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SAFE Family Justice Centers



Annual Report 2024



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66 Helping those less fortunate in our community is vital because it strengthens the bonds that hold us together and ensures that everyone can have the opportunity to thrive. By investing in those around us, we create a cycle of support and empowerment that lifts everyone."

- Jan Duran SAFE FJC Board Vice President

Our Board of Directors



Advisory Board

Myra Allen Char DeHesa linda Hicks

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Debbi Johnson Tom Johnson Bruce Nimmo David La Pointe Karen La Pointe Annette LaRocque

Barbara Murillo Jody Nottingham Phyllis Reed-Davidson

Emeritus Board

Carol Niles Jim Dominoe

Honorary Board





A Message from our Board President

Friends and supporters of our SAFE Family Justice Centers,

On behalf of our Board of Directors and our Advisory Board I want to welcome and thank each and every one of you for attending today. Our Annual Meeting serves as an opportunity for us to share with you, our supporters, on what our dedicated staff does on a daily basis to serve those who are negatively impacted by family violence in our communities across Riverside County.

Much of what our SAFE Family Justice Centers do would not be possible without the valued support of our many community partner organizations, and you! For many of you who have contributed your time or talents through your volunteer service to our organization, or for those who have made generous financial contribution(s) to our organization over the years by attending several of our fundraisers, such as our VIP Wine Event; Denim & Diamonds; Purses for a Purpose; or Annual Golf Tournament; our Annual Meeting is an opportunity for us to extend a Thank You for your generous support and highlight where your donation is actively used to assist those in need of victim and family services throughout Riverside County.

Our organization was founded over 25 years ago as a grassroots effort in Temecula and Murrieta by several community-minded people who truly cared about the families and children who were negatively impacted by domestic violence. In these situations, law enforcement is limited to investigate the immediate crime and arrest, but is not equipped to deal with the long-term emotional and financial impacts to the victims, including navigating the complex criminal justice and civil court systems. That is where we step in.

Our founders all believed there was something more that could, and should, be done to empower victims to live freely and independently from their domestic violence abusers and "break the cycle". Therefore, in December 1998, Safe Alternatives for Everyone (SAFE) was incorporated as a local non-profit organization to exclusively serve and provide wrap-around services to domestic violence victims and work directly with local government and other non-profit organizations to better serve and equip crime victims.

Today, we will publicly recognize several of the key individuals who helped shape this organization into what it is today. Our physical centers in Riverside and Indio are sponsored by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office and the Temecula Center is sponsored by the City of Temecula. These partners have enabled the SAFE Family Justice Centers to have the county reach we have today and to serve victims of abuse and violence across this vast county.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you for your valued and continued support

Denno Va

Lennis Vrooman Board President SAFE Family Justice Centers Riverside County Undersheriff (Retired)



Our Mission

First Cakes with Cops unand

The SAFE Family Justice Centers' mission is to provide comprehensive services that help protect families, seek justice, and Center to offer aid, promote SAFE futures for children, youth, and families who have been affected by violence.

Palice Activity League (PAL)

Partners with S.A.F.E.

PAL offering program

for Temecula-area vouths

tund-raiser helps local families

s for Everyone and ta Police Department are

ol and with m nes after schos nile crime being committed during nes, S.A.F.E. and TPD thought ould provide activities for widing drug.

MMUNITY CONNECTION

Battered spouses woman's beneficiaries

SAFE FJC Satellite Locations

is at Alli's Re

ON CALL FOR ABUSE VICTIM

ep families S.A

make the best P.A.

Pet Overpopulation (MIGH-QUALIT)

ATION CLINIC

RCLINK

VITTES

41 5:00

S.A.F.E.Y 951.587.3900

AFE FJC Centers

3

ching up some love, com

ils

First PAL event deemed a success

SATURBAY DECEMBER 2. TERAJA POLO GREENES, MURDIETA CA

> expands to Murrieta Our three strategic locations in Riverside County provide several programs to protect our families, provide justice and seek safety for our children. I'm impressed with the number of survivors we serve and the many services we provide to keep our community a safer place.

> > - Brian Maher SAFE FJC Board Member

Police Activities League

Our Vision

Our vision is of parents, schools, businesses, government, and community-based agencies working together to make a difference in the lives of adults, children, youth, and their families by reducing the impact of trauma in our community and helping our next generation grow up feeling SAFE.

