



CRIME SURVIVORS

LET'S MAKE THINGS
BETTER - 2016

2015

Annual Report





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 is committed to serving our community by being an advocate and resource for crime victims and their families. If you don't know where to turn, or are confused or frustrated with the public services that are available to you as you recover or seek justice, Crime Survivors can help. Our web site will provide information, resources and tools that will help you become a "Survivor".



Help us to grow!

www.CrimeSurvivors.org

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

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

949-872-7895

844-853-HOPE

A Letter from

Patricia Wenskunas-Founder/CEO
Crime Survivors



2015 was an excellent year ... and I believe that 2016 will be better yet.

As a non-profit completing our 12th year, I am pleased to report that Crime Survivors (CSI) is poised to have one of our best years ever. We closed our year with best Board member mix in recent years and completed all of our obligations and commitments. The current leadership was instrumental in choosing and handing the baton over to the new Chair for 2016. The new Board will oversee many of our programs and events that showcase their organizational abilities. I in turn will focus more on the type of things I do best: fielding calls, advocacy, case management, fund raising, event planning and speaking engagements.

Transparency from day one.

Time and again we've been told that our accounting is both impeccable and impressive. As a non-profit, we always felt an ethical obligation to be open and transparent with our books. With more than 9000 individual donors, sponsors & supporters, we take pride in the fact that we can account for every nickel in and every nickel out since we started in Oct 2003.

People have come to depend on us.

Over the years we've been able to attract loyal sponsors, generous donors, and a cadre of partners, supporters and volunteers. Credibility and dependability have become synonymous with our name. CSI now facilitates some two dozen programs and events throughout the year. These include a Gratitude Luncheon and an Awards Gala Banquet, four special Holiday Programs/Events that have provided 6000 gifts and over 1500 meal baskets to survivors and their families, 6500 child & adult Victim Emergency Bags, 2250 cookie baskets, 100,000 CSI Resource Guides, 11,000 attendees to our annual Survive & Thrive Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo, and, hundreds of trainings, briefings & educational seminars to public officials, law enforcement and church groups.

We get the call at 5:30 a.m. because people know that we deliver. In the end, what we really deliver boils down to two things: Hope and Healing.

We wrote the book.

We've become experts in navigating California's complex labyrinth of social services because ... well because we wrote the book on it. It's called the Crime Survivors Resource Guide for Victims, Survivors and Families of Violent Crime. What's more, we've published several editions for the various Southern California counties & regions.

Our mission is never complete.

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

If you are a rape, sexual assault or domestic violence victim, or, surviving attempted murder, elder abuse, human trafficking or the family of a murder victim, living in silence and shame, we want to reach out to you – please know, you are never alone!

If you are retired and sick of watching re-runs of Bonanza, we need your help and wisdom and caring. We need compassionate ideas.

If you are a veteran of the U.S. military and feel out of place, we need you and want you – please know that your mission is not complete. There are wounded people who need your guidance, strength, expertise ... and someone to look up to.

If you are comfortable in your financial stability, we need your tax deductible donations. Doing well is one thing; doing good is quite another! If you believe in compassionate capitalism, please join Team Crime Survivors. Your donation is our lifeblood.

We want victims to morph into survivors and thrive in their lives. I know it can be a painful process. I know because I was a victim once who went through that painful process and had the good fortune of finding hopeful healing and her own voice.

With Faith, there is Hope.
Patricia Wenskunas



A Letter from

Janet Wilson Irving-Chairperson
Crime Survivors



What a year it has been! Our organization continues to make a huge impact on so many lives of both victims and survivors – We say making a difference «one person at a time.» I realize this may sound «cliché» but there is no better way of explaining how we continue to make progress by helping bring «smiles» back.

In 2015, my role as Chairperson was to continue to work closely with our Founder & CEO Patricia Wenskunas and support all programs and events. I think its important as a Board member to support as many programs and events both financially and/or physically so people can see first hand why we are all part of such a great cause.

The 2016 year included so many wonderful programs & events, actually too many to share, but I wanted to list a few as they continue to be the foundation of what we do:

The Survive and Thrive Run Walk Health & Safety Expo» was an empowering and emotional day for so many including myself. With over 600 in attendance and 100 vendors supporting our cause - it truly was a day of Hopeful Healing. The dove release is always the «crescendo» leaving no dry eyes. This event was one of the first events the organization started back in 2003 and it continues to grow and draw more awareness each and every year.

The Survivors Gift Drive & Elfs Holly Day Program

We were able to provide Hopeful Healing for the Holidays to 671 Victims, Survivors and Families! This alone speaks volumes in itself but no words can ever explain the huge amount of effort involved to ensure families have a better holiday. All the «behind the scenes» and hard work that happens even before the event day is well worth it just so we can make a difference «one person at a time.»

