



Fostering Promising Futures

2014 Annual Report



Our Mission

Walden's mission is to support the lives of children and families through lasting relationships.

Our Vision

Every child has a loving family and the ability to realize their greatest potential toward becoming a self-sufficient and productive member of their community.

About Walden

For 39 years, Walden Family Services has been a recognized leader in providing treatment-level foster care to children in need throughout Southern California. In 2014, Walden served approximately 1,800 children and youth, many with developmental disabilities and special healthcare needs.

Walden Family Services responds to its communities needs, providing families who nurture, support and guide children who are placed in foster care due to being victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect or abandonment. Many of the children we serve have been in more than 10 foster family or group home placements before coming to Walden. What we offer is an effective alternative to group home care & medical institutions. This allows children to grow into healthy adult members of the community, equipped with the skills they need to thrive.

With the support of our communities, Walden is able to offer programs and services such as the Independent Futures Program which provides services and support for pre- and post-emancipated foster youth; specialized treatment level care for youth with developmental disabilities and special health care needs; and an adoption license to expand our services as a full-service adoption agency providing support from the family assessment through post adoptive support.

With a staff of over 95 highly trained social service professionals, licensed therapists, nurse and behavioral consultants, Walden provides services to more than 200 children on a daily basis throughout Southern California.

Walden Family Services Believes in and practices the following values:

Integrity

We engage each other honestly. We value our community's trust. We do what is right.

Commitment

We are passionate each and every day about meeting children's needs and supporting lasting relationships. We do whatever it takes.

Respect

We equally value each voice at our family table regardless of background, experience, education or title. We treat others as we wish to be treated.

Excellence

We go above and beyond to ensure excellence in our foster families, staff and services. "Good" is simply not good enough.

Diversity

We continually weave our quilt of diversity. We celebrate and honor differences.

Compassion

We listen with a caring heart and a deep desire to make a positive difference. We assume good will.

Innovation

We are dedicated to lasting success through courageous creativity. We think outside the box.

2015 Walden Family Services Boards of Directors

Governance Board of Directors

Chair: Arlene Lieberman,
Executive Director, Barney & Barney Foundation

Vice Chair: Leslie Levinson,
CFO, The San Diego Housing Commission

Treasurer: Maryanne Carlin,
Executive, MC Global Enterprise, LLC

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Charles Carroll, *Vice President Manager, Citizens Business Bank*

Mitsugu Matsusaka, *President/CEO Nissin International Transport U.S.A., Inc*



Michelle Ozanne



Maryanne Carlin

Message from the Chairs

2014 has been a year filled with many rewarding moments, as well as some challenges. We are humbled and honored to lead the team of talented and dedicated individuals – Board Members, staff, and volunteers – who work to ensure the success of those who make up the core of Walden Family Services: the caring, compassionate parents and families who open their hearts and homes to the foster and adoptive youth we serve.

Perhaps our greatest success in 2014 was receiving accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for Walden's Adoptions and Foster Family programs. This national accreditation is a distinguished indication of Walden's dedication and commitment to improving the lives of our youth and families, as well as staff's established patterns of excellence in their field and we are appreciative of the extra effort staff made to ensure Walden received this honor. Additional success include expanding Walden's THP+FC program throughout all regions, establishing a Los Angeles Advisory Committee to increase community outreach efforts in Los Angeles County, and increasing individual and corporate philanthropy through an expanded special events calendar.

While we are fortunate to enjoy the support of many organizations, business, and individuals throughout Southern California, sadly it is not enough to end the cycle of abuse and neglect which bring youth into our care. Now, more than ever, we rely on the generosity of individuals and community partners to meet the increasing numbers of special needs children and youth and provide them with a safe home and nurturing environment. Just know, throughout 2015 we remain committed to increasing the impact your donations – financial, in-kind, and time – have on Walden's youth and families.

As Chairs, it has been our honor and privilege to serve the children and families that have come through our doors this past year. We would like to thank everyone who has supported our efforts, as we would be unable to achieve our mission and vision without you. There are many ways to support Walden's youth and families – as a volunteer, foster parent, Board Member, or donor – and we welcome you into the Walden Family in the capacity of your choice. Your support makes a daily difference in the life of a child, and for that, we are grateful beyond measure.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ozanne
Governance Chair

Maryanne Carlin, CPA
Foundation Chair



Planned Giving to Walden Family Services

We encourage you to consider leaving a bequest to Walden Family Services in your estate plan as a way to leave a legacy of your generosity. Bequests are easy to establish and don't interfere with the quality of your lifestyle. A bequest is also flexible if your circumstances change. There are several types of bequests but in many cases, bequests specify a percentage or fixed dollar amount of the residual estate.

