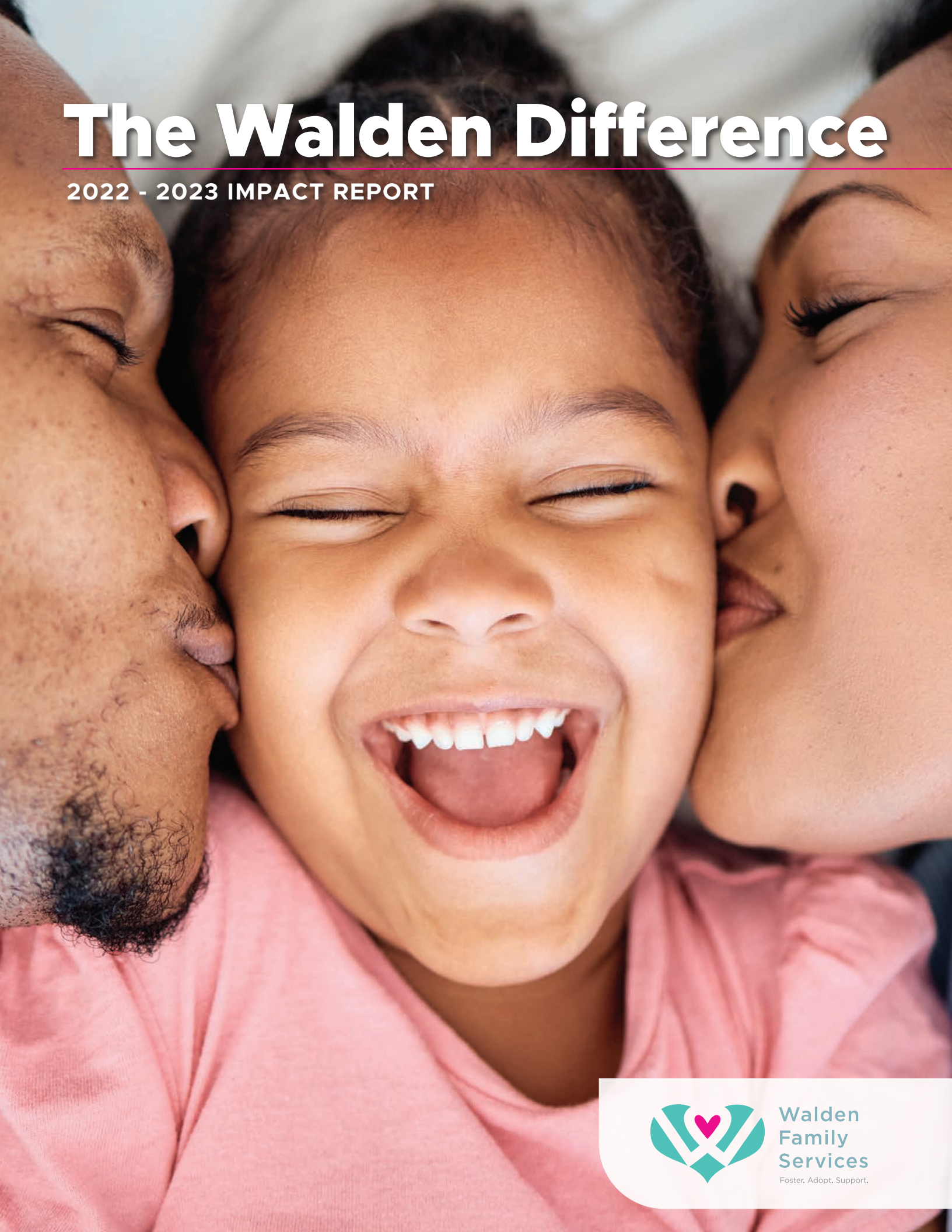


The Walden Difference

2022 - 2023 IMPACT REPORT



Walden
Family
Services
Foster. Adopt. Support.

From Our Board Chair And CEO

Through no fault of their own, 35,000 children and youth land or remain in foster care in Southern California yearly. While Walden cannot help all of these young people, we offer the highest quality care possible to those we can serve. For close to 50 years, Walden has been dedicated to helping foster children and youth heal and live the successful lives they were meant to experience.