I am so proud to continue being a part of such a wonderful organization, Crime Survivor's Inc. and I believe the years ahead will only prove to be more and more «grander» with the support and team we have, especially our Founder and CEO Patricia Wenskunas. She is one of the most passionate, well respected and selfless people I know. I just wanted to take this opportunity to personally say «thank you» for letting me be a part of such a great organization and continuing to help make a difference «one person at a time!»

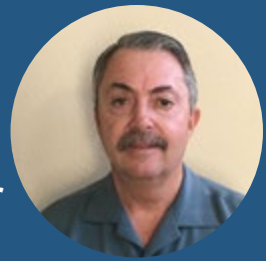
Janet Wilson-Irving
Chairperson

Join me in supporting and making a donation to support our programs.
www.crimesurvivors.org

A Letter from



Frances Rodriguez-Treasurer
Tom Laing- Co-Treasurer



Treasurer and Co-Treasure 2015 Annual Financial Statement

As the Treasurer and Co-Treasure; we have personally balanced and filed the financial statements and financial position of Crime Survivors for the year 2015.

Crime Survivors received revenue for 2015 through direct individual and corporate contributions, grants and trade-barter and used these funds for fulfilling our mission statement, our vision and consistent with our values through advocacy, program support, services, educational trainings and fundraising events.

We found that the documentation and flow of reported income and expenditures as provided to the organization's Bookkeeping firm of Riordan and Associates as well as our Accountant McLean and Scardina were very transparent and a clear representation of the organization's financial activities.

Furthermore, as members of the Board of Trustees for Crime Survivors we have a personal obligation to maintaining the organization's financial integrity by ensuring all financial activities are transparent, as well as consistent and relative with fulfilling our overall goals and objectives.

We hereby submit to the Crime Survivors Board of Directors financial reports that are sound and are prepared and presented in a manner consistent with standardized accounting protocols and with clear transparency as to this organization's financial activities.

Submitted by,

Frances Rodriguez, Treasurer
Tom Laing, Co-Treasurer





OUR WORK

always good
to donate

Help us to
grow!



- More than 11,000 have attended the Survive & Thrive Run Walk Health & Safety Expo in the past 12 years
- More than 9,000 Individual Donors, Sponsors and Supporters
- More than 2,250 Individual Volunteers
- Hundreds of Trainings, Briefings and Speaking's to Law Enforcement Communities and Service Groups to bring Awareness, Prevention and Survival
- Thousands of Victims of Violent Crime have been helped by Crime Survivors
- Launched the FAIR Program with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Monthly Support Groups, supporting ones that have been victimized
- 1,050 served at the Halloween Harvest Pumpkin Carving Fun Trick or Treat Program
- Distributed more than 2,250 Cookie Baskets for Thanksgiving Gratitude and Healing
- Thousands of Dollars of Gift Cards provided directly to Victims of Crime

- Providing Self Defense and Safety Classes for ones that have been Victimized
- Distributed more than 6,200 What's Happening in Court Books throughout our community
- Donated more than 2,000 Backpacks with School Supplies to Victims and their Families
- 3,200 Let's Meet Officer/Deputy Frank Books have been distributed to Child Victims of Crime
- More than 250 survivors and family members served at our Easter Egg Celebration Program
- 12 years hosting our Awards Banquet recognizing service providers for going above and beyond and bringing together survivors with those assisting them. Attended by more than 4,275
- Hundreds have attended our Miniature Golf Tournament to Support Programs and have fun!
- Thousands of Dollars and Dozens of Survivors have been provided Legal Support and Expenses by Crime Survivor's for Support under Marsy's Law

100,000

CSI Resource
Guides
Distributed

1,500

Meal Baskets
to Survivors &
Families

6,500

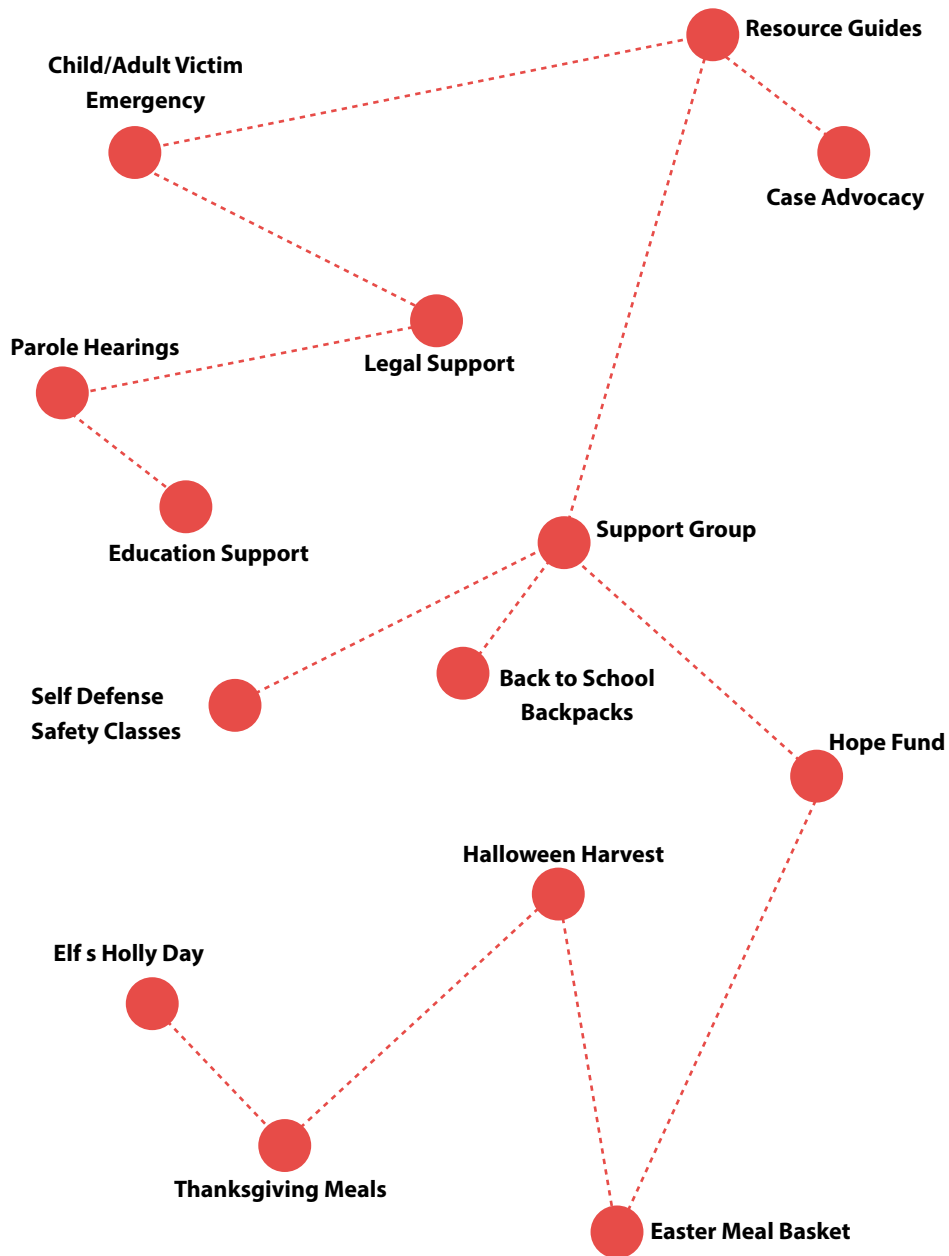
Child & Adult
Victim
Emergency
Bags

6,000

Holiday Gifts
to Survivors &
their Families

www.CrimeSurvivors.org

Training's and Hopeful Healing Events



Victim Emergency Bags

VEBs were created out of the direct experience of Patricia, founder and CEO of Crime Survivors, Inc. After Patricia's survival, she found herself in the hospital, helpless and hurting, and without a single resource to begin healing. She didn't have a toothbrush and she didn't know where to turn for help. The VEBs were created to provide essential care items for the first few days as well as 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 and 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

Let's Meet Officer/Deputy books break down many of the questions and fears children may have towards law enforcement first responders and create fun and educational way for kids to understand the process of investigating crimes and how to help law enforcement do their jobs.

Self-Defense & Safety Classes

Self-Defense & Safety Classes are not only designed to provide invaluable training for men and women; they are also developed to empower those who are seeking healing from past victimization. There is nothing like the knowledge that comes from knowing you can defend yourself.

Legal Support / Parole Hearings

One of the most essential services we can provide crime victims and survivors is the ability to represent themselves or loves ones in court or during parole hearings. Crime Survivors assists victims and survivors in paying for travel and legal assistance for these instances.

Survivors Hope Fund

Items such as travel, bus passes, and lunch reimbursement are provided to victims and survivors as these expenses are not covered by the state programs and assistance. We believe victims and survivors should not have to cover these expenses as they did not request to be put in these circumstances to begin with.

What's Happening in Court

books assist children in understanding the criminal justice system in a fun and informative way and help to take the fear and questions away from the process.

Service Providers Roundtable

These roundtables are provided throughout the year to bring psychologists, lawyers, victim advocates and others together for training and workshops that focus 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

Crime Survivors, Inc. hosting monthly support groups for the sole purpose of bringing fellow survivors together to share their stories of moving forward and ensure a sense of community in that none of us are alone in our struggles. 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

Patricia Wenskunas travels throughout California to ensure that law enforcement recruits and trainees understand what victims of crime are thinking and feeling in those crucial minutes when first responders arrive on scene. Patricia's talk is personal as she knows what it's like to survive a brutal attack and live through the aftermath. Patricia calls on all first responders to provide care and empathy and additional resources for when victims are left to seek support on their own.