Being the first employee and Executive Director for Safe Alternatives for Everyone was and is one of the professional and personal joys of my life. Building SAFE into the amazing service provider that it is today took a giving community, dedicated volunteers, board members, donors and vision. Together we have changed and saved lives over the past 25 years. I am immensely proud to be part of the fabric of Safe Alternatives for Everyone now the SAFE Family Justice Centers. Congrats on a huge agency milestone!

> - Melissa Donaldson Division of Victim Services Director

Our History

S.A.F.E. partners with Temecula Police Department's Sgt, Bill de Luna to establish the Temecula-Murrieta Police Activities League (PAL).

2005

2005

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Friends of the Riverside County Family Justice Center Foundation is established to support the development of the Family Justice Center Framework in Riverside County.

2001

Melissa Donaldson is hired as S.A.F.E.'s first employee and Executive Director.

S.A.F.E. transitions from funding service providers to bridging the gaps between them and providing their own services.

The Riverside Family Justice Center is opened.

Members of the Temecula Valley Woman's Club, Carol Niles and Nancy Acevedo form Safe Alternatives for Everyone (S.A.F.E.) with it's first Board of Directors: Denny Mighell, Victor Jones, Maryann Edwards, Martha Minkler, Lori Stone,

Wanda Sacher, and Jackie Foster.



The Murrieta Family Justice Center is opened.



The City of Temecula builds S.A.F.E their own facility to house their staff and provide victim services.

2013



June Earley is appointed S.A.F.E.'s Executive Director.

2018

2009

The Indio Family Justice Center is opened. CONSTRUCTION

With the help of Nimmo Construction, the Temecula Family Justice Center undergoes a remodel to better serve an increased number of clients. *The Murrieta FJC is closed.*

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202

SAFE Family Justice Centers celebrates its 2023 25th Anniversary!

Katie Gilbertson is appointed as S.A.F.E.'s Executive Director.

2019

Safe Alternatives and the Riverside County Family Justice Centers merge into SAFE Family Justice Centers.

> Adriana Moreno is hired as SAFE FJC's CEO.

2023

Marshall Hamilton is appointed Interim Executive Director.

I really appreciate all the work and care you put into my case. I pray that you will be blessed for all the ways you help serve victims.

Michael A. Hestrin Award

The Michael A. Hestrin Legacy Award is presented to those who have made a substantial mark on our history and development of the organization, championed our work with influence, and committed to the values of the Family Justice Center framework. This award recognizes an individual or partner organization who has committed both professionally and personally to serving victims of violence in Riverside County and contributed to advancing the mission of SAFE FJC.



Honorees

2019 - Mike Hestrin 2019 - Supervisor Chuck Washington 2019 - Detective Christian Vaughan 2020 - Dennis Vrooman 2021 - Gerald Fineman 2021 - Gerry Lopez 2023 - Samantha Siaw 2024 - Melissa Donaldson

Dan Atwood Award

The Dan Atwood Legacy Award is presented to those who go above and beyond in dedicating their time, talents and resources to support those in our community experiencing violence. This is a volunteer recognition award to honor an individual, couple, or family who has had a long standing relationship with SAFE FJC and has made a substantial impact on the work we do and the services we provide clients.

Honorees

- 2021 The Atwood Family
- 2021 Gary Youmans
- 2022 David and Karen LaPointe
- 2023 Jim and Becky Ness
- 2024 Maureen Ritchart



Congratulations SAFE on your 25 year anniversary!! "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give" (Winston Churchill). Dan was such a believer in paying it forward and loved to inspire others to do the same. Thank you for creating an award in his name that's given to people who share his passion for giving.

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Growth

SAFE Family Justice Centers began as a humble initiative with just two dedicated staff members working out of their home. Their passion and determination laid the foundation for what has now grown into a significant force for change in the community.

Riverside



Staff: 9 On Site Partners:

Division of Victim Services, Adult Protective Services, Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center, Domestic Violence Abuse Protection, & Riverside Police Department

Building Sponsor:

Riverside County District Attorney's Office

Temecula



Staff: 10 On Site Partners:

REACH, Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Services, & Domestic Violence Abuse Protection **Building Sponsor:**

City of Temecula



Indio

Staff: 7 On Site Partners: Division of Victim Services & Partners Against Violence Building Sponsor:

Riverside County District Attorney's Office

Community Impact

October 2023-September 2024

3,497 Total Clients Served

643 Clients Under 18

40,125 Services Provided



1,187 Restraining Orders Filed



7,315 Phone Call Follow Ups

Cy





3,058 In Person Follow Ups



3,700 Referrals to Partner Agencies

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3,321 Hours of Mentoring





The **Danger Assessment** is an instrument used to evaluate risk factors associated with intimate partner homicide. Some of the risk factors include past death threats, partner's employment status, and partner's access to a firearm.







