



**HUMAN
OPTIONS**

2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR FRIENDS,

Looking back on 2019, several words come to mind: “Prevent,” “Protect,” “Empower.” The change made possible through the collective efforts of our supporters, donors, board, partners and staff was evident. We came together as a community to align our efforts around a future in which every person and family in Orange County experiences safe, healthy relationships.

You inspire us... with your support we changed the conversation around relationship violence; focusing on **prevention** and **healing** while deepening awareness about an issue that threatens *everyone in Orange County*. This shift in narrative is an exciting one, and was best illustrated in an interview that took place earlier last year.

Maricela was invited to join a panel on Fox Sports 1 to discuss an incident in which a professional athlete was caught on tape assaulting a woman after she allegedly called him a name. The difference in the conversation was evident: The old stereotypes of victim and perpetrator blaming were gone. Instead, we engaged in a dialogue to create deeper understanding and awareness from a national platform. A notable shift occurred when one of the hosts asked, “what can we do as men?” That’s the key. When we are **empowered to have a conversation**, we say “**we’re in this together**,” and that’s when **real transformation is possible** on multiple levels. In fact, we are seeing amazing outcomes from it.

To that end, Human Options continues to widen our circle of support and collaboration; working with homeless solutions providers, law enforcement, human resources professionals and many more. The real beauty of these partnerships? Not only are we increasing our impact, Human Options is learning and growing in the process. *Together, we are expanding our impact for the benefit of victims and survivors.*

You’ll see the difference you are making on the following pages: How you are generating vivid awareness and understanding of relationship violence, and how that awareness can change a life forever. You, along with our community partners, volunteers and staff, are igniting change in Orange County. You are showing victims they are worth so much more.

Thank you for making 2019 such an exciting year of progress. We look forward to working with you to transform Orange County, so every person and every family can live free from fear.



Maricela
Maricela Rios-Faust
MSW, LCSW, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer



Diane W. Biagiante
Diane W. Biagiante
Board President

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MISSION

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.

VISION

We are committed to a future in which every person and family in Orange County experiences safe, healthy relationships and lives free from fear.



PREVENT

THE POWER OF PREVENTION

Prevention education is essential to breaking the intergenerational cycle of relationship violence. We address childhood trauma through early intervention, teaching children positive coping strategies and building healthy relationships. Early intervention is critical to preventing the cycle of abuse from repeating.



BUILDING RESILIENCY FOR FUTURES FREE OF VIOLENCE

Barbara faced years of physical and verbal abuse from her husband, often broken up by her four year old son, Jose. When her son started modeling her husband's aggressive behaviors, hitting her and calling her derogatory names when he was angry, Barbara knew it was time to leave.

“My son is such a good boy and I wanted to prevent him from continuing to witness abuse. I feared if we stayed, Jose would never know life without violence.”

Human Options' **Children's Program** focuses on **preventative** interventions that are designed to support children's social-emotional and developmental skills, help lessen the effects of abuse, build positive coping strategies and resilience skills, and **break the cycle of intergenerational violence and abuse.**

After just three weeks in Human Options' Children's Program, Jose significantly changed his behavior. He began sharing toys with others instead of hitting and stepping away to cool down when he felt like he was getting upset. It brought tears to Barbara's eyes when instead of hitting her when he got upset, he asked for a hug.

Today, Barbara and Jose are happily living in their own home. Jose continues to excel in school and create healthy relationships with others.

Human Options served **546** children through our programs

85%
Of children showed an increase in positive social interactions with peers and adults after the Children's Program

8,176
In 2018, Human Options spread the word of relationship violence prevention to 8,176 community members through our outreach programs



1,109

Clients served over age 50, including: information & referrals, counseling, groups, legal advocacy, and residential services

SOS is the **only specialized program** in OC serving elder abuse victims

4,867

Human Options 24/7 hotline responded to **4,867** calls for crisis support, intervention or referrals

1,412

Children and adults received community-based services through our six Walk-In Centers

CONFRONTING INTERGENERATIONAL VIOLENCE

At 67, Eleanor was legally blind and diabetic. Already extremely vulnerable, she was facing financial, emotional, verbal and physical abuse by her daughter and her daughter's boyfriend. The overwhelming stress would often send Eleanor to the hospital.

