



# Stewardship REPORT

SPRING 2018 DONOR UPDATE

## Gratitude for Our Supporters

**A**ny milestone anniversary warrants celebration. As we consider the last 40 years, we celebrate you and all our generous donors and partners.

We celebrate the vision of the founders who would not stand by while women and children lived in fear for their lives and had no path to leave safely. We celebrate four decades of responding to emerging needs while maintaining core services.

And this celebration cannot take place without recognizing the impact of the individuals, foundations, and businesses

who made these achievements possible. From its earliest moments, WEAVE has been defined by the generosity of a community that simply would not tolerate domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking.

Every day, we have depended on our loyal donors to help us meet the demand for confidential shelter, safety planning, legal assistance, counseling, and advocacy. We consider all of you sustainers and visionaries — for each of you does what you can, when you can.

**We thank you. We celebrate you!**



## The Survivor is the Expert

**T**he concerns that eventually led to the establishment of WEAVE originated from the experiences of three Latina women who navigated the challenging path out of their own abusive relationships. Each knew the barriers she had faced and what resources were lacking. Each became an advocate and helped others find their way to safety, knowing that the individual needs of every survivor would be different.

As these women joined with other community efforts emerging in response to increasing domestic violence in our community, the fundamental commitment to being survivor-centered never wavered. Recognizing that common barriers needed to be addressed helped define WEAVE's earliest services. Respecting individual differences continues to allow WEAVE to evolve and respond to unique needs, as they arise.

The constant over these past 40 years has been, and remains, that the survivor is the expert of their own situation, and our role is to partner with them in charting the best course of action.

# WEAVE Over the Years

Our ability to assess the changing needs of the community has defined WEAVE's legacy for the past 40 years. Every decision regarding program design and delivery centers on the unique and changing needs of survivors with an unwavering commitment to be survivor-centered and trauma-informed. Our award-winning programs each tell a story of evolution driven by the voices of survivors.

## Safe & Confidential Shelter

WEAVE's beginning — before incorporation documents were even filed — can be traced back to the need for safe shelter. Three Latina survivors who had escaped their own violent marriages offered their own homes as refuge. An informal network of other allies emerged until WEAVE's incorporation in 1978 and the opening of the county's **first domestic violence shelter**, with funding from the County of Sacramento.

Demand for safe shelter immediately outpaced capacity. The founding board

members partnered with our region's Soroptimist Clubs and other donors to build a shelter designed specifically for survivors of domestic violence, which opened in 1986. It was the first shelter built in California specifically for domestic violence survivors, and it was only the third one in the nation at that time.

By 2005, WEAVE was turning away two families for every family it could safely shelter. WEAVE leadership secured a \$1 million forgivable loan from the Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) and launched a \$3 million capital campaign. Thanks to the generosity of the Yocha De He Community Fund, Sutter Health, Western Health Advantage, Beth and Jim Carlsen, J.T.S. Communities, the Slobe Family, and others, the goal was reached despite the recession going on at that time.

In July 2009, the new **Safehouse** opened, capable of serving three times as many families. The new Safehouse was much more than a larger space. Its design was in response to what was learned about the needs of

351,105  
bednights of  
safe and  
confidential  
shelter to  
19,687 adults  
and children



survivors. The new Safehouse opted for a quasi-communal model that allowed families their own rooms, where they had privacy to heal and rebuild. The 18 family suites are spread over three wings, with shared kitchens and bathrooms. The model serves more families while maintaining a home-like atmosphere. The Safehouse also includes onsite access to all needed services — case management, legal, and counseling. The needs of children are also met onsite, through the BT Collins Children’s Center that houses a charter school, playcare, and children’s counseling.

WEAVE leveraged another \$1 million forgivable loan from EHAP to build four **transitional housing** cottages in 2013 — the first transitional housing solely for domestic violence survivors in our county. The cottages provide for autonomy while ensuring safe housing for families who need longer to secure economic stability and permanent housing.

For our most recent stage in providing housing for survivors, we partnered with HomeAid Sacramento and launched **Open House** in 2015 — a transformational model, built to respond to the unique barriers of some of the most vulnerable victims. Open House consists of seven apartments that provide flexibility for families who live too close to the existing Safehouse, for survivors with medical conditions not conducive to quasi-communal living, male and transgender survivors, and for those who can not safely leave their pets. Five of the units are for emergency housing with two units of transitional housing. Once again, a forgivable EHAP loan make the project possible. WEAVE remains the only agency in California to secure three of these



610,280 calls to  
the Support &  
Information Line

loans, which contributed to more than \$6 million of shelter infrastructure in our community. Today, safe shelter is made possible through an array of funders including Kaiser Permanente and Bank of America.

