



Impact Report 2021-2022

theprioritycenter.org



Dear friends of The Priority Center,

For nearly four decades, The Priority Center has had an incredible story to tell about the prevention and intervention of child abuse, and the advocacy and strengthening of families in Orange County.

"Kindness to children, love to children, goodness to children—these are the only investments that never fail."

- Henry David Thoreau

As we reached deep and far to impact Orange County's neediest clients who often are voiceless, we focused our efforts on the escalated needs from the pandemic: social isolation, poverty, depression, lack of resources, suicidal ideation, and loss of hope. The Priority Center shined with beacons of hope for the more than 8,400 total clients served this past year, up from 6,837 served during the previous fiscal year. A hope brought by our stellar staff and incredible board of directors, raising the awareness of the work The Priority Center does in our community. As the need is at an all-time high, so is the importance – and need – of additional financial support to continue this essential work.

The Priority Center remains a trusted leader, partner, and collaborator in turning around this unnecessary suffering through primary prevention. Our efforts are to strengthen individuals and vulnerable families into healthy, strong communities. The amazing work of The Priority Center and the impact it has on the local community inspires us to be involved and to be part of an organization that provides opportunities for families and children to better their lives. We offer programs and create an environment where families and children can thrive.

Warmest Regards,



Lisa Fujimoto

Executive Director & CEO



Roger Armstrong 2021-2022 Chair





Our mission is to deliver life-changing programs to assist people in crisis by giving them the tools and support necessary to end the generational cycle of trauma—including prevention of child abuse and neglect, through early intervention and mental health services and advocacy.

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Programs and Services

The Priority Center's unique programs address the specific needs of the families we serve to ensure that children live in violence-free homes. Unfortunately, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic still linger, and along with rampant inflation, many children and families in our community are facing more challenges than ever. Despite the many challenges of the past year, The Priority Center's programs continued providing crucial support to families with the greatest needs. We continued achieving program goals by directly serving those in need, engaging individuals through impactful work, and educating families. All services provided through The Priority Center's nine life-changing programs continue at no cost, serving diverse, at-risk populations.

Intervention

Through four intervention programs, The Priority Center provides necessary support and services to families and individuals in times of crisis.

Child Abuse Services Team (CAST)

Through a multi-disciplinary collaboration of private and public agencies, The Priority Center serves children who are either victims of abuse or have witnessed a violent crime. In CAST's safe and secure environment, our volunteer Child Advocates provide children with the necessary comfort and therapeutic support during the crucial and challenging multi-interview and medical examination processes.



Children's In-Home Crisis Stabilization

The Children's In-Home Crisis Stabilization program serves children through age 18 experiencing a mental health crisis who are referred by a collaborative partner or by a member in the community. The Priority Center offers field-based crisis support through a three-week program that includes short-term in-home therapy and case management, focusing on maintaining family stabilization and preventing hospitalization. Through this approach, we can intervene in a crisis before the situation escalates to out-of-home placement.

Our program received a referral for a 15-yearold teenage boy presenting defiant and aggressive behavior towards his mother, poor communication, relational problems with peers, and destruction of property. In addition, the mother was a single parent and had cognitive delays due to a long history of substance use.

Together, the family and the treatment team focused on improving communication skills between both mother and son, provided education to the mother regarding basic parenting skills and provided the parent with her own resources to seek treatment and support for her individual struggles.

During treatment, the teen shared that he appreciated the time his mother participated in his treatment. As a result, their relationship significantly improved, and the confrontational behaviors decreased dramatically. The mother was grateful for the tools and skills she had learned, and felt confident to continue implementing these new strategies even after our services had ended. Our team also communicated and coordinated with a long-term therapist to promote even more success in the long run.



