



“The **ONLY WAY**  
to correctly **PREDICT**  
*the future*

is to **PAVE IT**  
is to **BRAVE IT.”**

— AMANDA GORMAN

## ***Cover Inspiration:*** **Amanda Gorman**

Amanda Gorman was born on March 7, 1998, in Los Angeles, California. She and twin sister Gabrielle were born prematurely. Amanda grew up with a speech impediment and was diagnosed with an auditory-processing disorder in kindergarten. Amanda explained in an interview with Oprah Winfrey, “I was born early, along with my twin, and a lot of times, for infants, that can lead to learning delays.” By the time she was 5, Amanda would wake her mother early in the morning because she wanted paper to write. Amanda said in 2021, “I actually started writing poetry before I started reading it, mostly because at the time poetry wasn’t something that was taught robustly in my classrooms.” She further developed her love of writing with mentors from the nonprofit organization WriteGirl. She went on to perform for WriteGirl, The Moth and Urban Word. At the age of 16, Amanda was named Los Angeles Youth Poet Laureate. She became the first National Youth Poet Laureate in 2017. Her organization One Pen One Page was founded to promote youth literacy and creativity.

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## **Miki Jordan**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### **How has Wayfinder grown and changed with recent changes in the world?**

We have changed for the better. We chose our name—Wayfinder—because it’s about moving forward. We’ve always been an organization that keeps progressing. One example is in Child Development Services. Initially because of the pandemic, we began offering child development services for children with vision or multiple disabilities through telehealth. We didn’t know if we could successfully deliver child development services

that way. But online sessions proved to be a great success. While we resumed delivering our in-person services, we are now using telehealth with families that prefer it, for both children in remote rural areas and busy urban regions.

I’m thinking about Lavona, whose son Jamal is a toddler with multiple disabilities. She also is the mom of a new baby girl and has an older boy in grade school. Being able to get child development services for Jamal via telehealth is a godsend for Lavona. Her life is more manageable.

### **How does Wayfinder relate to the lines about the future from Amanda Gorman’s poem?**

When you read the stories in this impact report, you will see how the lines of Amanda Gorman’s poem come to life at Wayfinder. A little boy with multiple disabilities develops his vision so he can see his family. Against all odds, a foster youth who wants to have a family gets one. A teenage girl masters her debilitating social anxiety. After losing most of her vision and her friends, a girl finds new friends and true understanding at our camp.

Wayfinder’s caring staff and expertise help pave the way to the future, but the other aspect is the bravery of children, youth, adults and families. No matter what their circumstances when they turn to us, they are brave enough to imagine a better life, put in the work and change their futures.





## **Elworth (Brent) Williams Jr.**

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Is Wayfinder affected by the mental health crisis?**

The events of the last couple of years have left this nation with a mental health crisis. Children have been especially affected. The crisis is worse for low-income children and youth of color, who make up most of Wayfinder's child population. In this terrible crisis, Wayfinder is expanding mental health therapy in our communities. In our other programs, staff are using even more trauma-informed strategies with clients. Also, in November 2022, Wayfinder and the Aspen Institute Society of Fellows presented The Conversation for philanthropic- and civic-minded people to

discuss the magnitude and potential solutions to this crisis with a panel of mental health experts.

### **How is Wayfinder planning for the future?**

As the pandemic taught us, you never know what is coming around the bend. We have to remain flexible and nimble and stay focused on our principles and goals. In Wayfinder's 2022-23 fiscal year, the board and staff are starting a new strategic planning process, with substantial input from our clients and partners. The 2019 strategic plan served Wayfinder very well during the pandemic and racial reckoning that began in 2020 because the overarching goals were true to what Wayfinder is at its core.

