



CRIME SURVIVORS

Resource Center

AWARENESS | PREVENTION | ADVOCACY | HEALING

20
23

Annual
Report

Celebrating
20 Years

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A LETTER FROM PATRICIA WENSKUNAS, FOUNDER / CEO

As we reflect upon the transformative year that was 2023, I am compelled to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible journey Crime Survivors has undertaken over the past two decades. This year, in particular, serves as a poignant recap of our organization's growth and accomplishments, showcasing the impact we've had on the lives of countless individuals.

In 2023, Crime Survivors experienced significant growth, and it warms my heart to reflect on the collective accomplishments we've achieved together. Our organization has evolved dynamically, addressing the ever-growing need for high-quality resources and assistance for crime victims. We've been a constant source of stability and support where it matters most.

Our commitment to advocacy reached new heights through a variety of engaging events that brought our community together in unwavering support of victims' rights. From charity drives, the Thanksgiving Healing event, the Halloween Spooktacular event, the Holiday Open House, the Superhero Run/Walk event, self-care days, Christmas for Survivors, and our 20-year celebration event - these are just some of the gatherings that exemplify the strength of our collective commitment and the diverse ways we connect with and uplift survivors and their families.

The achievements of this year stand as a testament to the unwavering support of individuals like you, who have contributed to Crime Survivors throughout the year. As a nonprofit organization, we depend on our community to provide vital resources, including guides, materials, clothing, and supplies for families facing the most challenging times. I encourage you to share this recap with your network, spreading awareness of our journey and inspiring others to contribute, ensuring we can continue providing hope and healing.

The Crime Survivors Resource Center remains not just a place but a sanctuary of support, offering solace and industry-leading programs for survivors. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Kali P. Chaudhuri and KPC Health, our center continues to flourish, making a significant impact on the lives of many.

Two decades ago, the vision of Crime Survivors was born, and today, we stand as a living testament to the positive change that collective dedication and support can bring. My heartfelt gratitude extends to every individual who has been part of this incredible journey.

Entering our 21st year, we are determined to carry forward the mission of helping victims of crime recover mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially. Let us continue advocating for the respect, support, and protection they deserve from law enforcement, the judicial system, and the community.

As we move forward, let us never forget- with faith, there is hope.

Our logo encapsulates our unwavering dedication to awareness, prevention, advocacy, and healing. The hands cradling the figures symbolize our commitment to supporting and uplifting individuals within our community. The diverse colors within the logo represent inclusivity and unity, showcasing our mission to promote a harmonious society where everyone is cared for, heard, and empowered to thrive.

OUR LOGO

COLOR 1 - AWARENESS

Leaders and influencers must be aware of victims' needs.

As crime continues to increase in our communities and neighborhoods and victims' resources become harder to come by, the need for awareness and understanding has never been greater. Crime Survivors is singularly focused on making sure that our leaders and influencers are not only aware of the needs of victims but committed to promoting and supporting pro-survivor policies and practices throughout the criminal justice system.

COLOR 2 - PREVENTION

The best form of prevention is always a well-rounded education!

The best form of prevention is always education. Crime Survivors is one of the leading "victim-focused" educators in Southern California. Whether it is training law enforcement, testifying in front of legislative committees, or sitting down with the family and support structure of a newly created crime victim, the organization is able to share an unmatched level of knowledge, care, and experience. This unique approach creates both awareness and understanding among a broad set of groups and truly sets the stage for not only prevention but putting the needs of crime victims first.

COLOR 3 - ADVOCACY

We translate the needs of crime victims into real action and results.

As advocates, our focus revolves around striving for justice and actively improving our collaborative efforts on behalf of victims and survivors. At Crime Survivors, our strong commitment is to make sure our leaders and influencers are fully devoted to championing and supporting policies and practices that advocate for crime survivors throughout the entire criminal justice system. A Voice for the Voiceless.

COLOR 4 - HEALING

Surviving a crime is not something that happens overnight.

Overcoming any obstacle in life involves courage, strength, and persistence. Surviving a crime is not something that happens overnight. It is a lifetime journey that requires unwavering love, understanding, and support. Crime Survivors, through its committed team, is that lifetime partner and advocate. By focusing on the positive empowerment of crime victims, this amazing organization transforms the weak into the powerful, the scared into the brave, and turns victims into SURVIVORS. In order to overcome tragedy, you need strength. Crime Survivors provides every survivor with a clear path to hope, healing, and, inevitably, strength.