Walden offers a Transitional Housing Placement Program (THP) for foster/former foster youth aging out of the system, Foster Care and Adoption Program, Mental Health Program, and Nurturing Families, a parenting training program. 2023 saw overwhelmingly positive outcomes in these programs. Children and youth are finally moving past the challenges that COVID presented and fully participating in school and work. Organizationally, Walden is moving past the aftermath of COVID. Financially, we are strong and the majority of clients report being very satisfied with our services.

It has long been a dream for Walden to own property to house youth in our THP Program: that dream came true this summer. On July 6, Walden leadership cut the ribbon on our premiere real estate purchase in Riverside. The property has two dwellings that house seven youth.

Home has been elusive and fraught for so many of our youth, who have experienced multiple placements, toxic family environments, and group homes. They deserve a safe and welcoming place to live – a place to call home. Unfortunately, finding housing for them is challenging. Rents continue rising and often landlords are reluctant to rent to our youth and/or offer short leases; youth experience multiple moves instead of experiencing the stability they need. These problems disappear when we own our own property.

This purchase is only the beginning of our investment in real estate. In November, California Housing and Community gave Walden a \$4,375,000 Project Homekey award to acquire more housing in Riverside. We plan to secure properties in our other regions, particularly Los Angeles, offering more youth living spaces that meet their needs. With youth homelessness being one of the greatest problems in Southern California, Walden is helping to mitigate the tragic situation in the regions we serve – San Diego, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino.

Grassroots change in the child welfare system begins one young person at a time. We thank you for helping us to make incremental changes that result in monumental changes. We offer you the chance to support us in making a profound difference in the lives of our vulnerable young people.

Sincerely,



Leslie Levinson
Board Chair



Teresa Stivers
Chief Executive Officer

2022-2023 FINANCIALS



REVENUE: \$17,700,551

■ 93% Government Contracts

■ 7% Grants & Donations

Board Of Directors Executive Committee



Leslie Levinson
Chair

CFO
SDSU Research Foundation



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Vice Chair

Community Advocate



Rajah Gainey
Secretary

Associate Director of
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Attorney at Law



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Foundation



Allison Gelbrich

Realtor
Dreamscape Real Estate



Ted Gooch

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HomeBank of California



Emily Shults

Senior Vice President –
Clean Power Development
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Rob Ritter
Challenge Graphics

San Diego Advisory Board

Ron & Mary Alice Brady
Gr'mere's I'mpossible
Journey Fund

Art & Michelle Candland
Community Advocates

Arlene Lieberman
Barney & Barney Foundation

Harley & Maryanne Sefton
Kennebec
Financial Corporation

Jeffrey Strauss
Pamplemousse Grille



EXPENSES: \$16,728,069

- 88% Programs & Services
- 12% Administration & Fundraising

These are unaudited financials for 2022 – 2023. For a final audited version, please visit: waldenfamily.org

Our Programs



Transitional Housing Programs & Youth Services

Walden's Transitional Housing Placement for Non-Minor Dependents (THP-NMD) Program allows transition-age youth who would typically age out of the child welfare system to remain in foster care, with housing, case management, and supportive services while they pursue their education and employment goals. Walden's Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP Plus) also provides housing and supportive services but serves former foster youth up to age 25 who require a minimum of case management.

Walden Family Services THP Programs foster participants' self-sufficiency, not only through support and housing, but also with ongoing skills training in healthy relationships, creating a savings account, and many other skills essential to self-sufficiency.

Foster Family Agency (FFA)

Safe and Stable Family Placement Program Children are placed temporarily in the care of foster/resource families. The love and sense of community that these families provide offer a safe and secure environment where kids learn how to live peacefully and can feel safe and respected. Walden actively recruits, trains, certifies, and connects families interested in giving a home to children in need.

Adoption Services Walden is a licensed adoption agency and provides adoption services for children and youth in foster care eligible for adoption in Southern California.

Parent Training Walden's Parent Resource & Education Program (PREP) training for parents uses a competency-based program designed to ensure families are prepared to provide children with the highest quality care. This training is integral to our FFA and adoption programs.





Family Services

Walden Family Services provides a Nurturing Families Program with parenting education and case management to support families so they can thrive.

Many of the parents in the program have been in foster care themselves and did not have good role models of how to parent successfully. Having these parents learn to take good care of their children is crucial to breaking the traumatic child welfare system cycle. The program has seen a welcome rise in fathers wanting to learn more about how to raise their children successfully.

The curriculum emphasizes parenting with empathy and skills development in providing for the needs of growing children. Additionally, Walden’s team helps the families in the program to access needed community resources.

