



Walden  
Family  
Services

Foster. Adopt. Support.

# 2017 IMPACT REPORT



# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2017, I am thrilled with the work that the Walden Family Services staff and Board of Directors have provided to the many children, youth and families served by our organization. At the same time, I continue to have a heavy heart knowing how many more children and youth remain traumatized by the abuse or sad family circumstances that require them to be placed in the foster care system.

Since its founding in 1976, Walden Family Services has provided foster care, adoption, and housing and social services to youth transitioning out of the foster care system throughout Southern California. Walden is guided by a vision for every child to have a loving family, and to realize their potential to be a self-sufficient and productive member of their community.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous contributions that enable us to continue Walden's legacy of caring for our communities' most at-risk children and youth. It will always be our commitment to provide them with a safe and loving family. It does "take a village" of donors, foster and adoptive parents, volunteers, staff, board and community partners to redirect our "family of kids" toward more positive futures.

This 2017 Impact Report will provide you with an insight into our progress and challenges during the past year. We hope you will review it and take a moment to join us in celebrating the victories of the children, youth and families we serve. These remarkable and resilient young people, as well as their "hero" foster families, truly deserve our continued generous support.

With much appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlene Lieberman".

**Arlene Lieberman**

Governance Chair, Board of Directors

Walden Family Services



# 2017 BOARD MEMBERS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

## Governance Board of Directors

### *Chair – Arlene Lieberman*

Executive Director,  
Barney & Barney  
Foundation

### *Vice Chair –*

#### *Leslie Levinson*

CFO, The Campanile  
Foundation

### *Treasurer –*

#### *Jaye Connolly-LaBelle*

President & CEO,  
Ripple Nami

### *Secretary –*

#### *Sheila Ferguson*

Financial Professional

### *Cherie Enge, Esq.*

Law Office of  
Cherie A. Enge

### *Denise Jackson*

President & CEO,  
Balboa Travel

### *Emily Shults*

VP Electric & Fuel  
Procurement, SDG&E

### *Rajah Gainey*

Individual & Corporate  
Gifts Manager,  
Promises2Kids

### *Stephanie Brownell*

CFO, Hunter Industries

## Foundation Board of Directors

### *Chair – Art Candland*

CEO, AJW Facilities &  
Construction

### *Vice Chair – Dale Ganzow*

Sales Manager, San Diego  
Business Journal

### *Treasurer – Lisa Betyar*

Partner, Lindsay &  
Brownell, CPAs

### *Secretary – Dalia Cohen*

Community Advocate

### *Andréa da Rosa*

Director, Marketing  
Communications,  
Balboa Travel

### *Cheryl Doss*

Community Advocate

### *Chris Powers*

Vice President, CBRE

### *James Lauth*

Founding Partner, Beamer  
Lauth Steinley & Bond, LLP

### *Kristi Martindale*

Chief Marketing Officer,  
Sarcos Robotics



## Advisory Committee San Diego

### *Harley & Maryanne Sefton*

CEO, Kennebec Financial  
Corporation; President,  
JW Sefton Foundation

### *Mary Alice & Ron Brady*

The Brady Companies

### *Michelle & Art Candland*

AJW Facilities &  
Construction

### *Anne Dick*

Community Advocate

### *Jeffery Strauss*

Chef, Owner  
Pamplemousse Grille

## Advisory Committee Los Angeles

### *Chair – Claire Davis*

Associate Director  
for Administrative  
Services, California State  
University, Northridge

### *Charles Carroll*

Vice President, Citizens  
Business Bank

### *Mitsugu Matsusaka*

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

### *Rosa Matsusaka*

Community Advocate

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Founded in 1976, Walden Family Services is a foster care-to-adoption and transition-age youth housing agency serving the Southern California region. Walden Family Services' comprehensive approach includes mental health care, parenting, visitation, and programs that develop independent living skills.

With a deep appreciation for all diversity, Walden Family Services set the standard among California's foster-to-adoption agencies embracing children and youth that are navigating a wide range of challenges—including those with special health care needs, disabilities, as well as pregnant/parenting teens and those identifying as LGBTQ.