Adult In-Home Crisis Stabilization

Adults experiencing a mental health crisis may also receive therapeutic stabilization services through The Priority Center's three-week Adult In-Home Crisis Stabilization program. Using a field-based approach and a treatment team consisting of a therapist, case manager, and peer mentor, the program helps to diffuse the crisis and assist adults in finding a healthy and supportive lifestyle. In addition to crisis stabilization, the program aids the individual to connect them to appropriate resources, with the ultimate goal of long-term stabilization.

Basic Needs

The Basic Needs program provides more than 100 at-risk families with essential goods and household items per month. Through Orange County Healthcare contracts and private in-kind donations, The Priority Center provides families everyday essentials, including food, diapers, furniture, car seats, cribs, and beds. This program assists families at risk of separation in Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties.



A young couple was experiencing economic hardship due to pandemic-related loss of employment. The struggling mother of two worked hard to help provide for her children, but the continued unemployment made things extremely challenging. With only the woman's fiancé working, their lower income made it nearly impossible to purchase the essentials for their children after paying the rent.

Thanks to the Basic Needs Program, the family received assistance in getting clothing, hygiene products, and sheets and towels.

Lastly, The Priority Center provided linkages to services that helped the family financially until their employment was stabilized.



Prevention

The Priority Center's prevention programs educate and advise children and families in need. This assistance helps minimize the likelihood of crisis intervention in the future and builds healthy habits within the client's home.

Infant and Toddler In-Home Visitation

The Priority Center works with high-risk families to strengthen bonding, promote positive behavior, and improve relationships within the family unit. The Priority Center refers families through partner agencies and organizations utilizing a hands-on approach to bolster their family life.

Finding it difficult to meet the needs of her three-year-old child on her own, Maria joined the Infant/Toddler program. The loss of Maria's father left a teenage sibling in Maria's care as well, and the single mother found it even more difficult to pay her bills and put food on the table.

Maria's caseworker was able to provide her with linkages to food banks, CalFresh, rental assistance, and utility assistance. These connections allowed Maria to catch up on rent and bills, and to put food on her family's table. Maria's caseworker helped her acquire parenting skills that left Maria more loving, firm, and consistent with her children. Maria now enjoys a much stronger bond with her children.





Programs and Services / Prevention (continued)

CalWORKs Home Visiting Program

Through The Priority Center's partnership with CalWORKs, we provide monthly home visits for 24 months, approved by the Orange County Social Services Agency. The program aims to support at-risk families with positive health, development, and well-being outcomes for pregnant and parenting individuals, families, and infants born into poverty.

School Readiness

The School Readiness Program helps families of young children with the transition to school. Over 12 weeks, we educate parents on developmental milestones and healthy growth and development signs. In addition, the program celebrates learning and education by mentoring parents to become teachers in their own homes.

The Priority Center's Infant and Toddler Program referred a four-year-old boy to School Readiness after the child's mother had expressed interest in tracking his speech development. The child, who only had about 10 words and displayed difficulty in forming sentences, was also displaying outwardly aggressive behavior towards others and signs of self-harm.

After initial assessments demonstrated concern with the patient's development according to age range, mental health workers referred the mother and child to CalOptima Behavior Health Line for further evaluations. As a result, the child was diagnosed with moderate Autism, and the mother received education under the Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) framework in order to implement positive parenting techniques.

The mother was grateful to learn techniques to promote her son's development further and gain greater parenting skills. Upon being diagnosed with Autism, the child began receiving ABA therapy.





Outreach and Engagement

The Priority Center's Outreach and Engagement Program hosted educational and skill-building presentations. Topics presented included growth and development, bullying, anger and stress management, healthy communities, healthy relationships, and overall support for social and emotional health.

The Outreach and Engagement program often collaborated with other like-minded organizations to increase its impact.

For example, Angels Youth Clinic was a great collaboration where The Priority Center's O&E program took the lead in organizing activities and providing promotional items. O&E also worked with collaborators Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA), Western Youth, and The Phoenix House to provide stress management and coping workshops to the 150+ youth of multiple ethnicities and backgrounds that were in attendance. The attendees ranged from 8-12 years of age, with 81% male.

