



# Stewardship REPORT

SPRING 2020 DONOR UPDATE

## Intentionally Innovative

**F**or 41 years, two themes infuse this organization — intentionality and innovation. Our ability to identify a problem and purposefully explore solutions is only possible because of generous donors like you.

As we got started, the need for safe shelter was undeniable. WEAVE was fortunate to benefit from donated land that enabled us to establish our residential campus, because we knew that victims of domestic violence had unique needs not served by the existing shelter models.

In 1986, we became the first domestic violence organization in California — and third in the nation — to build a shelter specifically for the needs of survivors. When that shelter became outdated and no longer met the demand, we again took a deep look at what survivors needed.

We learned that communal bedrooms don't work, but there was value to other shared spaces. Survivors told us

that traveling to access other services created challenges. We listened, and when we opened the Safehouse in 2009, it featured rooms for each family with shared kitchens and living spaces. We created space for counseling, case management, and legal assistance, so survivors did not need to travel to access services.

We were able to establish a children's shelter program during our earliest years, as well — ensuring that the entire family was supported. It continues today with children's counseling, activities, and an onsite K-12 charter school.

In the early 1980s, we tackled teen dating violence, when few were addressing education. Our programs in this area continue to be groundbreaking, and we now work to pilot new ideas that can be replicated elsewhere — helping survivors across the country.

We refuse to stand still and accept the status quo.

We do so purposefully — thanks to you. Our history of innovation is only possible because of generous donors like you. Without our supporters, we simply would not have the ability to pilot new ideas or test new strategies.

Inside you can read more about some of these emerging opportunities we are working on today, and we want to share with you our hopes for the future — hopes that you make possible with your support.



### Thank you!

You are the reason we can take on these challenges and carefully listen to what survivors need to be successful when they are striving to make changes in their lives.

We cannot do this work without you. Our innovation and intentionality depends on the support of our generous neighbors like you.



# Expanding Training and Education with WEAVE Learn

**W**e launched WEAVE Learn last year with a grant from the California Office of Emergency Services, to create an online training program designed to help students, educators, and school administrators recognize warning signs of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The training includes online curricula for each target audience and for every grade level. We are adding content for parents, as well.

WEAVE was chosen to create and launch this program, in part, because of our role as experts in developing content for the updated California Health Education Framework. This program supports the mandatory training requirements that every school in California faces. To view WEAVE Learn and the curricula, go to [www.weavelearn.org](http://www.weavelearn.org).

As this program was developing, we recognized the potential of WEAVE Learn to be much greater than a single focus. Plans

are in place to add other training programs to the website, including our Silence Doesn't Work Here program. This will have resources for employers to confront the impact of domestic and sexual violence in the workplace.

We look forward to the opportunity to expand the capacity of WEAVE Learn and to share our expertise with programs throughout the country. We can make quality training and education available to communities and other agencies in an efficient and cost effective manner, continuing to share our expertise and what we've learned here in Sacramento.

WEAVE Learn is possible because of the support of donors who have funded WEAVE's training and education efforts through the years. Your support has enabled WEAVE to be the experts at the forefront of emerging needs, and you allow us to develop quality training programs for our community. The successes you created here will now be available

beyond our region, impacting even more survivors who are looking for resources.

The infographic features a central screenshot of the WEAVE Learn website. The website header includes the WEAVE Learn logo and a 'SIGN IN' button. The main content area displays the title 'Early Identification of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Training Program' and a subtitle 'Free courses designed for students, educators, and administrators.' Below the text is a video player with a play button. To the left of the website screenshot are four hexagonal icons, each with a corresponding text box:

- ONLINE TRAINING**: Self-paced training modules cover an overview of CSEC, understanding the complexity of trauma, school response and intervention, and statewide resources. (Icon: Computer monitor)
- CURRICULUM GUIDE**: K-12 prevention education helps schools meet CHYA and related education requirements, and provides guidance for classroom implementation. (Icon: Open book)
- STUDENT LESSONS**: Students have access to learning modules for self-paced lessons. Educators can also use student lessons to assist with classroom implementation. (Icon: Pencil)
- TOOLKIT & RESOURCES**: Quickly reference important content and information provided in the training modules and learn to easily recognize, respond, and refer. (Icon: Gear)

A unique opportunity to share our expertise with other programs throughout the country.



# Increasing Access to Safe Housing with New Transitional Housing Cottages

Two families had something extra to celebrate during the holidays with the opening of two new Transitional Housing cottages on the WEAVE residential campus.

The cottages address the ongoing need for safe housing for victims of domestic violence. With local rental rates increasing at unprecedented levels, access to housing remains one of the most significant barriers for victims residing in our emergency shelter programs.

Additionally, victims of domestic violence are a prominent part of the homelessness problem our region is facing but are seldom discussed. The reality is that more than half of women and children experiencing homelessness have experienced domestic violence, and they face unique safety needs that cannot be addressed through traditional homeless shelters. WEAVE has been at the forefront of addressing these needs, and we will continue to do so, in order to ensure victims need not risk their lives by remaining in a violent home just to avoid homelessness.

The 900 square foot furnished cottages include two bedrooms and two bathrooms, and

each can house a family or two single adults. The cottages increased WEAVE's transitional housing capacity by 36%.

Survivors can stay in the cottages for up to 24 months while receiving additional services. During this time, they can create stability for themselves and their children by seeking additional education or job training, securing employment, and addressing legal challenges. Clients pay nothing, and they are encouraged to save as much income as possible, to build financial security when they graduate from the program.

The cottages were built entirely with private donations. We are grateful to our partnership with HomeAid Sacramento, who were essential partners in the project. Contributors to the project included Elliott Homes, HomeFul Foundation, US Bank, American River Bank Foundation, American Woodmark Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, and Matt & Leslie Jacobs. Two dozen local trade partners contributed discounted or donated supplies and labor to complete the project, as well.



Some examples of the living spaces at WEAVE housing

# Piloting Strengths-Based Case Management for Survivors and Their Children

**T**oo often when discussing domestic violence, this experience is used to define the survivor. The reality is that no one can be defined by a single experience, and when we talk about survivors, we owe it to them to recognize the strength and resilience that define their experiences.

Focusing on the strength of adult and child survivors of domestic violence is becoming the cornerstone of our case management approach. WEAVE has adopted the Strengths Model which builds on the assets of the survivor as the core of the case management program.

The Strengths Model was originally

developed to support adults with mental illness as an alternative to deficit-oriented approaches. The intentional focusing on strengths was clearly in alignment with WEAVE's philosophy.

For the past year, our residential staff have been learning the program and receiving coaching for implementation. Recent funding from Blue Shield of California Foundation is allowing us to evaluate and adapt the model for the unique needs of survivors of domestic violence. Our work will focus on using strengths of not only the adult but children as well. This perspective also expands our continued commitment to a two generational approach to addressing and preventing domestic violence.

Our efforts to work intentionally with both adults and children and to adopt new models is another example of our commitment to constantly challenge the status quo and to build new approaches. It is a reflection of our commitment to respecting survivors as the experts of their experiences and to investing in this expertise.



## Your Donation is the Spark

Only when you make a gift to WEAVE can we embrace innovation, to find the best way to meet survivors' needs.



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OUR MISSION is to promote safe and healthy relationships and support survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking.