



ANNUAL **REPORT** **2016**



OUR CAUSE



VISION

Crime Survivors vision is for victims of crime to recover from their experience mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially, by receiving the respect, support, and protection from law enforcement, the judicial system, and the community.

Mission Statement

The mission of Crime Survivors is to provide hope and healing to victims and survivors of crime through advocacy and the support of resources, information, and empowerment from the critical time after a crime occurs through the challenges and successes of surviving and thriving.

Values

- We believe that no one should feel abandoned or alone and that every person is deserving of love, respect and dignity.
- We believe that the best way to help others with hope and healing is to work in partnership with our community, law enforcement, elected leaders, and members of the media.
- We believe that all of us together can lift each other out of darkness and into the light of a restored heart and life.
- We believe that every broken heart, every hurt, every wound can be healed with love and a strong community of support.
- We believe in hopeful healing.
- We believe that with faith, there is always hope.



We Are Here To Help!

Crime Survivors works in your community to make victims' rights a top priority. We facilitate communication and cooperation across various public service, government, and non-profit organizations to ensure that victims' rights are understood, and that the services victims are entitled are received. If you think you are not receiving the assistance you should, please contact us.



Orange County Crime Victims' Monument.

Help us to grow!

www.CrimeSurvivors.org

[Twitter.com/CrimeSurvivors](https://twitter.com/CrimeSurvivors)

[Facebook.com/CrimeSurvivors](https://facebook.com/CrimeSurvivors)

Instagram.com/crimesurvivors

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(949) 872-7895

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A Letter From

Patricia Wenskunas
Founder & CEO

2016 Annual Report

For the past 13 years, Crime Survivors (CSI), has provided hope, inspiration, and life-changing programs for thousands of individuals traumatized by crime. We've helped children who have been abused and neglected; human trafficking victims; families that have lost loved ones by murder; rape & sexual assault victims; family members suffering from domestic violence; and elder abuse victims, to name only a few.

Our Focus

We believe everyone should have the tools necessary to pursue a life of quality and dignity; being able not only to survive, but thrive. There's no need to live in silence and shame – we want to reach out to you. Please know, that you are never alone. It's not only the victim who suffers, but the family too. We help friends and family members to cope and understand. We help them help their loved ones with a new reality of life and living. We've helped thousands of victims morph into survivors, and this process always starts with one person and one family at a time.

People depend On Us.

Over the years, we have attracted loyal sponsors, generous donors, and a cadre of partners, supporters and volunteers. Credibility and dependability are synonymous with our name. CSI now facilitates approximately two-dozen programs and events throughout the year. These include a Gratitude Luncheon, and a Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo, three special Holiday programs/events that have provided 7,500 gifts, and over 1,750 meal baskets to survivors and their families, 7,000 child & adult victim emergency bags, 2,750 cookie baskets, and over 175,000 CSI Resource Guides, which are distributed throughout Southern California. Our annual Survive and Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safty Expo has drawn over, 11,500 attendees since its inception. We have also provided hundreds of trainings, briefings and educational seminars to public officials, law enforcement and church groups. We get the call at 5:30 a.m. and we deliver. Our primary deliverables are hope and healing, and the tools to achieve them.

True to our Core Values.

Though 2016 was marked by various challenges, including corporate identity hijacking and legislative set-backs with the passage of Proposition 57, CSI never wavered from our basic commitments and our core values. CSI remains dedicated to hopeful healing to all victims. With faith, there is hope... and with hope, people can reconstruct their lives and live wholehearted, productive, loving, and caring lives.

Transparency from Day One.

Time and again, we've been told that our bookkeeping is both impressive and impeccable. As a non-profit charitable organization, our ethical obligation to be open and transparent with our books is critical to our success. With more than 9,000 individual donors, sponsors, and supporters, we take pride in the fact that we can account for every nickel in and every nickel out since our founding in October 2003.

CSI Is Compassionate and Grateful.

Crime Survivors is ever grateful for our partners, including law enforcement, district attorneys, probation officers, advocates, government agencies, foundations and associations, nonprofits, and elected officials, as well as to our ever loyal sponsors, donors, and grantees, for it is their trust and contributions that allow us to continue our mission to help thousands annually. We could not do this without their help and the help of hundreds of volunteers who give their time, energy, and talents to our organization.