## LOS ANGELES

### Counties served include:

- Los Angeles County
- Southern Ventura County
- Kern County
- Orange County

### Programs offered:

- Foster care and adoption
- Transitional Housing Placement + Foster Care

## RIVERSIDE

### Counties served include:

- Riverside County
- San Bernardino County
- Eastern Los Angeles County

### Programs offered:

- Foster care and adoption
- Transitional Housing Placement + Foster Care

## SAN BERNARDINO

### Counties served include:

- San Bernardino County

### Programs offered:

- Extended Care/Aftercare
- Cal-Learn
- Family Visitation
- Nurturing Parenting/FAMILY Program
- Mental Health Services

## SAN DIEGO

### Counties served include:

- San Diego County
- Imperial County

### Programs offered:

- Foster care and adoption
- Transitional Housing Placement + Foster Care





## 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.

## OUR MISSION

---

Supporting the lives of children and families through lasting relationships.

## OUR GUIDING 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.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



**At Walden, we know that when you invest in a child or youth, the benefits positively affect future generations.**

As human beings, we all need a safe place to live, people who care about us and a community that provides opportunities to thrive. For the children and youth aided by Walden Family Services, you are their community.

Walden’s community keeps siblings together, prepares youth for success as productive members of society, and matches children who can’t return to their birth parents with loving, specially trained and certified foster and adoptive families. Your support also helps break the cycle of foster care through services designed to keep families together.

With a staggering 60,000 children and youth in foster care throughout Southern California, we need more resources to better meet their needs. If at all possible, we encourage you to give a little more this year so we may serve more children and youth in need. Please tell a friend about us. Encourage them to make a donation through [www.waldenfamily.org](http://www.waldenfamily.org). And if you’ve thought about becoming a foster parent to a child in need, we would love to help make that happen for you.

The work we do together as the Walden Community is important. At Walden, we know that when you invest in a child or youth, society reaps the benefit for future generations.

Thank you so much for caring about the children.

Sincerely,

**Teresa Stivers**  
CEO

Walden Family Services



# FINANCIALS



- 91% Government Contracts
- 9% Donations, Grants, Events

84 cents of every dollar goes directly to our programs.



- 84% Program Services
- 16% Administration, Fundraising

These are our unaudited financials for 2017. For a final, audited version, please check our website [www.waldenfamily.org](http://www.waldenfamily.org)

# FOSTER CARE

Most children and youth in foster care have endured chronic trauma, neglect and abuse.

Walden's therapeutic foster care program nurtures and promotes healing through a highly integrated team approach focused on a cohesive continuum of care. This approach ensures that all of our children and youth—especially those needing specialized care—have the chance to thrive in a loving, stable family.

**Former foster youth are twice as likely to suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as combat veterans.**

Source: Children Now's 2016 California Report

## Spotlight



### *Courtney*

Courtney came to Walden's FFA program at the age of 11. At 18, she was accepted to Walden's THP+FC program. Today, at 21, she has graduated and transitioned into Walden's THP Plus Program for young people ages 21-24. Throughout her time with Walden, Courtney has continued to flourish, demonstrating responsibility, self-sufficiency, and drive. She is currently working full-time at Petco Park Stadium where her hard work and positive attitude shine. Her future goals include working with foster youth or veterans.

**100% of Walden's children experience less than two placements, compared to California's state average of 86%.**

Source: Kids Count Data Center

**Our foster care program served a total of 207 children. Of these children, 46 required specialized care and support due to disabilities or healthcare needs.**



# ADOPTION

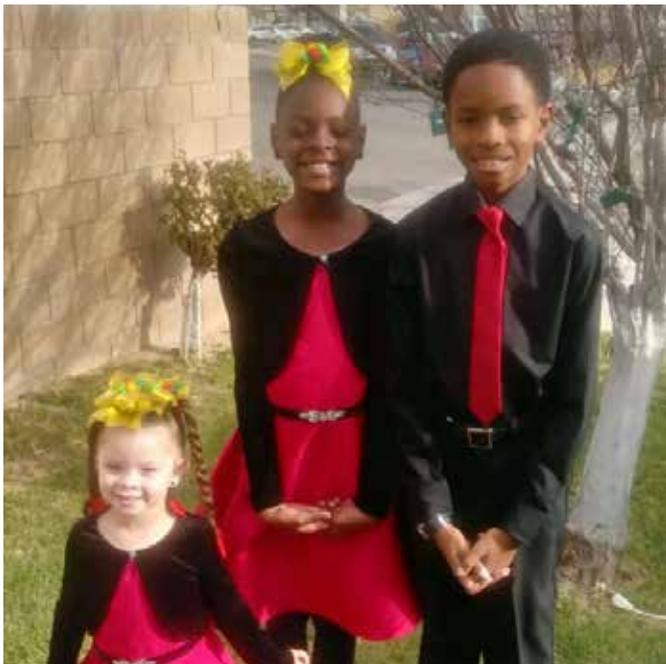
In the 10 years Walden has been a full-service adoption agency, we have learned that all adoptions, like all children, are unique. To ensure Walden children thrive, each prospective family is paired with a social worker to assist with our matching process and provides training. Our approach guarantees each child is placed in a healthy, happy home ready to help them heal.

