



The Advocate

Spring 2021

Safety Net offers Hope and Promise

Our Safety Net program receives up to 70 referrals a week from Child Protective Services (CPS) for families that are at-risk of or have low-risk involvement in the child welfare system. These families are referred for supportive services to prevent further or future CPS involvement. Our case management team diligently works to assist these families, helping them address abuse and addiction issues and providing guidance with financial hardship, loss of income or loss of housing.

One example is a young couple, Alisha and Jovi, who have been together since seventh grade. When Alisha got pregnant at age 16, her parents kicked her out of the home. Alisha and Jovi began living with friends and later had a second child. While they navigated parenthood and adulthood the best they could, they learned destructive and hurtful behaviors from their homes. They had both grown up in abusive households, and neither of them knew what a healthy relationship looked like. They didn't know how to show support and care for each other or their children.

Eventually, they received a visit from our Safety Net team regarding a referral from CPS. Initially unhappy about this, Jovi says, "It was the life-changing call we needed." Safety Net provided the family with case management services to address any challenges or concerns they had. Over time, the family was connected to various services and resources such as parenting classes, support groups, and one-on-one counseling. They learned about healthy coping and relationship skills, effective communication, and positive parenting.



Jovi found full-time employment, and Alisha started her own work-from-home business so that she can care for their children.

"It has been eye-opening for us," Alisha says. "We learned that hurting isn't love. We were hurting each other, but we didn't know it." Jovi says that the program helped them discover how strong they are and how they can build a better future for their family.

Our Safety Net program offers hope and promise to families, giving them a second chance to make things right and break free from the cycle of violence. With time, resources, education and counseling, families can heal and become stronger.

Need help? Speak to an advocate today!

24-Hour Helplines

Domestic Violence	(209) 465-4878
Sexual Assault	(209) 465-4997
Youth/Human Trafficking	(209) 948-1911



For TTY callers, please dial 711 for assistance.



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Our mission is to build a stronger community by fostering the strengths in individuals and by acting as a catalyst to end violence and youth homelessness.

Through our programs and services, we are saving lives, helping victims heal, restoring hope, strengthening families, and building a safer community.

**620 N. San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95202
Locations near you!**

(209) 941-2611

From the CEO

Moments of Opportunity



Where has the year gone?! It seems like only yesterday that we were counting down to our new year resolutions – yet here we are – five months into 2021.

The “new year” is usually met as a moment of opportunity – to leave the past behind and grasp onto healthy new beginnings. The reality, however, lies in the blink of an eye when the clock ticks from 11:59:59pm to 12:00:00am – literally, one second (or less, depending on how technical you want to be). So, five months later, New Year's Day seems like it was really just a blink of the eye. Yet, we continue to create new beginnings every single day!

How would we, along with our families and communities, be impacted if we looked at all moments with the same sense of hope and desire? The truth is, we would then be presented with more than 30 million moments of opportunity in any given year.

That, my friends, is the impact your generosity and support has! YOU have provided thousands of victims and survivors millions of moments of opportunities this past year and continue to provide into this new year - and we are so grateful.

So, as we have left 2020 behind us, and continue on throughout this new year, remember you – like all of us – will have millions more opportunities to change your life, someone else's life, and the world.

Let's continue through this new year - and I hope your 2021 moments by the millions are filled with love.

Warmest regards,

Krista M. Fiser, MA
Chief Executive Officer

In Memory of

Linda Kaye Fawcett

December 15, 1945 – January 2, 2021



In 1984, Linda Fawcett was selected as the first Executive Director of the Women's Center of San Joaquin County. Prior to this, Linda had served on the agency's Board of Directors for years as a member, secretary and president. Under Linda's leadership, the Women's Center

purchased and moved to our current location and began providing services to inmates at the Northern California Women's Facility. Working with a small staff and an army of volunteers, Linda continued the important work of building our legacy that we carry on today.

Linda was active in our local community and cultivated partnerships and community engagement to share resources and expand our reach to women. Linda served as Executive Director until she moved to the Santa Cruz area with her husband, Joe Griffin. Even though they relocated, Linda has never walked away from the Women's Center. She has maintained her loyalty as an annual donor and a member of our "Compassion Society".

Linda will truly be missed and remembered for her leadership, her grace, and her ability to approach life with intensity, care, and warmth. As many of Linda's close friends would say, "There was always room at Linda's table. She always had an open home and heart for everyone."

Team Spotlight Adrianna Griffith

Adrianna Griffith, our new Volunteer Program Coordinator has been with WCYFS for over four years. She began as a Specialist in our CSEC & Human Trafficking program and then as a Specialist co-located at the Family Justice Center. She has been a dedicated advocate for survivors.

Now, as Volunteer Program Coordinator, Adrianna ensures WCYFS stays visible in our community and coordinates internal trainings for staff. This includes but is not limited to Victim Assistance Training (VAT), volunteer opportunities, and prevention and education presentations.

We are extremely proud of Adrianna!

Did you Know?

We helped support more than
1,250
families and individuals
in need from August to December 2020.

YOU can help by donating NEW items.*

Hygiene Kits

Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Deodorant
Shampoo
Conditioner
Hand sanitizer
Mask

Clothing

T-shirts
Socks
Underwear
Bras
Jeans
Sweatpants
Sweatshirts

Snack Bags

Water bottle
Granola bars
Oatmeal
Chips
Beef jerky
Cup of noodles
Peanuts

*items (including backpacks and tote containers) must be NEW.

Items needed: female, male and unisex in ALL sizes for 12 to 25 years old. Thank you.





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Thank You!

We are thankful for all who generously provided so much joy to our participants and their families during the holiday season. We are especially grateful to those who gave through our Adopt-A-Family efforts.



Chuck's Burgers and Stearns Racing



Chateau Turner and family State Farm Agent



The Links



Lincoln High School Cheer

Making a Difference

Bread of Life

We are grateful for our partnership with Bread of Life, who helps us provide dry goods, produce, and drinks to the communities surrounding our offices in the Historic Downtown Magnolia District of Stockton. This area is known as a "food desert" – where grocery stores are several miles away. This is a struggle and challenge for participants that have little access to reliable transportation. Together, with Bread of Life, we were able to bring groceries to those who need them most, providing more than 1,000 participant families with food boxes!

