

Celebrating 17 Years



**CRIME SURVIVORS**

AWARENESS | PREVENTION | ADVOCACY | HEALING

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2003-2020



CRIMESURVIVORS.ORG

HOPE

FAITH

LOVE

Follow us @crimesurvivors

# Our Cause

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## 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 respect, support, and protection from law enforcement, the judicial system, and the community.



## 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.

# Awareness. Prevention. Advocacy. Healing.

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, to which victims are entitled, are received. If you think you are not receiving the assistance you should, please contact us.

[www.crimesurvivors.org](http://www.crimesurvivors.org)

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

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

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

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

(844) 853-HOPE

**Help us grow!**







## A Letter From Patricia Wenskunas Founder / CEO

How does anyone even begin to sum up and give an overview of 2020? It was a year that will stand out forever as one that was unlike any other. It was a year in which we experienced one of the deadliest pandemics in the history of the world, while at the same time witnessing the endless ingenuity and genius of mankind as we developed therapeutics and vaccines at speeds never thought possible. It was a year in which we saw cities burn with social unrest and lawlessness, while at the same time we saw neighbors and communities pull together. It was a year in which we saw government mandate stay-at-home lockdowns and empty shelves at grocery stores, while at the same time we saw essential front-line workers continue to do their jobs regardless of the risk. It was a year in which we saw mass releases of convicted criminals into our streets and unprecedented rises in violent crimes, while at the same time witnessing boundless amounts of community outreach and charity. It was a year in which we were forced to stay apart from our parents, while at the same time afforded the ability to grow closer to our children. It was a year of replacing the "in-person" meeting with the "on-line" meeting and "voice" call with the "video" call. Even in the face of all of the chaos and uncertainty that was 2020, Crime Survivors remains strong and committed to its mission. After 17 years, it will take more than one wild year to throw us off our path of hope and healing.

What makes Crime Survivors so strong is its people. Every accomplishment, every milestone, and every step we take forward is all because of the guidance, commitment, and care of that team. From our board members to our advisory council members to our staff, and the countless volunteers, donors, and supporters, I am and will always be forever grateful for your passion and purpose. Each of you not only provide me with the support I need, but more importantly provide me with the strength and motivation to keep fighting and pushing forward for our survivors. So, thank you again, from the bottom of my heart for everything that you do.

The team at Crime Survivors is also grateful for the deep relationships we have with our partners. This includes service providers, law enforcement, victim assistance coordinators, elected officials and all of those heroes that believe in balancing the scales of justice for those who are victimized by bringing awareness, prevention, advocacy, and healing throughout Southern California.

Most importantly, I would like to thank our victims and survivors. Thank you for having the courage to step up and ask for help. Thank you for allowing us into your lives so that we can help you heal and find hope. You are our mission, and we will never let you down.

In the face of all the chaos, Crime Survivors had an amazing year of growth and accomplishments. Here are just a few of the things that we achieved in 2020:

- We launched three new websites:
  - o A new organization website: [www.crimesurvivors.org](http://www.crimesurvivors.org)
  - o A new campus website: [www.crimesurvivorsoncampus.org](http://www.crimesurvivorsoncampus.org)
  - o A new resource guide website: [www.crimesurvivorsresourceguides.org](http://www.crimesurvivorsresourceguides.org)
- We have completed many short PSA's and Videos
  - o Child Abuse Awareness & Support — <https://youtu.be/wOGjIQbzMYc>
  - o Domestic Violence Support — <https://youtu.be/wDjD3dgWbHo>
  - o Sexual Assault Awareness & Support — <https://youtu.be/5x5W703CidI>
  - o Supporting Law Enforcement <https://youtu.be/2O6DM6EC9gs>
  - o Crime Survivors 17 Years Hope & Healing <https://youtu.be/4dc33lywfck>

We have been able to help hundreds during the pandemic with food, clothing, gas/travel, essential items, and legal support!

