



**HOUSE OF RUTH IS
DEDICATED TO THE
PREVENTION OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND
TO ENSURING THE SAFETY
AND WELL-BEING OF
THOSE IMPACTED BY IT.**

ANNUAL REPORT

 **2019 - 2020**



BOARD PRESIDENT LETTER

I am honored to write this letter on behalf of the 2019-20 House of Ruth Board of Directors. We find ourselves in unique and challenging times. I am proud of the work that the House of Ruth has devoted to domestic violence survivors and their families to ensure their safety and wellbeing. The COVID-19 pandemic, along with the renewed call for social justice and equality in the face of racism and continued police brutality, has brought to the forefront the need for the services that House of Ruth provides. We know that stay-at-home orders confine partners and children in homes that may not be safe and that for those in abusive situations, there are few options to leave. In compliance with new pandemic ordinances, the agency continues to provide emergency shelter for those in need. In addition, we continue to offer crisis services remotely via telephone, maintaining client safety and confidentiality. House of Ruth's work is rooted in non-violence and creating a just world for all. As the agency continues to provide much-needed services, we condemn all forms of racism and oppression. Ending oppression is fundamental to achieving our vision of a violence-free world. **House of Ruth continues to promote the belief that peace and justice must be realized for all.**

The work that we do is possible only because of you. The annual report highlights some of the accomplishments that House of Ruth has achieved. Fundraising and fund development continues to be a core focus of the agency. Most of our funding comes from government grants, and we are continually monitoring the political climate for potential shifts in federal, state, and local funding priorities. We are focusing on building our foundation funding and individual donor funds to protect our budget from swings in public funding as well as to further program development. As we move forward, we depend on the generosity of our donors to support us in responding to the current trends when providing services to our clients as well as prevention education outreach to our community.

Special thanks to our House of Ruth staff and generous donors this past year for support of our first 'Tacos and Brews' event, hosted with Claremont Craft Ales, and our Moveable Feast Dinner, which we organized as a virtual event.

Thank you for your support and confidence in the work of House of Ruth.

House of Ruth Board President 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTOR LIST 2019-2020

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LESLIE NEGRITTO

LISA PHILLIPS

WILLIAM SWARTZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER



As I reflect on this past year, let me begin by saying how grateful I am that we made it through the many ups and downs. This past year has challenged us at House of Ruth in ways we never expected. Although we cannot ignore the pain and hardship our community is going through right now, I want to highlight the resilience and strength of our clients, staff, volunteers, board, and the broader community. Thank you, each and every one of you, for your generosity and dedication to rising above these challenges and staying true to our mission. Our fundamental commitment is and will always be to the safety, health, and well-being of survivors of domestic violence and their families.

We started the year off with House of Ruth staff and board members coming together to create a three-year strategic plan to carry us through 2023. We solicited critical feedback from all staff, clients, and our many community partners to inform House of Ruth's priorities for the next three years. After much discussion and reflection, we developed the following four priorities: ensure inclusivity and intentional services to clients; to retain staff in order to ensure mission delivery; to strengthen community partnerships; and to improve our financial health. We have already started to act on these priorities and are confident in our ability to accomplish specific goals the next few years.

In the midst of a global pandemic and a nationwide outcry for racial justice, survivors of domestic violence and their families need access to crisis safety services more than ever. Although some crime rates have dipped during the pandemic, domestic violence, murder, and aggravated assault rates have been rising. The "Safe at Home" order assumes that home is a safe place. However, for those in abusive relationships, being at home can mean being confined with their abuser partners. They use violence to gain power and control over their partner. When they experience a loss of control in other aspects of their life, through financial insecurity, uncertainty of the future, or interruptions in day-to-day activities, it is common for them to assert their power by controlling their partner through abuse. Consistent with this, House of Ruth hotline call volume rose 80% during the first months of COVID-19, and the need for safe and stable housing continues to increase for persons experiencing domestic violence.