2016 has been a year of sustainability and growth with thousands having received hopeful healing!

Our Mission Is Never Complete.

As CSI's Founder/CEO, I want to personally thank every victim, survivor, and family member, for allowing me and our organization to play a part - however big or small - in your survival. I want you to know that you strengthen, empower, and impact my personal resolve and survival, more than you will ever know!

"Never lose hope, because HOPE stands for 'Hold On, Pain Ends'. No matter how dark the night is, it must end with the first ray of Sun. Keep your HOPE alive and strong." Deodatta V. Shenai- Khatkhate

~

"Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.

" Mother Teresa"

I appeal to all those who feel that there's something missing in your lives. I invite you to join us as active supporters, volunteers, advocates, educators, mentors, Board members, donors, and, yes, survivors and their families.

If you are a victim of rape, sexual assault, or domestic violence, or if you are surviving attempted murder, elder abuse, or human trafficking, or if you are a family member of a murder victim, living in silence and shame, we want to help. Please know, you are never alone!

If you are retired, we need your help, wisdom, and compassionate ideas.

If you are a veteran of the U.S. military and feel out of place, please know that your mission is not complete. There are wounded people who need your guidance, strength, and expertise. CSI needs your help.

If you are comfortable in your financial stability, we need your tax deductible donations. Do well by doing good. Please join Team Crime Survivors. Your donation is our lifeblood.

We want victims to survive and thrive in their lives. I know it can be a painful process, because I was once a victim. I journeyed through the painful process, to survive and thrive. I have found hopeful healing and my own voice.

With Faith, there is Hope...

Patricia Wenskunas





A Letter From

Thomas Laing
Chairperson Of The Board



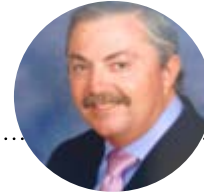
Board of Directors 2016

Founder / CEO



Patricia Wenskunas

Chairperson



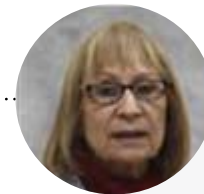
Thomas Laing



Ernie Castelo
Secretary



Janet Wilson-Irving
Board Member



Frances Rodriguez
Treasurer



Randy Burba
Board Member



Matt Regan
Board Member



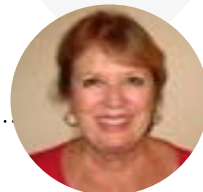
Beverly Johnson
Board Member



Steve Katz
Board Member



Elizabeth Rivas, M.A.
Board Member



Sheila Cook-Cohen
Board Member



John Adair
Board Member



Debra Osborne
Board Member

Thank you for your support of Crime Survivors, Inc.!

Together, in 2016, CSI and its donors, supporters, encouragers, and volunteers accomplished an encouraging and compassionate continuum of enriching the lives of victims and survivors. Our work was remarkably encouraging!

Together, and under the diligent guidance of Patricia Wenskunas, our Founder/CEO and a survivor herself, we provided a platform of healing and a path to survival for more than 2,500 victims.

In addition, we enhanced and strengthened community support and communication by engaging more than 650 public safety officials and victim advocacy providers through our educational and learning programs.

My 35-year career in law enforcement, and my - as well as my family's - continuing support of Crime Survivors have given me the knowledge that victimization goes well beyond the actual victimization itself. The opportunity to help another person and their family who fell prey to an act of violence is a blessing, and so sorely needed, especially at this time, when resources for victims appear to be declining.

Though we are aware that there are other charitable works of compassion for persons in need, that you may and can support, I want to thank you in advance for your continuing support of Crime Survivors. You are making a difference.

With Gratitude,
Thomas Laing

Chairperson



A Letter From
Frances Rodriguez
Treasurer Of The Board

Treasurer's 2016 Annual Financial Statement

As a member of the Board of Directors for CSI, and as the organization's Treasurer, I have a personal obligation to maintain the financial integrity and reputation of CSI by ensuring that all financial activities are reported accurately and truthfully.