Here is an example:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to Walden Family Services, a 501(c)(3) non profit corporation with offices in San Diego, California, ___% of the residue of my estate for its unrestricted use in carrying out its benevolent purposes."

If you are interested in making a difference in the future of our children, please contact Teresa Stivers, Executive Director at (619) 727- 5881 or tstivers@waldenfamily.org to discuss meaningful ways to make your gift.



Message from the Executive Director

More than 30 years ago, Walden Family Services made the decision to provide foster youth with an alternative to growing up in medical institutions or group homes. Over time, Walden has grown and expanded to fit the needs of the communities and individuals we have come to serve, and I am pleased to report that 2014 was no exception.

Our foster and adoptive families, social workers, and staff continued to provide the exceptional care our youth deserve, and their efforts were rewarded when Walden received national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for our Foster Family and Adoptions programs. Walden was granted additional licenses for the THP+FC Program throughout Southern California, allowing social workers to assist a record number of youth in their successful transition out of foster care and into communities of their choosing. These youth moved into their first apartment and found jobs or attended local colleges all while learning to live within their means with help and guidance from their social workers and the community at large.

Walden bid a fond farewell to outgoing Governance Board Chair Michelle Ozanne who retired in 2014 after many years of service to our children and families. Almost 20 years ago, Michelle started at Walden as a Masters Level Social Worker (MSW) before working her way up to CEO. She quit that position to stay home with her three young children, but continued to be involved as a board member and Wine D'Vine Chair. While she has stepped down from her board position, we know she will continue as an advocate for children at Walden and many other worthy organizations.

I am pleased to report that 2014 continued to be a year of growth as our many programs and fundraising events were expanded throughout all districts, all the while continuing to provide nurturing and compassionate families to care for our foster and adoptive youth.

None of our work would be possible without our wonderful foster/adoptive families, our caring and nurturing staff, our generous and hardworking board members and the many funders who continue to show their commitment to children in need. On behalf of the children and families we serve, thank you for your role in *Fostering Promising Futures*.

Sincerely,
Teresa A. Stivers
Executive Director





11th Annual Wine D'Vine Gala

Walden Family Services held its 11th Annual Wine D'Vine fundraising event on Saturday, October 25, 2014 and raised nearly \$300,000 to further our mission of providing care and support to pre- and post-emancipated foster youth who participate in the Independent Futures, Transitional Housing + Foster Care, and Walden Scholars Programs.

Walden's signature event was held at the Irwin M. Jacobs Qualcomm Hall, and featured minimalist décor of candles, crystals, and florals inspired by the very technology for which Qualcomm is best known. VIP guests were treated to a private reception in the Qualcomm Museum, which featured an interactive history of Qualcomm's technological innovations and advances since the company's inception in the 1970s.

Approximately 200 guests enjoyed the evening, dining on appetizing selections from our Featured Restaurants, including Carnitas Snack Shack, The French Gourmet, Old Venice, The Patio, and Pamplemousse Grille, which were perfectly paired with the finewines of our Featured Wineries: Benovia Winery, Duckhorn Wine Company, Orin Swift, Ramey Wine Cellars, Schramsberg Vineyards, Tantara Winery, and Vineyard 29.

Maintaining the technology theme, guests were treated to a mobile bidding Silent Auction experience before meeting Nora Thompson, a Walden Advancing Youth Advocate. Nora inspired the audience with her moving narrative of emancipating from foster care, enrolling in college, and participating in the AYA program which

allows her to share her story to foster youth and FFA professionals on a national basis. Additional speakers during the evening's program provided guests with an overview of the programs and services Walden offers to foster and adoptive youth and their families, including those that focus on the needs of children with developmental disabilities and special health care needs. Walden's scope of service also included preparing youth to successfully transition from foster care to adulthood and support to parent to help end the cycle of child abuse. Virtually all children in foster care have suffered abuse or neglect.

Longtime Walden supporters Craig and Terri Gainor and Art and Michelle Candland were the gracious Event Chairs and Aficionado Sponsor. Dawn Grossman and Michelle Ozanne chaired the VIP Reception, which was sponsored by Foundation Board Chair Maryanne Carlin.