We have all been impacted by the recent racial unrest and protests across the nation in wake of the George Floyd murder, but the impact has been felt particularly strongly by our Black clients, given their own experiences with law enforcement. This impact has heightened our awareness of the disparities and challenges Black survivors and survivors of color often experience in accessing public services as they seek safety, support, and healing. House of Ruth is reflecting on how to best tailor support services to address these experiences of Black clients and clients of color. We are also holding workshops on white supremacy for leadership and staff. We do not have all the answers, but we know it is important to figure them out. Black Lives Matter. If this year has taught us anything, it is that although our community is facing so many hardships right now, clients, our staff, and the broader community are resilient, strong, and up for the challenge. House of Ruth's vision for the 2020-21 fiscal year is to remain a leader in the domestic violence field and to provide safety and advocacy for survivors of domestic violence. We pledge to continue educating people on healthy relationships, and actively addressing social justice issues like systemic racism, prejudice, violence, and oppression of marginalized communities. We have a shared responsibility to lift our voices and demand a just future, one that celebrates our diversity, and that supports safe and healthy relationships for all.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Pat Bell".

Executive Director

NEW FACES OF LEADERSHIP



House of Ruth's greatest accomplishment as an organization this past year has been successfully rebuilding the executive management team. In April 2019, our longstanding Executive Director Sue Aebischer retired and, after a search, Director of Development Pat Bell was promoted to the Executive Director position. Rhonda Beltran joined the team as Director of Development in July 2019, bringing over 30 years of fundraising experience to House of Ruth. In December 2019, Krystal Minniefield filled the Director of Finance position, bringing strong expertise in non-profit finance. Our dependable and indispensable north star throughout these transitions has been Melissa Pitts, who had worked at House of Ruth for twenty years before joining the executive team three years ago as Director of Programs.

Invigorated by new energy and new ideas, the new leadership team remains dedicated to House of Ruth's enduring mission to prevent domestic violence and ensure the safety and well-being of those impacted by it.



PAT BELL

Executive Director

Pat Bell has been with House of Ruth for over 12 years and has managed all fundraising, communication and public relations for House of Ruth. She brings a tremendous amount of experience to our agency, having worked in the corporate sector for more than 25 years.



MELISSA PITTS

Director of Programs

Melissa Pitts has worked at House of Ruth for 22 years and oversees all programs of the agency. She is responsible for program compliance, efficacy, and ensures that quality services are provided to each client. She supervises 2 full-time Program Directors and 2 full-time Program Managers.



RHONDA BELTRAN

Director of Development

Rhonda Beltran has been a professional fundraiser for over 35 years and started at House of Ruth in June 2019 as the Director of Development. In her position, she manages all fundraising, communication and public relations. She is actively involved in the surrounding communities and has served on various Boards and Committees. She has dedicated her life to making a difference in the communities which she lives.



KRYSTAL MINNIEFIELD

Finance Director

Krystal Minniefield oversees the finances and government contracts at House of Ruth. She comes to House of Ruth with over 8 years of nonprofit accounting experience including experience at agencies providing services to human trafficking survivors and survivors of domestic violence. She is excited to apply her knowledge and experience to her role at House of Ruth.

SUCCESS STORY

The CoronaVirus outbreak has changed ordinary life globally. Simple pleasures like going to a movie or dining out with friends have quickly faded and been replaced with Stay-at-home orders, social distancing rules and facemasks. The U.S. currently has over 5 million cases of COVID-19, and the total continues to climb.

For individuals experiencing domestic violence, the pandemic has added another risk factor to leaving their home. Not only are survivors in most danger when fleeing their partner; they must now worry about contracting COVID-19 in their new setting.

For agencies that shelter survivors of domestic violence, the pandemic has added further dimensions of safety and care to the services we must provide. "As a domestic violence service provider, we are well trained in dealing with crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic is presenting such a unique challenge for us, just in flexing our services to be able to respond," said Pat Bell, the Executive Director for House of Ruth, when interviewed by FOX 11 News earlier this year.

Michelle and her 3-year-old daughter came to our shelter in mid-April, fleeing a six-year abusive relationship. Michelle's partner was verbally and emotionally abusive, destroying her self-esteem.