Our **Safe Options for Seniors (SOS)** program is unique in that it was **the first to recognize and address senior abuse in Orange County**. Sadly, many seniors who are abused by their children were also abused by a spouse. This **intergenerational violence** can continue without interventions like SOS.

A Life Free from Fear

Through SOS, Human Options' legal advocate helped Eleanor secure a restraining order against the abusive family members and provided a safe space at the shelter, in which Eleanor could begin her healing journey. With the support of her case manager, Eleanor started group counseling and was finally able to acknowledge the walls of denial she had built to protect herself from the constant abuse.

"I am forever grateful to Human Options for providing me the confidence to recognize the abuse was not my fault and the tools I needed to restart my life."



PROTECT

PROVIDING SAFETY, TEACHING PROTECTION

As advocates for survivors of relationship violence, we teach women and men to recognize the unhealthy and dangerous cycles of violence. As a result, survivors are equipped to better protect themselves by choosing paths that lead to security and self-sufficiency.



EMPOWER

THE LIFE-CHANGING VALUE OF EMPOWERMENT

For our most vulnerable clients, many of whom are paralyzed by the trauma of abusive and perilous scenarios, Human Options imparts knowledge by enveloping them in support. We then empower survivors to transition to safety and independence through counseling, therapeutic services and legal advocacy.



REMOVING INVISIBLE BARRIERS

“Why doesn’t she just leave?” Questions like these are often asked of women in violent relationships. The answers can be found in the barriers most people don’t see, such as a lack of access to legal advocacy and safe housing—which sends many victims back to dangerous situations.

To remove these barriers, the Human Options’ **Legal Advocacy Program** teams up with community partners to offer legal support and advocacy, economic and educational assistance, access to healthcare and much more. This is how we helped Michella.

A Chance to Start Again

Pregnant and in a psychologically and verbally abusive relationship, Michella felt trapped. After the baby’s birth, her husband’s toxic need to control her boiled over when he put her in a stranglehold and threatened to kill her.

Looking for an escape, Michella confided in a friend, who referred her to Human Options. That conversation forever changed her life. Human Options quickly created a safety plan by connecting Michella and her baby to an emergency shelter. Legal advocates reached out to attorney partners to help Michella explore her options.

“The education and empowerment I gained from Human Options were vital in helping me secure independence for my child and myself.”

328

Human Options provided legal advocacy assistance to **328** individuals

160

Human Options held **68 legal clinics** throughout Orange County, serving **160 individuals**, with **31 attorneys** volunteering their time

77

We stood by **77 clients** through legal appointments and court appearances



The XH Collaborative has increased the percentage of clients exiting Human Options' transitional programs to permanent housing by 20%.

94%

In 2018, **94% Second Step** clients exited to permanent housing

82%

Since receiving the XH grant in 2016, **82% of clients** have increased or maintained their income

498

In 2018, Human Options offered **498 children and adults** a safe place to stay in our shelter and transitional housing programs

SPEARHEADING SOLUTIONS TO RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE IN THE HOUSING SYSTEM

When women and families cannot obtain affordable housing to escape abusive relationships, they stay, and they suffer. The landslide of trauma caused by the barriers to financial independence prompted Human Options to mobilize key partners to secure low-cost housing for victims of relationship violence.

We formed the **Transitional Housing (XH) Program Collaborative** with local organizations specializing in homelessness solutions to move clients to safety sooner. This is critical, because on average, a person in an abusive relationship attempts to leave seven times before finally leaving for good.¹ In addition, **98 percent of domestic-violence victims also experience financial abuse.**²

Carving Paths to Healing and Self-Sufficiency

In collaboration with other service providers, Human Options bridges the gaps to the next phase of independence. Our joint efforts provide clients with legal advocacy, housing education, financial literacy, job and career coaching, wardrobe contributions, and continued care to help clients pursue personal, professional and financial security.

As a result, the XH Collaborative has increased the percentage of clients exiting Human Options' transitional programs to permanent housing by 20 percent.