**In 2017,  
53 children found  
their forever home  
and family thanks  
to your help.**

## Spotlight

### *The Washingtons*

Shawn and Gail Washington became foster/adoptive parents through Walden Family Services in October 2014. Married 32 years, the Washingtons have two adult daughters, a large extended family and circle of friends, and have fulfilled their lifelong dream of having a big family and helping children in need. They received their first placement, a 24-day-old baby girl, in November 2014, and their second, a sibling set, a year later. With each placement, the Washingtons instantly fell in love with each child. After birth family reunification failed, Shawn and Gail jumped at the chance to adopt the children they have loved as their own. In June 2017, they joyfully signed adoption paperwork for all three children. The Washingtons look forward to opening their home and hearts to even more children.



# PREVENTION

Many of Walden's programs use a preventive approach to service delivery. We seek to address root causes of problems while helping participants develop positive behaviors that promote the resiliency, self-sufficiency, and the safety of the children, youth and families in the program.

**In 2017, Walden served 371 families and provided 9,087 hours of coaching and visitation.**



## PARENTING PROGRAMS

### CAL-LEARN

The Cal-Learn program at Walden helps pregnant/parenting teens achieve self-sufficiency and break the cycles of foster care and unintended pregnancy. We provide them with support to graduate from high school, become responsible, caring parents and learn essential independent living skills. In 2017, Walden's Cal-Learn program served 273 pregnant/parenting teens.

### NURTURING PARENTING

Nurturing Parenting is a 16-week program that offers young parents an opportunity to develop critical skills needed to nurture their children, build self-awareness, self-esteem, and communication abilities. It also offers them a comfortable place to build meaningful relationships with peers who are facing similar challenges. Often the young parents have experienced trauma in their childhoods and are determined that their own children won't suffer as they have. In 2017, Walden served 123 young parents in its Nurturing Parenting program.

### PARENTS' COACHING/ VISITATION PROGRAM

There are times when it is in the best interests of the foster child to maintain a relationship with his or her birth parents. With appropriate support, the family may work toward reunification. For this reason, Walden provides coaching and supervised visitation for birth parents and other family members to spend time with their children who are in foster care. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that a successful family reunification is far more likely when the birth parents of a foster child are provided with support program services.

## PARENTING YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

---

### *Melinda*

“When I came to Walden Family Services as a pregnant foster youth at 16, I had such a different outlook on life. The coaching and mentoring I received at Walden definitely helped me to look to the future and discover my own ambition to succeed.”

Since emancipating, Melinda has joined Walden’s staff, first, as a member of the recruiting staff that works to find foster parents, and currently, as an executive/quality assurance assistant.

