



## **HUMAN OPTIONS AWARDED \$15,000 GRANT FUNDED BY SCAN HEALTH PLAN**

*Funding Will Support Organization's "Safe Options for Seniors" Program in Orange County, Designed for Seniors Who Have Experienced Relationship Abuse*

**ORANGE COUNTY, Calif., (May 19, 2021)** – Human Options, the Orange County-based nonprofit dedicated to ending the cycle of relationship violence, has been awarded a grant from SCAN Health Plan's Community Giving Program in the amount of \$15,000. The funding will support Human Options' critical "Safe Options for Seniors" program, which provides high quality individual and group counseling, legal advocacy, support groups, and more. SCAN Health Plan is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit Medicare Advantage plans, dedicated to keeping seniors healthy and independent.

"As the pandemic turned the world upside down, leaving many seniors in isolation at home with abusers, we are so grateful for this generous grant from SCAN Health Plan," said Mieka Bledsoe, Program Supervisor for Human Options' Safe Options for Seniors. "Often an overlooked form of abuse, at Human Options we provide critical resources for seniors in our community who have experienced physical, emotional, financial, or sexual abuse by a partner or family member. It is through our 'Safe Options for Seniors' program that we're able to help some of our most vulnerable clients, which is especially important after an incredibly challenging season."

One in 10 Americans over the age of 60 have experienced abuse and neglect at the hands of a loved one, caregiver or even a stranger. From financial and emotional to physical and sexual, elder abuse is a national growing concern that will continue to affect the fastest growing age group in Orange County. Human Options' "Safe Options for Seniors" was the first program of its kind in Orange County, specifically designed to support adults age 50 and older, or 18 years and older with a disability, who have experienced abuse.

"SCAN is proud to support Human Options' Safe Options for Seniors program to care for seniors who have been the victims of elder abuse," said Denise Likar, vice president of Independence at Home. "The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent stay at home orders have proven challenging for seniors, many of whom are socially isolated, making them even more vulnerable to mistreatment.

Located in Long Beach, SCAN Health Plan is a not-for-profit Medicare advantage plan with a mission to keep seniors healthy and independent. Founded in 1977, the health plan serves more than 220,000 seniors across California. In keeping with its mission and community roots, SCAN Community Giving supports organizations providing safety net services so many vulnerable seniors need in order to remain at home.

Last year during the COVID-19 pandemic, Human Options managed to reach over 8,000 community members through education and prevention, provided nearly 500 individuals and families with a safe home through the emergency shelter and transitional housing program, served over 1,400 individuals through community-based programs, and responded to more than 4,800 callers providing immediate crisis support, information and referrals through the 24-hour hotline.

Human Options encourages victims of violence to call their **24-hour hotline at 1-877-854-3594 to access shelters and other supportive services, including therapists and counselors.** If anyone is in imminent danger or have a physical emergency, call 911.

Human Options also provides immediate assistance and supportive services at several walk-in Family Resource Centers location throughout the county. For a list of locations and contact info, click [here](#).

### **ABOUT HUMAN OPTIONS**

The mission of Human Options is to ignite social change by educating Orange County to recognize relationship violence as an issue that threatens everyone, advocating for those affected by abuse, extending a safe place for victims, and empowering survivors on their journey of healing. Now in its 39th year, Human Options provides a full continuum of services to stop the violence, such as a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter and transitional living programs, education, awareness and prevention presentations and trainings in the community, and low-/no-cost services, including counseling, legal advocacy, children's therapies and empowerment classes offered in six locations throughout the county. Individuals seeking help can call 877-854-3594. For further information about Human Options, call 949-737-5242, ext. 211, or visit [humanoptions.org](http://humanoptions.org).

### **ABOUT SCAN GROUP**

SCAN Group is a mission-driven organization that is tackling some of the biggest issues in health care for older adults. The core of SCAN Group is SCAN Health Plan, one of the nation's foremost not-for-profit Medicare Advantage plans, serving more than 220,000 members in California. Independence at Home, a SCAN community service, provides vitally needed services and support to seniors and their caregivers regardless of plan membership. SCAN Group also invests in new companies to support healthier aging, offers education programs, community funding, volunteer opportunities, and other community services in support of its mission—keeping seniors healthy and independent. To learn more, visit [scanhealthplan.com](http://scanhealthplan.com) or follow us on Twitter [@scanhealthplan](https://twitter.com/scanhealthplan).

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