CRIME SURVIVORS
Resource Center

AWARENESS | PREVENTION | ADVOCACY | HEALING

OUR CAUSE

1) 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.

2) 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 of law enforcement, the judicial system, and the community.

3) 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, and 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.

“My mission in life is not merely to survive,
but to thrive; and to do so with some passion,
some compassion, some humor, and some style.

- Maya Angelou

A LETTER FROM BURTON BRINK, CHAIR

What a 20th Anniversary year it has been for Crime Survivors!

Our organization continues to make a huge impact on so many lives of both victims and survivors. Our challenges have been many, from a persistently tough fundraising climate to discouraging public misperceptions about crime victims and the stigma that no one wants to talk about. What has been consistent is the incredible commitment to helping victims take back their lives and thrive.

There are victims of crime every day who have nowhere to turn, have no voice, and feel helpless. Through our Crime Survivors team, we have changed this narrative for countless victims over the last twenty years. It is sad that an organization such as ours must exist, but in these times, it is needed more than ever! We are not supported by government funding due to restrictions from receiving those funds that would prevent us from being a voice for victims. Because of you, our generous donors and sponsors, we ARE the voice for victims, and we will continue for years to come.

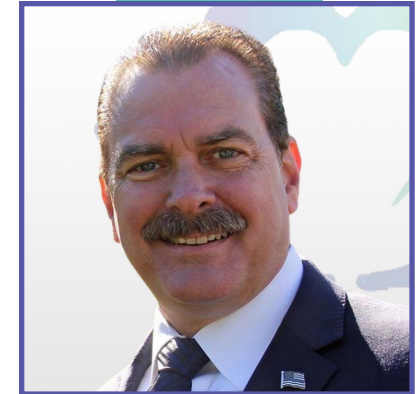
Our team and volunteers have worked relentlessly to raise the voice and awareness of victims of violent crime. Patricia (our Founder and CEO) has tirelessly given of her time to help victims, one phone call at a time, and one meeting at a time. She conducted dozens of roundtables, and training in several different counties to help educate lawmakers and service providers about the resources available to assist those victims in desperate need of help. Crime Survivors has become a trusted resource for influential lawmakers, government officials, and law enforcement administrators seeking to help those victimized by violent crime.

I am proud of what Crime Survivors accomplished in 2023 and excited about our future. Together, with all our partners, supporters, and generous donors, we will continue to be the preeminent "go to" organization when it comes to providing exemplary individualized assistance to those in need.

I am so proud to continue being a part of such a wonderful organization, Crime Survivors Inc. I believe the next 20 years ahead will only prove to be more important with the support and team we have, along with our wonderful sponsors and donors, and ensuring that victims survive and thrive.

Burton Brink
Board Chair

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS THANK YOU



BURTON BRINK
Board Chair



TERRY JOHNSON
Secretary



THOMAS LAING
Board Member



PATRICIA WENSKUNAS
Founder / CEO



JANET COLLINS
Treasurer



BEVERLY JOHNSON
Board Member



RANDY BURBA
Board Emeritus

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated members of our Board of Directors, whose unwavering commitment to our mission has been a cornerstone of Crime Survivors' success. Through their tireless efforts, advocacy, and strategic guidance, our organization has continued to thrive, providing vital resources, support, and hope to those who need it most. Their dedication not only empowers our organization but also uplifts countless lives. We celebrate the incredible impact our Board of Directors has made in making victims' rights a top priority and express our deepest appreciation for their hard work and unwavering support.



A MESSAGE FROM JANET COLLINS, TREASURER

As Crime Survivors celebrates 20 years, it is a time to reflect on the organization's achievements and express gratitude for the dedication and the support of everyone who has been involved in helping to truly make a difference.

I am reminded of the resilience and determination that has brought us here.

The organization has always believed that the best way to help others is to collaborate with law enforcement, elected leaders, and those within our community, so I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to everyone who has stood by us and supported us on this journey because you are all part of our success story.

