

# RSFWF Grantee Impact Report

## 2021-2022 Grant Cycle



### Assistance League of Rancho San Dieguito -- \$15,000

#### *Operation School Bell*

**Program Description:** The primary objective of *Operation School Bell* (OSB) is to provide clothing and shoes to students from low-income families. A secondary aim of the program is to create a family-centric experience that provides a learning opportunity for managing and maximizing the purchasing potential of available shopping dollars.

**Results:** The RSF Women's Fund grant funds allowed many additional children to go shopping at Target, Encinitas for new school clothes.



The 2022-2023 program was funded through a combination of sources (including the RSFWF grant), *Assistance League Thrift Shop* revenues, and private donations. In total, \$87,577.07 was collected for this effort, (exceeding the proposed budget of \$86,000). In total, 875 children participated in this year's program, each receiving \$100 to spend. The number of children benefitting from this program is determined solely by the total available funding. Therefore, the \$15,000 received from the *RSF Women's Fund* clothed 150 children and increased their

confidence and sense of belonging in an academic environment.

**Future Plans:** To address increasing retail costs, the amount per child will be increased from \$100 to \$120. *Assistance League Rancho San Dieguito* will continue to prioritize their philanthropic dollars to support this program and will seek additional grant funding/financial contributions to support the same (or ideally greater) number of children in next year's shopping experience.

## Canine Companions -- \$50,000

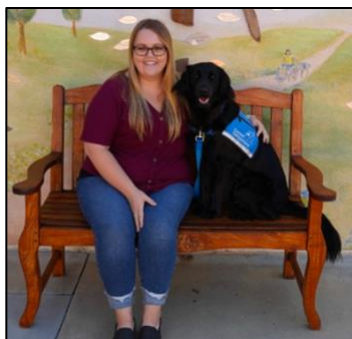
### *Team Training*

**Program Description:** *Canine Companions* pairs individuals who have physical and/or developmental disabilities, such as hearing loss, PTSD, autism spectrum disorder, muscular dystrophy, and cerebral palsy, with service dogs. These service dogs give the gift of independence and can improve the health and well-being of those living with disabilities, allowing them to become a more integral part of our communities.

*Canine Companions* requested \$50,000 in funds to support five(5) North County youth to attend their *Team Training*, where each child is paired with a service dog free of charge to the family. Once invited to *Team Training*, the clients reside on campus and meet six days a week to learn about canine behavior and care, dog handling skills, and the 40+ commands their future partners already know. Each class is led by *Canine Companions* professional instructors who match each student with the service dog that best meets their personality and needs. By the end, our clients will have experienced 100+ hours of classroom instruction, lectures, practice sessions, field trips, and 1 1/2 days of final evaluations.



**Results:** *Canine Companions* is currently working with three (3) youth clients in North County. During the application period five North County youths were on the waiting list to attend *Team Training* during the grant period. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, one of the families moved out of the area just before their training session. Since the funds were specifically granted to support North County youth, *Canine Companions* reached out to RSFWF to request a partial extension of \$10,000 on their grant. After discussing the situation with the Past Grant Chairs, this extension was granted until May 2024. During the initial grant period, they also placed four companions with other non-North County San Diego youth.



Finally, in addition to the individual placements, *Canine Companions* provides facility dogs to those working in educational, medical, and criminal justice settings. These dogs undergo the same rigorous process as our service dogs and play an essential role in engaging clients, helping them feel safe, and fostering a welcoming environment. They currently have seven dogs serving in this capacity, and one of them, Sushi, was placed with Bethany, a school counselor at Vista Innovation & Design Academy during the initial grant period.

In a recent survey conducted by *Canine Companions* clients who obtained a service dog for their child, 95% reported improved emotional well-being, 91% saw an increase in personal interactions, 90% reported increased self-confidence, and 84% of families reported an improved family dynamic. These improvements create happier, healthier families that can participate more fully in their communities.

## Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego -- \$50,000

### *Rachel's Women's Center (RWC)*

**Program Description:** *Rachel's Women's Center* is a critical shelter for homeless women in San Diego to receive respite and trauma-informed care and services. It serves approximately 100-120 women daily and is a peer-support social model environment in which one woman models behavior and provides positive support for another. They are open from 7 am to 5 pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year. *RWC's* core services consist of two daily meals, laundry, restroom and shower facilities, a mailing address, telephone, and a boutique offering clothing, shoes, and other essential items, as well as case management and referrals to other social services programs as needed. The \$50,000 grant request was to sustain *RWC* by funding supplies, food, hygiene products, and staff.

**Results:** Given the nature of the program, *Rachel's Women's Center* faced two significant challenges during the grant year, namely, preventing the contact and spread of Covid-19 amongst this population and combating the rising costs of supplies and utilities due to inflation. Despite these challenges, they were still able to achieve their goal by providing 79,373 services to 1,219 unique women for the year.



Additionally, they were able to offer case management services and referrals for wrap-around services to its participants through several other social service and mental health programs that fall under the *Catholic Diocese of San Diego* umbrella.

Because of the success of *RWC*, *Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego* opened *Rachel's Promise*, a 24/7 40-bed shelter, last July. This facility provides wrap-around support services to unsheltered women living with a serious medical condition or not accepted into confidential domestic violence locations.

**Future Plans:** Recently, *RWC* received funding to provide veterinary services and pet supplies to unsheltered women with pets. This funding also helps the women obtain the proper documentation for service/emotional support animals.

In the future, *Rachel's Women's Center's* Philanthropy Team plans will continue searching for funding opportunities like this to support and expand the services they can offer unhoused women.

## Community Resource Center (CRC) -- \$50,000

### *CRC Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Units Interior Remodeling*

**Program Description:** Originally formed to address homelessness and hunger in the community, *Community Resource Center* now offers extensive programs that facilitate the safety, stability, and self-sufficiency of low-income and episodically homeless households, including domestic violence victims. The \$50,000 grant from the *RSF Women's Fund* was awarded in May of 2022 to remodel and modernize the interiors of their *Domestic Violence (DV) Transitional Housing* units, with kitchen cabinets, appliances, bedroom furniture, living room sets, bathroom fixtures, and other household furnishings.



**Results:** This project has had a profound impact on the domestic violence survivors served by *CRC's Transitional Housing* program by providing them with safe transitional housing while they are enrolled in *CRC's* supportive services, counseling, childcare, transportation, life skills, and education and/or job training. These services are available for up to 24 months to facilitate recovery and create stability. The remodeled transitional housing units now serve up to 12 survivors and their families annually.



Initially, *CRC* had planned to remodel all four housing units through this project. However, construction infrastructure expenses, electrical, plumbing, and hazardous materials abatement (asbestos, lead paint) for these units were more than expected, causing *CRC* to divide the remodeling project into two phases. To date, they have completed the remodel work on two units. They are currently in the process of raising funds to complete the two remaining units.

Of the \$50,000 granted by the *RSFWF*, 100% of the proceeds went directly to the renovation costs.

**Future Plans:** *CRC* estimates that the interior remodeling will be serviceable for 10 to 15 years, with maintenance and interior repainting as needed. Furniture may need to be replaced in five years dependent on use. As previously mentioned, fundraising efforts are currently underway to raise the additional monies needed to remodel the remaining two units.

## Foundation for Women Warriors -- \$50,000

### *Women Veteran Transition and Emergency Services*

**Program Description:** The *Women Veteran Transition and Emergency Services* program provides women veterans with short-term, critical financial assistance and fiscal wellness education. In addition, it connects them to necessary community services and resources allowing them to



navigate life's obstacles and make successful life transitions. Approximately 83% of their clients fall within low to very low income by HUD standards, and 70% are single mothers, often without immediate family nearby.

**Results:** FWW's proposed goal was to serve 1,124 unduplicated women veterans and children for the fiscal year, with over 50% residing in San Diego County. They estimated that the cost per client would be \$581.20. The number of actual people served exceeded this goal by almost 30%, as they were able to help 1,444 women and children during their fiscal year despite

the ever-rising cost per client. Because of these rising costs, they have provided 185% more in financial aid, childcare assistance, and warehouse distribution compared to the previous year.