### Crisis Intervention & Mobile Advocacy

At our heart, we are a crisis intervention agency. Survivors turn to us at a critical time, when they know change is required to stay alive. Whether it be a phone call to our crisis hotline or meeting an advocate at the hospital, survivors get access to a person who believes in them and knows they have the knowledge and strength to move forward.

For 40 years, the **crisis line** has been a primary point of contact for hundreds of thousands of survivors and their family and friends. Through these calls, WEAVE Advocates have listened, validated, and

supported callers without judgement. It is through these calls that survivors hear that they are the experts of their situations, and we will support them in taking the path and making the decisions that are right for their family.

Through the crisis hotline, the path to safety and healing can begin. Advocates can determine which survivors need emergency shelter. They can talk about risk factors and help a survivor create a safety plan. They can link survivors to WEAVE's counseling and legal services. They can simply listen and affirm.

Many survivors first come in contact with WEAVE following a sexual assault. In 1988, WEAVE assumed responsibility as the county's *sole Rape Crisis Center*, and for 30 years, we have provided 24/7 response to sexual assault survivors. For many of these survivors, this is when they undergo an evidentiary examination and a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Advocate meets them at the clinic. The advocate is by their side throughout the exam and when

they talk with the doctor and later law enforcement. Equally important, an advocate remains available to support them through subsequent interviews and to link them to free counseling services and seeking victims' compensation.

Our advocates also respond in other ways. In 2016, WEAVE became the sole partner contracted by Child Protective Services to provide 24/7 response for **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children**. Our Anti-trafficking Response Team (ART) supports youth who have been sexually exploited and adult victims of sex trafficking identified by law enforcement and medical providers. The advocate can provide safety planning and link them to case management, counseling, and peer support opportunities. Our advocates are on hand to remind vulnerable survivors that there are other options, with the respect that the survivor will decide what is best for them and their family at the moment.

We work in partnership with law enforcement, medical providers, and community

9,455  
SART responses  
to survivors  
during the  
evidentiary  
examination



resources to look for ways that we can provide support to survivors as early as possible and in a space that is most accessible to them and their families.

Our 10-year partnership with the Elk Grove Police Department includes the **Domestic Violence Response Team** program that includes an embedded advocate who works with officers and detectives to support survivors. This program will soon expand to provide 24/7 response, and we are working with other law enforcement departments throughout our region to replicate this best practice.

We work with the Sacramento Native American Health Center, where an embedded advocate and counselor are available to meet with survivors who disclose violence to their medical provider. Our **Violence Prevention Navigator** responds to survivors identified by medical providers, including Sutter Health and Dignity Health. We have counselors available through eight Family Resource Centers throughout the county, to make accessing safety planning, counseling, and supportive services easy and safe.

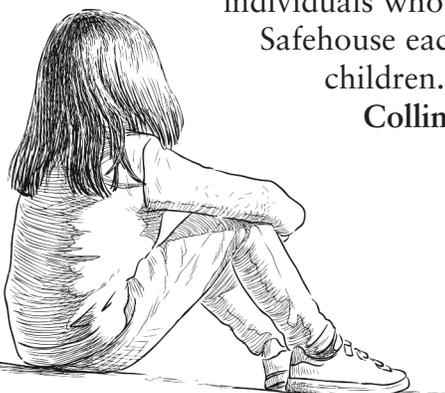
## Children's Services

WEAVE has always recognized that children exposed to domestic violence are deeply impacted. More than half of the 500 individuals who stay at the Safehouse each year are children. Since the **BT Collins Children's Center** first opened in



1992, it has been a safe place for children to just be kids. Today, the Center houses children's counseling, playcare, and an onsite charter school to respond to the unique needs of children who have experienced domestic violence. Through comprehensive children's services, families are supported in healing, and children learn that the violence they have witnessed is not their fault and how to express the conflicting emotions they are feeling. Parents learn how domestic violence impacts their children and how to support them moving forward. We know that kids need space to be kids. Blue Shield of California invested in this essential need in 2017, when they constructed a new playground adjacent to the shelter, where kids can jump, play, swing, and just be kids.

