

**FOSTER.
ADOPT.
SUPPORT.**



**WALDEN FAMILY SERVICES
2018 IMPACT REPORT**

WALDEN FAMILY SERVICES

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN

Most of us have had the good fortune to grow up in a home with adult family members that cared for and guided us. Those relationships set the foundation for success in almost every area of our lives, easing our way into adulthood. And as we turn to our own children, they can take for granted that we will do the same for them.

But the 35,000 children and youth in Southern California's foster care system can't take the profound gift of nurturing adults in their lives for granted. They lack the lifeline of a stable home as they navigate a childhood already punctuated by trauma. As they age, youth in foster care are disproportionately prone to unemployment, homelessness and poverty.

We can—and must—be the lifeline. We can—and must—be the caring adults that transform the lives of children in our community.

With district offices in Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, Walden proudly offers foster care and adoption placements, parenting training, and mental health services. We provide housing and independent living skills development for older foster and former foster youth, giving them the support they need to go to school, become employed, and succeed. And for young people who've emancipated from the child welfare system, we offer aftercare services so they can continue to access valuable resources and care.

We are an agency of choice for referrals from county and state welfare systems because of our exceptional outcomes with our youth and families. We maintain a strong track record for service excellence and specialized care of so-called "hard-to-place" foster children, including sibling groups, medically fragile and special-needs children, teens, and LGBTQ youth.

We offer our heartfelt appreciation to Walden's community of kind and compassionate foster and adoptive families, staff, board members, community partners, and donors. All of these people work to level the playing field for young people who have come from abusive, traumatic, and neglectful environments with services and programs that reset the trajectory of their lives toward happy, productive futures. If you are a new friend to Walden, we welcome you and hope you'll join our community of care.

Sincerely,



Arlene Lieberman
Board Chair



Teresa Stivers
Chief Executive Officer



1498
**Children, Youth & Family
Members Served in 2018**

100%

of our kids have 2 or fewer placements
vs. 86% statewide



36%

were placed in permanent homes
vs. 24% statewide



74

children went on to be adopted



136

caring adults opened their homes to children in need



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

RACHEL & HARRY

Deeply moved to help care for children in her community, Rachel* became a certified foster care parent through Walden Family Services in 2014. Since then, she's opened her heart to 20 children, helping each child stay connected to their birth family and receive the supportive services they need.

"I see myself as a mentor to families," explained Rachel. "Many of the kids who've come into my care have parents who were never properly cared for themselves, so they are learning what to do from scratch." Her loving support has contributed to many of the families being strengthened so that the children often have been able to safely return to their birth parents.

But family reunification was not a safe option for four-year old Harry, who has lived with Rachel for two years. "It just became very clear to me that Harry was meant to stay with me," said Rachel, who added that she plans to continue fostering even after Harry's adoption is complete.

BELLA

Around the time Bella was starting high school, she faced some challenging circumstances at home that resulted in her being referred into the child welfare system. The County placed her in a group home for older foster care youth for a while. Luckily, Walden Family Services was able to match her with the Martins, a certified foster family that happened to live near her high school.

The Martins offered her ongoing support and encouragement to achieve her goals. Now a senior in high school, Bella gets good grades and is captain of her school's field hockey team. She is also active in school clubs and student leadership.

Bella has plans to attend college next year, and the Martins intend to continue to support and mentor her through her college years—recently finalizing the process of become her legal guardians.

"I see myself as a mentor to families. Many of the kids who've come into my care have parents who were never properly cared for themselves, so they are learning what to do from scratch."



Currently a senior in high school, Bella gets good grades, is captain of her school field hockey team, and is active in clubs and student leadership. She plans to attend college next year.

**All names have been changed to protect privacy.*

Walden's programs span the needs of children, youth, young people leaving foster care, and their families, with the goal of providing each child with a loving and stable home and breaking the cycle of child abuse and trauma. Please visit WaldenFamily.org for more information and to learn how you can transform the life of a child today.

18 months into Walden's THPP program, Mara is very goal-oriented. She works full-time, goes to school full time, and is a caring parent to three-year-old Maddie.



Walden's programs for young people exiting foster care give them support and guidance as they develop the critical skills they need during transition to adulthood.

MARA & MADDIE

Young mom Mara enrolled in Walden's Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) at age 18. Through the program she received housing assistance and was able to move into her own apartment with her baby, Maddie.