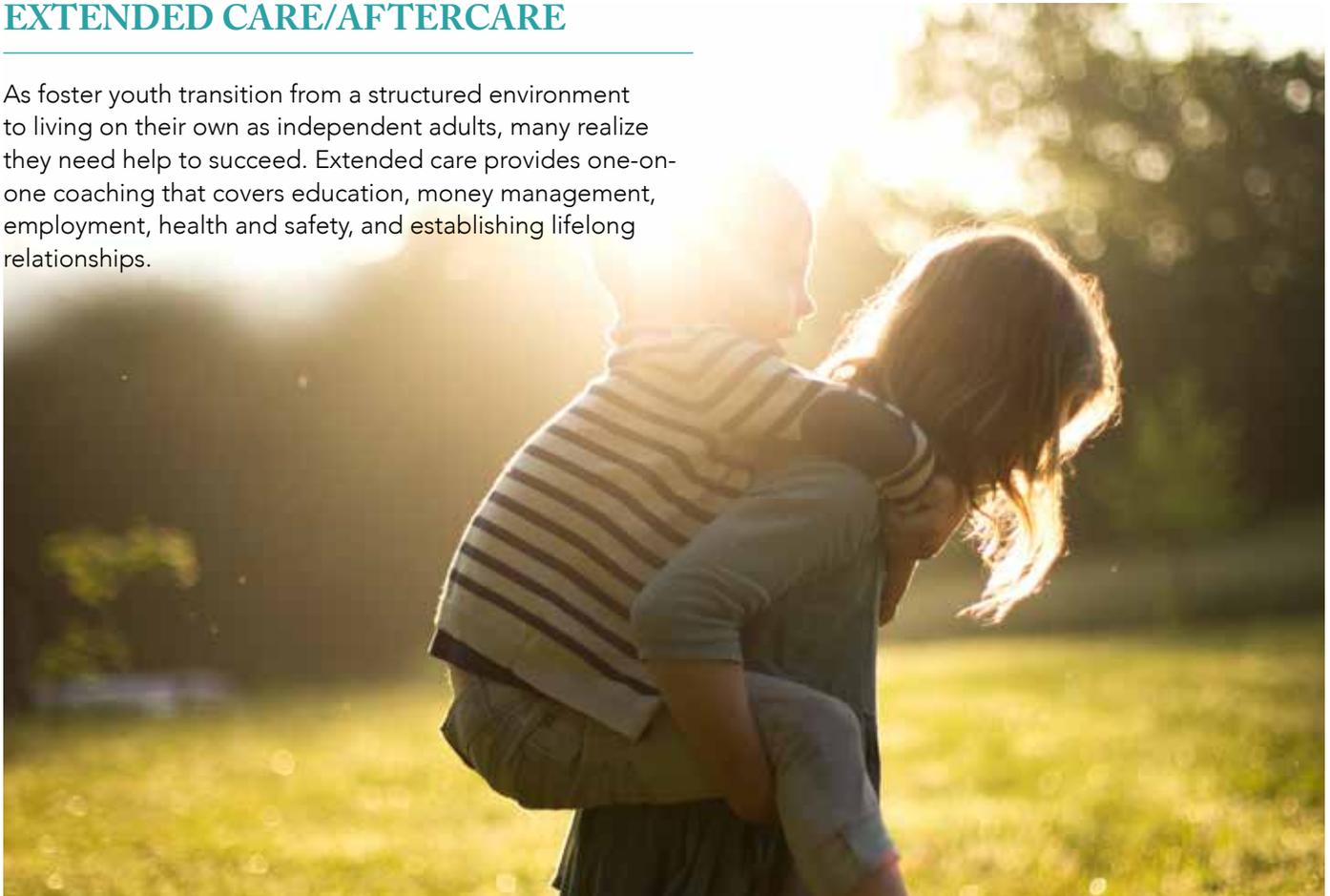


Since I work at Walden now, I feel good that I am helping those in the foster care system because I know what it’s like.

## EXTENDED CARE/AFTERCARE

---

As foster youth transition from a structured environment to living on their own as independent adults, many realize they need help to succeed. Extended care provides one-on-one coaching that covers education, money management, employment, health and safety, and establishing lifelong relationships.



# TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT + FOSTER CARE (THP+FC)

Children do not magically become adults at 18. While most young adults depend on their parents when they transition into adulthood, 65% of California foster youth leave the system at age 18 without a home or adult to guide them. Walden's Transitional Housing Placement + Foster Care program helps to fill this gap. Walden's THP+FC youth receive transitional housing, essential independent living skills and other support services, as well as a monthly stipend that they are encouraged to save, until the age of 21. Meanwhile, they are learning to live alone within a community, building meaningful relationships with mentors, working towards a college degree, learning a vocation, and/or working part-time or full-time.

Last year, 303 youth received the many benefits of participating in our THP+FC program.

The THP+FC program made it possible for participating Walden youth to attend community college, vocational school, or a four-year university - some while working part-time - while others had attained full-time employment.

**57% of Walden THP+FC youth were employed, compared to 45% of youth in statewide THP programs.**

Source: John Burton Advocates for Youth

## Spotlight

### *Israel*

Israel, one of the first participants in Walden's THP+ program, has thrived. He learned to accept and value himself by perceiving his role in a community where he is just as important to others as they are to him. This shift in thinking helped Israel learn to move beyond surviving to working towards goals and his self-improvement. In 2015, Israel graduated with substantial savings, and a career as a long-distance truck driver. In the past three years, he has remained connected to his Walden social worker, reconnected with family, and continues to work diligently on self-improvement.