Snapshots of their impact reveal that 75 women and children received emergency financial assistance and fiscal wellness education; 235 women were connected to partner agencies that provided employment/job skills training, mental health counseling, legal services, and food



resources; 395 women and children received critical household goods to reduce monthly costs and ensure that their basic needs are met; and 74 women participated in *Women Veterans Lead*, a program providing education on financial, professional and leadership development and/or mentorship. 100% of their clients reported improved stability and overall well-being.

FWW collaborated with numerous organizations such as *Partnership with Prudential* (providing online financial wellness education), *Accenture's Skills to Succeed* (providing online personal, professional, and leadership development), *VA Hospital's Maternity Clinic* (providing critical new mom and baby supplies) and *United Through Reading* (mobile reading stations), to name a few.

**Future Plans:** *Foundation for Women Warriors* believe their service model and subsequent success in preventing women veteran homelessness is scalable throughout the country. However, their immediate plan is to invest in their capacity and program growth locally before expanding nationwide. This entails the thoughtful and purposeful hiring of additional Program and Development staff as well as securing funding from a variety of sources.

## GenerateHope -- \$50,000

### *GenerateHope Recovery and Transition Programs*

**Program Description:** GenerateHope provides a long-term, comprehensive housing and recovery program for young women ages 18 and above who have been sexually trafficked so that they can recover from the complex trauma, develop new social, educational, and vocational strengths, then reintegrate into society and walk powerfully into their future.

In addition to the program services offered, *GenerateHope* collaborates with multiple community partners for the crucial services that cannot be provided onsite, such as medical, hospital, psychiatric, chiropractic and dental care, acupuncture, legal assistance, church involvement, crisis house placements, and referrals to other programs.



**Results:** *GenerateHope* was able to meet its goals during the 2022-23 period. During the term of this grant, they served 23 unique survivors in its two long-term residential programs in San Diego. Survivors celebrated the following accomplishments: Graduation from a local university with a bachelor's degree; successfully completion of the *Recovery and Transition* programs; significant decreases in mental health symptoms (as measured by numerous mental health metrics); and commencing community college/vocational training programs. Of the residents who completed the *Recovery* program and moved into the *Transition* program, the average length of stay was approximately 15 months.



Funds awarded by *RSF Women's Fund* allowed *GenerateHope's* staff to provide daily program activities, which include group and individual therapy, individualized trauma-informed case management, education and vocational skills training, life skill development, financial literacy classes, and adjunct therapies.

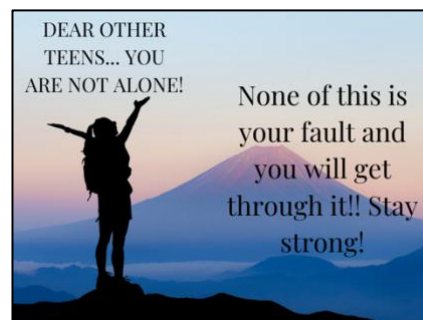
**Future Plans:** *GenerateHope's* future goals include securing permanent affordable housing for graduates of the *Recovery and Transition* programs, opening an emergency shelter program for survivors, and embarking on social enterprise endeavors to both support the existing programs' funding and equip residents with vocational skills. *GenerateHope* has established a three-year funding plan to ensure sustainability and growth in relation to strategic initiatives. The plan includes securing multiple-year commitments from donors, grant makers, and organizations.

## Kids' Turn San Diego -- \$45,900

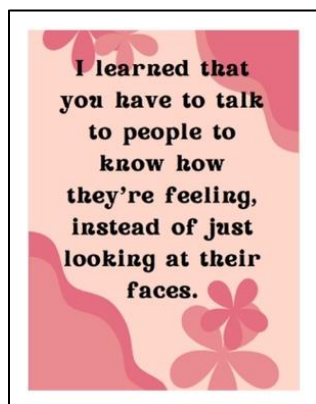
### *Creating Brighter Futures for Children Project*

**Program Description:** *Kids' Turn San Diego* strives to empower children and teens to articulate their thoughts and feelings about their family situations, teach them coping skills and educate them that their parents' behavior is not their fault or responsibility. In addition, they work with the families to help strengthen and rebuild parent-child relationships that have been damaged through exposure to domestic violence and high parental conflict.