Goal-focused and determined, Mara is an active participant in the THPP program trainings where she's learned how to manage finances, apply for college financial aid, and conduct an effective job search. She's also taken Nurturing Parenting classes to develop her skills as a caring and encouraging mother to Maddie.

After a year and a half in the program, Mara is now pursuing a nursing career and towards that goal she is a full-time student at her local community college, while working full-time as a store manager. Her child, Maddie, is three years old and thriving as a budding scholar in preschool.

DANIEL

Daniel was ready to leave his last group home, but was worried about being out on his own. He wanted to have a normal life: to finish school, get a job, and find a place to live. But he knew that without help, he was facing homelessness or worse. Some of his friends lived on the streets; some were in jail. Luckily for Daniel, he found Walden. He now has his GED and is working full time.

Most young adults are not mature enough to navigate the challenges of life on their own just because they turn 18. For youth leaving the child welfare system, this transition to independence can be especially challenging. They struggle with decisions about where to live, how much rent they can afford, whether to go to college or vocational school, and how they will support themselves.

Walden's THPP, Cal-Learn, Nurturing Parenting and Aftercare/Extended Care programs provide youth with support and guidance in developing critical thinking, planning and decision-making skills as they transition to adulthood.

OUR LOCATIONS

Los Angeles

6345 Balboa Blvd., Bldg. II, #130
Encino, CA 91316
(818) 365-3665

Riverside

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

San Bernardino

255 N. D St., #412
San Bernardino, CA 92401
(909) 361-3000

San Diego

8525 Gibbs Dr., Ste. 100
San Diego, CA 92123
(619) 584-5777



82%

**of our young parents
showed improved empathy**
- breaking the cycle of abuse -



100%

**of our youth have
stable housing and
supportive relationships**



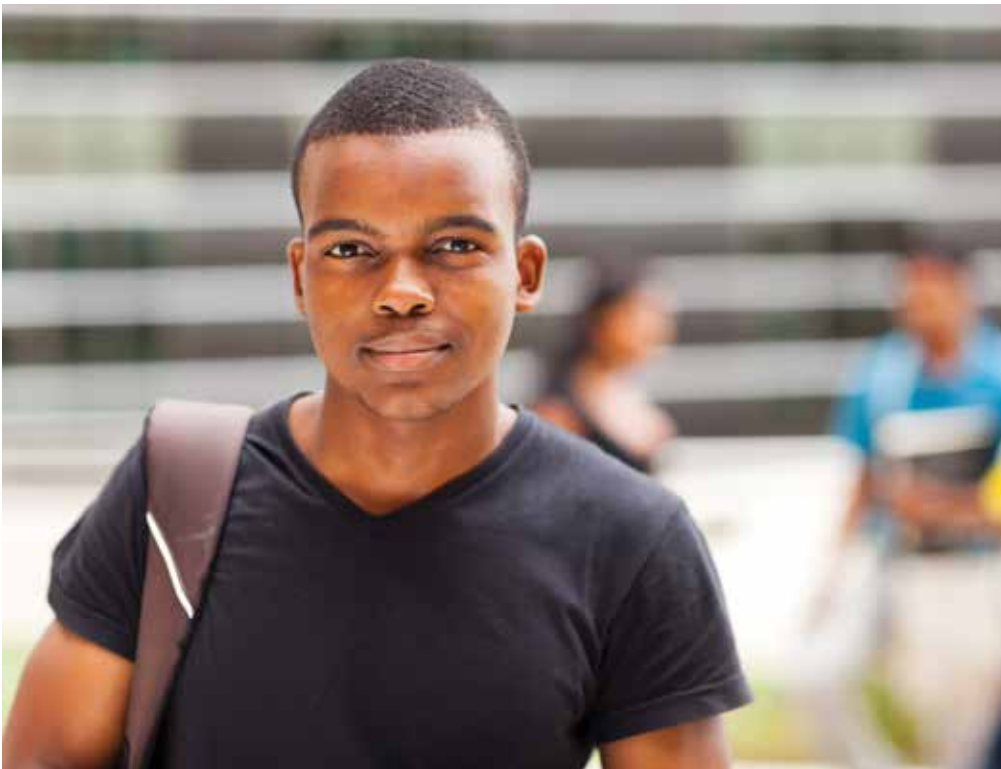
57%

**of our youth are
employed**
vs. 47% statewide



57%

are pursuing higher ed.
vs. 33% statewide



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

WALDEN BY THE NUMBERS

229

young people working
on their education

365

youth ages 18-21 in
Transitional Housing

201

children placed with
carefully-matched families

103

pregnant or parenting youth
learning to nurture

74

children adopted
from foster care

119

caring adults who
opened their homes

299

youth in aftercare

In 2018, we served 1498 unique clients agency-wide, including some in multiple programs:

- 365 youth ages 18-21 in our Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) and six ages 21-24 in THP Plus (THP+)
- 201 foster children & youth placed with carefully-matched families
- 74 Walden adoptions (foster care-to-adoption) achieved; 30 County of San Diego-referred adoptions
- 119 resource parents and 17 new families assessed for approval
- 229 youth and young adults in our Cal-Learn program
- 103 pregnant or parenting youth in our Nurturing Parenting Program
- 14 children, youth and young adults for Mental Health services
- 185 families in our Visitation Program
- 299 youth in our Aftercare/Extended Care program

1498

**Children, Youth & Family
Members Served in 2018**

Visit WaldenFamily.org for more information about our programs.

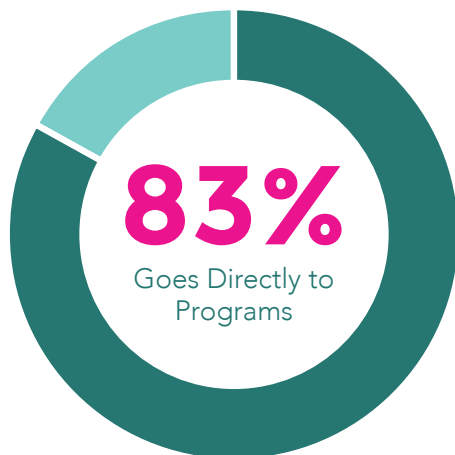
FINANCIALS

REVENUE: \$ 14,958,010



- 89% Government Contracts
- 11% Grants, Events, Donations

EXPENSES: \$ 14,522,221



- 83% Program Services
- 17% Administration, Fundraising

These are our unaudited financials for 2018. For a final, audited version, please visit us at WaldenFamily.org.

WALDEN LEADERSHIP

Teresa Stivers
Chief Executive Officer

Sue Evans
Chief Operations Officer

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\$100,000+

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\$25,000+

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\$20,000+

The Green Foundation
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McCarthy Family Foundation
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\$15,000+

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\$10,000+

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The Community Foundation
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Arlene Lieberman
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\$5,000+

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Kathie & Peter Davis
Day for Change
Peg & Robert Eddy
Gr'mere's I'mpossible Journey Fund
at The San Diego Foundation
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Cathy & Sam Muslin
Caroline & Nicolas Nierenberg
TW2 Marketing
Wells Fargo Foundation



83¢

of every dollar goes directly
to Walden's programs for
children, youth and families

\$2,500+

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Anthony Bollotta /
Bollotta Entertainment
Stephanie & Steve Brownell
Cathey Cadieux
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Robin Wilson Carrier
& Gordon Carrier
Gay & Lesbian Fund at
The San Diego Foundation
The Harbaugh Foundation
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Lindsay & Brownell, LLP
Una & Jack McGrory
PHCC of California
Nancy & John Pouk
Jay Robinson-Duff /
First American Trust
The San Diego Foundation
Marie Tuthill
Lynne & Dr. Steve Wheeler



\$500+

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 Allison & Todd Beach
 Ken Bender
 Ellen & T.K. Bryson
 California Wellness
 Foundation
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 The Wahl Foundation
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\$1,000 +

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 Brown Auto Center, Inc.
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\$250+

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 Patti Judd & Bob Salt
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 Linda & John Maguire
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 Lucila Ohno-Machado
 Nancy & George Oriotis
 Abby Pruitt
 Amy & Matt Schlegal
 Bob Stefanko
 Jane & Douglas Wheeler

Your donations make unconditional love possible for children with nowhere to turn. Together, we are transforming lives. Visit WaldenFamily.org to learn more.



Walden
Family
Services

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

SAVE THE DATE! VISIT WALDENFAMILY.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

Spring
AN EVENING
WITH JEFFREY
SOIRÉE



TO BENEFIT

Walden Family Services

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019

PRIVATE RECEPTION AT THE HOME OF EXECUTIVE CHEF

Jeffrey Strauss

FOLLOWED BY

DINNER AT PAMPLEMOUSSE GRILLE

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<https://WaldenFamily.org>

or call Kathryn Stephens at 619-727-5897