- We distributed thousands of resource guides.
- We helped 1,300 children and 330 families at Christmas.
- We helped 250 families this past Thanksgiving.
- We donated dozens of laptops, iPads and school supplies for students that would not otherwise have access during the pandemic.
- We facilitated dozens of online Zoom trainings.
- We facilitated weekly service providers roundtables.
- We facilitated weekly support groups two times a week virtually.
- We facilitated art classes, safety classes, peer-to-peer classes, and many other online platforms virtually.
- We partnered to facilitate and host suicide trainings virtually.
- We outreach to schools and universities, sharing our mission, programs, and offering our partnership.
- We worked with many students for internships and volunteer opportunities.
- We continued day to day operations without any fundraising events and have been able to reach thousands online virtually.

Once again, please know that none of this was possible without all of our team members and partners and their going above and beyond every step of the way.

As we look in 2021, I have never been more confident and optimistic. We have come through one of the toughest years ever and have done so having accomplished more than I thought possible. Our work will continue with the same passion and commitment as always. Being a voice for the voiceless is never easy, but it is our mission and you have my promise that we will never stop fighting and will always be there.

God Bless.

Patricia Wenskunas

With Faith, there is Hope...



# Board of Directors



Patricia Wenskunas

Founder/CEO

Survivor "A Voice for the Voiceless"

Owner, Creative Coordinating

Randy Burba

Chairperson

Chief, Chapman University

Public Safety



Janet Wilson-Irving

Treasurer

St. Cyprian Catholic Church,

Office Coordinator



Ernie Castelo

Secretary

Freelance Broadcast

Journalist



Terry Johnson

Board Member

Detective, Los Angeles

Sheriff's Department



Beverly Johnson

Board Member

Partner, Johnson

& Bertram LLP



Thomas Laing

Emeritus Board Member

Retired Chief, Los Angeles

Sheriff's Department



Burton Brink

Board Member

Retired Sergeant, Los Angeles

Sheriff's Department



A Letter From  
Randy A. Burba  
Chairperson of The Board

### Hopeful Healing Never Stops

To say 2020 was a challenging year, is an epic understatement. Like so many families and individuals, Crime Survivors had to make many adjustments for the safety of everyone. The one thing that remained unwavering, however, was our steadfast commitment to those who have been victimized by violent crime. As we look back and reflect on those challenges, we can see much more clearly the incredible progress and unprecedented growth in our organization's role in advocacy and in providing unparalleled service for those most in need.

Our ability to sustain and exceed at the core delivery of our mission speaks strongly to the resilience, determination and our shared sense of purpose among our members. A tremendous amount of gratitude must be given to all of our generous supporters. Without their selfless and continuous giving of themselves we could not have assisted and supported so many during this extraordinary year. These same qualities directly guided us all to preserve and enhance programming that positively impacted our survivors and contributed to their ability to improve their respective situations. We did this while we also provided much needed supplies to those in need, especially as we brought holiday cheer to victims and their families.

Our staff has worked tirelessly and continued to lift the voice and awareness of victims of violent crime in the region we serve and well beyond. Our Founder and CEO, too, has given of her time to personally help victims one phone call at a time, and one meeting at a time. Her work has included leading dozens of roundtable meeting sessions across several counties to help inform and educate lawmakers and service providers of the resources that are available to assist those victims in desperate need of help. Crime Survivors has achieved truly new levels of trust and appreciation in the communities it so proudly serves, and has become an equally trusted resource for legislators, government officials, and law enforcement leaders seeking to help those victimized by violent crime. No longer are we an organization that asks if we can help—indeed, we are now the organization called upon to help.

As we transition into 2021 and the next phases of the future that awaits us all, I am proud of what Crime Survivors has accomplished and I am confident of this organization's place in that future. Together, and with the dedication and energy of all of our partners, supporters, and generous donors, we will continue to be the preeminent organization of providing caring, compassionate, and strong individualized support, assistance and advocacy to those in need. It is particularly impressive that our organization successfully maintains an operations budget that directly invests 92.4% of its expenses into providing services and programming. I could not be prouder of the efforts of every member of our organization, the courage of the individuals and families we serve, and the community leaders who support this important work, all in pursuit of a place for hopeful healing and ensuring that victims survive and then thrive.