For example, Wayfinder continued delivering whatever assistance families needed during stay-at-home orders, from masks to food to children's educational materials. With support from our staff Inclusion Council, the organization continued to integrate inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility—IDEA—throughout the organization. Also, the staff Equity Council will address clients' complex barriers to socioeconomic mobility and long-term health. I am confident the new strategic plan will pave the way for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

### **Was there a notable achievement this year that you'd like to mention?**

The *Los Angeles Business Journal* named Wayfinder's senior leadership team the Nonprofit Team of the Year in 2022. The award mentioned their effective teamwork and extraordinary impact, especially during the pandemic. I know Wayfinder's exceptional senior leaders are grateful for this award, but they give substantial credit to their staff.





# *We will fight for Mateo*

“Mateo is a blessing,” says his mother Karinna. Doctors had predicted that Mateo had no future. But in Wayfinder’s Child Development Services, the little boy’s progress has inspired his close-knit family.

On one fateful day when she was seven months pregnant, Karinna brought her children, Jenifer, age 13, and Alfredo Jr., age 11, to a routine ultrasound check-up. “They were so excited to see their little brother,” she remembers. The family planned to call him Mateo.

Karinna knew something was wrong when the technician said nothing during the ultrasound. A doctor entered. He did not speak Spanish or request a translator, so Jenifer and Alfredo Jr. translated for their mom. With no sensitivity, the doctor said, “The baby’s brain is not developing. He will most likely die in utero. If he is born, he will not survive for more than a year. It would be better to terminate the pregnancy.”

Ignoring the family’s emotions, the doctor went on. If the baby lived, he would be a vegetable. Jenifer and Alfredo Jr. struggled to hold back their tears as they translated. Later, they cried in the restrooms to hide their tears from their mom.

When Alfredo Sr. came home that night, he found his wife sobbing. Jenifer told her dad, “Mateo is not doing good. But we decided to keep him. We love him, even if he is coming with problems.” Alfredo Sr. agreed, “We will all fight for Mateo.”

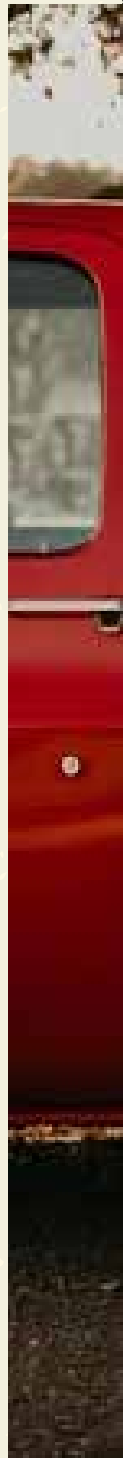
Mateo was born with a rare genetic disorder that causes intellectual and developmental delays, plus an eye disorder. He had two surgeries before he was 3 months old. A doctor told the baby’s parents, “Mateo is a warrior.”

At 7 months old, Mateo began receiving weekly services from a Wayfinder child development specialist. “I was hoping that Mateo would be able to see us,” Karinna remembers. Working with his Wayfinder specialist through video visits during the pandemic, Mateo learned how to track objects with his eyes and to reach for toys.

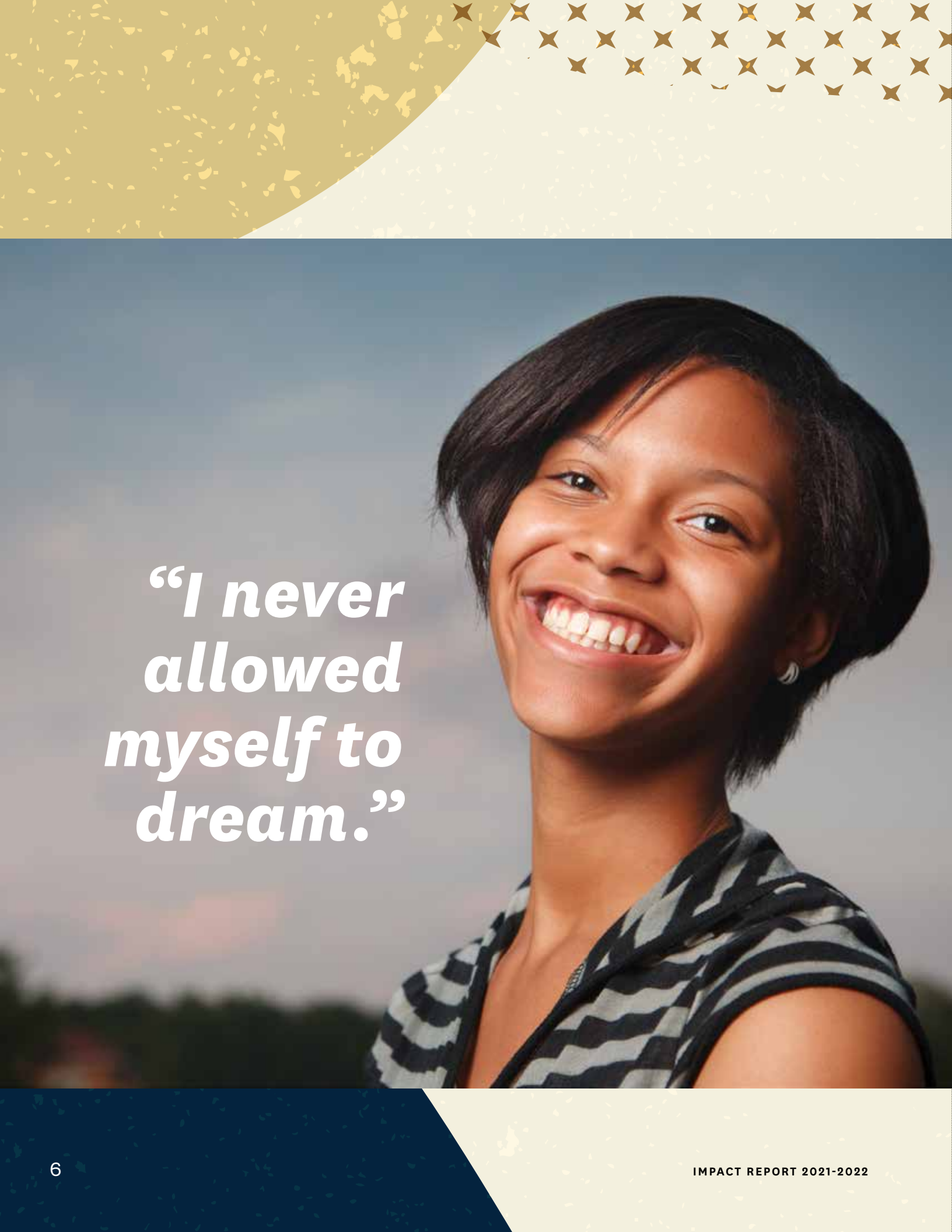
Now nearly 3 years old, Mateo can roll over and scoot to get his toys. When asked, where is your dad or sister, Mateo turns and looks at them. “This is the most incredible thing!” Karinna says, “He can see us.”

Mateo is not the only warrior in his family. The experience of translating for the insensitive doctor has inspired Jenifer, now 16, to become a neonatal intensive care nurse. During his mother’s doctor appointments, Alfredo Jr., 14, became so good at interpreting ultrasounds that a technician recommended the teen pursue this as a career.

Karinna is very grateful. “I am so happy that Wayfinder has people who speak my language and understand me, my family, our culture and how to help us,” she says. “Thank you for helping us help Mateo.”








***“I never  
allowed  
myself to  
dream.”***





Camille is 16 years old. She had a shocking 26 foster family placements over 10 years. A little more than a year ago, Camille's case came to Wayfinder, changing the trajectory of her life forever.

In 2012, Camille and her younger sisters, Maya, age 3, and Dani, age 1, were removed from their home due to their biological parents' substance abuse and violent behavior. In their home, Camille had assumed a parental role, trying to protect her little sisters. Ultimately, 6-year-old Camille was the one who called the police, leading to the girls' removal.