While the workshops were well-attended, many attendees also enjoyed the group activities, proving the event to be a great way to introduce mental health in a less stigmatizing, fun way!





Advocacy

Through The Priority Center's advocacy program, families gain the resources they need to continue on their journey successfully.

Connected Care

The Connected Care Program complements and continues The Priority Center's short-term intervention/crisis programs. Serving as an aftercare program, The Priority Center provides ongoing supportive services, for no fee, to recently exited adult clients of our three-week crisis program. By continuing to support clients with resources and education, Connected Care aims to help them break the cycle of crisis and trauma – preventing the client from reentering the crisis programs again. This program is 100% privately funded by the community through corporate, foundation, and individual donations.



Jane came to Connected Care through our Adult In-Home Crisis Stabilization team. She had been struggling with her mental health for a long time and was having suicidal thoughts.

Jane had been abusing her prescription medications for almost 10 years. Having suffered a brain injury, Jane had been struggling with memory loss and disorientation making it challenging for her to function normally, even with the most minor tasks around her house.

Connected Care helped to facilitate and assist with basic tasks. Jane now has a neurologist, is sober, and is in the process of finding new housing. Our next mission is to find her a caretaker to assist with her daily life.

"I felt like I could no longer do this alone and I'm so grateful for such caring people. I don't know where I would be without this program."



Family Support Events

Ready, Set, Learn: Back-to-School Drive

Every year, The Priority Center provides over 300 backpacks to the under-served families supported by The Center's programs. We partner with businesses, churches, service groups, and Karina's Backpack Project, to ensure kids start the school year off successfully.

Families Helping Families

The holiday season can be incredibly challenging for impoverished families. Families Helping Families is The Priority Center's annual "adopt-a-family" program that benefits those supported by our programs. The program finds compassionate donors to fulfill our children's holiday wish lists and provides their parents with gift cards to purchase the family's greatest needs.



2021-2022 Fundraising Events

2021 Summer Sizzle Pickleball Tournament

On Sunday, July 25th, The Priority Center hosted its inaugural "Summer Sizzle Pickleball Tournament" at The Tennis & Pickleball Club at Newport Beach. It was a day for pickleball enthusiasts and beginners alike, with a beginner's clinic, informal play for those new to the sport, and a competitive tournament for experienced players. We had over 100 guests in attendance and raised more than \$10,000 in support of The Priority Center's programs.



Pickleball Committee



Center: Board Member Marc Reich

Golf Committee Chairs L to R:

Kaz Mulcahy, Breanna Fernandez, Lucia Svrckova, Rob Buller, Kirk Smith, Evelyn Ramirez-Schultz, Sue Crockett



2021 Annual Golf Classic Tournament

We celebrated our 20th Annual Golf Classic
Tournament, presented by Wright Ford Young and
Co., in November 2021, at the private Dove Canyon
Golf Club in Trabuco Canyon. It was a fantastic day on
the links, where guests enjoyed the cool crisp Fall air
with friends and colleagues. Players enjoyed delicious
breakfast burritos donated by Tacos & Co, contests and
games, and a shotgun tournament, all in support of The
Priority Center's life-changing programs. Raising more
than \$83,000 for The Priority Center's programs, we are
so grateful for those who helped us hit a hole in one for
the children and families we serve.





Far Left: Board Member Debashsis Chowdhury



Tablescape Committee L to R: Breanna Fernandez, Jennifer Reiss, Nicole Madison, Evelyn Ramirez-Schultz, Rowena Treitler, Almas Shewa



2022 Women of Priority - TableScapes

The Priority Center's Women of Priority Committee hosted its first in-person event on Friday, May 20th, 2022, at the Inn at the Mission San Juan Capistrano. Tablescapes – An Afternoon of Style & Tabletops, featured an upscale Shopping Boutique, a silent auction, and countless "ooh and ahh" reactions from the elegant tabletop designs. Guests enjoyed beautifully curated Tablescape designs by Karen Tallichet and her partner Laura Lee, who displayed a Spring themed table, Estelle Nguyen, who featured curated items from Paris, France, and Juaneie Munoz, who created a minimal yet elegant spring tablescape. The Inn at the Mission also incorporated the rich history of San Juan Capistrano throughout their Tablescape. It was an incredible afternoon where guests help raised over \$40,000 to benefit our CAST Advocates Program.



L to R: Susan Carroll, Susan Crockett, Suzanne Miller

2022 Annual Gala -A Night in Havana

In April 2022, we hosted our 23rd Annual Gala – A Night in Havana, presented by The Crean Foundation at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach. Sponsors, supporters, and friends of The Priority Center gathered for a fantastic evening of food, fun, and fundraising for the first time in two years. Guests enjoyed a cocktail hour, silent auction, Cuban-inspired dinner, live auction, and a live performance by Santana lead singer Andy Vargas and his band. In addition, we recognized our Champion of Change Honorees, Jeff Shepard, Alex Musetti, Karina's Backpack Project, and the Croul Family Foundation for their incredible support of The Priority Center's mission. The overwhelming support of our guests resulted in netting more than \$200,000 for children and families in crisis served by The Priority Center's life-changing programs.



L to R: The Priority Center CEO, Lisa Fujimoto, Champion of Change Awardee, Alex Musetti, Board Member Marc Reich

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The Priority Center CEO, Lisa Fujimoto, with ABC7 Broadcast Journalist and Master of Ceremonies, Eric Resendiz





The Priority Center, Ending the Generational Cycle of Trauma, Inc. FY 2021-2022

2,545

Community Events focusing on mental health awareness and education

Counseling Clients		Events	
AIHCS	505	O&E	2,191
CIHCS	586	School Readiness	354
O&E	334	TOTAL	2,545
TOTAL	1,425	Case Management	
Counseling/Therapy Sessions		Infant-Toddler	2,128
AIHCS	1,271	HVP	1,394
CIHCS	697	CIHCS	999
O&E	2,004	AIHCS	668
TOTAL	3,972	School Readiness	1,831
Community Training/		O&E	2,160
Educational Skills & Classes		TOTAL	9,180
School Readiness	254		
O&E	223	Outreach Contacts	
TOTAL	477	O&E Only 33.	694 (goal was 25,000)
Delivered Goods		Socioeconomic Sta	tus (Low Income)
Basic Needs	8,064	HVP	90%
		Infant-Toddler	92%

Outreach for mental health awareness

33,964 individuals

Delivered Goods through Basic Needs (Beds, car seats, diapers, strollers, food, clothing)

8,064

Community Training and Educational Skills Classes conducted

1,425

individuals counseled,

epresenting 3,972 session	3
through our Outreach &	
Engagement and crisis	
programs.	1

Parents Served		Connected Care	
Infant Toddler	569	Number of Scheduled Calls	884
HVP	233	Number of Unscheduled Calls	188
CIHCS	879	Number of Scheduled Visits (all typ	oes) 50
School Readiness	531	Referral Types:	
Basic Needs	1,371	Basic Needs	26
TOTAL	3,032	Counseling	28
		Education	5
Children Served		Employment	7
CAST	814	Financial	21
CIHCS	586	Housing	12
Infant-Toddler	379	Legal	9
HVP	155	Medical (Health/Insurance)	27
Basic Needs	914	Peer Support	19
School Readiness	354	Substance Use	16
TOTAL	3,202	Transportation	5

Parents Served 3,032

Children Served 3,202

1,122

Visits/Calls with 175 service referrals

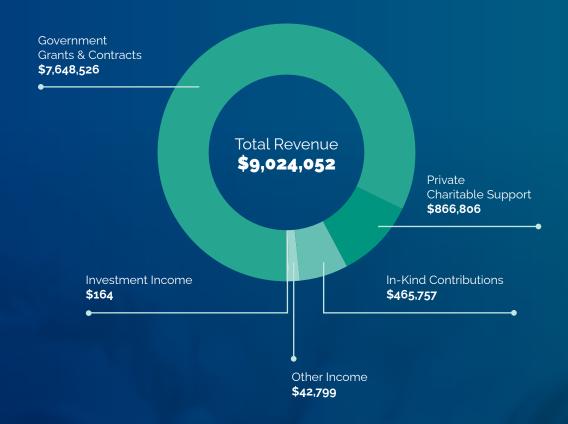
9,180

Case Management/ Parenting virtual/ in-person visits

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Financials

The Priority Center, Ending the Generational Cycle of Trauma, Inc. FY 2021-2022



Government Grants & Contracts	\$7,648,526
Private Charitable Support	\$866,806
In-Kind Contributions	\$465,757
Total Program Support	\$8,981,089
Other Revenue	
Other Income	\$42,799
Investment Income	\$164
Total Other Revenue	\$42,963



Expenses	
Program And Services	
Mental Health	\$3,410,409
Prevention	\$3,505,203
Advocacy And Family Support	\$715,494
Program In-Kind Support	\$465.757
Total Program And Services Expenses	\$8,096,863
Total Program And Services Expenses Support Services	\$8,096,863
	\$8,096,863 \$496,241
Support Services	
Support Services Administration And Community Relations	\$496,241
Support Services Administration And Community Relations Fundraising	\$496,241 \$514,765

2021-2022 Community

Engagement

Ready, Set, Learn! (July/Aug)

The Priority Center partnered with sponsors ABC7, Karina's Backpack Project, Dreams for Schools, and Ingram Micro, for the Ready, Set, Learn! Back-to-School campaign. The campaign, which raised nearly \$8,000, helped to ensure Orange County children in need would have the necessary school supplies to help them succeed in the upcoming academic year.







I'm Here for You (September)

During National Suicide Prevention Month, The Priority Center launched the "I'm Here for You" campaign which raised \$4,000 while creating awareness, promoting education, and providing helpful tips and resources. Focusing on "See Something, Say Something" – funds went directly to support our In-Home Crisis Stabilization programs that serve children and adults who are experiencing a mental health crisis. This three-week program aids with stabilizing the individual, their family, and connecting them to appropriate resources and support.

Families Helping Families (December)

To bring some Christmas cheer, The Priority Center's annual holiday gift drive brought joy – and gifts – to struggling families in Orange County. Santa was on hand with his Christmas motorcycle and sleigh as 275 families received gifts from their wish lists. Staff, board members, and volunteers joined in on the fun.







Love Is (February)

The Priority Center raised just over \$20,000 as it joined seven other Orange County non-profit organizations on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, for the Love Is campaign. More than \$133,000 was raised in 24 hours to support healthy relationships for teens and young adults, exceeding the original goal of \$100,000.



Donor List

Champions of Change \$25,000 +

A Little Help Foundation Fund

Anonymous

Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation

Change A Life Foundation

The Crean Family Foundation

Croul Family Foundation

DevTo Support Foundation

Exchange Club of Newport

George Hoag Family Foundation

Green Foundation

Anne MacPherson

Milestone Risk Management & Insurance Services

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Executive's Circle \$15,000 to \$24,999

Exchange Club of Newport Harbor

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Catherine Sorenson

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ABC 7

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Meghan Boyle Gary Bridge Bob Brown Rob Buller



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Susan Carroll Chip Carter Scott Cernigoj **Bryce Chalmers**

Charities Aid Foundation of

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Mark and Amy Clews

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Keith & Jennifer Dolnick Helen Dos Santos

Jaclyn Duarte Sheila Dufresne James Eaton Lori Escobosa Sean Evans Erika Fink

First Christian Church of Orange

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Brad Garner Michael Genest Michael Gertner Jeff Gibson Jennifer Giffen Gelisa Gonzaga

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Wendy Warren

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Jennifer Wiegman

Mike Wilson

Hilary Worchell

Terri Wright

William Wyand

Laura Zolnekoff



Pillars of Priority

Thank you to the following donors who have contributed towards naming a room or space at The Priority Center office in Santa Ana.

Debashis and Laurel Chowdhury

Crean Family Foundation

Exchange Club of Newport Harbor

Lisa Fujimoto

Hughes Marino, Inc.

Joe MacPherson Foundation, Inc.

Colleen Rogers

Catherine Sorensen

Priority Giving Club

A huge thank you to our monthly recurring donors who stay true to our mission all year long.

Tuulbelt, Inc.

Paolo Alcantara

Melissa Flagg

Edward Shin

Victoria Kinney

Colleen Rogers

Pillars of Priority

The Priority Center's Pillars of Priority campaign seeks sponsors to support our critical work by acquiring the naming rights to one of several rooms at our headquarters in Santa Ana. Each room is designated with the sponsor's chosen name and displayed on a plaque at its entrance. Sponsors are also recognized as Pillars of Priority Donors on a donor wall at our office, The Priority Center's website, Impact Report, and marketing materials.

William Ross Foundation

We are excited about this new partnership and thankful for individuals like William and Elaine Ross, who believe in our work and make it possible to change the lives of those who need it most in the Orange County community. The mission of the William Ross Family Foundation is to build a robust and healthy community by supporting local nonprofit organizations that impact children.

The Priority Center's 2021-2022 Impact Report gratefully acknowledges donors who made gifts between July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022. We have made every effort to spell names correctly and print accurate information. If there are errors or omissions, we apologize and ask that you contact us (info@theprioritycenter.org) so they may be corrected.

Partnerships

211 OC

APAIT

All 4 Kids

Be Well

Beach Cities Quilters Guild

Buchanan Street Partners

Buena Park Collaborative

Cal Optima

Capistrano USD

Casa Teresa

Centralia USD

Child Guidance Center

Children's Bureau

CHIRLA

CHOC

City of Santa Ana

Clinic in the Park

Collaboration to Assist Motel

Families

Connect OC

Council on Aging

County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA)

CSU Costa Mesa/College

Hospital

CSU Santa Ana

Delta Kappa Gamma

Didi Hirsch

Discovery Cube

Easter Seals

Eastside Church

Exchange Club of Newport

Harbor

Families Forward

FDP Charitable Foundations

Fieldstone Leadership

First 5 Orange County

Flying Geese Quilters Guild

Fullerton USD

Garden Grove Collaborative

Help Me Grow?

Hoag Hospital

Human Options

Illumination Foundation

In-N-Out Burger Foundation

In Memory of Frankie Fukuda

Jamboree Housing

Karina's Backpack Project

Laguna Playhouse

Lestonnac Free Clinic

Magnolia School

Make-A-Wish Foundation

Mary's Path

Mental Health America OC

(MHAOC)

Mind OC

Mira Loma Family Resource

Mix Academy

MOMS OC

NAMI

National Charity League

Nicholas Academic Centers

Norooz Clinic

North Cities Quilters Guild

Oak View School District

OC Health Care Agency

OC Links

OC Neighborhood

OC Regional Center

OCAPICA

Olive Crest

OMID

One OC

Orange County Crisis Assessment Téam

Orange Senior Center

Orange County Veterans & Military Families Collaborative (OCVMFC)

Orange County Scroll Saw

Association

Orange County Wellness

Centers

Orange County Woodworkers

Association

Pacificore Construction. Inc

Pathwavs

Patricia Poss Bridge Club

Friends

Petro Diamond

Phoenix House

Pretend City

Project Access

Resource Network

Roosters Foundation

Saddleback USD

Santa Ana USD

Second Harvest Food Bank

Silver Tree House

Standup4Kids

The Diaper Bank

The Raise Foundation

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