Despite fears of contracting COVID-19, she left to begin a new chapter in her life and her daughter's. As Michelle put it, "My body was beat down and hurting, I knew I needed to get to a better place, even if that meant going into a shelter." In the following excerpt, Michelle describes her shelter experience during the pandemic.

"When I came to shelter, I was quarantined for two weeks. It wasn't so bad because we had access to food, a smart TV, entertainment, sanitizing supplies, face masks, gloves, emotional support and safety, which was more freedom than what my partner allowed me to have. I was at peace and finally able to rest. I felt at home and I haven't felt that feeling in a long time. My Case Manager provided me with encouragement by doing phone check-ins and keeping me motivated and inspired. This time was especially difficult for me, since my mother was in the hospital ill with COVID-19, and her prognosis seemed exceedingly grim. The shelter staff became my support system, and my faith carried me the rest of the way. Thankfully, she recovered, and although she was left with permanent lung damage, she survived COVID-19.

As for me, I continue accessing shelter services and continue taking precautions by wearing my face mask and washing my hands often. I have bonded with the other residents and literally feel like we are all in this together. I'm grateful to House of Ruth for providing the safety and comfort to restore my self-confidence and appease my fears of a shared living space. I now have a full-time job and got accepted into the House of Ruth second phase housing program. I'm paying down my debt and have begun to save money, so I can restart my own business in the entertainment industry, after the pandemic is over. If I can say something to a person experiencing domestic violence during this pandemic, I would tell them, be strong and leave, go to House of Ruth they will help you, don't be afraid of a shared living space, they will help you restore yourself, just like they helped me."



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**451 ADULTS &
CHILDREN, RECEIVED
COUNSELING
SERVICES THROUGH
OUR OUTREACH
PROGRAM**

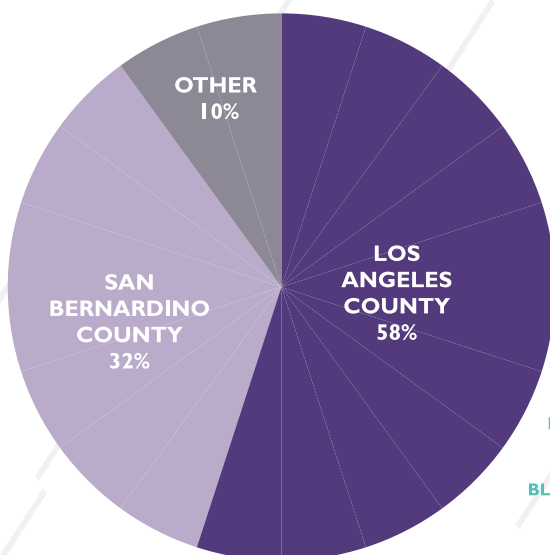
CORE PROJECT



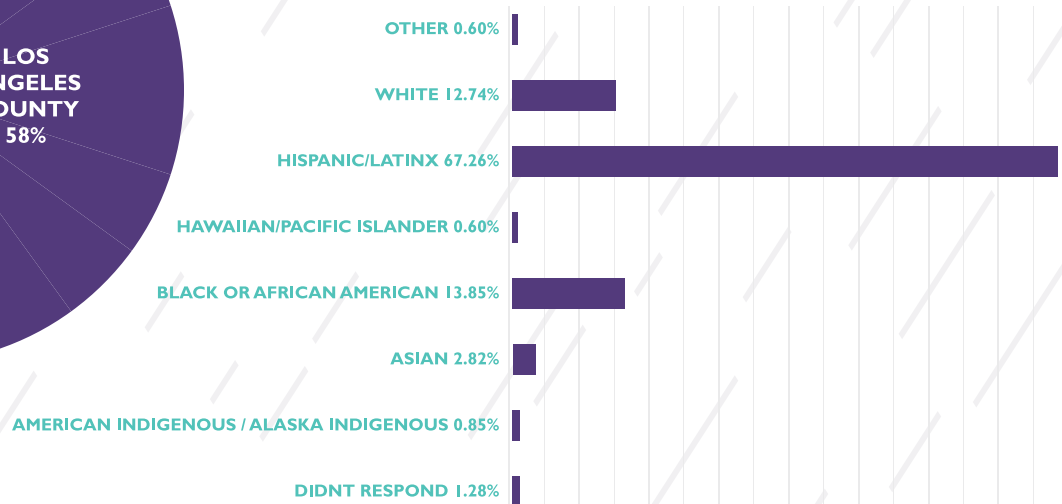
House of Ruth experienced a series of burglaries at our Pomona Outreach Office in July 2019. Burglars broke into our storage sheds and stole items reserved for House of Ruth families. Heartbroken staff members, board members, Pomona city officials, businesses, donors, service clubs, volunteers, and community members immediately jumped into action. Thanks to our supporters' generosity, we received monetary assistance to purchase and install a new security system, replenish in-kind goods, and replace the old storage unit with a new and improved unit.