“In Nurturing Families, we learned about how important it is to read with your child. This was not something we did when I was little, but now I really love reading to Amber. It is such a special activity we do together,” said Raymond, a “Dad Grad” of Walden’s Nurturing Families Program.

Home Sweet Home

Summer 2023 marks the beginning of Walden’s initiative to own housing for youth in our Transitional Housing Placement Program. Leadership, staff, board members, donors, and community friends joined to commemorate our first real estate purchase in July. The property includes two spacious dwellings that **house seven youth**.

The homes are remodeled and freshly painted and feature renovated kitchens and bathrooms, walk-in closets, new plank flooring, air conditioning, and a front yard. The property is on a quiet and safe block in Riverside where youth can feel secure. Youth are already enjoying the well-appointed homes and staff is relieved that they do not have to contend with short-term leases, rising rents, and long searches for available apartments.



Walden Family Services' Foster Youth Transforms Adversity into a Tiny Home Triumph



In a remarkable tale of resilience triumphing over adversity, a determined young individual working with Walden Family Services and having overcome the hurdles of the foster care system, has realized the dream of homeownership by constructing his own home through a tiny home Program in Santa Clarita. Transitioning from a Transitional Housing Placement program for Non-Minor Dependents (THP-NMD), this individual found their way to Walden Family Services through a referral from their former Clinical Social Worker.

The journey began in an unsafe environment, prompting the youth's entry into foster care. Uncomfortable in previous placements and without a safe space, he worked with Walden Family Services learning about employment opportunities, overcoming budgeting obstacles, and working towards personal and financial goals.

Since joining the Walden Family, he has not only secured full-time employment at a Notary warehouse but has also launched a personal business, saving over \$25,000, which he used to construct his own tiny home.

Reflecting on the foster care journey, he shared, "I started foster care when I was 15 years old because my family was very toxic. Since being here I had to learn a lot about the world including how hard it can be, but I did it. It has allowed me to become a self-sufficient person, introduced me to resources I did not know existed, and having the opportunity to have a safe space to live."

In the midst of life's uncertainties, the story of this resilient young man in foster care stands as a testament to the power of determination and self-reliance. With unwavering perseverance, he not only built a tiny home from scratch but also crafted a future filled with hope and independence.

As he enjoys the fruits of his labor, we witness not just the construction of a tiny home but the creation of a future filled with endless possibilities and the promise of a brighter tomorrow!

Walden Leadership



Teresa Stivers
Chief Executive Officer



Sue Evans
Chief Operations Officer



David Kvendru
Controller



Dr. Darjené Graham-Perez
Director of
People & Culture



Dr. Kim Kimpel
Director of
Nurturing Family

Founded in 1976, Walden Family Services is a foster care-to-adoption, transition-age youth housing, and family support agency serving the Southern California region. We are a staff of highly trained professionals who support foster and former foster children and youth and adoptive families. Unlike other agencies, we welcome kids with special needs, who are part of large sibling groups, or who are LGBTQ.



Destiny's Story

Destiny was referred to the Walden THP Program at 18. She was removed from her birth home when she was younger, due to abuse, and entered the foster system.

Destiny is a driven and resilient young woman. She faced her abusive stepfather in court, overcame homelessness, and dedicated herself to acquiring an education.

Destiny got an internship at an interior design company and now has a job there. She has decided to pursue a career in interior design and is taking steps to make that a reality. We know that Destiny will bring her creativity and determination to her work and create beautiful interiors.



I've walked through the shadows of abuse and the uncertainties of foster care, but I emerged with a determination to shape my own destiny. Landing an internship at an interior design company was a turning point, and now, with a job in hand, I'm crafting a career I love. My journey speaks to the strength within us all, proving that with creativity and resilience, we can turn dreams into beautiful realities. - Destiny



Foster Family Agency

156

children placed with carefully-matched families



100%

experienced fewer than two family placements

42

children adopted from foster care

123

adults were trained and certified to become foster parents

Transitional Housing Programs

392

youth ages 18-24 in our Transitional Housing programs



100%

of our youth have stable housing and supportive relationships

85%

have significant savings upon exiting the program

100%

of youth required to attend school and/or work



We work with the most difficult-to-place children and youth with Behavioral & Mental Health challenges, Special Healthcare Needs, are LGBTQ, large sibling groups, and older children of color. Walden provides trauma informed care for all of our programs so children and youth can heal and grow.