WEAVE also provides children's counseling at our K Street Counseling Center and through our partnerships with eight Family Resource Centers. Thanks to funders like the DPR Foundation, the Johanna Anderson Trueblood Foundation, and others, children have access to support and healing.



## School-Based Services

We have long known that building a community that does not tolerate sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking requires educating a generation about healthy relationships, boundaries, and consent. Today, WEAVE implements an immersion prevention education program with Will C. Wood Middle School and Hiram Johnson High School. We offer MyStrength and Club STRONG programs at other schools, where students engage in learning about healthy relationships and work to proactively improve the culture of their school campus. WEAVE educators also respond to other campuses to deliver workshops. This is possible thanks to funders like the Wells Fargo Foundation.

In partnership with Los Rios Community College District, WEAVE makes a **Confidential Advocate** available at each campus weekly. The Confidential Advocate offers students an opportunity to seek help from a resource

who can support them privately in responding to an assault or violent relationship, link them to resources, and provide advocacy.

## Legal Assistance

WEAVE's earliest legal assistance program was established in 1992, in response to the legal needs of survivors that can arise quickly after finding safe housing. Over the years, the program has taken various forms, but the goal of supporting survivors as they navigate the complexities of the legal system has never wavered.

The program stalled during the recession, leaving hundreds of victims without legal assistance. Thanks to the efforts of Carter West, Neil Forester, PG&E, Kaiser Permanente, and others, 2013 was a turning point when the **WEAVE Legal** model launched with an attorney-led program that could respond to the most vulnerable families. By leveraging in-kind services from volunteer attorneys who advise staff and lead free legal workshops,

Legal assistance  
and advocacy to  
**27,460**  
survivors



we are able to inform survivors seeking information on legal processes. Through the workshops, legal triage, and our legal lines, we meet survivors needing more intensive legal assistance. Attorneys focusing on family law and immigration provide a variety of consultation expertise and limited-scope legal representation, so the families facing the greatest risk need not navigate the legal system alone.

### Senate & Assembly Partnership

The start of our 40th year began with an unprecedented announcement. WEAVE was selected by the California State Senate and the California State Assembly to provide a **Confidential Advocate** to elected officials, staffers, and interns who experience sexual misconduct. The steps were taken in response to the call for action, as widespread sexual harassment and assault incidences became public. The WEAVE Confidential Advocate will offer a resource for support, assessing reporting options, and advocacy. WEAVE will also provide training for Senate and Assembly supervisors and leaders.

### Counseling

Peer **support services** have been a cornerstone of WEAVE's work since its earliest days. In 2009, WEAVE added **therapeutic counseling**, provided by supervised interns and licensed therapists, to complement our peer support services. Today, survivors have access to free individual therapeutic counseling and staff supports survivors in applying for Victims' Compensation to pay for additional counseling. Psychoeducational group



Counseling to  
**50,745**  
adults and children

counseling is also provided to survivors of domestic violence. This best practice approach delivers consistent information in an accessible way, where survivors gain support from others as they work towards healing.

### Community Awareness

WEAVE's history includes being an innovator in community awareness campaigns and resources. In order to move toward our goal of a community that does not tolerate sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking, our neighbors need to understand the issues involved and know what actions they can take.

In 1998, WEAVE leveraged a \$4 million multi-year grant from the California Endowment to implement the "Break the Silence on Domestic Violence" campaign across our six-county region. In the years  
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that followed, the agency created “Cut It Out,” one of the first education programs targeting salon professionals in the nation. In 2009, WEAVE partnered with the Sacramento Police Department and local advertising agency Runyon Saltzman, to create “Keep Your Wits,” a multi-media campaign addressing sexual assault and bystander intervention. The campaign continues to be used today. In 2016, WEAVE partnered with Child Protective Services and Uneath to create a social media and web based campaign targeting youth at risk for sexual exploitation,



including the [www.yourcleanslate.org](http://www.yourcleanslate.org) website. WEAVE continues to create outreach campaigns leveraging traditional and social media and working with partners to deliver timely messaging about sex traffic.



**WEAVE’s vision is a community free of violence and abuse.** That’s where we started 40 years ago, and it’s what continues to drive us today.

However, this vision requires the support of our whole community, and we are both humbled and grateful that you have taken up this charge along with us. We cannot do this critical work without your support, and with your partnership, we will continue to ensure that survivors get the services they need and the respect they deserve.



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Support & Information Line: 916.920.2952

OUR MISSION is to build a community that does not tolerate sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking and to provide survivors with the support they need to be safe and thrive.