A special thanks to the National Community CORE'S Chris Paez and Chris Killian for coordinating the donation delivery and installation of the storage container and for collaborating with Advance Iron Works on the new gate. We are especially grateful to Ray Gauthier from Gauthier Constructions for donating the storage container and to Steve Burger from Advance Iron Works for custom building and installing the new wrought iron gate for increased security. Finally, a warm thank you to Ray Escoto and Bob Barker for volunteering their time and assisting with multiple projects during this time of need.

CLIENTS SERVED BY COUNTY



CLIENTS SERVED BY ETHNICITY





CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

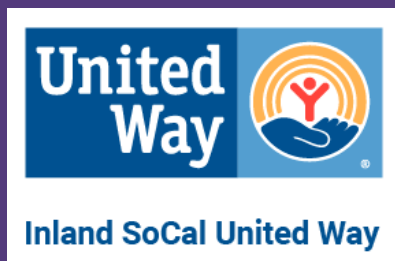
House of Ruth's Children's Program has continued to provide fun and safe outlets during the pandemic for children residing in our shelter. The children are not only dealing with the stressors of social distancing, but also processing the trauma they have experienced at home.

Some of the activities the Children's Program utilizes to promote resilience include: emotional check-ins to discuss feelings, counseling, painting, jewelry making, arts and crafts, gardening, board games, virtual tours of museums, aquariums, and botanical gardens, water activities, movie nights, and tutoring. These activities promote creativity, empathy, mindfulness, patience, joyfulness, learning, and a sense of community.

COVID-19 RELIEF THANK YOU

House of Ruth and survivors of domestic violence are grateful to the many foundations and donors who have donated during this pandemic. Your gifts have allowed us to continue to provide emergency services to the community during this critical time.

We value your support and thank you for your generosity. We look forward to our continued partnership.



SERVICE PROVISION DURING THE PANDEMIC

House of Ruth takes pride in all the wonderful and hardworking essential staff who quickly and gracefully transitioned from daily in-person operations to a remote access model, due to COVID-19. Staff quickly learned to navigate new communication systems such as Zoom, video, and Microsoft Teams meetings to facilitate ongoing dialogues with survivors, community members, volunteers, and donors. In addition, our staff has become proficient in webinars, telecommuting, social media, and virtual fundraising events.

Although most of our outreach services are hybrid, our shelter staff has continued to provide in-person supportive services to families fleeing domestic violence.

Hear what the community had to say about their experience with remote access services: “I am very thankful to my Case Manager for taking the time to continue teaching DV I01 over the phone.”
— Jessica

