



Stewardship REPORT

FALL 2024 DONOR UPDATE

It's only with the support of our donors that WEAVE is able to serve and meet the needs of our community. There are government mandates in place for agencies like WEAVE to provide services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, but there is not funding in place from those government agencies to fully cover those costs.

WEAVE is a designated Domestic Violence Agency and sole Rape Crisis Center for Sacramento County. This designation requires WEAVE to provide specific mandatory services that include emergency confidential shelter, transitional housing, legal advocacy, 24/7 sexual assault response, and specific training for direct service employees.

We take our mission seriously, and we don't allow budget limitations to hold us back. Even though we are seeing threats to some of our funding sources, our community has entrusted us with a role that is critically important, and it is not an option to walk away from our commitment. Survivors need the safety net that WEAVE services provide, and our donors ensure our doors are open to those who need our support.



Unpredictable Funding Future

You might not realize that WEAVE gets significant funding from federal and state grants. The federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund was created in 1984 to provide state and local support to assist victims of crime. WEAVE currently has ten grants that are partially or entirely VOCA funded. However, over the years, VOCA funding has steadily decreased, and earlier this year, WEAVE faced the risk of catastrophic VOCA funding cuts.

In June, the California Legislature and Governor Newsom included one-time funding in the state budget to cover this shortfall. While this funding averted an immediate

funding crisis for WEAVE and victim service agencies throughout California, it does not solve the greater funding dilemma. VOCA funds have been decreasing despite ongoing increases in demand for victim services that have existed for years.

WEAVE will continue to leverage all funding sources available to provide the greatest level of service possible while advocating for long-term solutions that address both crisis intervention and prevention efforts. Our commitment to victims remains steadfast, but we need your continued support to ensure that we can sustain and expand our services in the face of uncertain funding.

Emergency Shelter & Residential Programs

The issue of homelessness remains an incredibly complex and layered crisis. At WEAVE, we bring a unique perspective to this crisis, addressing homelessness stemming from domestic violence, sex trafficking, and the risks faced by vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness.

Nearly half of homeless women report experiencing domestic violence immediately before becoming homeless. Many stayed in abusive relationships due to a lack of housing options, ultimately leaving and facing the dangers of homelessness because remaining in the relationship posed significant risks of severe injury or death. Locally, victims have shared how the lack of affordable housing and rising rent costs hinder their ability to start afresh.

WEAVE has provided confidential shelter



since its earliest days and built its first safehouse in 1986. Over the years we have adopted a commitment to trauma-informed housing design based on the needs of victims.

We allow longer stays in our emergency shelter — up to six months. It is unrealistic for most families to achieve stability, secure employment, and find housing in a shorter period. Most people entering our emergency shelter have faced financial abuse and require time to address its impact and stabilize their finances. We recognize that comprehensive supportive services, including case management, counseling, and legal assistance, are essential.

Despite offering extended stays and additional support, many families still need more time. This is why we also have eight units of transitional housing. Our transitional housing program provides stable housing for survivors and their children for up to two years.

WEAVE also offers nine homes for permanent supportive housing that survivors can stay in as long as they qualify and meet the requirements. These longer periods allow families to heal from years of trauma and work towards stability. It gives survivors the opportunity to pursue education, improve employment prospects, secure stable housing, and address legal issues.

Trauma-Informed Counseling

For victims of domestic violence, having access to a counselor is critical in navigating the complex and interwoven types of abuse that make healing challenging. Domestic violence extends far beyond physical assaults, encompassing emotional, financial, sexual, technological, and spiritual abuse. Victims who grew up in violent homes may struggle to recognize what constitutes a healthy relationship or even identify the abuse they are experiencing. A skilled counselor helps these individuals understand and untangle these

forms of abuse, paving the way for meaningful healing.

Survivors of sexual assault often face a myriad of emotional responses that can persist for months or even years after the incident. They may grapple with self-blame, question what they could have done differently, and experience difficulties in school, work, and relationships. Through the support of a skilled counselor, survivors can process their trauma, learn coping techniques, (see page 3)

Sexual Assault Response Team

As Sacramento County's sole Rape Crisis Center for 36 years, the 24/7 Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) fills the vital role of providing support to survivors during the forensic examination and connecting them to comprehensive supportive services following the examination.

We maintain a staff of trained SART Advocates to respond to survivors undergoing a forensic examination. SART Advocates provide whatever support a survivor needs during and after their examination including advocacy, new clothing, transportation, coordination of follow-up care, and connecting them to WEAVE services.

While WEAVE fulfills Sacramento County's state-mandated responsibility for a 24/7 Sexual Assault Response Team, WEAVE receives no County or City funding to support the program. VOCA funding provides support to our SART program, but the amount received is insufficient to fund the full cost of the program.

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and move forward with their lives, gradually rebuilding their sense of safety and self-worth.

Victims of sex trafficking endure profound trauma, including repeated rapes and abuse, often starting in childhood. They may lack a support system and struggle with managing a wide range of emotions. These survivors deserve to work with counselors who understand the complexities of their experiences and can provide empathetic, knowledgeable support. Counselors at WEAVE help these individuals heal from their trauma, rebuild their lives, and reclaim their futures.

Navigating the Legal System

We often hear from victims who have tried to navigate the legal system on their own, unaware of the free resources available to help them. Many have spent significant time completing paperwork for a Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO), only to have their applications rejected. For victims with children, the DVRO application can exceed 50 pages, adding to the complexity and stress of the process.

Financial constraints also prevent many victims from obtaining an attorney, forcing them to face hearings alone. Often, abusers will self-represent, which allows them to directly question their victims during hearings, using deeply personal questions to embarrass or silence them.

Once WEAVE begins representing a client, all communications regarding their legal case must go through the WEAVE attorney. While we cannot prevent frivolous filings from abusers, having representation ensures that communications are directed to our offices. We can also request the court to take measures that deter such abuse.

WEAVE's legal services provide crucial support to survivors, helping them navigate the complexities of the legal system and ensuring they are not alone in their pursuit of justice.



Around the Clock, Every Single Day

At WEAVE, we understand that the journey to safety and healing can begin with a single call or chat. Our 24/7 Support and Information Line is a lifeline for victims of crime and those seeking information or support. This essential service is staffed by trained advocates who are ready to listen, provide guidance, and connect callers to the resources they need at any hour of the day or night. We also offer online chat via our website for those hesitant or unable to call.

The importance of this service cannot be overstated. For victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking, reaching out for help can be an incredibly daunting step. Our Support Line Advocates offer a compassionate, non-judgmental ear and the assurance that the caller is not alone. They provide critical emotional support and practical assistance, helping victims understand their options and make informed decisions about their next steps.

Our Support and Information Line is not only for those in immediate crisis. It also serves individuals who have questions or

concerns about their situation, friends and family members seeking advice on how to support a loved one, and community members looking for information on WEAVE's services. Our advocates are equipped to provide a wide range of information, from safety planning and legal resources to counseling and shelter options.

WEAVE's 24/7 Support and Information Line is a cornerstone of our commitment to supporting survivors and fostering a safer community. By offering immediate, round-the-clock access to trained professionals, we ensure that help is always available, no matter when or why someone reaches out.



Thank you!

With your support of WEAVE, we ensure that survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking have programs and services they need to end the cycle of violence, rebuild their lives, and find stability for their future. Our core services are fundamental and support our community in a trauma-informed way. We cannot do this work without you, and we appreciate your generosity and commitment.



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OUR MISSION is to promote safe and healthy relationships and support survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking.