# SAFE TODAY. STRONGER TOMORROW.

SERVING SURVIVORS WITH SAFETY, DIGNITY, AND HOUSING FOR OVER 50 YEARS — AS THE LARGEST PROVIDER OF HOUSING FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AND INTIMIATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SURVIVORS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY.





### A WORD FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year, WRC celebrated a milestone — 50 years of providing safety for survivors in North County San Diego. And while much has changed in our world, one truth has remained constant: **safety saves lives**.

Every day, our team walks alongside people rebuilding their lives — from that first call to the hotline, to counseling sessions, to housing, employment, and beyond. In 2024-2025, we provided over 15,000 nights of safe shelter, responded to thousands of crisis calls, and delivered healing through counseling, education, and advocacy.

And behind every number is a human story — like Ernesto's:

"If it weren't for this program, I don't know where I'd be... I still believe there are angels on Earth."

His words remind us why we do this work. And they also remind us of you — our community of supporters, funders, and volunteers. Because of you, someone is not only safe today — they are stronger tomorrow.

With gratitude and resolve,

**ARIEL REYES, MBA** 

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# NORTH COUNTY'S LEADING HOUSING PROVIDER FOR SURVIVORS

SERVING MORE SURVIVORS, WITH MORE NIGHTS OF SAFETY, AND SUPPORT.



### **EMERGENCY SHELTER**



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING













## REAL LIVES. REAL CHANGE.

FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING: MICHELLE'S JOURNEY FROM SHELTER TO STABILITY

When Michelle came to WRC, she was navigating multiple layers of hardship — trying to care for her son, manage her health, and regain a sense of control over her life.

Michelle needed more than a roof over her head. She needed space to reset, reflect, and rebuild.

At WRC, she found safety — and with it, the breathing room to begin again. With the stability of shelter and encouragement from staff, Michelle began to put the pieces together — one intentional step at a time. Through her own effort and determination, she has built a life filled with forward motion, purpose, and pride.

Michelle's progress includes:

- Securing employment and maintaining her job for over 7 months
- Earning certifications in elder and child abuse prevention (State of CA)
- Becoming certified in Phreesia, a medical system used by many healthcare providers
- Co-managing her own writing business
- Supporting her son's streaming platform, which received a brand sponsorship
- Rebuilding her health and working with trusted doctors to address ongoing challenges
- Forming strong community connections, including trusted relationships to support a future car purchase

Michelle isn't just surviving — she's leading, parenting, and building a new vision for herself and her family.

"There's much more in the works."
-Michele

# REAL LIVES. REAL CHANGE.

ERNESTO'S STORY: *"I BELIEVE IN ANGELS AGAIN"* 

When Ernesto arrived at WRC, he was emotionally overwhelmed and uncertain about the future. What he found wasn't just housing, it was a foundation for healing.

Through the support of WRC's Transitional Housing Program, Ernesto gained access to psychological therapy, which helped him begin to process his trauma and rebuild emotional strength. That healing gave him the confidence to take his next steps. "Since I started living at WRC, things started to improve. The psychological therapies helped a lot with my emotional state."

With renewed clarity and support, Ernesto secured employment — a milestone that gave him financial stability and independence. Soon after, he was able to purchase his own car — a symbol of progress and freedom that once felt out of reach. "I got a job, and thanks to the effort, I was able to buy my car."

But the most powerful shift was personal. For the first time in a long time, Ernesto felt strong enough to truly show up — not just for himself, but for his son. "I feel strong and confident in moving forward with my life and, above all, having the ability to focus on my son. He is my driving force."

"If it wasn't for the help and the existence of this program, I wouldn't know where I would be without it. Because of this, I still believe that there are angels on Earth."

At WRC, Ernesto found more than a place to stay. Ernesto found the power to begin again.



# SPIRIT OF GIVING



170 FAMILIES

461 CHILDREN RECEIVED OVER 1,295 GIFTS



At the heart of WRC's mission is the belief that when we care for one another, we all rise. The spirit of giving isn't just about what is donated — it's about what is made possible: safety, healing, second chances, and new beginnings.

Every gift, whether of time, resources, or heart, is a powerful reminder that we're in this together — building a community where survivors are not only protected, but empowered to thrive.

Thank you for giving generously. Thank you for giving with purpose. Thank you for giving with love.



### A MAGICAL EVENING. A MEANINGFUL IMPACT

YOU DIDN'T JUST SHOW UP - YOU MADE THIS WORK POSSIBLE.



WRO

In honor of our 50th Anniversary, we gathered in community for a truly magical evening — filled with laughter, reflection, storytelling, and a shared commitment to safety, dignity, and healing.

But beyond the celebration, your presence — and your continued support — represents something powerful: a belief in a future where survivors are not only safe, but seen, supported, and strong.

Whether you gave time, resources, connections, or financial support, you helped ensure that every call was answered, every bed was available, and every survivor had someone in their corner.

FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS, THANK YOU.

BECAUSE OF YOU, WRC REMAINS THE LARGEST PROVIDER OF HOUSING FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY.

GALA PHOTOS





### WRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2024-2025

Executive Leadership:
Kevin Cadieux, Chairperson
Jodi Allen, Vice Chair
Bill Chenoweth, Treasurer
Katie Arner-Puccinelli, Secretary
Ariel Reyes, Ex-Officio Member & CEO

Members:
Lorin Beller
Tony Butler
Jacquie Nelissen
Sue Simpson
Audrey Powers Thornton
Colleen O'Hara, Founder & Director Emeritus

We are grateful to our dedicated Board of Directors for their vision, stewardship, and unwavering support in our mission to ensure safety, dignity, and healing for survivors.