For five years, the three girls bounced from placement to placement, sometimes being moved to protect them from more abuse. Camille continued her parental role, which frustrated Maya. Camille would answer for Maya and correct her—a toxic dynamic known as “parentification” that didn't allow Camille to work through her own trauma. Conflict between Camille and Maya escalated into physical fights. Child protective services made the difficult decision to separate Camille from her younger sisters.

While Maya and Dani were soon adopted, Camille continued to move from one foster home to another for five more years, feeling alone, unwanted and unadoptable.

Then, June, a Wayfinder social worker, learned about Camille and had the case

transferred to us in early 2021. June refused to give up on Camille! At one of their first meetings, Camille told June that one of her dearest wishes was to be reunited with her sisters.

Meanwhile, Sam and Emma, the couple who had adopted Maya and Dani, had never stopped thinking about Camille. Sam and Emma had met her during sibling visits years ago. Maybe they could take Camille too?

Despite resistance from the county social workers, June advocated for Camille to reconnect with her sisters. Also, June coordinated with Camille's treatment team to ensure the girl received mental health therapy to process her trauma—from the child welfare system, as well as her biological parents.

At first, June facilitated Zoom visits, then twice weekly in-person dinners. A few months later, Camille moved in with the family. When Sam and Emma signed the adoptive placement papers, Camille implored them, “Please don't give up on me.” They responded, “No way, you're stuck with us now!” Camille's adoption became final in September.

During June's final home visit, Camille told her, “I never allowed myself to dream of the future because I never thought I had a future. I thought I was going to die or be in prison.” Now, Camille is dreaming... of going to college and becoming a nurse. Camille's dreams are coming true.





# Healing Mila's Heart

A visitor to Mila's high school during lunchtime would have seen a sad, anxious girl sitting alone, hunched over her food. Mila's childhood had been heartbreakingly difficult. "I had no hope for the future," Mila remembers. She didn't know help would come from Wayfinder.

As a child, Mila witnessed domestic violence between her biological parents. After her father, Gerry, left, her mother had a new boyfriend every few weeks. One of the men sexually abused Mila, but she was afraid to tell anyone. Mila's mom used drugs, and she neglected Mila and her two older sisters.

Child welfare workers removed Mila, age 10, and her sisters from their home and placed them in foster care. Instead of a healing environment, the foster home was turbulent and cold. When Gerry learned where his daughters were, he vowed to get them out of the system. For a year, Gerry went to therapy, attended parenting classes and complied with all court requests.

When Mila was 11, she and her sisters went to live with their father and his new wife. Mila maintained straight A's in school, but the past tormented her. She had post-traumatic stress disorder from the sexual abuse she experienced. By the time she entered high school, she was avoiding social situations. "I would make up an excuse to avoid dinner at a restaurant with my family," Mila recalls.

The pandemic stay-at-home orders and online school were a relief to Mila. She no longer had

to interact with anyone. When in-person school resumed, Gerry could see that Mila's social withdrawal was debilitating. He approached a school counselor, who arranged a referral for Mila to Wayfinder's community mental health services.

Wayfinder therapist Rachel met weekly in person with Mila at school. Over eight months, Rachel led Mila through visualizations of interactions with people. "I would role-play as a teacher or student and have Mila practice talking to me," Rachel says. With Mila's permission, Gerry was very involved in her treatment.

Mila made tremendous progress in therapy. Her trauma and social anxiety diminished. "Mila didn't miss significant events her senior year," says Rachel. "She attended homecoming, prom and grad night." Mila applied and was accepted to three universities. She entered college this fall.

The day of her last therapy appointment, teary-eyed Mila gave Rachel a heart-shaped note that read, "Thank you for everything you have done for me."

Rachel was touched beyond words. "A moment like this is why I am a therapist," she says. "Mila was so brave. She really opened up to me. I can't wait to see what she does in the future."

**"Mila was so brave. She really opened up to me. I can't wait to see what she does in the future."**

MILA'S WAYFINDER THERAPIST, RACHEL





# ***Finding Courage and***

**“I had a wonderful time. Camp [Bloomfield] was filled with positivity. I got to hang around with great people and do fun activities. I plan on coming back every year.”**



# d Community at Camp

Audrey is very brave. “I believe it took incredible courage for Audrey to attend Camp Bloomfield,” says Mark Lucas, Wayfinder camp director.

Audrey, age 15, had lost much of her vision only nine months before she arrived at camp. Doctors had removed a brain tumor that was pressing on her optic nerve. Post-surgery, she has a small circle of vision, without top, bottom or peripheral sight.

Unfortunately, she also lost friends. “People didn’t know what to say to me,” Audrey remembers. She was excited about coming to camp because, “I wanted to get to know more people who have a commonality with me.”

Audrey made her first friend on the bus to Camp Bloomfield, then connected with even more new friends on her first day. On the second day, she began to have vision episodes—she was seeing a bright light in her eyes, which reduced her vision.

“I was getting worried,” Audrey remembers. “I wasn’t used to the episodes and I was away from home. I wanted to stay at camp, but I also wanted to be home in my bed.” She decided she would go home.

Sierra, a camp counselor, suggested that since Audrey was worried about being able to see during activities, she could string beads to make bracelets instead. Sierra suggested this activity because Audrey could use her sense of touch instead of vision to string beads. Audrey realized, “I wouldn’t have to worry about not being able to see while I was stringing beads.”

Like a true Wayfinder, Audrey forged ahead! She decided to stay at camp.

The rest of the week was a great experience. Audrey thinks camp changed her. “At that time I was going through a personal struggle,” she says, “so camp changed me by talking to people who could understand my situation.” Audrey and her camp friends continue to stay in touch using a group chat.

Back at school, Audrey has found new friends who accept her for who she is now. “I’ve moved on to people who don’t feel like they constantly need to compare me to my old self,” she says.

“I had a wonderful time,” she says. “Camp was filled with positivity. I got to hang around with great people and do fun activities. I plan on coming back every year.”







“Danielle is using her fingers and hands more. She likes to peck on her braille machine, and she is learning to write letters.”

Corinna, mother of a student in Wayfinder’s  
**SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL**

## WE INCREASE ACCESS TO

# Educational Success.

Our statewide **CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES** provides services for children with vision loss and multiple disabilities, from birth to age 6. Young children maximize any vision they have and reduce developmental delays. The program empowers parents with knowledge and advocacy skills. The program offers in-person and telehealth sessions.

■ **Number:** 701 children and 2,372 family members

★ **Outcome:** 88% of children in Child Development met their individual development goals.

Our **SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL** offers children and youth ages 5 to 22 who have multiple disabilities, including vision loss, a safe, positive environment for growth. Teachers develop students’ communication, mobility and independent living skills. Students learn in the least restrictive environment in our state-certified, non-public school.

■ **Number:** 41 children and 146 family members

★ **Outcome:** 63% of students in our Special Education School met their individual goals in white-cane skills, independent living, braille and communication, and social and vocational skills.

“I am really thankful to have Wayfinder. They treat us like family. The journey hasn’t been easy. I didn’t know where to start, but I see progress and it gives me hope.”

Jun, father of a 2-year-old in **CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**





**“Wayfinder definitely moved me closer to my goals for the future. I have more independence skills, and I improved the ones that I already knew.”**

*Venecia, participant with vision loss in a **TRANSITION SERVICES** summer program*

## OUR WORK ADVANCES

# Economic Opportunity.

The **DAVIDSON PROGRAM FOR INDEPENDENCE** in Los Angeles and **HATLEN CENTER** in San Pablo are comprehensive residential rehabilitation programs for adults ages 18 and older who are blind or visually impaired. Participants learn braille, assistive technology, orientation and mobility, and independent-living skills so they can successfully transition to education or employment and enjoy productive, fulfilling lives.

■ **Number:** 60 adults

★ **Outcome:** 89% of graduates of Davidson and Hatlen achieved a rating of 5 in overall independence on a 5-point scale or had an average increase of 2 points on a 5-point scale in all of their skill areas: braille, orientation and mobility, assistive technology and independent living.

**TRANSITION SERVICES** enable teenagers and young adults who are blind or visually impaired to explore careers and successfully transition to independent living, college or the workforce. The program offers virtual trainings and a multiweek immersive summer training.

■ **Number:** 24 teens and young adults

★ **Outcome:** Participants achieved 94% of their individualized, short-term training goals in their service plans.

**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING** and **EMPLOYMENT SERVICES** provide adults who are blind or visually impaired with the skills they need for success in the job market. ATT clients learn how to use the latest assistive devices and software for success in the job market. ES clients receive training and job placement, plus coaching and orientation and mobility instruction, to find and keep jobs. ATT and ES clients emerge as competitive candidates in the workforce.

■ **Number:** 82 adults



**“I’m grateful that I had people passionate about their work. Everybody was really committed to their mission.”**

*Monica, who adopted her grandson. Learn more about Wayfinder’s **KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM** on page 15.*



## WE ADVANCE EQUITY IN

# Health and Well-Being.

Wayfinder operates five **GROUP HOMES** in single-family residences for children, youth and adults with multiple disabilities. Our group homes are fully staffed and running without interruption during the pandemic. All group homes are conveniently located near Wayfinder's Los Angeles campus so that residents can attend the Special Education School and use Wayfinder's recreational facilities.

■ **Number:** 29 children and young adults

★ **Outcome:** 78% of residents in our group homes increased independence by achieving two or more of their four individual goals for the year.

Wayfinder's **MEDICAL DEPARTMENT** provides 24-hour services to children with complex medical and mental health needs. Our staff includes 12 nurses and a psychiatrist. We contract with a nurse practitioner, endocrinologist and behavioral psychologist. The medical department primarily serves children in our residential programs and the Special Education School.

★ **Outcome:** Wayfinder's nursing staff administered an average of 211 doses of medication per day, or 77,015 in 2021-22, and achieved an extremely low error rate of 0.0000129%, far below the industry standard of 5%.

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** provides in-person and telehealth therapy to children, adults and families in our programs and in the community who are dealing with vision loss, multiple disabilities, behavioral issues or trauma. Our community mental health services are preventative and help build resilient individuals and stronger families in Los Angeles, Butte and Shasta counties.

■ **Number:** 353 community clients plus 1,059 family members

★ **Outcome:** 90% of children and youth demonstrated a decrease in functional impairments as a result of mental health interventions.

In 2022, **CAMP BLOOMFIELD** returned to being an overnight camp at Pathfinder Ranch near the San Jacinto Mountains. Our original Camp Bloomfield in Malibu burned in 2018, and during the first two summers of the pandemic, it was a virtual camp and day camp. Campers who are blind or visually impaired participate in adaptive sports and memorable outdoor activities that build friendships, develop self-esteem and promote independence.

■ **Number:** 174 campers

★ **Outcome:** 85% of campers with vision loss learned at least one new adaptive sport, recreational sport, recreational activity or independent living skill.

Wayfinder offers **sports, recreation and outdoor adventures** that are adapted for child and teen athletes with disabilities. Among the varied, engaging activities in 2021-22 were deep sea fishing, surfing, judo, skiing, goalball and many more.

■ **Number:** 273 children and youth and 819 family members



**“I thought we were in heaven! It was so fantastic to be face-to-face in a summer resident camp again after COVID.”**

*Luke, a camper who has attended **CAMP BLOOMFIELD** for three years*



**“The kinship program connected me to a community. It was like a home away from home.”**

*Annie, grandmother of a girl in **KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES***

**WE STRIVE TO IMPROVE**

## **Safety and Resilience.**



The **TEMPORARY SHELTER CARE PROGRAM**, known as **THE COTTAGE**, is a 10-day shelter on our Los Angeles campus for children ages 0 to 18 who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect and are awaiting placement with a relative or resource family. The program is one of only four in the county and the only one licensed to care for infants and toddlers.

■ **Number:** 921 children

★ **Outcome:** 99% of children ages 6 to 18 who completed an exit survey reported they felt safe, their rights were respected and their needs met while in The Cottage.

Our **FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION** program matches children and youth with families that can provide safe, caring homes. Wayfinder offers specialized training and support for families to enable them to foster children with health and mental health conditions. Our post-adoption services maintain the stability and permanency of children in their adoptive families.

■ **Number:** 556 children and 758 adults

★ **Outcome:** 91% of children and youth remained stable in their resource family home, transitioned to a lower level of care or entered a permanent placement.

The **KINSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM** supports grandparents, extended family members or close family friends who step up to raise children so they avoid the trauma of separation from their birth family.

■ **Number:** 682 children and 619 caregivers

★ **Outcome:** 86% of relative care families were stabilized and maintained while active, case-managed program participants.

Our **FAMILY FINDING SERVICES PROGRAM** conducts an exhaustive search for relatives and people close to the child in foster care. We connect children to these important people so children can maintain or establish valuable, supportive family relationships.

■ **Number:** 187 children and youth

★ **Outcome:** 90% of youth in Family Finding increased their number of connections.

**PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES** and **CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT** provide counseling and support services to prevent at-risk children from entering foster care. Parents whose children are in foster care receive **SUPERVISED VISITATION AND COACHING** services to strengthen parenting and sustain family ties.

■ **Number:** 412 children and 465 adults

★ **Outcome:** 90% of PSSF families were stable with no children re-entering foster care within six months of discharge. 100% of youth in CFD families did not have an out-of-home placement during the program. 100% of Visitation and Coaching parents increased their knowledge of parenting skills.





Wayfinder is accredited by the Council on Accreditation. Achieving COA accreditation signifies that Wayfinder is among the best in the field, with exemplary programs, fiscal oversight, operations and management.



Charity Navigator awarded Wayfinder four stars for the 11th consecutive year, signifying sound fiscal management and responsible stewardship of donations.



Wayfinder earned a Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid (formerly Guidestar), recognizing our commitment to transparency and fiscal responsibility.



Wayfinder is a BBB Accredited Charity, meeting all 20 standards for accountability in governance, measuring effectiveness, finances and fundraising.

AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

## Statement of Financial Position

### ASSETS

Cash	\$ 3,043,120
Accounts, grants and credits receivable	9,928,873
Pledges receivable	438,698
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,544,214
Investments	29,455,786
Property held for investment	2,989,000
Property and equipment	11,043,146
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 58,442,837</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### Liabilities

Accounts payable	1,371,383
Accrued liabilities	5,395,988
Accrued unemployment liability	114,414
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>6,881,785</b>

#### Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	50,807,294
With purpose and time restrictions	333,878
With perpetual restrictions	419,880
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>51,561,052</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 58,442,837</b>
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**“Wayfinder’s organizational and financial competence sets the gold standard for other nonprofits to follow.”**

*Jason Russell, co-chair of the Impact Council and former Wayfinder board member*

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

## Statement of Activities

### REVENUE

#### *Private Support*

Contributions	\$ 2,123,609
Trust income	1,084,138
Contributed property, goods and services	881,547
Wills and bequests	612,947
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4,702,241</b>

#### *Government Fees and Other Revenue*

Government contracts,	
fees for service and grants	37,119,303
Other revenue	2,898,767
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>40,018,070</b>