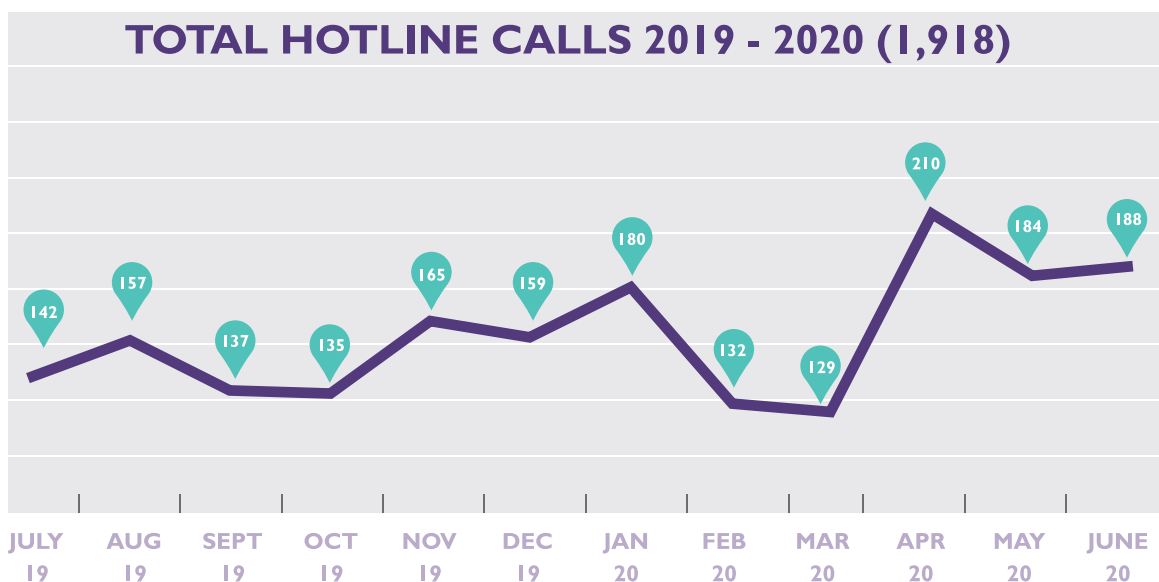
“My daughter loved participating in the online youth LEAD training, many thanks!”- Reyes
“My Case Manager’s weekly phone check-ins kept me motivated and on track with completing my program goals.” – Krisha

Once again, thank you to all of our staff members, who are essential for providing continued support to our community during this unprecedented time.



“

THANK YOU TO HOUSE OF RUTH VOLUNTEERS FOR DONATING 3,757 HOURS OF YOUR TIME BEFORE THE PANDEMIC BEGAN. WE VALUE YOU!



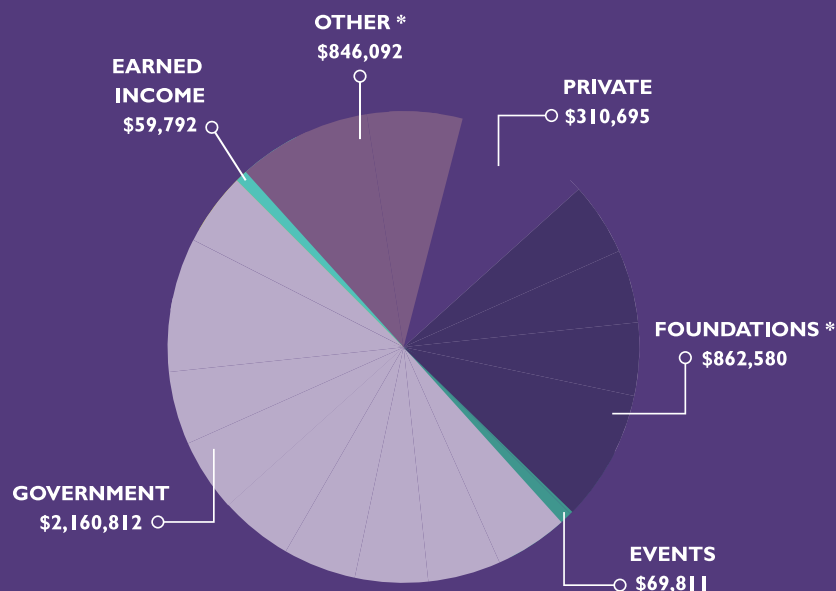


DISTANCE LEARNING CENTER

Our multipurpose conference room received an unexpected renovation this past year when Cal OES released funding to nonprofits to address COVID-19- related challenges. With an award of \$18,750, House of Ruth has now completed renovations to create a socially distant learning space for clients, volunteers, and staff. This new space will enable staff to deliver high quality services including educational classes, training programs, and meetings conducted on an online platform, while ensuring our families' health and safety during the pandemic.