## Social Worker Spotlight

### *Jeff*

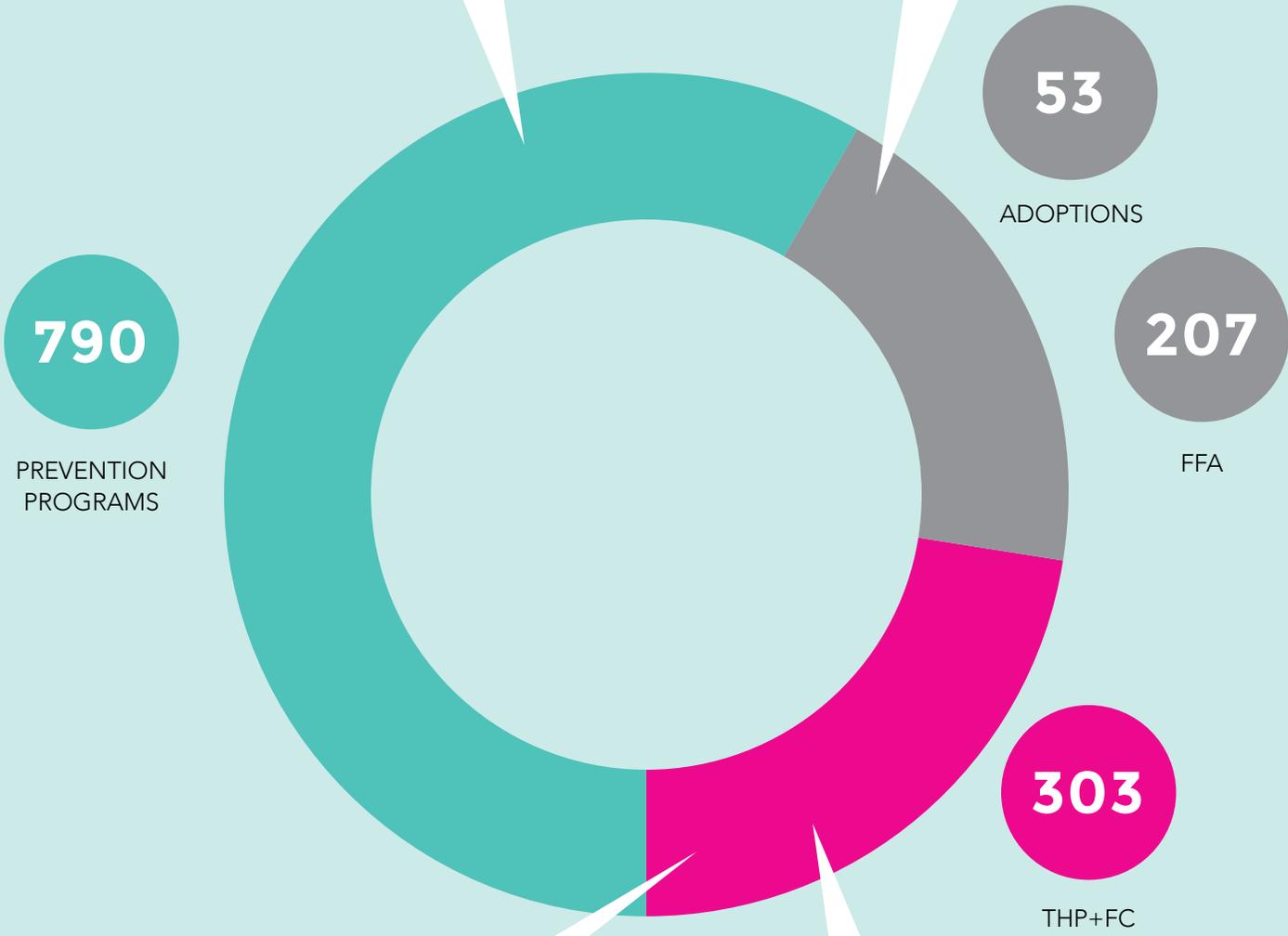
Social Worker, THP+FC

"Walden gives me the opportunity to impact the lives of young men and women by creating safer options, and helping them make different choices that break cycles of crime, unemployment, and poverty. I have witnessed youth grow in moral development, relationship skills, and meet education and work goals. The most rewarding part of my job is seeing our youth achieve goals, forming authentic relationships and maintaining ongoing contact. Youth often call me months and years later to update me on their successes, or reach out to discuss their challenges or struggles."