Their *Creating Brighter Futures for Children Project* consists of their *Family Workshop for Separated and Divorced Families* and their *Counseling for Children Program*.



**Results:** Throughout the year, *Kids' Turn San Diego* offered 12 *Family Workshops* serving 237 children and 375 parents, for a total of 612 participants and 381 families. In addition, 19 children actively participated in counseling services. This surpassed the original projected population to be served for this year which was 590 children and parents.



The overall response to these programs was excellent, with 91% of the parents indicating positive interactions with their children during the program and 97% reporting that they learned new information/skills. Furthermore, 98% of the children who attended all four sessions of the *Family Workshop* stated that they learned new ways to express their feelings, that they recognized that their parents' behaviors are not their fault, and that other children also live in separated families – they are not alone.

Throughout the project, *Kids' Turn* collaborates with the *San Diego Superior Court Family Judges*. These judges support the *Family Workshop* program by directly answering questions posed by children ages 6-11, attending teen group meetings once a month as well as attending the graduation event.

**Future Plans:** Given its excellent reputation within the community, *Kids' Turn San Diego* receives many community referrals. They will continue to seek grant support and donations to ensure they have the available resources to provide tuition scholarships so that money is never a barrier to participation. They are thrilled to report that they were recently awarded a grant to create a *First Responders Family Support Program*.

## North Coast Repertory Theatre -- \$15,000

### *Theater School Scholarships*

**Program Description:** *The Theater School at North Coast Repertory Theatre* offers classes, productions, and summer camps to approximately 2,000 North County students, ages 4-19, annually. 100% of the requested \$15,000 went towards their *Theatre School Scholarship* program, which waives the cost of class/camp tuition and production fees for students coming from marginalized backgrounds. The scholarships provide access to arts education that is not provided due to budgetary restraints in public schools or financial barriers at home. The initial goal for the project was to serve at least 25 students with the program, assuming an average scholarship cost of \$200.



**Results:** This past year, mainly due to the grant received from the *RSF Women's Fund*, NCRT was able to grow their scholarship program to the largest it has ever been. They awarded \$30,737.75 in scholarships to 131 deserving students. Recipients were able to take advantage of any of the classes, camps, and productions that *North Coast Theatre School* offered. As an offshoot of their scholarship program, they also offer heavily discounted tickets to both *Theatre School* and *Mainstage*

productions. This past year, they provided \$18,351.75 in discounted tickets to 693 students across both *Mainstage* and *Theatre School* productions.

NCRT partners with several local organizations to increase the reach of their scholarship program, including *Casa de Amistad*, *Bilingual Specialists at Solana Beach Public School District*, and *TERI*, to name a few.

Based on feedback from the community liaison at the *Solana Beach School District*, the theater classes and camps at *The North Coast Repertory Theatre* have positively impacted the academic performance and the social skills of those students who have benefitted from a scholarship. Academically, parents have noticed improvements in English language skills and increased memorization, focus, and confidence. Socially, the students are more outgoing and confident when interacting with people after their participation in the camps.





## Promises2Kids -- \$50,000

### *Ensure Every Foster Child Has Access to Education and a Career Path*

**Program Description:** Through their *Guardian Scholars* program, *Promises2Kids* provides individualized and group support designed to help current and former foster youth graduate from high school and focus on post-secondary school life. They are counseled and supported in their choice of vocational training/related careers, community college, or four-year university degrees. Recently, they have been attempting to intervene at an earlier age, by connecting the youth with career-focused training and apprenticeships and increasing the number of peer and adult mentors who are trained and ready to support their transition from care to independence. *Promises2Kids* estimated that 30 students would be directly impacted by a \$50,000 *RSF Women's Fund* grant.

**Results:** For the academic year that ended in June 2023, *Guardian Scholars* served 267 post-secondary youth. Of these young adults, 29 graduated from a four-year university, 4 completed a vocational/certificate program, and 208 are continuing their educational pursuits – for a success rate of 86%.

Additionally, they served 74 high school youth, including 17 students residing at *San Pasqual Academy*. Of the total number, 25 graduated, and of these, 23 will continue as *Guardian Scholars*, pursuing their post-secondary education. The other 42 will continue to work with *Promises2Kids*, which will support their academic plan to finish high school and engage in an education and career path. The remaining 7 students have moved and are no longer eligible for services.