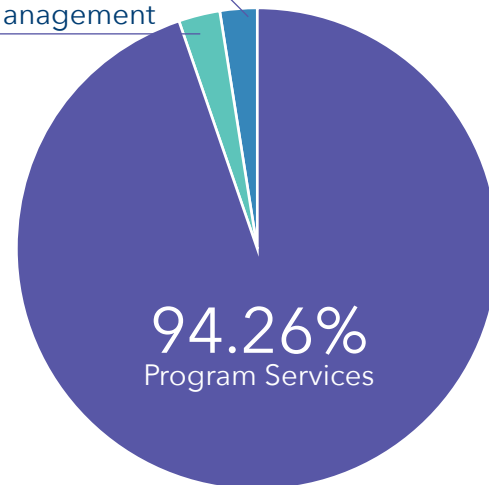
Thank you for your unwavering support. Here's to many more years of success.

Janet Collins, Board Treasurer

2.16% Fundraising

3.58% General/Management

TOTAL REVENUE
\$994,220



A MESSAGE FROM TERRY JOHNSON, SECRETARY

"It takes 20 years to make an overnight success."

-Eddie Cantor (US Entertainer 1892-1964)

Wow! A successful 20 years it has been! Thank you to all the donors. I have witnessed firsthand how your donations have affected victims/survivors in the field I serve. Many were too poor for a laptop or a backpack for school. Patricia was able to provide this for one of my sexual abuse victims. One elderly lady was living in her car in Compton with her 3-year-old granddaughter. Patricia helped this poor woman obtain the proper services and a couple nights in a hotel to get back on her feet. Or even the poor autistic boy in Compton whose bike was stolen 2x prior, and Patricia provided him with a new bike because the family was barely getting by. Your donations matter! Thank you for all you do for victims/survivors!



A LETTER FROM RANDY BURBA, BOARD EMERITUS

It is only fitting that in the 20th year of this wonderful spiritually driven organization that Patricia, the board, and all the volunteers have made it the most successful year in the organization's history. Crime Survivors served more victims and survivors than we ever have before; we conducted more programs, gave back to the community, continued making a difference in people's lives, and carried on the good work of this incredible organization. I have personally been involved for over 15 years and held various board positions, including chairperson of the board. Although I retired from my permanent job and moved out of California, I continue to give and support this organization.

The incredible mission, driven purpose, and calculable accomplishments in making an impact on the lives of those who have been victimized motivate each and every member of our team. I've never seen another organization where so much dedication and individual effort go into the day-to-day operations and where so much of every dollar goes to help those in need. The 20th anniversary was both glorious and difficult for our founder because, as most people are aware, she founded this organization after she was a victim of a very violent crime. Every year, she has to re-live that anniversary and memory. But her call to start this journey and to serve others through their victimization has ensured that for the last twenty years, victims have had a voice and unwavering support.

Only a few organizations make it to twenty years; rarer still is an organization that is still growing at the twenty-year mark, and yet, Crime Survivors is doing just that. These accomplishments would not be possible without the incredible volunteers and donors, many of whom have been involved for twenty years. This milestone is a testament to Patricia's fortitude, commitment, and willingness never to give up and always keep those victimized at the forefront of her vision. I couldn't be prouder to be involved in this organization for all my years; I couldn't be prouder to call the founder and CEO my colleague and my friend, and I look forward to serving the organization long into the future.

Randy Burba
Board Emeritus



In a world we often just don't know who to trust, and specifically for a person who has been traumatically victimized by another human being, it's comforting to truly know they can trust and depend upon Crime Survivors' founder Patricia Wenskunas, a survivor herself and the Crime Survivors organization. Crime Survivors' 20 years of compassionate transparency to create a path for a victim to heal, survive, and thrive is a testament to why elected public officials, the public safety profession, professional advocates for victims, and a caring community support Crime Survivors, and I am proud to contribute toward our purpose as a member of Crime Survivors' Board of Directors.

