




**CRIME SURVIVORS**  
*Resource Center*  
AWARENESS | PREVENTION | ADVOCACY | HEALING

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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*www.CrimeSurvivors.org*  
*Facebook.com/crimesurvivors*  
*Twitter.com/crimesurvivors*  
*Instagram.com/crimesurvivors*  
*(949) 872-7895*  
*(844) 853-HOPE*

# MISSION STATEMENT



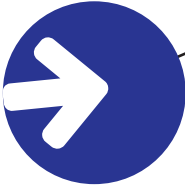
The mission of Crime Survivors is to provide hope and healing to victims and survivors of crime through advocacy and the support of resources, information, and empowerment from the critical time after a crime occurs through the challenges and successes of surviving and thriving.

# 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.



# VALUES

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- 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.



# Victim Advocate

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.

Help us to grow!

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[Instagram.com/crimesurvivors](https://Instagram.com/crimesurvivors)

[info@crimesurvivors.org](mailto:info@crimesurvivors.org)

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## A Letter From Patricia Wenskunas Founder & CEO

While 2017 was a year that presented its fair share of challenges, Crime Survivors (CSI) has always weighed its choices with a clear minded sense of civic responsibility. So I am pleased to report that CSI ended strong ... we ended with a renewed vitality and focus, a revamped website, a new space for a Resource Center, a positive bank balance, and a streamlined Board of Directors.

Crime Survivors is poised and ready to embrace positive, constructive change going forward.

### *There Is No "I" in TEAM*

I am so proud of our team! Truly, I am ... and 'Thank you' doesn't even come close to expressing how I feel. Every one of you shines and is a super star! Without our super talented and diversified Board members, Advisory Board & Council, without our cadre of benevolent and giving volunteers, donors, sponsors, and supporters ... without all of you, I would be a 'committee of one.' I applaud all of you for the outstanding work you do, I treasure the personal relationships that I have with each of you, and, I am truly amazed by the team effort put forth collectively. Hats off to Chairperson Tom Laing for his solid leadership over the past two years and a job well done.

### *The Teeter-Tottering Scales of Justice*

In our society, there exists an uneasy tension between the need for adequate 'public safety' and the rights of the criminal offender. It's this tension between two opposing forces that keep the scales of justice teeter-tottering. If you were feeling victorious (and safer in your communities) beginning in 2008 due to the adoption of Marsy's Law into the California Constitution, then you must have felt let down by our legislature starting in 2011 right up to 2017: They were definitely offender friendly years because of the passage of laws like AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57. In my opinion, they represent a step backwards for victim's rights specifically, and public safety in general.

All of the aforementioned underscores one basic truth: Our mission is never complete. We as a 501c3 organization have to stay positive and keep on doing what we do best: Provide respectful advocacy for the crime victim, talk about awareness and prevention, and ultimately, bring hope and healing to those who need it the most.

### *Name Games*

The past couple years were also challenging because certain groups have been infringing upon our corporate name/identity, and therefore our goodwill, character and integrity were/are at stake. Although CSI has taken all the necessary legal steps to stop these efforts, the problem continues. We have also taken preventative measures by informing all of our contacts as to the nature of the problem. While problems like this do cause momentary upsets, it's our purpose and passion, our mission and our core values that always get us back on track.

## ***Roundtables & Relationships***

If CSI has had any success, it's because of the value they place on relationships. One area where this is reflected is our Roundtables. Since 2004, we have formed partnerships and started collaborating ... and hosting Roundtable discussions with district attorneys, law enforcement, probation, victim assistance, advocates, nonprofits, government agencies and the elected officials from four counties Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino & Orange. Meetings are scheduled either monthly or quarterly with the purpose of learning what programs & services are working and how to improve on those that are not. New insights and valuable information? Yes. Stimulating ideas and eye-opening stats? Yes. But it's the on-going relationships being fostered that is key. It's these personal relationships that help us get things done on behalf of the crime victims that we represent and serve. And that is Priceless!

## ***The Crime Survivors Resource Center***

"Believe you can and you're half way there", goes the old saying. From the start, I had always envisioned a resource center where a host of social services, programs, legal & law enforcement information, etc. are made available to crime victims under one roof. There were the nay-sayers of course, but perseverance paid off! We were handed the keys to our new Santa Ana location in December. It's too early to say anything, except that we are in the initial planning stages.

## ***Branding, New Logo***

Along with a newly designed web-site, CSI has a new logo which reflects in color and concept our mission, values and growth for the past 14 years: Prevention/Awareness, Advocacy/Healing.