Extended/Aftercare Program



202
youth participated
in our Aftercare/
Extended Care
program

Foster Parents



142
adults were trained
and certified to
become foster
parents

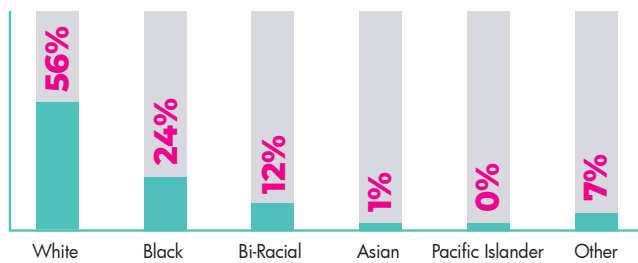
Nurturing Families



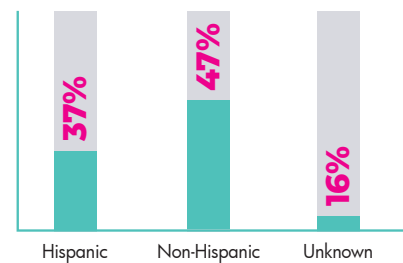
363
pregnant or parenting
youth participated
in our Nurturing
Families program

83
fathers completed
this program

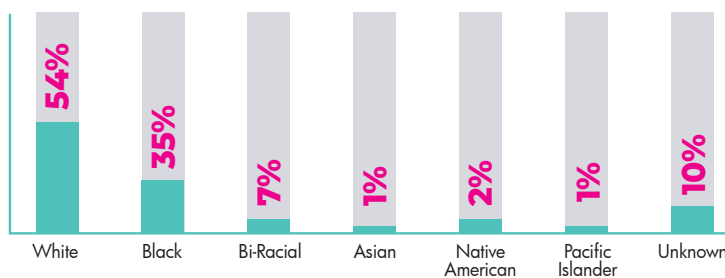
RACE Chart (FFA)



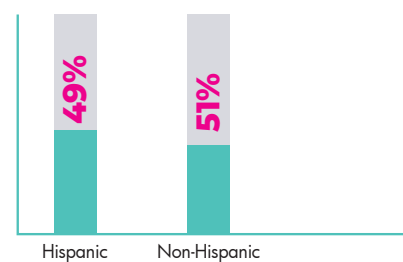
Ethnicity (FFA)



RACE Chart (THP)



Ethnicity (THP)



Thank You to Our Donors!

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

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\$50,000+

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

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\$1,000+

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 Elenore Vaughn
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 Windermere Foundation

\$500+

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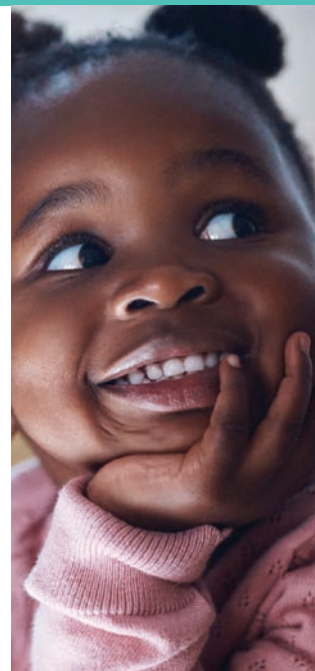
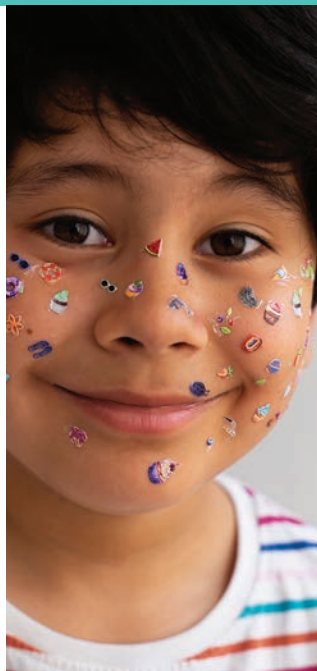


Walden
Family
Services

Supporting kids since 1976

8525 Gibbs Dr., #100 | San Diego, CA 92123

VISIT WALDENFAMILY.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION



LOS ANGELES

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RIVERSIDE

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(951) 788-5905

SAN BERNARDINO

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(909) 264-6742

SAN DIEGO

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