Source:

¹STAND for Families Free of Violence

²The Allstate Foundation Survey on Domestic Violence



TRANSFORM

UNITING TO IGNITE TRANSFORMATIONS

Transformation begins when we come together as a community to break down the overlapping barriers individuals face when escaping relationship violence. Together, we foster the realizations that existing in violence is not our clients' ultimate destiny, and open doors for people to actualize the changes they want to see in their lives.



FALL LUNCHEON 2018

Dr. Michele Borba, world-renowned child development expert and best-selling author, kept more than 300 guests captivated at Human Options' 2018 Fall Luncheon. As the keynote speaker, Dr. Borba shared her expertise on the "Empathy Advantage," citing it as the key to strengthening children's character and resilience and building strong families. Held on October 4, 2018, at the Westin South Coast Plaza, the event raised over \$250,000 to sustain Human Options' programs in Orange County.



1. Julie Hill and Valerie Van Cleve 2. Victoria and David Collins and table guests 3. Wally, the Children's Program therapeutic puppet 4. Lori Stanton and Kathleen Buchanan 5. Dr. Borba on stage 6. Event Co-Chair Ashley Allyn and Dr. Borba 7. Karen Green, Pam Harvey, and Lillian Chung 8. Celina Doka and Susan L. Heller 9. Overview of event 10. Kerri Sonenshine, Dr. Borba, and Maricela Rios Faust



1. DOVE Honoree Celina Doka and family 2. Amber Tran and Rochelle Karr 3. Diane Biagianti and Lisa Hummelberg 4. Victoria and David Collins 5. Diane Biagianti, Celina Doka, Maricela Rios Faust 6. Carol Carile 7. Carol Carile, Maricela Rios Faust, Kim and Mark Clemens, Susan L. Heller 8. Can Can dancers 9. Susan L. Heller, Celina Doka, Mark Clemens, Carol Carile 10. Fred and Katie Nunez



SERIOUS FUN 2019

More than 325 guests came together at our Serious Fun "One Night in Paris" gala to celebrate DOVE Award Honoree Celina Doka at the Balboa Bay Resort on May 11, 2019. Guests enjoyed Parisian cuisine and lively entertainment, raising nearly \$550,000 to benefit Human Options' programs.



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

LUMINARY \$100,000+

Mission Hospital-Community Benefit
The Hon. Sheila Prell Sonenshine (ret.) and Ygal Sonenshine
Keith Swayne and Family

AMBASSADOR \$50,000–\$99,999

Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian
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The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
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REBUILDER \$10,000–\$24,999

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The Wohl Family Fund
TJX Foundation
Ernie and Socorro Vasquez
Todd and Venita Wulffson

“Human Options works to heal women and children from deep inside to restore lives and positively change the trajectory of a family for generations to come. We know that this work is imperative to create strong, vibrant communities, where individuals and families can thrive. We are honored to support Human Options with our time, our expertise and our donations.”

– Amanda C. Fowler, Senior Director, Global Corporate Giving,
Executive Director, Edwards Lifesciences Foundation

Human Options is grateful for all financial contributions. Due to space limitations, we have listed those who have contributed gifts of \$1,000 or more received between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of our donor listing. For questions, please call 949-737-5242 Ext. 317.



SUSTAINER \$2,500–\$4,999

- American Endowment Foundation

Anonymous

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IGNITE CHANGE:
WHAT YOU CAN DO

PREVENT

Breaking norms through education is key. Connect Human Options with local high schools, businesses, or community groups to participate in our healthy relationship workshops.

PROTECT

Give generously! Your donations fund counseling, legal advocacy, education, and all the services that contribute to a violence-free future for us all.

EMPOWER

Volunteer to paint, organize or lend your skill at one of our facilities. Join or bring a friend to be a part of Men in Motion, a group that empowers men to be role models and supporters.