"We are so pleased by the community support we received for this year's Wine D'Vine. The generosity expressed by all those who attended, as well as that of our sponsors and donors, will go a long way in helping us continue to be an advocate for San Diego's foster youth."

- Teresa Stivers,
Walden Family Services
Executive Director

**Don't Miss Our
40th Anniversary
Wine D'Vine - October 2016**

Call Teresa Stivers at
(619) 727-5881 for
sponsorship opportunities



Walden Adoption Story

THE STORY OF GENEROUS HEARTS AND A HAPPY HOME

The Pesko family has been certified with Walden since May of 2008. Over the last seven years, the Pesko family has had over 10 foster children placed into their home. They have always hoped to adopt, but also believed that every child belonged with their biological parents when safe and appropriate.

In early 2010, the family received a call to take a baby who had suffered significant injuries. Sheila and David took this baby into their home, nurtured her and helped her to heal. They were told she would most likely never walk or talk, but this was not a deterrent. They fell in love with her immediately and when it became clear that she was not going to return to her parents, stepped in and began the adoption process. The Pesko family adopted their daughter in February of 2014.

She is now a spunky five year old, who not only walks, but runs everywhere. She still struggles with some lasting effects of her injuries, but that does not stop her from doing what most five year olds are doing. The family recently began the adoption process for a set of siblings placed in their home. They have shown a commitment to keeping siblings together and love being able to provide a loving and stable environment for children.

The Pesko Family is committed to providing a loving and stable home for children.





Walden Family Services Programs-At-A-Glance

Therapeutic Foster Care (General)

Therapeutic Foster Care is a recognized, cost-effective alternative to group homes. Many children in Walden's care have emotional and behavioral challenges as a result of past abuse and neglect. Many also suffer from the additional trauma of multiple failed placements before arriving at Walden. Walden is also able to offer homes to many larger sibling groups. With Walden's specially trained foster families and support services we can help children heal and remain in a family environment.

Specialized Care – Children with Developmental Disabilities (DD)

Walden Family Services serves the needs of foster children and youth with developmental disabilities and behavioral difficulties. Developmental disabilities include cerebral palsy, autism, and other challenges. Walden's specialized care program prepares children and youth for maximum independence and enriching lives through participation in a full range of normal life experiences in family and community settings.

Specialized Care – Children with Special Health Care Needs (SHCN)

Walden's Special Health Care Needs (SHCN) Program was developed in 2002 to move children with medical needs out of nursing facilities and hospitals into highly skilled and specially trained foster families supported by a nurse consultant. We provide homes for many children including those who may have been born prematurely, children who have juvenile diabetes, children who have seizure disorders, children who are dependent on medical technology or who have life-threatening medical conditions.

Adoptions

Walden Family Services is committed to the child's need for a permanent home. In order to facilitate strong attachments, Walden provides training and supportive therapy for the family and child. Additionally, post-adoptive services are provided. Walden is committed to facilitating the family's adjustments as the child grows through each developmental stage into early adulthood.

Transitional Housing Program + Foster Care (THP+FC)

Our newest program, THP+FC, provides youth ages 18-21 with safe, affordable housing in a neighborhood of their choosing, comprehensive and individualized case management, life-skills training, mentors, opportunities to make community connections, and goal-planning under AB12, the state law that enables youth to stay in foster care until the age of 21. Walden was one of the first agencies in the state to receive this new license and is currently operating the program in Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and LA.

San Bernardino County Independent Living Aftercare Program

Walden's Aftercare program is a supportive service that assists former foster youth in San Bernardino County with overcoming the challenges they may face after leaving foster care. We believe former foster youth have what it takes to succeed and we support them in the common areas that all former foster youth often struggle such as daily life skills, medical, dental and emotional health, employment and housing assistance, and supporting permanent connections.

Independent Futures Program (IFP)

In 2001 Walden developed the Independent Futures Program, which provides services and support for pre- and post-emancipated foster youth. Independent Futures assists youth in making the necessary and critical transition from foster care to independent living and seeks to help develop the concrete and abstract life skills and connections necessary to live as healthy, self-sufficient, responsible, and productive adults. The program focuses on six core areas: education, employment, health, connections, financial literacy, and housing.