Randy A. Burba

Board Chair, Crime Survivors



## A Letter From Janet Wilson-Irving Treasurer of The Board

### Treasurer's 2020 Financial Statements

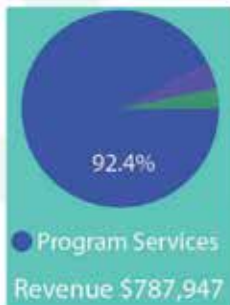
There is no secret that 2020 was a very challenging year for so many, yet I am happy to report as Treasurer for Crime Survivors Resource Center ("CSRC"), we have been blessed with the continued support and generosity of so many. Not only has the organization been able to sustain itself during this pandemic but we have been able to show growth and been able to help even more people through the various programs.

I have been part of CSRC since the very beginning and can attest to the growth, passion and unwavering dedication that continues to support and help victims both financially and emotionally. There is a saying "when there is a will, there is a way" and that pretty much sums up the founder and CEO, Patricia Wenskunas. She continues to open every possible door and never gives up no matter how difficult the challenge may seem.

I have served on the Board of CSRC in many different capacities so I have been able to see first hand the fruition of its efforts. As CSRC's treasurer, I am able to see the transparency and growth each month when reviewing the financial statements prepared by Pacific Tax Advisers. I have the responsibility to ensure that all financial activities are reported accurately and truthfully and can attest that the organization accounts for every penny ensuring that only the highest level of transparency is achieved. Each month I was able to easily decipher the reports provided by Pacific Tax Advisers to confirm what was being reported.

I am very pleased to report that the financial statements for this non-profit have been balanced and filed for the year ending December 31, 2020. CSRC received revenue for the year 2020 from both individual and corporate contributions, also from grants, trade-barter and in kind donations. All monies were used in providing programs, support services, educational trainings, advocacy, healing events and fundraising events.

Sincerely,  
Janet Wilson-Irving  
Treasurer





# Our Work

## 2003-2020

Diapers and Wipes for 100 Children Monthly

5,127

Attended Weekly Service Provider Roundtables in 2020

8,750

Child & Adult Victim Emergency Bags

3,475

Meal Baskets to Survivors & Families

7,850

"What's Happening in Court" Books Distributed

485,000

Resource Guides Distributed

30,000

Holiday Gifts to Survivors & Families

4,000

"Let's Meet Officer/Deputy Frank" Books Distributed

3,000

Backpacks & School Supplies Distributed

1,350

Easter Egg Celebration Program

1,800

Halloween Harvest Pumpkin Carving Trick or Treat Program

3,350

Thanksgiving Baskets Distributed

9,550

Individual Donors Sponsors & Supporters for Programs

2,450

Individual Volunteers

4,250

Cookie Baskets Thanksgiving Gratitude Healing Program

5,125

Have Attended Awards Banquet "Gala"

15,000

Have Attended Superhero Run Walk Health & Safety Expo

Survivors Hope Fund Financial Support

Law Enforcement Trainings

Launched FAIR Program with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Legal Support at Parole Hearings

Marsy's Law Trainings

Thousands of Dollars of Gift Cards Distributed Directly to Victims of Crime

Hundreds Attended Miniature Golf Tournament

Therapy & Counseling

Self Defense & Safety Classes

Monthly Support Groups

Art for Healing Classes

Monthly Service Provider Roundtables

Healing Program

Thousands of Victims of Crime & Families Helped through our Program Support

AWARENESS  
PREVENTION  
ADVOCACY  
HEALING

## Programs, Trainings & Hope and Healing Events

The infographic features a central network of lines connecting four circular nodes. The top node is dark blue, the middle-right node is teal, the bottom-left node is dark green, and the bottom-right node is light teal. The background consists of large, overlapping circles in shades of purple, blue, and green.

8,750

Child & Adult Victim  
Emergency Bags

3,475

Meal Baskets  
to Survivors  
& Families

485,000

CSI Resource  
Guides Distributed

30,000

Holiday Gifts to  
Survivors  
&  
Families

## **This is in the voices of victims/survivors and their immediate needs and why we ask for your continued help and support!**

- "Feeling fear knowing that the guy came out from prison."
- "I am currently a single mother and have been missing a lot of days due to taking care of my 7 year old daughter who was a sexual assault Victim. We really need help for the holidays. Whatever you can provide would be wonderful. Thank you."
- "I have survived domestic violence and have worked so hard to get a good job, car, and apartment for my children and me. We struggle every day and holidays are especially the worst. I have nothing to give my children but a safe home. Helping me with this holiday basket will at least give us a holiday memory we can look back on and say "we didn't have much but we had each other. The smile on my kids' faces and a full belly at night is what I hope I can at least give them. Thank you so much for your time and consideration."
- "We just got into low income apartment. Had been homeless due to domestic violence. Lost everything. Starting over. We appreciate all you do! Thank you"
- "After the crime, I was diagnosed with COVID. Couldn't work for 3 weeks. Both parents were diagnosed with COVID. Didn't have an income all October. Also need Christmas for 4 kids."
- "I'm still having flash backs and feeling of paranoia at times. I'm struggling with food and my kids still do not have a bed. But we do have a home and we are safe."
- "We have a premature 4 month old son with a surgically inserted feeding tube and the night of the attack was our sons first night home and the owner was the mother of the attacker and now the 3 of us are homeless living in motels and our son is only 4 months old now."
- "I was a victim of attempted murder and relocated. I have health conditions that suspended my license and keeps me from working. I have a caregiver to support me in daily tasks and I'm unable to provide for my family for the holidays. I recently lost loved ones due to covid and it has extremely affected my family financially. Any help to provide my family decent holidays is much appreciated. Thank you."
- "We have children and one adult is working. With covid 19 things have become harder for us. We have been struggling since taking in my sister's child that was killed in 2018. We will appreciate this for our family. Thank you."
- "Not working, undergoing depression therapy, single mother, trying to do the best I can during these times."
- "Lost of a child by murder & now a divorce."
- "Buying food and paying rent is hardest after trauma."





Beverly Johnson

Board Member

Partner, Johnson  
& Bertram LLP

"I am honored to serve on the Board of Directors of Crime Survivors, Inc. CSI's innovative and comprehensive programs and outreach to crime victims and their families are highly effective, appreciated, and remain a growing need throughout all the communities we serve. CSI's Crime Survivors Resource Center proudly provides a welcome, peaceful respite for victims and families, from the painful moments immediately after their trauma through the process of healing and renewal. As CSI's reach continues to grow in strength, we sincerely thank our donors and supporters, including all those in law enforcement and in the business and health care communities. With your support, we are and will remain committed to serving our community as victims' rights advocates and as a reliable resource for our clients, and we remain ever hopeful that the environment in California shifts toward continual support of CSI and its laudable mission of hopeful healing for crime victims and their families."