Our new Distance Learning Center is equipped with a state-of-the-art smart board, and rolling tables and chairs that comply with social distancing guidelines. Facilitators have the ability to host and record in-person training sessions and simultaneously stream them online, enabling participants to follow in real time or to watch pre-recorded content. Participants will need to have access to a smart phone to view the content. If online access is unavailable to them, they may participate in person, adhering to social distancing rules and wearing face masks to reduce COVID-19 transmission. House of Ruth is proud of this major accomplishment and is thankful to Cal OES for funding the project, to David Spencer Painting for donating paint, and to all our vendors who assisted with the project. Special thanks to Ray Escoto and Bob Barker for volunteering their time and talent.

HOUSE OF RUTH FUNDING (TOTAL \$4,309,782)



*Foundations - *includes temporarily restricted funding for future fiscal years

*Other - *includes \$807,774 of EHAP loan forgiveness



**1,689 YOUTH,
PARTICIPATED IN
WEEKLY WELLNESS
CIRCLE WORKSHOPS,
FACILITATED BY OUR
PREVENTION TEAM.**



House of Ruth

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY'S



Faced with school closures during the pandemic, the Prevention Education program turned to Instagram Television, where it launched a new video series called Wellness Wednesdays, filmed live on social media every Wednesday. This space enables teens to continue to increase their knowledge of healthy relationships, boundaries, consent, mental health awareness, and self care. Wellness Wednesday videos have already reached over 1,600 views.



With our Wellness Wednesdays video series, House of Ruth has harnessed the power of social media to provide an integral part of our programming. The Prevention Education Team plans to continue to produce these videos even after they are able to resume in-person programs. The Prevention Education program remains committed to expanding our Youth Advisory Committee and to developing creative ways for you to engage with the agency and with communities. In addition, webinar training sessions for educators will be incorporated into their distant learning curricula.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



House of Ruth is thankful to Ray Escoto for volunteering on multiple projects throughout the year. That work included assembling office furniture, hauling appliances, supervising the conference room beautification project, doing clean-up work, and performing overall maintenance throughout our facilities. Ray, we appreciate your skillset, your professionalism and the joyfulness you share with us. Community Services Manager Sabrina Almaraz expressed the following: "Ray has a selfless heart of gold. I am so incredibly grateful that he has come alongside House of Ruth to be of support. I have seen him take great pride in what he does, and the quality of work is unmatched: he cares, and it shows." Director of Development Rhonda Beltran had this to say: "Ray has been a friend and colleague for almost 25 years. I'm thankful for his passion and dedication in helping House of Ruth with so many projects. He is truly a valued volunteer."

When asked why he supports House of Ruth, Ray stated, "I was brought up by my parents to help others and I feel good giving back to the community. I take pride and ownership in everything I do for House of Ruth, because it's going towards a worthy organization. If I could say something to a survivor of domestic violence, I would say put forward your best effort and never give up."

Thank you, Ray, for your dedication and service to House of Ruth. We appreciate you.

VIRTUAL MOVEABLE FEAST



COVID-19 NON-PROFIT FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES

The presence of COVID-19 has changed non-profits' fundraising strategies and has spurred House of Ruth development staff to quickly rethink our fundraising plans for the year. According to Forbes, "in the face of the Coronavirus crisis, many peer-to-peer fundraisers are working overtime to transform what had been in-person events into virtual programs. It's an anxious process for everyone. Few have experience making virtual efforts into campaigns that engage substantial numbers of people to raise substantial amounts of money."

In this environment, House of Ruth held its first Virtual Moveable Feast event in June 2020. This beloved event has been a House of Ruth tradition for decades. Hosts graciously welcomed donors into their homes and served a lovely meal for their guests. This year, however, we urged all our supporters to have a meal at home instead and to tune in via Facebook Live for a short virtual program. Our event was kicked off by a compelling presentation from Executive Director Pat Bell, followed by a lively opportunity drawing hosted by Development Director Rhonda Beltran. Our viewers were encouraged to participate by leaving comments and posting photos depicting their culinary talents on our Facebook page.

The Virtual Moveable Feast raised over \$20,000 in donations and sponsorships. We would like to express our appreciation to our sponsors and participants who made this event a success! And we hope to see all of you in person next year.