Visitation Centers (Victorville and San Bernardino)

Through a contract with San Bernadine County, Walden provides visitation services to birth families. Each family is provided a visitation coach to assist the families in developing parenting skills to help decrease their child's length of stay in foster care. The Centers are open evening and weekends to increase the numbers of families that can access the services.

Cal-Learn

Walden is a provider of Cal-Learn services in San Bernardino County, which is designed to assist pregnant and parenting teens receiving CalWORKS in attending and graduating from high school, or its equivalent. Coordinated services help teens become self-sufficient adults and responsible parents, including obtaining an education and having access to health and social services.

Advancing Youth Advocates (AYA)

Our Advancing Youth Advocates program trains former foster youth to present the William Bridges Transitions Framework in order to assist foster youth and former foster youth, current and potential foster families, social work professionals, and child welfare providers in understanding the challenges all individuals experience when processing the psychological transitions that occur from the point of change.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Foster Care Network

Walden Family Services believes all children and youth should live in a safe and caring home with a family that respects their needs, rights, and identity, which is why we created the LGBTQ Foster Care Network in 2000. The focus of this program is on education and advocacy services for LGBTQ foster youth, and training and support for child welfare providers, foster parents, and birth families. Walden Family Services has actively recruited and educated members of the LGBTQ community to become certified foster and adoptive parents.

First 5 Nurturing Parenting Program

Through a contract with First 5 of San Bernardino, Walden is providing Nurturing Parenting Classes for teen parents throughout San Bernardino County. The Nurturing Parenting curriculum is a philosophy that helps parents enhance their parenting skills, includes a child enrichment program for children 0-5 years. The classes are offered free of charge and provided in many community locations including High Schools.

Thank You to Our Generous 2014 Donors

\$100,000+

Harley K. Sefton

\$25,000 - \$55,000

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Hervey Foundation Jack and Jill, North County

Andrus Family Fund Paul Gooding

Riverside Community Health Foundation Friends & Helpers Foundation

S. Mark Taper Foundation Dave & Alexi Schnell

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Beamer, Lauth, Steinly & Bond, LLC

Arthur & Michelle Candland Jorge Ruiz de Castilla

Maryanne Carlin The Swanton Foundation

Price Family Carol & Henry F. Hunte Fund

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The Green Foundation Seacoast Commerce Bank

John E. Tromer Trust Lisa Betyar

The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, Inc. Craig & Terri Gainor

Brady Family Foundation/Brady Companies Warren Thompson Michelle & Brendan Ozanne

Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation Jones Lang LaSalle

The Linda & Jerry Strickland Foundation Chase Bank

\$1,000 - \$2,499

St. Germaine Children's Charity Stephanie Trolinger

Barney & Barney Nissin International

Day for Change Transportation U.S.A., Inc.

Dowling & Yahnke, LLC Dreamscape Landscape, Inc.

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\$5,000 - \$9,999 Mission Federal Credit Union

United Way of the Inland Valleys First Legal Network

IN-N-OUT Burger Foundation Pacific Palms Resort

Arleene Lieberman

Gr'mere's Impossible Journey Fund Robert & Laura Duggan

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Jim & Leslie Levinson Iron Mountain

SDGE - A Sempra Energy Utility Rishon Ludders

Sheila Ferguson-Webb

Lindsay & Brownell, LLP Burberry Limited

Boys and Girls Foundation Jones Day

i.d.e.a. Joe & Amani Bernstein

Majestic Realty Co.

2014 Walden Family Services Quick Facts

2014 FFA PLACEMENTS

Agency Wide	406	
Riverside	192	47%
San Diego	34	8%
San Fernando Valley	180	45%

2014 FFA Placements by Referring County

Imperial	8
Los Angeles	246
Madera	1
Marin	1
Modoc	2
Orange	2
Riverside	68
Sacramento	1
San Bernardino	44
San Diego	26
San Joaquin	1
Unknown	5

2014 FFA Program Breakdown

General Foster Care	354	87%
Riverside	154	
San Diego	22	
Los Angeles	178	
Developmental Disabilities	29	7%
Riverside	21	
San Diego	6	
Los Angeles	2	
Special Health Care Needs	23	6%
Riverside	17	
San Diego	6	
Independent Futures	97	
Riverside	25	
San Diego	29	
Los Angeles	43	
THP + FC	87	
Riverside	72	
San Diego	15	

San Bernardino Community Programs

Aftercare Clients Served	50
Cal-Learn	500
Visitation Center	1200
<i>Scheduled visits per month</i>	
Nurturing Parenting	2342
<i>Outreach to parents and community partners</i>	