Beverly Johnson



Terry Johnson

Board Member

Detective, Los Angeles  
Sheriff's Department

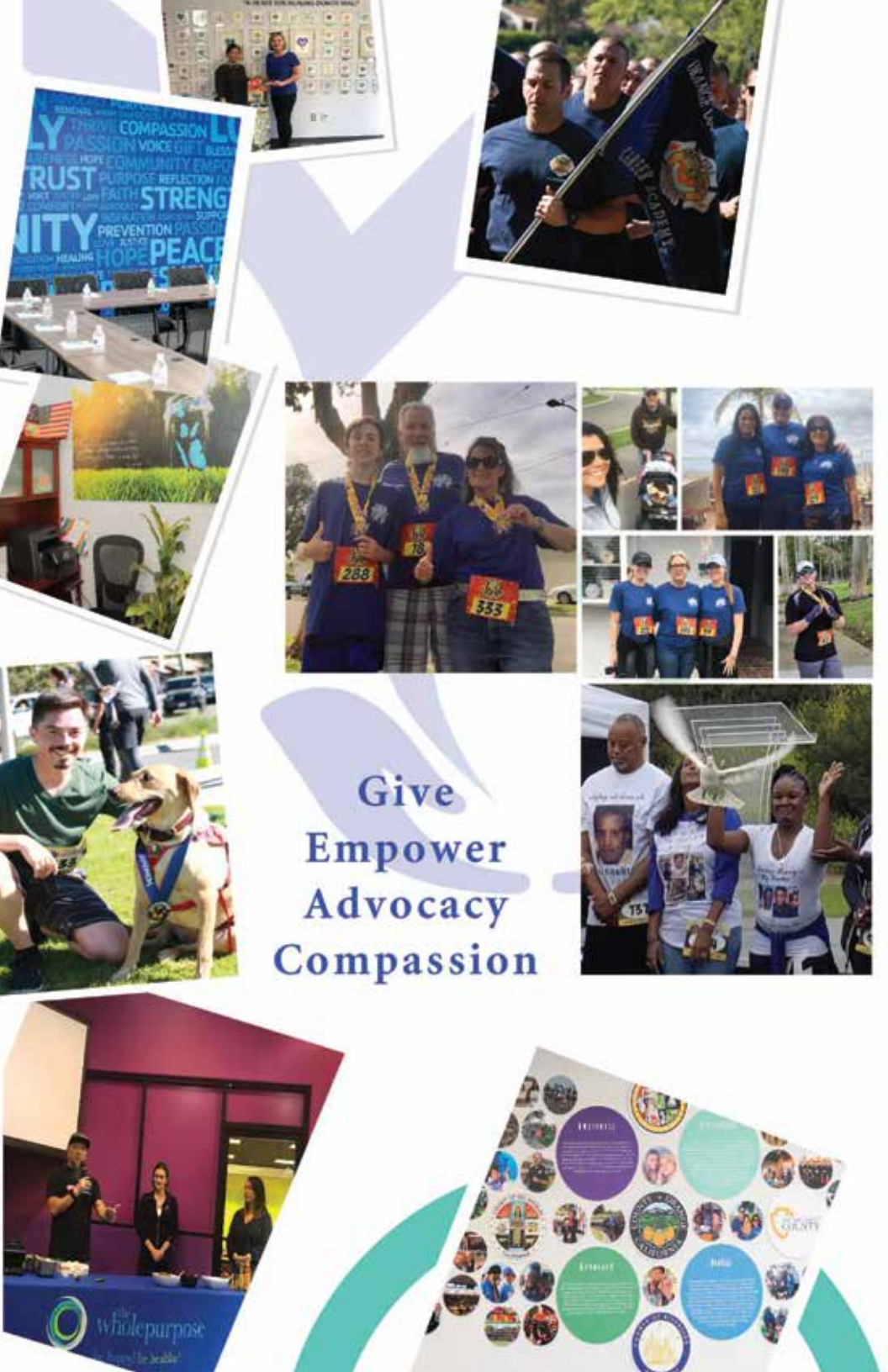
"Despite the adversity and major changes in 2020, Patricia and Crime Survivors has managed to come out of it even stronger and more willing to assist victims. It's so encouraging to know this! We were still able to host a first and very successful silent online auction, gave away hundreds of Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts and meals to needy victims/survivors, and even supported the Special Victims Bureau of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department through the media by asking the county not to defund this specialized and much needed unit. I'm grateful to be supporting the organization financially, because I know 92.4% of every dollar goes back to a victim. Thank you Patricia, for continuing to support the victims I serve and aid as a detective, whether it's finding housing for an abuse victim and or giving a gift card for food. Thank you to all who support this organization too! Blessings to 2021!"

Terry Johnson

## **This is in the voices of victims/survivors and their immediate needs and why we ask for your continued help and support!**

- "My challenge is trying to keep it together and not let me stress and worries overcome me, having no help and doing my best to get what my kids are in need of like clothes and food paying all the bills is a challenge my faith is what helps. The abuse that my ex caused has really taking a toll on me but I try not to show it."
- "The crime has put an emotional hardship and financial hardship for victim's son and victim's partner. Family has had to relocate since x was main supporter. x's son misses having dinner with his father and horse playing. He misses his father helping him with homework. Main hardship is emotional dealing with x's lost and not having a companionship."
- "I'm a D.V. Survivor with two young children to support with one single income. We will always appreciate food, clothing, shoes, hygiene's and any other resources that could be available to us! Thank You so much sincerely, :)"
- "This year the challenges I faced have been working full time and caring for my mother who went to the hospital in September for a colon infection and low blood pressure. We don't get food stamps and even though my daughter who's 8 yrs old qualifies for the school lunches I'm not able to pick them up since I'm at work during the hours they give them. Food is costly now because I have to buy and prepare breakfast and lunch for them to be ready for them as before she had breakfast and lunch at school. Everything helps and I'm very blessed and thankful if we qualify for a turkey meal box."
- "Now a single parent of 4 kids. Three young ones ages 6, 7 and 8. Working full time and struggling to be there for them and provide for all their needs. Trying to maintain consistency in their lives. This program has been such a blessing to all of us!!"
- "Supporting a family as a single parent is a challenge. Providing for and also caring for emotional needs of family. We stay strong by staying together."
- "Struggling to get on our feet as we just started a new job"
- "Am a mother of 7 kids Am in need of diapers size 4 or pull ups size 3t-4t wipes and clothes for all my kids Cleaning supplies thank you and god bless you all for all you do."
- "Separated from husband I suffer from anxiety panic attacks need support for kids and me."
- "Healing from trauma and depression in my home."
- "Unemployed due to Covid 19."
- "I receive 167.00 a week from unemployment due to Covid & have no money for the the holidays. Thank you."