Tom Laing
Board Member



In 2023, Crime Survivors celebrated its 20th year in providing hopeful healing to thousands of survivors of crime. A crucial aspect of that celebration was for the tremendous vision, hard work, commitment, and powerful endurance of Patricia Wenskunas, its founder and CEO, who has led the organization through every obstacle, no matter how trying or difficult, with success beyond measure. I have served on the Board of CSRC for approximately a decade, and I am most grateful for the tremendous support and generosity of all our donors and volunteers, our Council, and our partners in law enforcement and public office, who have allowed us to help so many crime victims with the support they need to heal and return to some sense of normalcy in their lives. Thank you for your continued help and support as we emerge from our 20th year; we are just getting started in our mission and vision as a voice for the voiceless and providing hopeful healing to so many survivors!

Beverly Johnson
Board Member

MESSAGES FROM BOARD MEMBERS

OUR RESOURCE CENTER

In 2018, our organization achieved a significant milestone by inaugurating the Crime Survivors Resource Center, a groundbreaking initiative that stands as the first-of-its-kind dedicated to offering a sanctuary filled with vital programs and resources for survivors. This achievement not only underscores our unwavering commitment to supporting survivors but also reflects our innovative approach to addressing the needs of those affected by crime.



Supporting Crime Survivors is about giving hope and healing to those who need it most. Through the Crime Survivors Resource Center, we aim to provide a haven for recovery. I am proud to stand with Crime Survivors in creating a community where compassion makes a difference.

- Dr. Kali P. Chaudhuri, MD





As we celebrate the organization's 20th anniversary, we find ourselves reflecting on an incredible journey filled with resilience, compassion, and unwavering commitment to our mission. Crime Survivors has evolved into a beacon of support, advocating for those in their darkest hours and empowering them to rebuild their lives. Two decades of dedication have not only seen us through countless challenges but have also illuminated the path forward with boundless opportunities for positive change.

In reaching this remarkable milestone, we extend our deepest gratitude to every survivor, supporter, volunteer, and partner who has joined hands with us along this journey. Your collective strength, resilience, and dedication have been the driving force behind our success. Together, we have overcome hurdles, shattered barriers, and paved the way for transformation. We want to celebrate not only the past but the bright future we continue to build together. Thank you for being an integral part of Crime Survivors' legacy of hope, healing, and progress.

**20 YEARS
STRONG:
NURTURING
HOPE,
INSPIRING
HEALING**

“Through our
Crime Survivors team,
we have changed this
narrative for countless
victims over the last
twenty years.”
– Burton Brink, Board Chair

OUR IMPACT



Our organization continues to make a huge impact on so many lives of both victims and survivors.

- Janet Collins, Treasurer



502,375
Diapers &
Baby Wipes
Distributed
in 2021-2023

45,000
Holiday Gifts
Distributed

9,950
Child &
Adult Victim
Emergency
Bags Distributed

2,600
Boxes
New Clothing,
Shoes &
Accessories

2,265
Attended
Easter Hope
Celebrations

6,400
Christmas Meals
& Gift Cards
Distributed

535,000
Resource Guides
Distributed

1,680
Stuffed Bags
Distributed

2,442
Attended
Halloween
Harvest Safety &
Trick or Treat

Self Defense &
Safety Classes
for Survivors and
Providers

125
Domestic
Violence
Survivor Bags
Distributed

4,300
"Let's Meet
Officer/Deputy
Frank" Books
Distributed

18,000
Superhero Run/
Walk Health
and Safety Expo
Attendees

4,030
Backpacks
Filled With
School Supplies
Distributed

4,476
Thanksgiving
Baskets

2,750
Individual
Donors,
Sponsors, and
Supporters for
Programs

5,165
Meal Baskets &
Gift Cards
Distributed

4,250
Gratitude
Baskets to Law
Enforcement &
Service
Providers

189
Virtual
Roundtables
Held 2020 - 2023
Southern CA &
Riverside*

585
Self Care Day
For Service
Providers
2020 - 2023

5,525
Award Gala
Attendees

77,150
Individual
Gift Card
Distribution

23,785
Attended Weekly
& Quarterly
Service Provider
Roundtables in
2020-2023*

236
Monthly Peer
to Peer Support
Group for Service
Providers
2020 - 2023

8,400
"What's
Happening in
Court" Books
Distributed

12,722
Individual
Volunteers

* This does not include all since launching in 2003

Thank you to our esteemed Crime Survivors Council and Honorary Advisory Board for their invaluable contributions to our organization's mission. The Crime Survivors Council, with its unwavering dedication and ability to foster connections, serves as a vital bridge between survivors and key stakeholders within our community. Our Honorary Advisory Board, with their belief in our mission, vision, and values, provides invaluable insights and advice that enhance the overall structure and effectiveness of our programs, services, and events. Together, our Council and Honorary Advisory Board exemplify the spirit of collaboration and commitment, and we are profoundly grateful for their tireless efforts in helping us provide hope and healing to victims and survivors of crime.