In 2017, Walden provided **9,087** hours of coaching and visitation to **371** families in the Parents' Coaching/Visitation Program.

**100%** of Walden's children experience less than two placements, compared to California's state average of 86%.  
Source: Kids Count Data Center



**57%** of Walden THP+FC youth were employed, compared to 45% of youth in statewide THP programs.  
Source: John Burton Advocates for Youth

**36%** of Walden THP+FC youth attended community college, vocational school, or a four-year university.

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

## \$300,000 +

HARLEY & MARYANNE SEFTON

## \$100,000+

ANDREW L. SANDEL & NOREEN SANDEL TRUST

## \$50,000+

ANNENBERG FOUNDATION

ANONYMOUS

MICHELLE & ARTHUR CANDLAND / AJW FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION

## \$25,000+

Alliance Healthcare Foundation

Mary Alice & Ron Brady

San Manuel Band Of Mission Indians

Walter J. & Betty C. Zable  
Foundation

## \$20,000+

Hervey Family Fund at

The San Diego Foundation

St. Germaine Children's Charity

The Community Foundation

The Green Foundation

## \$15,000+

George Hoag Family Foundation

## \$10,000+

Andréa da Rosa & Deborah  
Llewellyn

Caroline & Nicolas Nierenberg

Terri & Craig Gainor / The Linda &  
Jerry Strickland Foundation

David C. Copley Foundation

Desiree & Evan Swanson

Dowling & Yahnke

Hunter Industries, Inc.

SDGE - A Sempra Energy Utility

The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation  
for Autism, Inc.

## \$7,500+

Cheryl Doss

Cathleen & Reza Shera

Peg & Robert Eddy

## \$5,000+

Nancy & Michael Brownell

Dalia & Dr. Edward Cohen

Day for Change

Hilary & Hal Dunning

Donna & Jack Galloway

Gr'mere's l'mpossible Journey Fund

at The San Diego Foundation

Bill Howe Plumbing, Heating & Air, Inc.

Leslie & Jim Levinson

Arlene Lieberman

Lindsay & Brownell

Marion & Ronald MacCormick

Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC

Mundoval Capital Management, Inc.

Pamela & Charles Pendrell

The Country Friends

The Narrow Gate

A Charitable Foundation

Lisa Betyar & Karl Walter

Wells Fargo Foundation

## \$2,500+

Lyndsey & Allan Arendsee

Stephanie & Stephen Brownell

Chris Powers / CBRE

James Cunningham

Jay Robinson-Duff /

First American Trust

Denise Jackson & Al Pacheco

Marty & David Pendarvis

Emily & Ted Shults

Cheryl & Jeff Smith /

Smith Brothers Homes

Barbie & Dan Spinazzola

Kathryn & John Stephens

Cami & Warren Thompson

Sheila Ferguson & Max Webb



**\$1,000+**

Micki Olin & Dr. Reid Abrams  
 Lisa & Raul Albanez  
 Jenn & William Beamer  
 Kris & Jim Benham  
 Patricia Anne Brown /  
 The Burton G. Bettingen Corp.  
 Kim & Craig Blower  
 Jennifer Brown / Marvin K. Brown  
 Auto Center, Inc.  
 Clarence Bryan  
 Buchalter, Nemer, Fields & Younger  
 Cathy & Chris Carroll  
 Cole Casey  
 Marly & Joe da Rosa  
 Hannah & Ricardo da Rosa  
 Irene & Fred Defesche  
 Linda & Rick Dicker  
 Renee Duverger  
 Sue & Edward Earl  
 Cherie & Curtis Enge  
 Jenna & Dr. Jim Foster  
 Susan Gammon  
 Dr. Ahmed Ghouri  
 Crickette Brown Glad  
 Joyce Glazer  
 Mia Babson-Goldklang &  
 Dr. Robert Goldklang  
 Richard Levenson & Cydney Grant  
 Mary L. Hamilton  
 Christy & Adam Heard  
 Laurie Henson  
 Rene' & Travis Hitt  
 Karen & Robert Hoehn  
 Carol & Henry F. Hunte Fund  
 Bronwyn & Mark Jarvis  
 Claudia & Jeff Johnson  
 Matthew Craig /  
 JPMorgan Chase Bank  
 Matthew Kavanaugh  
 Kelly Kjos  
 Janice & Matt Kurth  
 Jaye Connolly-LaBelle &  
 Dr. Jim LaBelle  
 Kristine & Dave Lach  
 Raymond Simas & H. Karl Lowe  
 Ann & Alexander Lyon  
 Kristi & Tom Martindale  
 Paul Checketts / Merrill Lynch,  
 Private Banking & Investment  
 Lori & Neal Meyers