2019-2020 DONORS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

(\$50,000.00 and Above)

The Eisner Foundation
Major League Baseball Players
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Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
Rose Hills Foundation
Satterberg Foundation
Winifred Stevens Foundation

CIRCLE OF RUTH

(\$10,000.00 to \$49,000.00)

F.B.B. Baumann Foundation
Boeing Employees Community
Fund
The Green Foundation
Inland Empire Community
Foundation
In-N-Out Burger Foundation
Kaiser Permanente Foundation
Fontana & Ontario
Kaiser Permanente Foundation
Baldwin Park
Orange County Community
Foundation
Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare
Foundation
Wescom Credit Union
Women's Foundation of California

FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

(\$5,000.00 to \$9,999.00)

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Foundation
Timothy Berg
Van Boyd
EcoLab Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Friedman-Kline Foundation
Goldsmith Legacy Foundation
Jill Grisby and Rett Bull
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Integrated Business Program
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The Morrison and Foerster
Foundation
Ms. Molly Foundation
Network for Good
Pacific Life Foundation
Toyota Dealer Match Program

U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
Union Pacific Foundation
David Welsh

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(\$2,500.00 to \$4,999.00)

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Society Inc.
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BAPS Charities
Robert Bauer
Joanne Braley
Carl E. Wynn Foundation
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Endowment Fund
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Cheryl Wade

CIRCLE OF HOPE

(\$1,000.00 to \$2,499.00)

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Foundation
Azusa Glendora Soroptimist
International
Francine Baker
Bank of America Charitable
Gift Fund
Barthold Family Foundation
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Carol Bookwalter
Eleanor Brown
Susan Castagnetto
The City of Chino
Claremont Presbyterian Church

Claremont United Church
of Christ
Covina Woman's Club
Pomona College Employee Giving

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Domestic Violence
Northrop Grumman Charity
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Cheryl and Gary Panzer
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Lynn Sarf and Richard Watkins
Schwab Charitable Fund
Soroptimist International of
Chino
St. Anthony's Church
St. James Book Club
Ann Stromberg and Rudi Volti
Amy Sylvis
The City of Pomona
United Way of Greater
Los Angeles
University of La Verne
Peggy Uriarte

BENEFACTOR

(\$500.00 to \$999.00)

Lise Abrams
Leslie Adams
Jette Anderson
Automotive Service Councils,
Foothill Chapter 5
Pat Bell

2019-2020 DONORS

BENEFACTOR CONT.

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Claremont Area Links, Inc.
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Sara Davis
Sara and Dan Domonoske
Inland So Cal United Way
Sherry and Fred Farr
Amy and Richard Fass
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Ladies Auxillary
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David Galloway
Ashley Gentry
Michael Gregoryk
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(\$250.00 to \$499.00)

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Sam Dennison
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Carla and Mark von Wodtke
Marilynn Waters
Rose Wentz
Elizabeth Wingett
Darlene Yamas

2019-2020 DONORS

SUPPORTER

(\$100.00 to \$249.00)