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\$23k Hotel Stays

\$42,000 Provided in Emergency

Stability Assistance

Walked in for a question, walked out with peace of mind.

7k

Transportation/

Gas

Holiday Giving



Thank you so much! And

thank you for giving me clothes

- SAFE FJC Client

so I can be warm and have a

bed to sleep on. Bless you."

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334

Individuals provided with Thanksgiving food baskets.







Individuals provided with toys and other basic needs for Christmas.





On May 9, 1993, Allison Jacobs and Sheriff's Deputy Kent Hintergardt tragically lost their lives, and SAFE Family Justice Centers continues to honor their memory through its mission to support domestic violence survivors. Domestic violence remains one of the leading causes of homelessness for women, and victims often face the risk of returning to unsafe environments without access to secure housing. Thanks to a generous donor, Alli's House provides a safe, temporary refuge, ensuring survivors have the stability they need to rebuild their lives and avoid the dangers of homelessness. This vital resource reduces the risk of recurring violence and the need for repeated law enforcement intervention.

"The pain caused by the death of my beautiful daughter Allison never, ever leaves me or my family. Had S.A.F.E. been a reality at that time - Allison might still be here today! I am so proud of the important services and opportunities that 'Alli's House' provides to help save lives."

- Diane Bainbridge Alli Jacobs' Mother



Breaking the Cycle of Abuse

I grew up watching my mom being abused by different men, the cops coming to our house was normal and frequent, I was taught to stay quiet if the cops or CPS came, they were the enemy. Loud parties through the week and weekends with drugs, alcohol and my moms friends from her gang partied at our house, I grew up thinking that was normal. I didn't know it at the time, but I was stressed out as a child and always on high alert, waiting for something bad to happen. I had trauma, I was an angry kid fighting all the time and hanging out in the streets with the wrong crowd. I got pregnant and had a child at 14, decided I didn't want her to grow up the way I did because I didn't want that to be her lifestyle. When my daughter was two we moved to Riverside county to my grandma's ranch where it was quiet and peaceful, I finished high school and started working, not until after I was in a domestic violence situation three years ago and my abuser was sentenced to prison would I break free and start to heal with the help of therapy, and the SAFE FJC's support.

The Safe Family Justice Centers has not left my family's side since meeting them. They have made sure my children are involved in trips, classes, groups, events, made sure we've had Thanksgiving and Christmas, and have supported us in so many different ways. SFJC have involved me in Women's Aftercare which has helped me see that I wasn't alone and provided a safe space to share with other women that have been through the same situation as I have. The Domestic Violence Education course, which helped me understand that there are many different types of domestic violence, not only physical abuse. SFJC made it possible for me to attend the 40 Hour Domestic Violence Counselor Training, at no cost to me. I am now on a mission to help, and empower others that have been victims of abuse.

My two teenagers attended the Intimate Partner Violence for teens 6 week group and that has empowered them to advocate for themselves and others and are mentors to their peers at school and in our community, they're not afraid to speak up. My children look up to the police and their mentors in the PAL program. I was once scared of the police as a child and young adult, as for my kids they call the police their mentors and friends. Early intervention, and education are crucial to preventing future abuse.

I believe if we provide education, resources, and early intervention for victims it will prevent future abuse, and more people will speak up. It took me so many years to speak up about my child abuse, not until after my DV situation, and I started healing, was I able to speak my truth because I had the support of the SFJC I trusted them which took a lot, and didn't happen over night, especially with my children. Now I can make a difference in victims' lives like the SFJC is continuously doing in mine, and my children's lives.

> -Monique SAFE FJC Client

I am extremely thankful for this program. They helped me escape an abusive relationship with my 4 year old and 1 year old at the time. They helped us with clothing and toiletries and a hotel until I was able to house us again. • 9 9

- SAFE FJC Client

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Adult Programs

Domestic Violence Education

Provides individuals who have experienced domestic violence with the education and tools to understand the cycle of violence, how to safety plan, the barriers to leaving an abusive relationship, the characteristics of healthy relationships, and how to navigate the civil/criminal justice system and community resources.