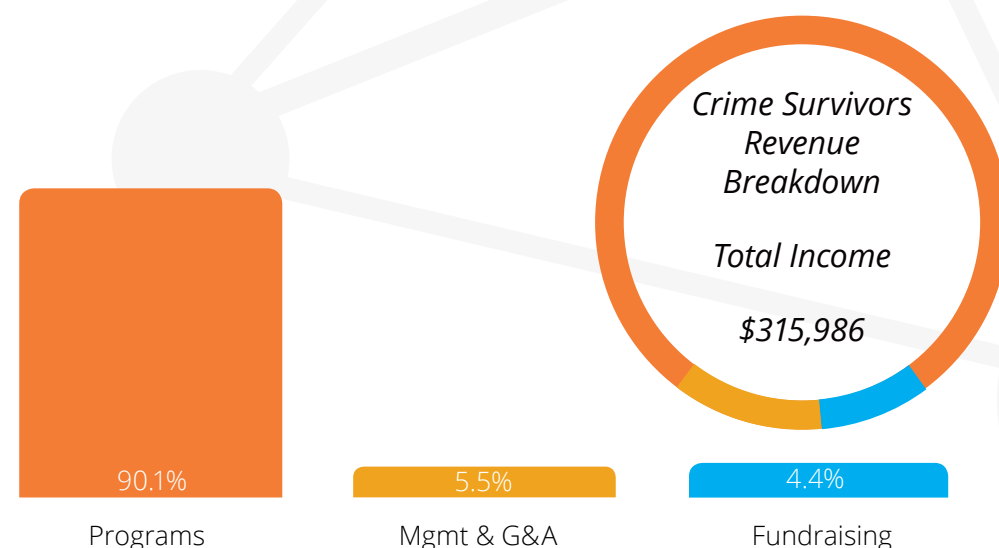
I am pleased to report that the financial statements for Crime Survivors, Inc.'s fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 have been balanced and the organization's Form 990 will promptly be filed.

CSI received revenue during the year from individual and corporate contributions, and also from grants, and trade-barter. All monies were used to fulfill our mission, purpose, and vision, and expenditures were incurred for program support services, educational trainings, advocacy, and fundraising events directly consistent with the organization's mission and purpose.

Our goal is to provide the highest level of transparency into the organization's finances and financial condition. Based on my inspection, the documentation and flow of reported income and expenditures as provided to the organization's retained bookkeeping and accountant firm of Riordan & Associate reveal a clear and accurate representation of the organization's financial activities throughout the year.

I hereby submit to CSI and its Board of Directors the 2016 financial reports. They are sound and have been prepared and presented in a manner consistent with standardized accounting protocols and are transparent as to this organization's financial activities.

Frances Rodriguez
Treasurer



Our Work

2003-2016

Awareness Prevention Survival Hopeful Healing!

- Thousands of victims of violent crime have been helped by Crime Survivors
- Thousands of dollars have been distributed through our Survivors Hope Fund
- Thousands of dollars and dozens of survivors have received legal support and reimbursement of expenses by Crime Survivors for support under Marsy's Law
- More than 6,500 "What's Happening in Court" books have been distributed throughout our community
- 3,250 "Let's Meet Officer/Deputy Frank" books have been distributed to child victims of crime
- More than 2,050 Backpacks containing school supplies have been donated to victims and their families
- Thousands of dollars' worth of gift cards have been donated directly to victims of crime
- Monthly Support Groups have been hosted, supporting ones that have been victimized
- More than 500 survivors and family members have attended and been served at our Easter Egg Celebration Program
- Approximately 1,350 survivors and family members have attended our Halloween Harvest Pumpkin Carving Trick or Treat Program
- Hundreds of trainings, briefings and presentations have been provided to Law Enforcement Communities and Service Groups, to foster awareness, prevention and survival
- We launched the FAIR Program with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- We provided and/or funded Self Defense and Safety Classes for ones that have been victimized
- We distributed more than 2,750 cookie baskets during our Thanksgiving Gratitude and Healing program
- Hundreds have attended our miniature golf tournament to support our programs
- 2016 marked our thirteenth annual Awards Banquet, recognizing service providers for going above and beyond, and bringing together survivors with those assisting them. Over 4,385 people have attended our annual Awards Banquets
- More than 11,500 have attended our annual Survive & Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo in the past 12 years
- We are proud to have more than 9,050 individual donors, sponsors and supporters for our programs
- We are equally proud of our over 2,275 individual volunteers, who make our programs possible!