Jo-Ann and Robert Ackerman
AmazonSmile
Nancy Ambrose
Christy Anderson
Steven Anderson
Rafael Arredondo
Arroyo Knights Ladies
Zsuzsa and Hugh Avery
Dona and John Avila
Madaleine Baiza
Baker, Romero and Associates
Baldwin Park Woman's Club
Mita Banerjee
Centia Batz
Claire Beardsley
Andrew Behnke
Tria Belcourt
Adar and Irving Belinkoff
Martha E. Bellinger
Shari Lynn Benson
Arnie Berghoff
Dilip Bhatt
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Sandra Biondo
Sarah Biondo
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Rebecca Herder
Amanda Hirsch
Janice Hoffmann
Martin Levy HR4U
Yun-Ching Huang
Anita Hughes
Roy Hunt
Anita Indolino
Natoya James
Dale Johnson
Richard L Johnson and William
Larson
Johnson Family Trust
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Jaki Kackert
Elene Kallimanis
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Peggy and David Krahulec
Anthea Kraut
Lola Kufta
Branton Lachman
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Abbie Moore
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Margaret Moylan
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Sherri Mylott
Mary Jean and Michael Neault
Leslie Negritto
Michelle Nellon
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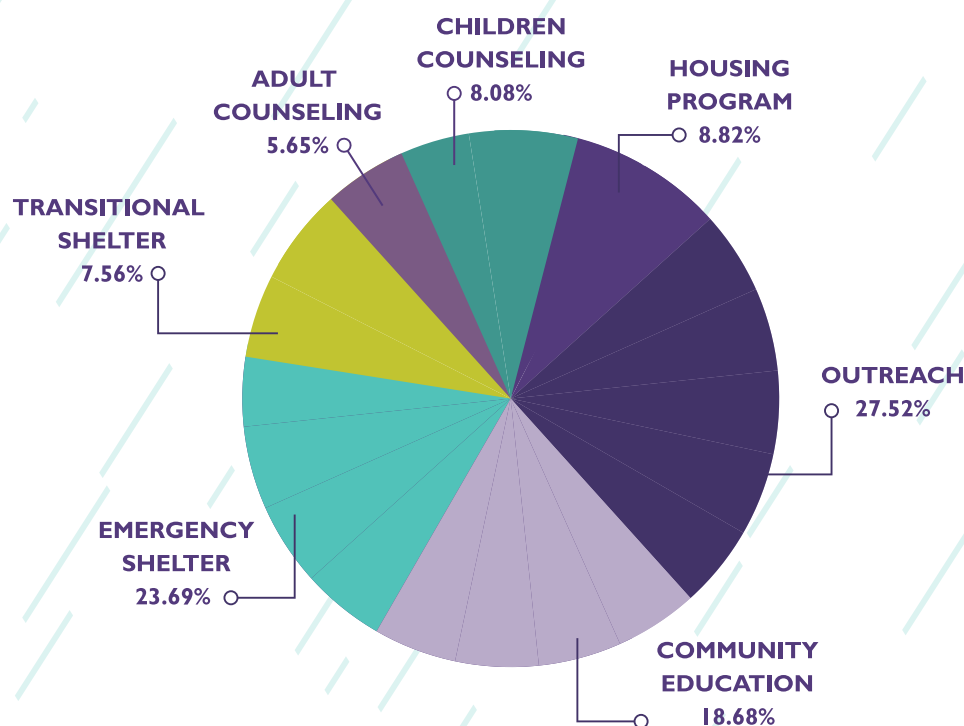
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California Office of Emergency Services Housing First Project
California Office of Emergency Services Increased Access to Services Program
California Office of Emergency Services via Los Angeles County Victim Services Program
City of Chino Community Development Block Grant
City of Chino Hills Community Development Block Grant
City of Ontario Emergency Solutions Grant
City of Pomona Community Development Block Grant
City of Rancho Cucamonga Community Development Block Grant
Administration on Children, Youth & Families via Foothill Family Services
HUD via Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Transitional Services
Los Angeles County CalWorks Domestic Violence Supportive Services Office of Women's Health
Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services
Presley Domestic Violence Emergency & Transitional Shelter Program
Los Angeles County Emergency Food and Shelter Program
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence
Rapid Re-Housing Program via Volunteers of America of Los Angeles
San Bernardino County CalWorks/Presley Domestic Violence Supportive Services
San Bernardino County Child Family Services
San Bernardino County Emergency Food and Shelter Program
Homeless Emergency Aid Program - San Bernardino County

SERVICES PROVIDED



PROGRAM	TOTAL SERVICES
HOUSING PROGRAM	3622
OUTREACH	11301
COMMUNITY EDUCATION	7672
EMERGENCY SHELTER	9722
TRANSITIONAL SHELTER	3103
ADULT COUNSELING	2321
CHILD COUNSELING	3319

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MISSION, VISION & VALUES

MISSION

House of Ruth is dedicated to the prevention of domestic violence and ensuring the safety and well-being of those impacted by it.

VISION

To end domestic violence and promote healthy relationships.
Every home deserves to be a safe home.

VALUES

We believe that all people deserve to live their lives free of violence, especially in their home.



CONTACT US

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