COUNCIL

Todd Spitzer
Michael Hestrin
Dan Dow
Gregory Totten
Vern Pierson
Anne Marie Schubert
Mike Gatto
Diane Harkey
Laurie Davies
Tri Ta
Kevin Muldoon
Gene Hernandez
Al Murray
Arianna Barrios
Tim Shaw
Diane Dixon
Farrah N. Khan
Dr. Ana Nogales
Dr. Stephany Powell
Shannon King Ginter
Susy Flores
Agnes Gibboney
Christina Selter
Kevin McDonald
Michael Paul Thomas
Trish Steele
Dienna Rogers
Carolyn Perrier
Teresa Smith

Don Barnes
Chad Bianco
Robert Luna
Darin Lenyi
Dan Adams
Jon Lewis
Tom DaRe
Michael Hamel
Andrew Meyer
Rich Ruiz
Cameron Knauerhaze
Ronald Lawrence
John Thomas
John Gillis
Al Labrada
Henry Hsu
Rick Martinez
Meagan McCarthy
Ronald Hernandez
Brian Moriguchi
Gisselle Espinoza
Denise French
Abby Baron
Sylvia Calandrino
Michael Carrillo
David Chewiewie
Ruben Nava
Suzy Betz
Mack Jenkins
Alex Villanueva

Kali Chaudhuri
Sumanta Chaudhuri-Saini
Chris Kelly
Jo-E Lopez
Kelly Lam
Jeff Corless
Eileen Frere
Kelli Reid
Katie Gilbertson
Rachel Watkins
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Noel Nassar
Sandra Morales
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Lew Stowers
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David Valentin
Steve Spernak
Denise Brown
Tanya Brown
Kim Goldman
Harriet Salarno

**COUNCIL &
HONORARY
ADVISORY
BOARD
THANK YOU**

VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU

Crime Survivors wouldn't exist without the countless volunteers who breathe life into our mission. Your selfless contributions, whether through your time, expertise, or resources, play an indispensable role in helping us provide hope and healing to victims and survivors of crime. As a community-driven organization, we recognize that every act of volunteerism, whether big or small, contributes to our collective effort to create a brighter, more compassionate world. It is your dedication as individuals, families, businesses, service clubs, and organizations that fuels our daily operations and enables us to extend our reach to those in need. Your unwavering support is a testament to the power of unity, and we are profoundly grateful for your role in our shared mission of nurturing hope and inspiring healing.