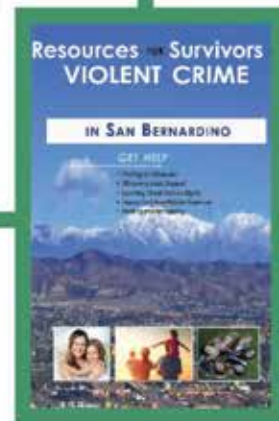
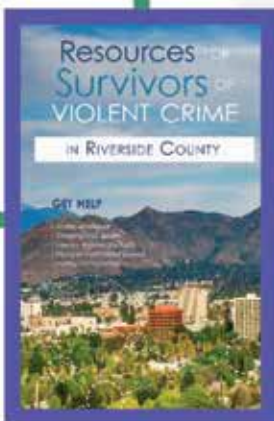
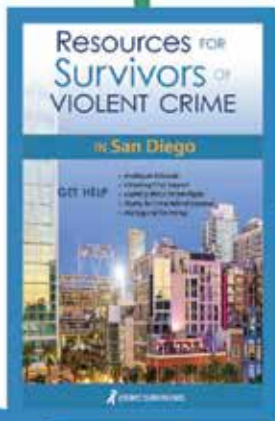
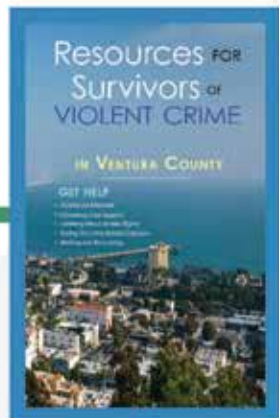
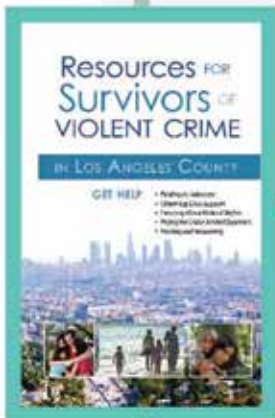


Give  
Empower  
Advocacy  
Compassion





# Resource Guides





Reflection

Thrive

Worthy



Courage





## **This is in the voices of victims/survivors and their immediate needs and why we ask for your continued help and support!**

- “Our surviving family is in need of food , clothes , sweaters , jackets , socks. Thank you.”
- “Every day is a struggle, with faith, family, crime survivors and my kids I keep going.”
- “I’ve been blessed beyond measure only challenge I have now is trying to work fulltime and give my son the help he needs because he has been diagnosed with Autism.”
- “I have 3 kids, each one of them with different special needs. I’m facing Psychological, Physical, Emotional and Financial challenges that are impacting the whole family. I’m overwhelmed trying to figure out how to fulfill basic needs for my kids and household (like clothing, personal care items, diapers, wipes, etc.) I have been in the hunt for Housing Assistance with no luck, utilities are piling up and can’t get help. Holidays are approaching as I fear not being able to keep the roof over our heads. My kids are also experiencing emotional issues as well. 15 year old diagnosed with epilepsy 5 months ago, 27 month old facing behavior, speech delay and feeding issues, 15 month old has Down Syndrome; developmental & medical needs. they are my everything!! Thank you in advance for your kindness and support. Please feel free to reach me if questions arise. Warmest wishes for this Holidays to everyone who make this available for us.”
- “Currently on verge of being homeless again I just had a baby going on two weeks ago can’t work at them.”
- “My husband is the only one working at the moment we might not have for a meal this year work is slow and I can’t do much because I have a new born so I can’t go out to work and help him.”
- “Every day is a challenge but a day at a time is all it takes and faith and strength.”
- “Husband just started working two weeks ago. Only three days a week. It’s not enough.”
- “I recently lost my job due to the pandemic and it’s been difficult to manage money and my six children’s needs around.”
- “Single mom of 3 boys surviving and in need of food for Thanksgiving meal.”
- “STABILIZING FROM HOMELESSNESS. LOST WAGES FROM COVID--19. Need entire meal for Thanksgiving.”
- “I am currently a single mom of 4 and a full time student at college. I have no income and receive assistance from the County of orange and am struggling to make ends meet. I run out of food stamps more frequently now that the children are home all day doing virtual”