During the 2022-23 grant year, *P2K* hired their first Manager for the *Youth2Youth Advocates* program, which provides peer mentoring to youth still in the foster care system. This program currently employs 12 former foster youth, many of whom are also *Guardian Scholars*, thereby providing these young adults with a source of income, professional and personal development, and work experience while they are pursuing their post-secondary goals. Simultaneously, it ensures that the youth still in care have mentors who have successfully transitioned to independence.

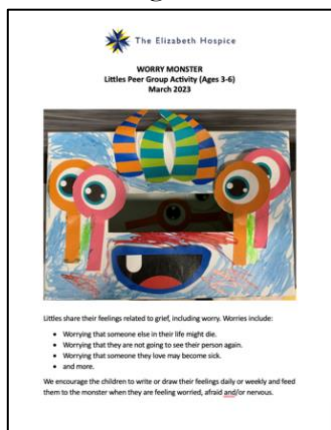
**Future Plans:** Due to a major shortage in behavioral mental health professionals, the most significant obstacle continues to be providing sufficient access to resources for these youth. To help address this, *Promises2Kids* is going to hire at least one clinical therapist who will work with the newly created *Mentoring Department*. This new department will bring added skill and attention to the identification and recruitment of volunteer mentors and will provide the critical component of ongoing training and support to empower them as they work with youth. The hope is that this, combined with the *Youth2Youth Advocates* program mentioned above will provide the youth with multiple opportunities for guidance and mentorship.

To read about the impact of this program from two recent graduates, [click here](#).

## The Elizabeth Hospice -- \$25,000

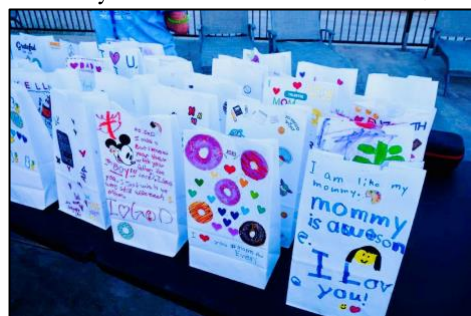
### *Children's Bereavement Program*

**Program Description:** The *Children's Bereavement Program* provides grief support to vulnerable children ages 3-17 in San Diego County and Southwest Riverside County. It is the region's only resource offering a comprehensive program specializing in children's grief. They offer children a welcoming and safe space to receive grief support, learn healthy ways to cope, express themselves and honor their loved ones while connecting with others who have experienced similar emotions. Services include on-campus student grief support groups and bereavement training for school professionals, peer-based support groups, and *Camp Spero*, a children's weekend grief camp offered in the summer. Services are provided free of charge to ensure access and to remove the financial barrier that often exists when seeking this type of support.



**Results:** This was the first year since the Covid-19 pandemic that all their children's services were provided in person. Despite some unforeseen personnel departures, *The Elizabeth Hospice* was able to adjust its program schedule with only a slight decrease in the number of people served. *Camp Spero* supported 96 campers in July 2022 at two weekend grief camps.

The Elizabeth Hospice has *Memorandums of Understanding* (MOU) with 19 school districts throughout San Diego County. Due to these MOUs, the *Elizabeth Hospice* also



facilitated 19 on-campus groups through their

*School-Based Grief Support Services*, helping 181 students. In addition, while hosting two half-day *Child Bereavement Training Workshops*, they worked with and trained 118 teachers and other professionals. In addition, 81 students and 67 parents/guardians were helped through their *Peer-Based Support Groups*, which are

held at their *Bereavement Centers* in Escondido and Mission Valley. Of the \$25,000 granted by the RSFWF, approximately \$10,000 was used for staff salaries, another \$10,000 went towards *Camp Spero* costs, and the remainder was used for general operating expenses.

**Future Plans:** They plan to bring on two Medical Social Worker interns for the 2023-24 academic year to co-facilitate peer groups and school groups in North San Diego. This will become an annual position as will the recruitment of undergraduate interns to assist with community outreach at both *Bereavement Sites*.