2014 FFA Program Ethnicity Breakdown

American Indian	9	2%
Hispanic/Latino	169	42%
Caucasian	82	20%
African American	101	25%
Bi/Multi Racial	31	8%
Other/Unreported	9	2%
Asian	5	1%

2014 FFA Program Gender Breakdown

Female	188	46%
Male	218	54%

2014 FFA Breakdown by Age in Years

Under 2 years	79	19%
2-5 years	121	30%
6-10 years	95	23%
11-13 years	44	11%
14-17 years	46	12%
18+ years	21	5%

2014 Agency Adoptions

51 children adopted

2014 Newly Certified

Foster/Adoptive Families: 34 families

Percent of Walden Children who

Achieved Permanency in 2014: 66%

Includes adoption, reunification, and kinship.



National Recognition for WFS Advancing Youth Advocates

Walden is very proud of our Advancing Youth Advocates who expanded their audience and talent by teaching and presenting the Transitions Framework to foster care agencies and community partners throughout the United States in 2014.

In addition to presenting at The Children's Network Regional Conference in Los Angeles and the Inland Empire, the youth were invited to speak at two National Conferences: the Daniel Memorial Conference in Denver, CO and The Foster Family-based Treatment Association (FFTA) Conference in Orlando, Florida. Due to a generous donation, the girls were able to visit Disney World for the first time ever while in Orlando. **It was a very magical experience for the former foster youth and one that they will never forget.**

Thank you to the Nahays

Doug and Kathy Nahay have retired after 18 years of fostering and adopting three wonderful children. They have fostered over 25 children over the years and have kept in contact with many of the children well into adulthood.



*They are champions in the
community for Walden!*

Thank You to Our Generous 2014 Donors

\$1,000 - \$2,499 cont.	S & K Financial and Insurance Service, Inc.
Steve Brownell	The Gay and Lesbian Fund
CECO San Diego	
David Deisinger	\$100 - \$499
David Parker	The Wahl Foundation
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Buchalter, Nemer, Fields & Younger	Steven Siegel
Matthew Kavanaugh	Michael Ehlers
Mike Whitmarsh Foundation	Craig Stack
Albert B. Cutter Memorial Fund	Joe da Rosa
Jeff Straight	Jeff Vanderpoel
Kakimoto & Nagashima, LLP	Dawn & Randy Grossman
Steel Peak Wealth Management	Jackie Konstanturos
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\$500 - \$999	Jim Herr
John Crisafulli	Raymond Simas
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Dale Robinette	Jengi Martinez
Sabrina Green	Roger Wist
Hiroki Kodaka	Sue M. Evans
Claire Davis & Virginia Banker	Marjorie P. Love
San Diego LGBT Pride	Mark Munoz
Mark Dowling	Jane Myers
Bryant Huddleston	Dave Andrus
Gold Diggers	George Howard
San Diego Private Bank	Sarah Spooner
Valley Vista Services, Inc.	Olivia E. Mitchell
	Lawrence E. Wood
	Pat Piercy
	Mitsugu Matsusaka
	Trombino Pension Administrators, Inc.
	Hanai Outreach Services, LLC

Thank You to Our Generous 2014 Donors**\$100 - \$499 cont.**

Maya Hu-Chan	George J. Stephan
Howard Boehm	Robert J. Davidson
Michael Rubey	Robert Chiler
Sue Garcia	Henry R. Ferriss
Paul S. Arrow	Lane Freestone
Kristine Lach	Michelle Christopherson
Craig Post	Teresa & om Warren
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Arthur Chinski	Peaches Wynn
Sandra Holding	Kimberly Skiff
Judith Vignos	Diane H. Nobis

*Walden's Wall of Heroes***Supporting the programs and services offered to Walden's foster youth and foster families!**

As we begin our 38th year of service, providing support, treatment, rehabilitative, and protective services to foster and adoptive youth throughout Southern California, Walden's Wall of Heroes will support the communities we serve and honor the members who support us.

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 in 2015.

Your \$500 donation will be honored with a custom 8" by 8" tile, placed in the lobby of Walden Family Services San Diego Corporate office. You may choose a tile design and up to 4 lines of script. Your \$1,000 donation will include your individual or company logo with up to 4 lines of script or a tile design, 4 lines of script and your signature.