78 attendees from October 2023-September 2024

Women's Aftercare

A support group for women who have experienced trauma to share and explore their experiences with peers, build self-care skills, and encourage one another to live authentically in mind, body, heart, and spirit.

16 attendees from October 2023-September 2024

Parent Project

Teaches parents how to effectively handle family conflict and resolution, childhood trauma, teen violence and bullying, teen drug use, media influences, poor school performance, and truancy.

19 attendees from October 2023-September 2024

 La verdad me ayudaron ya que yo estaba con mucho miedo de tomar los pasos y con ella me sentía bien por que me explicaba las cosas bien eh hizo que tomara decisiones que fueron para mejor y a raíz de ahí estoy mucho mejor.

- SAFE FJC Client

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40 Hour DV Counselor Training

Participants are trained on the history, overview, and dynamics of domestic violence, direct client services, the role of an advocate, safety planning, trauma informed care, confidentiality, and mandated reporting. Graduates will become certified Domestic Violence Counselors. California Evidence Code 1037.1

33 attendees from October 2023-September 2024

Survivor Story

"The sun always rises, and the sun always sets. It's up to us what we do in the hours in between. One of my favorite things to do is watch the sun rise and set. The sun rising gives me hope for a new day with new opportunities. At sunset, I like to take a moment and relish all that I have accomplished. I spent 12.5 years of my life not knowing who I was, besides making my (now ex) husband happy. However, nothing I did would ever be good enough. I lost my sense of self trying to please him when I was never the cause of his unhappiness. The more I tried to discover myself as a mother, friend, daughter, professional, and individual, the more aggressive he became. It was as if my light created his darkness. I got to the point where I was surrounded by a heavy blanket of darkness that I could not see or feel. I was lost. I was never allowed to know about our finances. I was always to obey. If I questioned or spoke, he would physically close my mouth for me. Deeper into darkness. I have memories that wake me up sometimes with the fear that it is still happening. I wasn't allowed to talk to or have friends- especially ones he didn't approve of (meaning he selected for me). I had trackers on my phone and computer, cameras in the homes, and I was deep in the dark and alone, but never alone- because he was always there. But for every day and for every night, there is a beautiful sunrise on the horizon. My moment of light was when the judge granted the divorce and sole custody of the kids to me. It was over. The sun was brighter than ever that day I walked out of the courthouse for the last time. And now, I enjoy every sunrise and sunset because it is an adventure to anticipate and a moment to reflect on the wonderful moments of the day. The sun always rises, and the sun always sets regardless. Make the most of your day!"

Female Client, Age: 41

Survivor Story

I know what it feels like to be punched, slapped, pushed. I know what it feels like to be run over by a car. I know what it feels like to have a knife to your throat and to be poked and sliced. I know what it feels like to be told, "your brains will be blown up and splatter" while they have a gun to your head. I know what it feels like to have full cups crushed in your face. I know what it feels like to be told your dumb, fat, ugly, stupid, crazy and much more I cannot even explain. I know what it feels like to lock myself in a room for hours and days because of fear. I know what it feels like to be lied to. I know what it feels like to be lonely. I know what it feels like to be the person rumors and lies are made about, but you just don't say anything even though they are not true. I know what it feels like to be black and blue under my clothes. I know what it feels like to have a broken nose and black eyes. I know what it feels like when you have mean games played on you that make you feel crazy when you know you are not. I know what it feels like to feel hopeless. I know what it feels like to be full of sadness. I know what it feels like to want to explain why you look crazy, but you are just dealing with a lot, so you can't. I know what it feels like to have hopes and dreams come true that you never thought possible, but the impossible is possible not easy, but there is hope when you feel there is no hope! If you are reading this there is more to your life than you could ever imagine. You are worthy!

Female Client, Age: 45

I am honored to serve on the Board of Directors for SAFE FJC. I believe we provide such important services to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking that can otherwise be so hard for victims to get. And I love the PAL program and believe we are helping young people learn to break the cycle of domestic violence and learn to engage in healthier life and relationship choices.

"

The progress of SAFE Family Justice Centers has been transformative. By enhancing collaboration among agencies and offering comprehensive support, they have improved the response to survivors while strengthening community trust and safety. They ensure that victims receive the justice and care they deserve.

- Brian Tully Indio Chief of Police



Trunk or Treat 23





Pancakes with PAL:24



Back to School Bash : 24



Open House '24



CAYC UC Marced Trip '24



National Night Out 24

It's been an honor to be an advocate for victims of Domestic Violence over the past 25 years. Education, outreach and advocacy have been the grassroots efforts in changing the climate of abuse. Thank you to all the volunteers & staffers of Safe Family Justice Centers for your dedication! Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary and making a positive impact through your mission and dedication in our communities.

PAL Summer Experiences '24

Self Care Day 23

- Lori Stone Former SAFE Advisory Board Member

Celebrating 20 Years of PAL



Riverside County PAL celebrated 20 years of building strong relationships between law enforcement and youth. Over the past two decades, the program has fostered mentorship and leadership, creating positive change in communities and empowering young people to build brighter futures.

Mentees of the Year

Madison Avelar – Young PAL Enzo Iverson – Young PAL Ty'niya Hesse – Riverside Edmundo Gonzalez – Riverside Genesis Davila – Indio Amaya Lozano – Indio Dorothy McDonald – Temecula Jayden Hernandez – Temecula

1,553

Hours of Mentoring

Provided



251 Youth Involved in Programming

ME PREVENTION V

Officer Recognitions

Officer Gagik Khoudian – Rookie PAL Officer of the Year Sergant Abraham Plata – PAL Officer of the Year Corporal Matthew Mozingo – Mozingo Legacy Award



Riverside County PAL A Legacy of Empowerment



Riverside County Police Activities League is our youth violence prevention and intervention program for youth ages 5 to
18. RivCo PAL is dedicated to developing the relationships between kids, cops, and their community through SAFE, healthy, and consistent mentoring.





Mentoring, Building, Inspiring Our PAL provides youth with opportunities for positive character development, exposure to local resources, and the necessary life skills to become agents of change and empowered leaders within their community.

Partners





Murrieta PD has always supported our partners at SAFE. As victim advocates, Murrieta Officers see the resources SAFE Family Justice Centers bring to victims in our community. Working with and mentoring our youth through PAL, supporting SAFE with fundraising and sitting on the Board of Directors for SAFE FJC has been an honor for me and Murrieta PD will continue to support SAFE's mission into the future

Murrieta Chief of Police

Swing for SAFE '23

Fundraising Events













- Maureen "Mo" Ritchart SAFEFJCBoard Member







I was fortunate to be there at the beginning. The Riverside SAFE Family Justice Center was built, not out of a grant, but out of a community's vision that victims should have their needs met under one roof. I've watched it grow from a singular building into multiple locations across the county where survivors can get their needs met. Excited to see it move forward to bring even more services to the community."

> - Gerald Fineman Retired Riverside County Prosecutor

Purses for a Purpose '24





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Abbott David & Karen La Pointe Pechanga

Denim & Diamonds '24

Silver Members Daymond & Myra Allen Molina Healthcare Bruce Nimmo Andy & Tiffany Scarborough Dennis & Kim Vrooman

What's Next?



SAFE FJC has affiliated with Camp HOPE America to host a local camp for youth impacted by violence. The goal of this camp is to provide a safe space for healing and growth and to work towards a future where all are seen, voices are heard, and the generational cycle of abuse is broken. The expense of safely sending one child to camp, where they will benefit from 144 hours of intentional support during the camp week, equals the cost of six clinical therapy sessions.



In 2025, Riverside County PAL will be launching an exciting new archery program designed to empower youth through skill development and outdoor activities. This program, made possible through a grant from USA Archery, will offer participants the chance to learn the fundamentals of archery in a safe and supportive environment. By engaging in this discipline, PAL youth will build focus, patience, and self-confidence, all while enjoying a unique sport that emphasizes both individual growth and team collaboration. The archery program will be open to all skill levels, providing expert instruction and a fun experience for all involved.

2024 Emeritus Board Inductees



Diane Bainbridge



Maryann Edwards



Barbara Tobin

How You Can Help



Share information about local resources and support services available for victims. Attend workshops and training sessions to deepen your

understanding.



Financial contributions can make a significant impact on our ability to provide life saving assistance to victims.

Support Legislation

Advocate for policies and legislation that protect victims' rights and provide the necessary resources for their recovery.



Contribute your time and skills to local organizations or shelters that support victims.



FAMILEY JUSTICE CENTERS











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