## ***Respectful Advocacy***

Crime Survivors has the resources and contacts to help someone in the aftermath of a violent crime, but only if a person wants or needs our help. Also, we are not here to tell anyone how to feel or how to grieve, these are matters of a deeply personal nature. Some people may want to vent; others may choose to be quiet, in either case, we understand and respect that. Some people just want to be left alone and move on; we understand and respect that too.

Other crime victims have come up to me in the past and said, "Patricia, you never had a family member murdered so you don't know how it feels." True enough. But as a compassionate human being ... as a mother, a grandmother, and a daughter, I can certainly empathize with your pain & suffering just as I would hope you could empathize with the attempted murder, prior victimizations & traumas that I've survived. Since when did it become a contest?

Crime Survivors is here to guide you through the hospital, police, and courts – free of charge – and help you obtain social services, give direct support, and help you survive ... and thrive. In the final analysis, we are sensitive to your wants, needs and desires. That is respectful advocacy!

## ***Please Join Us***

Do you believe in compassionate capitalism? If so, please join us as a volunteer, sponsor, donor, or mentor. We need you and welcome you with open arms. Remember, your donor dollars are tax deductible.

With Faith, there is Hope... Hopeful Healing!

Patricia Wenskunas

Founder, CEO

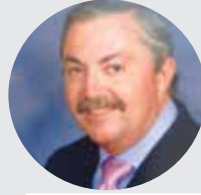
# Board of Directors

# 2017



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Patricia Wenskunas  
Founder/CEO



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Thomas Laing  
Chairperson



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Ernie Castelo  
Secretary



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Rany Burba  
Board Member



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Frances Rodriguez  
Treasurer



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Steve Katz  
Board Member



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Matt Regan  
Board Member



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Beverly Johnson  
Board Member



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Elizabeth Rivas, M.A.  
Board Member



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Sheila Cook-Cohen  
Board Member



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John Adair  
Board Member



## A Letter From Thomas Laing Chairperson of The Board

Dear Friends of Crime Survivors,

I want to express my personal appreciation to each of you that have supported Crime Survivors' continuing journey of providing hope, inspiration and helpful healing to those who have been traumatized victims of crime.

As I reflect upon this past year and look forward, I must go back ten years when I was first introduced to Crime Survivors and its founder Patricia Wenskunas, while a member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Victimization is an unfortunate byproduct of the law enforcement profession of serving and reposition the public.

Therefore, working harmoniously with various victim services and advocate organizations was paramount to serving a victim, as we simultaneously sought justice for their victimization. This was greatly illuminated as we engaged in a working relationship with Crime Survivors, often calling upon their resources as well as instituting a department program for serving specific victims of crime and providing a platform for their healing and survival.

In our support of Crime Survivors, I also saw a vision for this organization's future beyond the services, programs, and human kindness and care being offered. Therefore, after I concluded my public safety career, I along with my family continued to stay involved and support the organization's purpose, and now I am blessed to see Patricia's past vision become a reality with the 2018 opening of the new Crime Survivors Resource Center.

Yes, we know Dreams Can Come True, but we have certainly come to know that with Faith there is Hope. I want to thank each of you who showed your continued faith and trust through your financial support, volunteering, prayers, trusting your loved ones to the services and program of Crime Survivors, partnering with us, and together Making a Difference!

Thomas Laing  
Chairperson





## A Letter From Frances Rodriguez Treasurer of The Board

### Treasurer's 2017 Annual Financial Statement

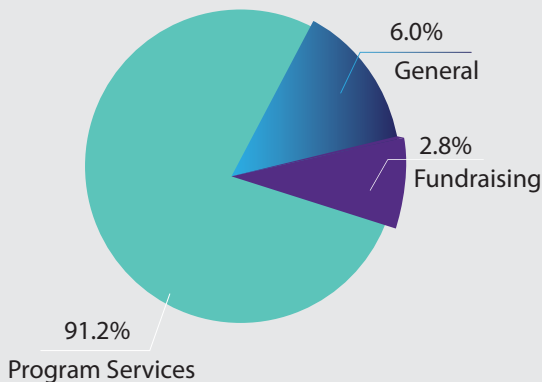
Transparency has always been one of the hallmarks of Crime Survivors (CSI), and to that end, retains the CPA firm of Riordan & Associates. As a member of the Board of Directors, and, as Treasurer for CSI, I've been entrusted with safeguarding the reputation and financial integrity of this organization by ensuring that all financial activities are reported accurately and truthfully.

So I'm pleased to report that based on my inspection, the documentation and flow of reported income and expenditures reveal a clear and accurate representation of the organization's financial activities for the period January 1 through December 31, 2017.

During that period, CSI received revenue from individual and corporate contributions; also from grants, and trade-barter. Expenditures were incurred for program support services, educational trainings, advocacy, hopeful healing events, & fundraising events that are consistent with the organization's mission, purpose and vision.

I hereby submit to CSI and its Board of Directors the 2017 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. Accordingly, the 2017 990's have been filed with the IRS and are available for public inspection.

Frances Rodriguez  
Treasurer



Crime Survivors Revenue Breakdown  
Total Income \$387,561



# OUR WORK

2003 - 2017

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- 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 7,000 "What's Happening in Court" books have been distributed throughout our community
- 3,500 "Let's Meet Officer/Deputy Frank" books have been distributed to child victims of crime
- More than 2,500 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 those who have been victimized
- More than 750 survivors and family members have attended and been served at our Easter Egg Celebration Program
- Approximately 1,500 survivors and family members have been supported through 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 those who have been victimized
- We distributed more than 3,250 cookie baskets during our Thanksgiving Gratitude and Healing program
- Hundreds have attended our miniature golf tournament to support our programs
- 2017 marked our 14th annual Awards Banquet, recognizing service providers for going 'Above and Beyond', and bringing together survivors with those assisting them. Over 4,745 people have attended our annual Awards Banquets
- More than 13,100 have attended our annual Survive & Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo in the past 14 years
- We are proud to have more than 9,250 individual donors, sponsors and supporters for our programs
- We are equally proud of our over 2,325 individual volunteers, who make our programs possible!

# Programs, Trainings and Hopeful Healing Events

**7,500**

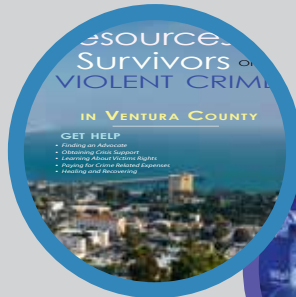
*Child & Adult  
Victim  
Emergency Bags*

**2,100**

*Meal Baskets  
to Survivors &  
Families*

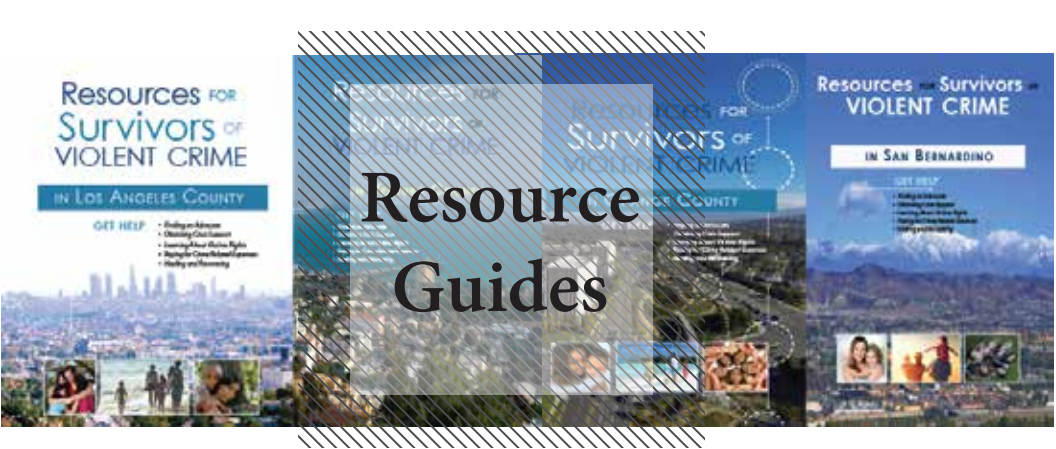
**250,000**

*CSI Resource  
Guides Distributed*



**10,500**

*Holiday Gifts  
to Survivors &  
their Families*



*Child / Adult Victim Emergency*

*Self Defense Safety Classes  
Back to School Backpacks*

*Parole Hearings  
Legal Support*

*Elf's Holiday Program  
Thanksgiving Meal Program*



*Easter Meal Basket Program*

*Hope Fund  
Halloween Harvest Program*

*Educational Support  
Support Groups*

*Case Advocacy*

## 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.

## 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. 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.





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**2017**

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Crime Survivors, Inc.™  
PO Box 54552, Irvine, CA 92619  
O (844) 853-HOPE | C (949) 872-7895 | F (775) 245-4798  
[www.crimesurvivors.org](http://www.crimesurvivors.org)