Your Wall of Heroes Tile donation is tax deductible. Your name(s) will also appear on our website as part of our Walden Family Services Donors Page. Tax ID # 91-2160214

To order your tile, or for more information please email: donor@waldenfamily.org or call us at (619) 584-5777.

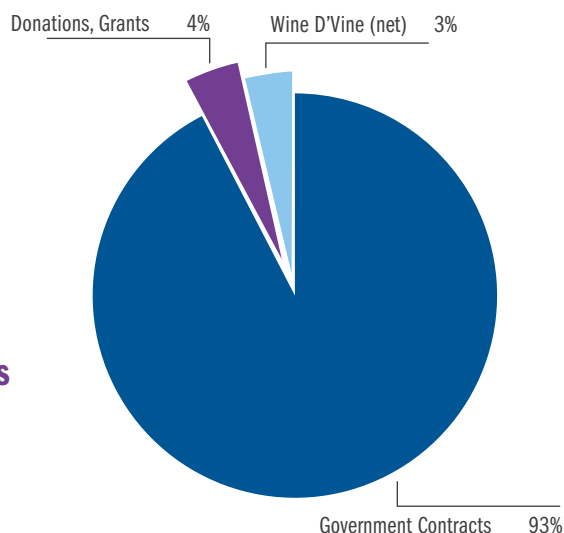
*There are Many Ways You Can Help Walden's Foster Youth and Foster Families:*

- ▶ **Make a financial donation to Walden**
- ▶ **Purchase a tile through on Walden's Wall of Heroes**
- ▶ **Donate items from Walden's Wish List**
- ▶ **Offer your time and talent as a Volunteer**
- ▶ **Include Walden in your Estate Plans**
- ▶ **Become a Walden Foster or Adoptive Parent or refer a friend to!**

2014 Revenue

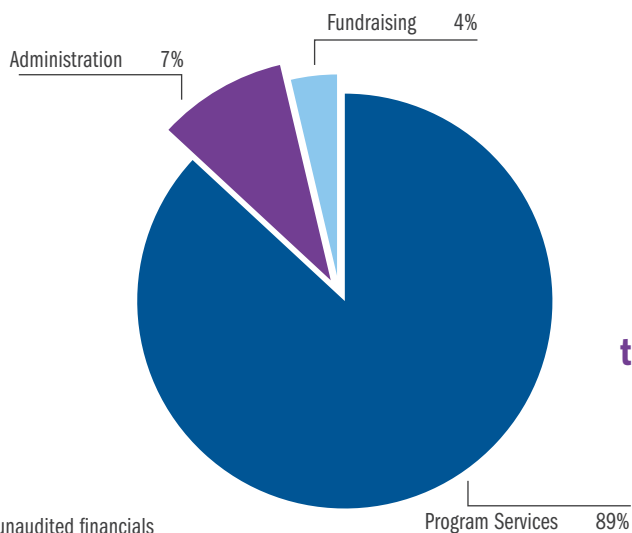
Government Contracts	92%	8,351,312
Donations, Grants	4%	375,426
Wine D'Vine (net)	3%	283,005
Total		\$9,009,743

11%
goes towards
overhead expenses



2014 Expenses

Program Services	89%	8,275,772
Administration	7%	614,285
Fundraising	4%	393,606
Total Expenses		\$9,283,663



89%
goes directly
to our foster families

*unaudited financials

2014 Walden Anniversaries

15 Years

Heidi Newstrand-Dilley,
Social Work Supervisor



10 Years

Tobi Long,
Nurturing Parenting Supervisor



10 Years

Nicole Stevens,
Nurturing Parenting Lead Facilitator



5 Years

Marie Hernandez,
Visitation Coach



5 Years

Leslie Miles,
THP + FC Supervisor





A Foster Family & Adoption Agency

Fostering Promising Futures

San Diego/Corporate Office

6150 Mission Gorge Rd. Ste. 210
San Diego, CA 92120
(619) 584-5777

Encino Office

6345 Balboa Blvd. Ste. 130
Encino, CA 91316
(818) 365-3665

Riverside Office

3576 Arlington Ave. Ste. 106
Riverside, CA 92506
(951) 788-5905

San Bernardino Office

255 North D Street, Ste. 400
San Bernardino, CA 92401
(909) 361-3000

Victorville Office

15450 W. Sand Street
Victorville, CA 92392
(760) 961-2662

www.waldenfamily.org
1-800-354-2184