Case Management

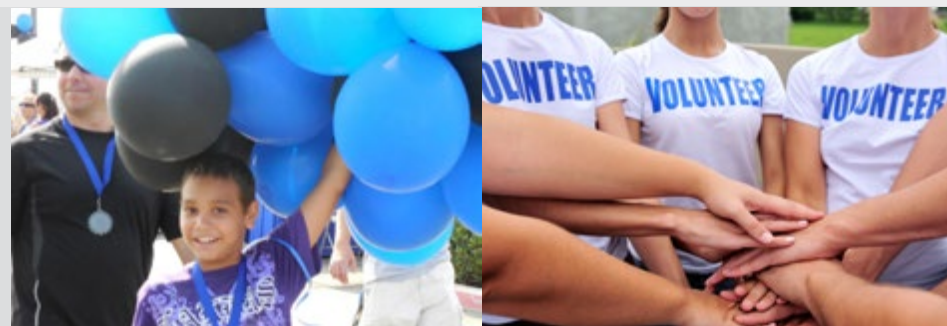
Part of the Crime Survivors budget in FY 2015 is to provide for a case manager who can track and follow up with survivors throughout California. This position will provide guidance, resources and referrals to everyone after victimization. Ultimately, the case manager will provide guidance to advocacy, legal support, self-defense, and mental health services to ensure that every victim or survivor ultimately survives and thrives.

Advocacy

Similar to the training, education and speaking Patricia provides, she does not shy away from speaking truth to justice. Patricia will advocate for the rights of victims, survivors, and others -- even if it means alienating people in high positions. Patricia speaks from her heart and from her own experience as a survivor. She is a staunch advocate, throughout the state, for the needs and resources of crime survivors everywhere.

Speaking

If there's one thing Patricia can do, it's talk! 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 survivors who contact her to this day.



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 those who are underserved or experiencing challenges with financial self-sufficiency with food and other resources such as gifts, and gift cards.

Crime Survivors Awards Banquet

The Awards Banquet has become an annual event and opportunity to celebrate 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 continues to grow. Now in its 12th year, more than 500 individuals attend this evening of fun and thankfulness.

Survive and Thrive Run Walk

This annual 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. This year we are expecting 1,500 walkers and runners; over 100 vendors; and tons of free food!

Back to School Back Pack & School Supplies

CSI provides this program to children who have been victimized by crime. The school supplies (pencils, pens, notebooks, rulers, calculators, etc.) provide these children with the basic tools for a primary education. And what better way to carry their school supplies than in a new, durable, washable, multi-compartment backpack.

Education & Career Fund

This program is designed to support victims of crime with new career choices, or further education. It includes job, trade or career choices. It provides clothing, transportation, computer and technology, books and supplies, and support for future success as career leaders and survivors 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.

Survive and Thrive Run Walk Health & Safety Expo

This annual 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. This year we are expecting 1,500 walkers and runners; over 100 vendors; and tons of free food!



Board of Directors 2015

Patricia Wenskunas

Founder / CEO



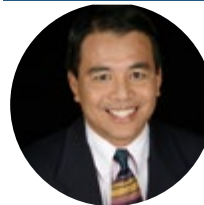
Janet Wilson Irving

Chairperson



Ernie Castelo

Secretary



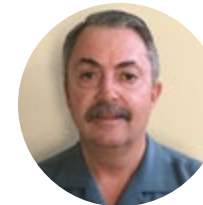
Frances Rodriguez

Treasurer



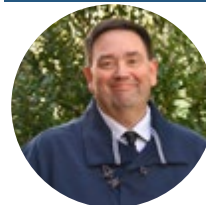
Thomas Laing

Co - Treasurer



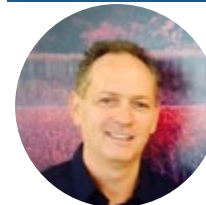
Randy Burba

Board Member



Matt Regan

Board Member



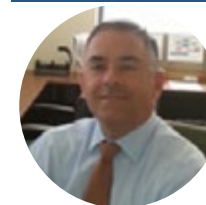
Beverly Johnson

Board Member



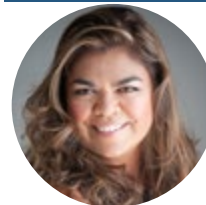
Steve Katz

Board Member



Elizabeth Rivas MA, IMF

Board Member



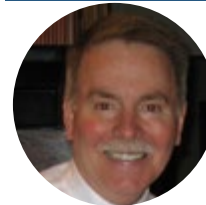
Jennifer Alcaraz

Board Member



John Adair

Board Member



Debra Osborne

Board Member



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grow!



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