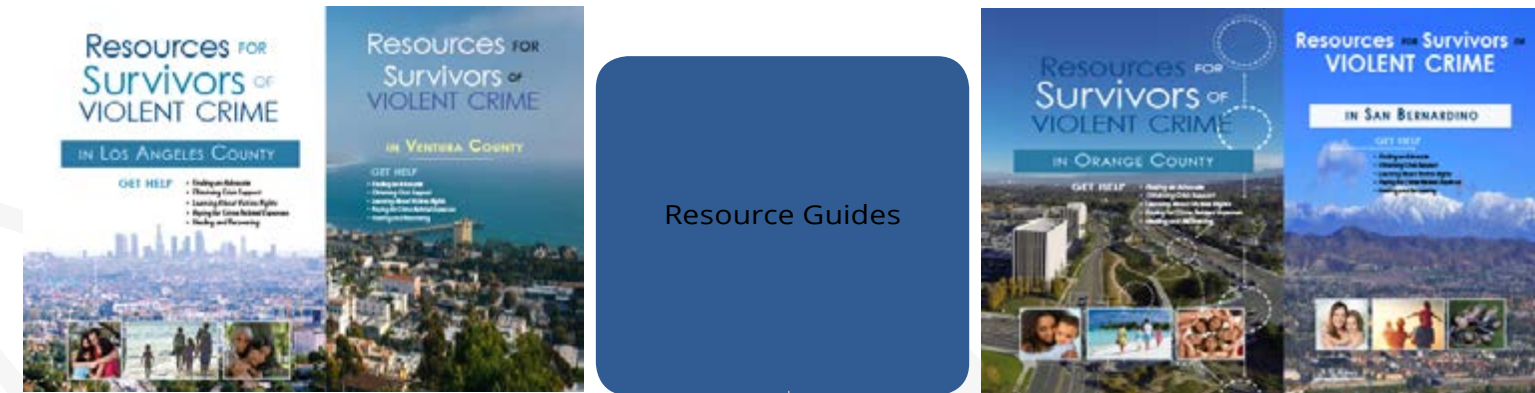
Programs, Training's and Hopeful Healing Events

175,000
CSI Resource
Guides
Distributed

1,750
Meal Baskets
to Survivors &
Families

7,500
Holiday Gifts
to Survivors &
their Families

7,000
Child & Adult
Victim
Emergency Bags



Resource Guides



Victim Emergency Bags (VEBs)

VEBs were created as a result of Patricia's first-hand experience after her trauma. In the first moments of her survival, she found herself in the hospital, helpless and hurting, without a single resource to begin healing. She didn't even have a tooth brush. She didn't know where to turn for help. VEBs were created to provide essential care items needed in the first few days after surviving a crime. They also provide needed resource and referral information to keep individuals on the path to hopeful healing.

Resource Guides

Resource Guides provide an easy way for first responders to ensure that crime victims know where to turn once law enforcement and other personnel have wrapped up their work in and around the scene of a crime. Many survivors will have a long and painful road to healing. They will need a strong, committed group of supporters around them. The Resource Guides help survivors in seeking out these support groups, resources, and referrals.

Let's Meet Officer/Deputy Frank

CSI's "Let's Meet Officer/Deputy Frank" books, provided to child victims or family members, break down many of the questions and fears children may have about law enforcement first responders. They offer a fun and educational way for kids to understand the process of investigating crimes and how to help law enforcement personnel to do their jobs.

Self-Defense & Safety Classes

Self-Defense & Safety Classes are designed not only to provide invaluable training for adult victims of crime but are developed to empower those who are seeking healing from past victimization. The knowledge that comes from knowing you can defend yourself is invaluable.

Legal Support / Parole Hearings

One of the most essential services CSI provides crime victims and survivors is the ability to represent themselves or loved ones in court or during parole hearings. CSI assists victims and survivors in paying for travel and legal assistance for these instances.