Gines D. Miralles  
 Elspeth & James Myer  
 Alexie Nguyen  
 Mary & James Nierman  
 Althea Lee & David Parker  
 Clarice & William Perkins  
 Christine & Frederick Pierce  
 Bianca Roy  
 Steve Salmons /  
 Behind the Scenes Catering  
 Alexi & Dave Schnell  
 Kristen & Steve Shea  
 The Wahl Foundation  
 Kathryn & Don Vaughn  
 Carolyn G. Wheeler  
 Allan Wollach  
 Julie & Dale Yahnke

**\$500+**

DeAnna & Larry Andrews  
 Steve Axel  
 Janine Barton  
 Colleen & Steven Brucker  
 Ellen & T.K. Bryson  
 Dawn Basore & Chris Callen  
 Nancy Carlson  
 Anthony R. Carr  
 Edwin Chen  
 Renata da Rosa  
 Nancy & David Deisinger  
 Jenny & Mark Dowling  
 Laura & Robert Duggan  
 Vicki & Chris Eddy  
 Arlene & Richard Esgate  
 Jose Figueroa  
 Fabienne & Terry Hanks  
 Gretchen & James Herr  
 Lee Wills & Ed Irvine  
 Nancy & Don King  
 Mark Larson  
 Pat Libby  
 Teresa Stivers & Victor Liong  
 Katherine Masters  
 Lydia & John McNeil  
 Katy & Logan Mulkey  
 Cheryl Olive  
 Raymond O'Sullivan  
 Erin & Omar Passons  
 Lori & Kenneth Polin  
 Kimberly & Leo Rubidoux  
 Patti Judd & Robert Salt

Nancy Sasaki  
 Sue & Michael Schreibman  
 Gamin Thomason  
 Michelle Wiseman  
 Rebecca & Trevor Wood

**\$250+**

Sheri & Clinton Alley  
 Claire Davis & Virginia Banker  
 Yesenia Lozoya /  
 Brinig Taylor Zimmer, Inc.  
 Michael Carlin  
 Kim & Steven Clark  
 Karolina Ericsson  
 Suzi & Bernard Feldman  
 David Isley /  
 Fitness Integrative Transitions  
 Deborah Reynolds & James Frank  
 John Fritzenkotter  
 Amy & Steve Fritzenkotter  
 Dale Ganzow & Karen Marquardt  
 Andrew Graham  
 Beverly Grainger  
 Ann C. Harris  
 Margaret Harvey  
 Jerome L. Heard  
 Christy & Chad Ihrig  
 Nancy Kidder  
 Ken Lautsch  
 Linda & John Maguire  
 Agatha & Robert Martindale  
 Celine & Jean-Philippe Maury  
 Patrick Millay  
 One Simple Wish  
 Fabienne & Corey Pagano  
 Dawn & Huntley Paton  
 Cathy Paulsen  
 PHCC of California  
 Wendy & Ken Roos  
 Stuart Simon  
 Karl Steinberg  
 Claudette & Ralph Steinhauer  
 Claudia Wagner



WALDENFAMILY.ORG

SUPPORT FOSTER CHILDREN AND YOUTH BY MAKING A DONATION TODAY!

# Wine D'Vine

SAVE THE DATE

November 2, 2018

HYATT REGENCY LA JOLLA AT AVENTINE

3777 La Jolla Village Dr, San Diego, CA 92122

Dinner – Live Auction - Concert  
Entertainment to be announced soon  
Sponsorship opportunities begin at \$3,000

To sponsor or reserve a table, please contact Kathryn Stephens at  
(619) 727-5897 or [kstephens@waldenfamily.org](mailto:kstephens@waldenfamily.org)