TRANSFORM

Bring your community together by organizing a collection drive with your coworkers, church, or neighborhood group to benefit families in our shelter. Join Sisterhood, a community of women with heart that employs hands-on projects to encourage the healing process of families and individuals in our residential program

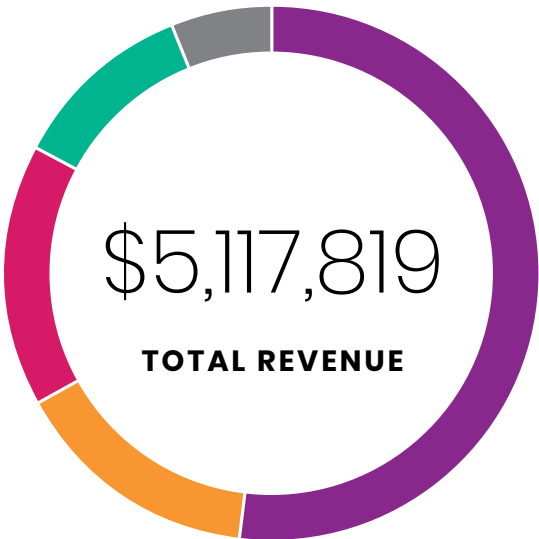
“Our professionals make connections through the power of touch and form deep relationships with customers and clients that depend on them. Through the Cut it Out Program, we are empowering our students with resources they need to help.”

–Tam Nguyen,
President
Advance Beauty College



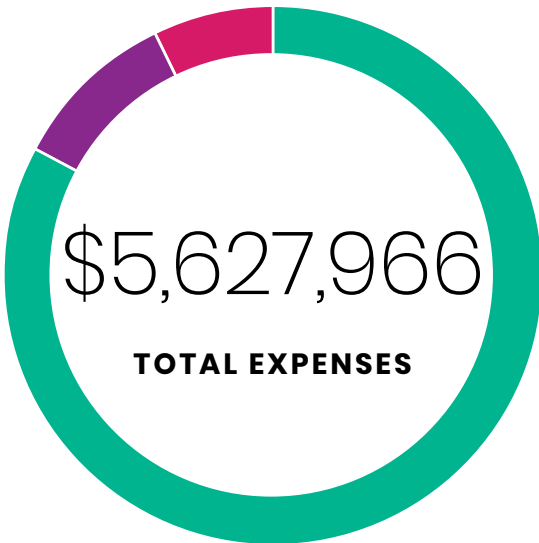
FINANCIAL DASHBOARD

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD FISCAL YEAR END
JUNE 30, 2019



REVENUE SOURCE

- 52%** Government Grants
\$2,686,465
- 16%** Individual Gifts
\$804,662
- 15%** Private Grants & Foundations
\$748,386
- 11%** Benefit Events
\$584,163
- 6%** Earned Revenue
\$294,143



EXPENSE CATEGORY

- 83%** Program Services
\$4,678,179
- 10%** Fundraising
\$557,597
- 7%** General & Management Cost
\$392,190



Human Options is proud to earn **Charity Navigator's coveted 4-star rating**, demonstrating our strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

*During FY 18/19, Human Options released net assets from restricted foundation grants and the Bridge to the Future Fund. Human Options intentionally spent down a portion of the \$1M Bridge to the Future Fund which was raised to aid during the transition from the founding CEO to the current CEO and to fund key organizational initiatives over several years.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS FROM JULY 1, 2018 TO JUNE 30, 2019

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
 - » CDBG Irvine
 - » CDBG Tustin
- Families and Communities Together (FaCT)
 - » FaCT Community Health Enrichment Collaboration
 - » FaCT Corbin
 - » FaCT Costa Mesa
 - » FaCT Minnie Street
 - » FaCT South Orange County
- CalWORKs ResCare Workforce Services
- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)
 - » CalOES Domestic Violence Assistance Program
 - » CalOES Transitional Housing Program
 - » CalOES Housing First Program
- County of Orange
 - » OC Community Resources
 - » Victims Services
 - » OC Health Care Agency (Strong Families, Strong Children)
- Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
 - » Improving Criminal Justice grant
 - » Legal Assistance for Victims grant





HUMAN OPTIONS

PREVENT. PROTECT. EMPOWER. TRANSFORM.



949.737.5242

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