PROGRAMS AND TRAININGS



Monthly
Support
Groups

Law
Enforcement
Trainings

Service
Provider
Roundtables

Marsy's
Law
Trainings

Toy
Drives

Counseling/
Healing
Programs

HOPE AND HEALING EVENTS

Superhero Run/Walk
Health & Safety
Expo

Easter Egg
Celebration
Program

Thanksgiving
Basket
Distribution

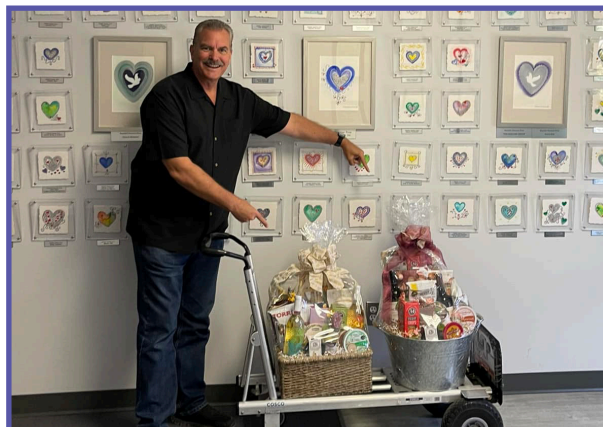
Annual
Hope
Gala

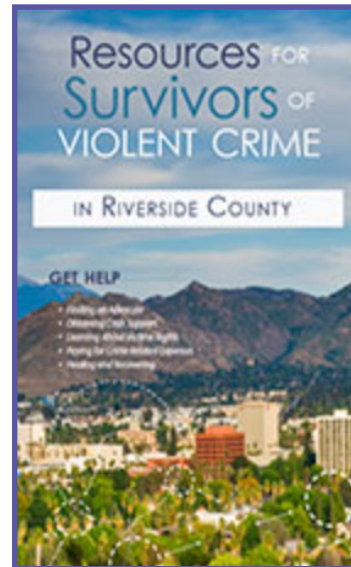
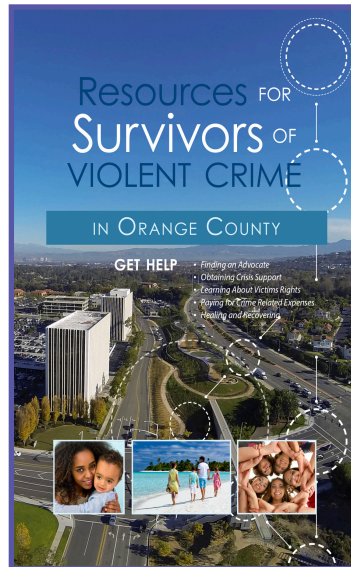
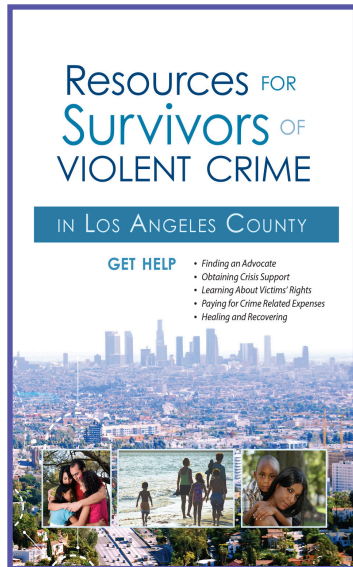
Halloween
Harvest
Pumpkin
Carving Trick
or Treat

Art for
Healing
Classes

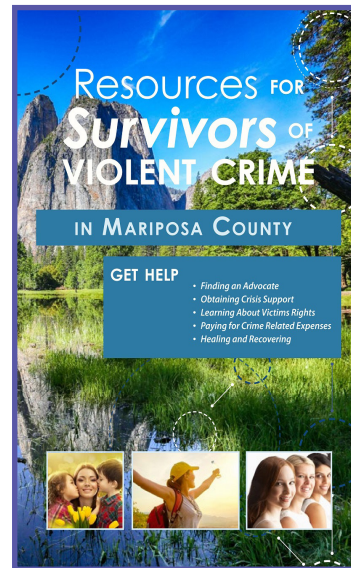
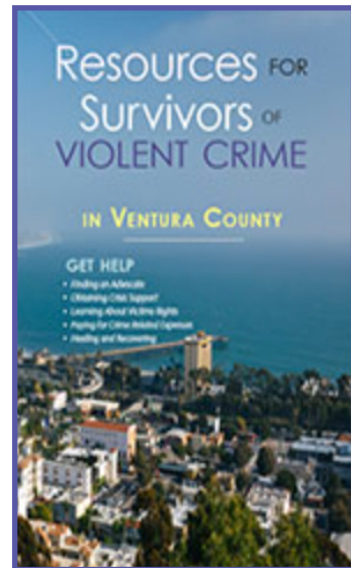
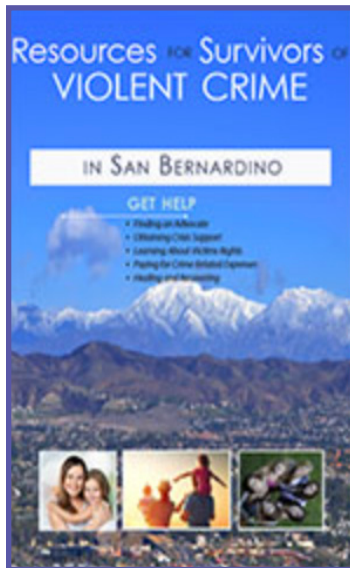
“My scars remind me that I did indeed survive my deepest wounds. That in itself is an accomplishment. And they bring to mind something else, too. They remind me that the damage life has inflicted on me has, in many places, left me stronger and more resilient. What hurt me in the past has actually made me better equipped to face the present.”