Survivors Hope Fund

Reimbursement for travel, bus passes, and meals is one benefit CSI provides to victims and survivors, as these expenses are not covered by California state programs and assistance. We believe victims and survivors should not have to cover these expenses, because no one ever asks to be victimized.

"What's Happening in Court" Books

CSI's "What's Happening in Court" books assist children to understand the criminal justice system in an informative way, to help to take the fear out of the process.

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Service Providers Roundtables

CSI provides and hosts roundtable discussions throughout the year in order to bring psychologists, lawyers, victim advocates, and other interested parties together for training and workshops focusing on the needs and resources for crime survivors. Hosted throughout Southern California, these roundtables provide information on the newest and most innovative efforts to assist survivors and victims.

Support Groups

CSI hosts monthly support groups for the sole purpose of bringing fellow survivors together to share their stories of moving forward, which ensure a sense of community and bonding during the recovery process. These support groups also provide opportunities for victims and survivors to connect with other resources they may need to thrive in the days ahead.

Parent's Nights

Provided for parents as well as anyone who may provide supervision and oversight to children, Parent's Nights bring together experts from many diverse non-profits to educate and inform participants in how to protect children. Topics include, but are not limited to, sexual abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, internet safety, and violence prevention.

Law Enforcement Training/Education

CSI provides Self-Defense & Safety Classes for adult victims. There is nothing like the knowledge that comes from knowing you can defend yourself.

Advocacy

Similar to the training, education and speaking Patricia provides, she also speaks truth to justice. Patricia is a passionate advocate for the rights of victims, survivors, and others. She speaks from her heart and from her own experience as a survivor. She is a well-known and staunch supporter throughout the state of the needs and resources of crime survivors everywhere.

Speaking

Patricia speaks from a heart of experience and faith and no one is left unaffected. Patricia will share not only what it was like to have been in her shoes, but from the experience of long-time survivors who continue to keep in touch with her years later.

Case Management

Part of the Crime Survivors budget in FY 2017 is to provide for a case manager who can track and follow up with survivors throughout California. This position will provide guidance, resources and referrals to everyone after victimization. Ultimately, the case manager will provide guidance to advocacy, legal support, self-defense, and mental health services to ensure that every victim or survivor ultimately survives and thrives.



Crime Survivors Awards Banquet

CSI's Awards Banquet is an annual event of celebration and praise for those individuals and organizations (private, public, and law/criminal justice related) who have partnered and collaborated with us to ensure that the rights and resources available to crime victims and survivors continue to grow. More than 500 individuals attend this event each year, to enjoy an evening of fun and thankfulness.

Survive and Thrive Run Walk Health & Safety Expo

CSI's annual Run/Walk 5k event brings together crime victims and survivors, volunteers, law enforcement personnel and participants from throughout Southern California for a day of food, fun, and fitness.

Holiday Programs:

Easter Egg Hunt and Ham Basket Program
Halloween Harvest and Pumpkin Carving Night
Thanksgiving Meal Baskets and Bowling Night
Survivors Gift Drive & Elf's Holly Day and Turkey Meal Boxes

Our Holiday Programs are planned and organized to give crime victims, survivors, and families the opportunity to enjoy the fun and traditions of the seasons surrounded by people who care for their healing. Each program also provides our survivors with food and other resources such as gifts, and gift cards.

Back to School Back Pack & School Supplies

CSI's Backpack Program provides children who have been victimized by crime with necessary school supplies (pencils, pens, notebooks, rulers, calculators, etc.) in a new backpack, so they can attend school and strive for success in their primary education without fear or lack of resources.

Education & Career Fund

CSI's Education and Career Fund program is designed to support victims of crime in making new career choices, or furthering their education. In addition to resources regarding job, trade, or career choices, it provides clothing, transportation, computer and technology, books and supplies, and support for future success in our communities.

Crime Survivors Mentoring Program ~ Survivors Give

CSI launched this new program in 2016. This program will allow former crime victims that have been supported, helped or assisted in the past, and who have experienced hopeful healing to volunteer in their local communities. It allows these past victims to mentor new crime victims and help them in their personal journey towards recovery and hopeful healing. It helps the mentor to pay it forward and come full circle with their own healing.





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