Burton Brink  
Board Member  
Retired Sergeant, Los Angeles  
Sheriff's Department

"Hello, my name is Burton Brink and I have been a proud Crime Survivors Board Member for a little over two years. I spent almost 40 years as a law enforcement officer and obviously, I have dealt with many victims of violent crimes. I got involved with Crime Survivors after I saw the work Patricia and her team has done for victims and children. With over 92.4% of funds donated to CS going back to help victims, we are able to help so many victims through our outreach and resource center and making sure they have a safe place to stay with the items/food they need. 2020 was a year many of us would like to forget due to Covid-19, but thankfully, our donors and our commitment to victims has not wavered. We are grateful for you all who continue to volunteer and donate to keep CS growing and being the voice for victims who have nowhere else to turn." Burton Brink



Ernie Castelo  
Secretary  
Freelance Broadcast  
Journalist

"It has been a privilege and honor to serve as Secretary on the Board of Directors of Crime Survivors, Inc. I have been a member of the Board since 2005. In all those years, I have seen how much this organization has evolved. We have gone through many changes and challenges over the years. The organization has grown and overcome challenges each year. As many of you know, 2020 has been different. We had a pandemic that caused a national as well as a statewide lockdown. Many other nonprofits have struggled to survive this challenging year. Some of these nonprofits have closed their doors for good. Even with the challenges the pandemic and lockdown has caused, Crime Survivors, Inc. had its best year as an organization. The organization has grown exponentially during these trying times. It had its best year financially. Our programs, services, and support from the community have continued to grow and expand. Thanks to the tireless work of our Founder, Patricia Wenskunas, with extraordinary support from our Board of Directors, service providers, law enforcement agencies, and of course, survivors. Our focus has always been and will always be on crime victims, survivors and their families. Again, it has been a privilege and honor to be part of Crime Survivors, Inc." Ernie Castelo

Genuine



Generous



Joy

Devoted



Thomas Laing

Board Emeritus

Retired Chief, Los Angeles  
Sheriff's Department

"It is my sincere belief, coupled by personal observations, that Crime Survivors is one of the most effective and efficient advocate organizations for the rights of victims, and for providing a foundation for all victims to heal, survive and be heard. During my 35 year career in law enforcement I understood and witnessed the importance a responding law enforcement officer could have in providing a sense of initial safety and healing for a member of the public who was the victim of a traumatic experience, at the hands of another (Criminal)! However, that short window of care could only be rightfully and compassionately extended to a victim beyond those initial hours at any time of the day or night through resources such as Patricia Wenskunas and Crime Survivors. I was honored to serve as a past member and chair of the Crime Survivors Board of Directors, well beyond my active service in law enforcement, and though no longer a member of the Board, I am encouraged by the current Board of Directors commitment and vision and Patricia's continued leadership, transparency with all of their much needed monetary donations, and her servant heart for those the Crime Survivors Resource Center serve. Furthermore, my family and I continue to volunteer and support the Crime Survivors Resource Center because there is no doubt Crime Survivors is making a difference in the lives of others! Tom Laing





## **Crime Survivors Resource Center**

[Facebook.com/crimesurvivors](https://www.facebook.com/crimesurvivors)

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

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

(844) 853-HOPE

[www.crimesurvivors.org](http://www.crimesurvivors.org)

[www.crimesurvivorscampus.org](http://www.crimesurvivorscampus.org)

[www.crimesurvivorsresourceguides.org](http://www.crimesurvivorsresourceguides.org)