- Steve Goodier





RESOURCE GUIDES



SURVIVOR STORIES/ PHOTOS



I am not the darkness
that I endured,
I am the light that
refused to give up.

– Jennifer



Shared from Survivor:

"Thank you so much for everything you have done for us. 🥹💖 You're the reason the baby and I had a home for the holidays, and for that? I am forever grateful. 💖💖🎄🌍"

"I'm honored to be a part of this very special circle, Crime Survivors Circle. I am grateful for the love, the support, the passion for all of the education given in every violent situation in so many of our family member's lives. I have watched this family grow as each year has passed. My journey in this family began after my son Jesse's murder on October 26, 2006. Along with POMC, Patricia has been so supportive of many victims, being one herself. God bless all who give to those who are lost in grief. Love to all my Homicide families and victims of crimes."

– Nancy (Forever Jesse's mom)

"When I was a Deputy Sheriff, I was surrounded by a community, by support and brotherhood. After my failed execution and subsequent medical retirement for PTSD, I no longer had people that understood me or were there for me. Crime Survivors and the Survivors Circle brought that back. Being a part of something greater than myself and being able to find individuals with the same empathy and compassion for victims of crime, I believed in my purpose again. Connecting with survivors gives me a re-imagined fulfillment and meaning for my life."

– Meagan

"My daughter's innocence was taken by a pedophile and at the young age of six she was unable to sleep in her room. We were unable to relocate out of our home because of financial hardship, that is until Crime Survivors covered the cost for us to redo her room. Everything was removed and destroyed for a new start. Thank you for covering the costs for new paint, rugs, dresser, lamp, bed, bedding, and even the wall stickers. My daughter chose all the colors herself, and it has been a new beginning for her even though it does not remove the trauma. She finally feels a sense of safety, knowing the monster is not coming back to hurt her anymore, and she is finally able to sleep. The support we have received and continue to receive as a family can never be thanked or expressed, but we want to thank your organization for providing our family hope, healing, and assisting us with justice through the legal process and onward on this journey of survival. Thank you."

– Surviving Family

"This program means a lot to me because it has helped me get through my situation. It has also helped me through counseling, and they were there when I had to do my statement to the judge. It is still helping me, and I get to call and talk to someone if I need it. Thank you so much. Without this program, I would not know what I would have done."

– Krystal and Yolanda

Our mission at Crime Survivors is driven by the belief that together, we can provide hope and healing to victims and survivors of crime. As outlined in this report, our diverse range of programs addresses the multifaceted needs of survivors during their journey from crisis to recovery. To continue this critical work, we invite you to join us in three key ways:

1. MONETARY DONATIONS:

Your financial support enables us to sustain and expand our programs and services. Every contribution, regardless of size, directly impacts the lives of survivors by providing them with the resources, information, and empowerment they need to thrive.

2. MATERIAL GOODS:

Donations of essential supplies, educational materials, and resources are invaluable in supporting survivors' immediate needs. These contributions enhance our ability to provide tangible assistance to those affected by crime.

3. TIME VOLUNTEERED:

Your time and expertise can make a profound difference in the lives of survivors. Whether you can volunteer for a few hours or commit to ongoing support, your dedication as a volunteer helps us deliver critical services, organize events, and provide emotional support to those in need.

Your involvement in Crime Survivors is an investment in the well-being and resilience of individuals and families who have experienced the devastating impact of crime. Together, we can create a community of support, empowerment, and healing. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who choose to stand with us in making a positive difference in the lives of survivors.



HOW YOU CAN HELP



CRIME SURVIVORS
Resource Center
AWARENESS | PREVENTION | ADVOCACY | HEALING

*20 Years of
Compassion and
Empowerment*



Donate today at CrimeSurvivors.org | [@crimesurvivors](https://www.instagram.com/crimesurvivors)