

# 40 YEARS OF IMPACT



## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

### EMERGENCY SHELTER

9,197 Adults and children served

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

2,586 Adults and children served

### PERMANENT HOUSING

560 Clients transitioned into their forever home

## COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

### COUNSELING

28,534 adults and children served

### SAFE OPTIONS FOR SENIORS

808 Clients served over the age of 55

### PREVENTION EDUCATION

Teen Ambassadors: 81  
High School Students: 45,939

### LEGAL ADVOCACY

2,284 Clients served

PREVENT, PROTECT, EMPOWER &  
TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF  
**512,394 INDIVIDUALS**  
SINCE 1981

**HUMAN**  **OPTIONS**  
IGNITING SOCIAL CHANGE FOR 40 YEARS

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**HUMAN**  **OPTIONS**  
IGNITING SOCIAL CHANGE FOR 40 YEARS  
**PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE**





MILESTONES  
ARE MOMENTS, A GIFT TO  
PAUSE, REFLECT & RESET  
FOR WHAT’S TO COME.

Human Options in 2021 will arrive at just such an intersection on its journey of service and impact.

Four decades ago, four south Orange County women said enough was enough. They had heard the stories, and sadly even knew friends who were trapped in heart-breaking relationships of domination, constant threats and physical abuse, individuals robbed of their dignity with few places to turn for help.

Against this tide of reprehensible behavior, these four friends opened a two-bedroom shelter in Laguna Beach, a safe harbor for victims of domestic violence. In a stroke of genuine good fortune, Vivian Clecak, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, agreed to continue as the Founding Executive Director to chart the day-to-day operations of the fledging non-profit. Together, this quartet of passionate and committed women courageously shined a light on the troubling narrative of domestic violence, a crime many kept hidden or ignored.

Today, as Human Options readies to mark its anniversary of 40 years of existence in Orange County, the importance and impact of this Irvine-based organization is undeniable.

While women and their families have been the predominant focus of Human Options from its humble beginnings, men have also been part of this deeply personal drama largely as perpetrators, but also increasingly as victims themselves. And now men as well as women play equally critical roles in spreading the powerful messages and awareness on ways to prevent this type of violence before it scars another individual or family.

I have watched with a profound pride as Human Options, with its 55 staff members, a dynamic chief executive in Maricela Rios-Faust and a brigade of 15,000 volunteers, evolve into an organization of action in the endeavor to end relationship violence. Increasingly I have come to realize that relationship violence will always be part of our landscape, a reality that begs community stakeholders to collaborate more closely than ever to address this tragic issue.

As Human Options pauses to celebrate 40 years of impact and looks to the future, we need to double down on our mission. It is time to recommit as an organization—and community—to offer haven for victims of relationship violence so they can begin anew free of fear for themselves and their children. And we must pledge to never stop educating future generations that relationships are complicated, but violence, physical or otherwise, has no place in resolving differences. Now is the moment to stand shoulder-to-shoulder to confront relationship violence with our passion and resources. Together, we are a force for good. Together, we can turn the tide.



Source: Steve Churm is Human Options supporter, community leader and business executive.

THE PILLARS OF OUR  
FOUNDATION

INDIVIDUAL SAFETY  
AND HEALING

Human Options was founded to ensure no one was afraid in their own home.

1981

1990

2000

2010

2020

FAMILY & STABILITY

Safe and thriving families involves breaking down housing barriers. We broke ground and established our Emergency Shelter in 1996.



COMMUNITY AND  
PREVENTION

Working deep in the roots of the community to create safe spaces.

NETWORKS  
AND  
ADVOCACY



PARTNERSHIPS

Centering survivor experiences by collaborating with different partners to provide trauma-informed care.

ACCELERATE THE PATH  
TO SAFE HOUSING

Human Options’ vision is a future in which every person and family in Orange County experiences safe, healthy relationships and lives free from fear. We remain steadfast in our mission: educating our community 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.

To meet each survivor’s unique needs, we have piloted programs to test their efficacy in partnership with other like-minded organizations. Based on the success of programs that increase access, address economic stability, coupled with trauma-informed interventions, we are able to stabilize families – often, in a shorter time-frame – and put them on a path to a healthy and safe future.

NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN  
AN ABUSIVE HOME AND BEING HOMELESS.

Victims often make the impossible choice between an abusive home and being homeless. In response, we have expanded our range of housing options to accelerate the path to safety and permanency. Our goal is to serve 20% more families by 2025 with a \$1 million Acceleration Fund to allow us to meet the increased need in supportive services.

Survivors of relationship violence need economic stability to safely transition from a violent house to a safe and secure home. While every situation is unique, a stable home is at the root of every families’ needs. Having a spectrum of housing options allows us to serve victims and survivors based on their unique circumstances, removing a fundamental barrier to escaping a violent household.

