centered services is harder, more time intensive, and it demands a diverse staff with a variety of skills and experiences. But we believe it's worth the time and energy to ensure each person who reaches out gets what they need. This is the approach that positions each survivor for success, and it's the path needed to stop the violence.

This also means that we can't accept only doing the minimum. It is not an option to provide only the most basic of services. Success is not defined solely by the number of people served, and it must also include lives transformed. We are continually looking to enhance services and adjust programs, to ensure we're reaching everyone who needs support.

### Investing in the Health of Survivors

Healthcare providers are important partners in providing trauma-informed support to victims. WEAVE recognizes the important role of these frontline professionals in identifying abuse and providing support, and we have made considerable investments to build capacity in this area over the past five years.

In 2013, WEAVE embarked on an innovative partnership with the Sacramento Native American Health Center (SNAHC) to explore ways to integrate survivor-centered services into the healthcare setting. The collaboration prioritized the importance of culturally responsive services, as well. The process engaged staff at all organizational levels and resulted in changes across both agencies.

SNAHC provided training on identifying and supporting victims to all program staff at both agencies and implemented a “seen alone” policy at their facility to allow for safer screening for domestic violence victims.

*(see page 2)*



## Thank You!

**40 years of awesome — thanks to you!** You ensure we can offer options and build a community that does not tolerate domestic violence and sexual assault — providing survivors with the support they need to be safe and thrive.

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# Supporting the Diverse Needs of Survivors

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WEAVE also implemented more culturally responsive practices.

More recently, WEAVE partnered with the Mercy Family Health Center (MFHC) — a program of Dignity Health — to identify and support victims of sex trafficking who come to MFHC for healthcare. Dr. Chambers, who oversees this program at the MFHC, has gained national attention for his efforts to create a trauma-informed health clinic to serve a vulnerable population. A WEAVE Advocate is embedded at MFHC and provides crisis intervention and advocacy.

Because of the success of this program, especially having an embedded Advocate model to address sex trafficking, the team was tapped to present at the 2018 National Sexual Assault Conference in August.

An early learning of this project was the impact of vicarious trauma on employees. In an effort to ensure the well-being of not only victims, but the staff that care them, MFHC and WEAVE worked together to explore ways to address trauma and support employees. We are proud to be part of an innovative service approach to support vulnerable victims and employees engaged in challenging

work on a daily basis.

In both of these cases, having healthcare allies has significantly increased our reach, allowing us to help even more survivors access services.

## Supporting Survivors Through Trusted Community Partners

While WEAVE has called Midtown Sacramento home for decades, the reality is that not every survivor can access services at our K Street location.

Transportation is a significant barrier for many survivors who do not have a car. We also know that it may not be safe for some survivors to come to our public location. To ensure that survivors can access WEAVE services, we continue to build a network of embedded Advocates and Counselors located within trusted community partner agencies.

Our relationships with eight Family Resource Centers are a great example of how community partnerships enable survivors to safely access support in their own neighborhoods. WEAVE Counselors maintain hours at each of the Family Resource Centers. This allows WEAVE staff to schedule counseling appointments close to a survivor's home or work and enables them to get support in a location they are already using.

## Supporting Incarcerated Survivors

WEAVE works diligently to be there for every survivor who needs support and to meet survivors where they are. For some survivors, the biggest barrier to accessing services is incarceration. The reality is that many youth in the Youth Detention Facility and adults in jail or prison have experienced sexual trauma — either before their arrest or while incarcerated.



WEAVE provides a variety of services to support survivors who are being held within the justice system. WEAVE knows that incarcerated youth often have experienced sexual abuse or exploitation. WEAVE provides an embedded Advocate to the Youth Detention Facility. The Advocate implements group activities and can meet with youth one-on-one, as well.

Many of the youth have experienced or are at high risk for sex trafficking and the opportunity to build rapport with them when the trafficker does not have control is important. It is an opportunity to educate the youth about their options and resources available to them upon release.

WEAVE also provides confidential advocacy services for adults incarcerated at the County jail or state prisons located in Sacramento County. WEAVE's work includes providing confidential written communications with incarcerated survivors seeking support and using the 24/7 Support Line as a resource.

Survivors who are being held in some type of detention facility are at a high risk for both past and future violence, so WEAVE is there for them, when they need us.

## Supporting Survivors with Access and Functional Needs

Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind or low vision, or who live with a physical or intellectual disability may be more vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence than their non-disabled peers. Survivors with disabilities report that barriers to reporting abuse include investigators who lack training in working with people with disabilities, lack knowledge of their experiences, and lack access to adaptive technology that would allow a survivor to participate fully in their investigation.

Similar challenges create barriers to accessing agencies that provide services to

people with disabilities. Many survivors rely on a network of family and friends within their disability community. When the abuser belongs to the same community, the survivor may be reluctant to disclose the abuse. Other members of their disability community may not believe the survivor or avoid "taking sides." In some cases, the survivor may not understand that what happened is abuse due to limited education about physical health and healthy relationships available to people with disabilities. Additionally, traditional

**WEAVE works diligently to be there for every survivor who needs support.**

victim service agencies may not have adequate training for providing services to people with disabilities who are experiencing abuse and disability-related services may be difficult for survivors to access.

Due to these barriers to support, WEAVE continues to prioritize the needs of survivors who live with disabilities. In 2016, WEAVE partnered with Society for the Blind to complete an assessment of our facilities and identify ways to make our services more welcoming and accessible to survivors who are blind or low-vision. The partnership has led to numerous opportunities to make improvements, including WEAVE securing state funding to support an Access Advocate who maintains office hours at community partner agencies such as Society for the Blind and Resources for Independent Living. The dedicated funding for this project ends soon, so we are planning to use donations from supporters like you to sustain the most promising of the lessons learned while continuing to seek additional funding.

# WEAVE to Work

The original WEAVEWorks store opened in Midtown Sacramento in 1998 as a way to support survivors by providing access to emergency and professional clothing and to raise needed funds for WEAVE. Over the past twenty years, our generous donors have contributed countless articles of clothing and household items to support operations. Today, WEAVE operates three recycled clothing and thrift store locations throughout Sacramento.

The WEAVE to Work Program is only possible because of our generous donors. Donations of gently used clothing are available to clients through vouchers that enable every family to shop for the items they need with dignity. For clients who are reentering the workplace, WEAVE staff and volunteers provide personal shopper services, helping survivors pick out interview appropriate attire. Advocates assist with resume

development and perfecting interview skills so survivors make a great first impression on their next employer.

Your donations of gently used clothing enable WEAVE to Work to flourish. Even if a survivor does not choose your donation, the proceeds raised from sales to the public are reinvested into WEAVE's programs. In the next year, WEAVE's three retail stores will generate 16% of our operating revenue with these funds supporting WEAVE's 24/7 lifesaving services.



## WEAVE Retail Locations

### WEAVEWorks Recycled Fashion

2401 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA 95825

\* Donation Processing Center — WEAVE asks that all donations be brought to this location.

### TRUE — a WEAVEWorks Boutique

1900 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

### The Thrift Store — WEAVEWorks Fruitridge

6606 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95820

\* Donations not accepted at this location.

## Your support and partnership

Domestic and sexual violence does not know boundaries. These experiences happen to all types of people. Which is why WEAVE is there for every survivor — wherever they might be and wherever they need us.

However, we cannot do this work without your support, and with your partnership, we will continue to ensure that survivors get the services they need and the respect they deserve.



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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.