#### *Other changes*

Gain (loss) on investments	(4,878,787)
Investment income, net of fees	1,035,500
Gain on sales of equipment	5,625
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>(3,837,662)</b>

**TOTAL REVENUE** 40,882,649

### EXPENSES

Program services	38,600,095
Management and administrative	7,692,053
Fundraising and public relations	1,934,398

**TOTAL EXPENSES** 48,226,546

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** (7,343,897)\*

**NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR** \$ 51,561,052

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

## Program Services Expenses

Lilliput	\$ 13,991,487
Group Homes	4,997,476
Temporary Shelter Care (The Cottage)	5,102,434
Foster Care and Adoption	3,256,515
Mental Health Services	3,498,664
Special Education School	1,872,827
Davidson Program for Independence	1,450,641
Early Intervention Program	956,774
Blind Babies Foundation	700,730
Hatlen Center	744,106
Public Education Program	503,927
Camp Bloomfield and Recreation	897,647
Strategic Initiatives	460,469
Transition Services	93,479
Hillsdale and TAY	72,919
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ 38,600,095</b>

\*Wayfinder's operating surplus for the 2021-22 fiscal year was \$1.2 million. However, the audit includes nonoperating items, such as significant unrealized losses on investments, as well as depreciation.



# Our benefactors

## \$300,000 AND ABOVE

The Ahmanson Foundation

*And those who wish to remain anonymous*

## \$100,000 – \$299,999

John and Marjorie Bancroft\*

Brent Williams/City National Bank\*

*And those who wish to remain anonymous*

\*Founding member of

Change the Future Fund

## \$50,000 – \$99,999

Fred Barnum/Barnum & Celillio Electric

California Community Foundation

Linda Myerson Dean\*

The Derfner Foundation

The Carl & Roberta Deutsch

Foundation

Fox Family Foundation

Independent Financial Group

QueensCare

Andrea and Glenn Sonnenberg\*

*And those who wish to remain anonymous*

\*Founding member of Change the Future Fund

## \$25,000 – \$49,999

Bolton & Company

Community Foundation Sonoma County

Nadine and Harold Davidson\*

Fansler Foundation

Donald G. Goodwin Family Foundation

The Green Foundation

George Hoag Family Foundation

Intero Foundation

Hana and Richard Kaplan\*

Kirchgessner Vision Foundation

The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation

Julie and Jason Levine

The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation

Ann Peppers Foundation

Reva Shakkottai/RBC Wealth Management\*

The Valley Foundation

*And those who wish to remain anonymous*

\*Founding member of Change the Future Fund

## \$15,000 – \$24,999

Comerica Bank

Carin and Scott Farkas and Family\*

Marcia Israel Foundation

Ann Jackson Family Foundation

Miki Jordan and David Emehiser

Max Factor Family Foundation

John Nicolaus/Wood Rodgers, Inc.\*

Meta & George Rosenberg Foundation

Annunziata Sanguinetti Foundation

Sonoma County Vintners Foundation

Valley Jesters

*And those who wish to remain anonymous*

\*Founding member of Change the Future Fund

## \$10,000 – \$14,999

Associated Roofing Contractors of the Bay Area Counties, Inc.

Kimberly and Albert Brooks

Grady D. Bruce

Vera R. Campbell Foundation

The Campbell Blind Fund of First

Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica

Johnny Carson Foundation

Held Family Foundation, Lisa and Robert Held

Steve L. Hernández/DLA Piper LLP

Lawrence Livermore National

Security

Northrop Grumman Corporation

Pasadena Community Foundation

The Rite Aid Foundation

Christina H. Saylor

Kathryne H. Sewall Fund

The David Stearn and Joanne Stearn Fund

Syar Foundation

Ticket to Dream Foundation

Roberto and Patty Vecchiarello, with matching gift from the Gap Foundation\*

Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Charitable Foundation

David and Grace Wraa\*

*And those who wish to remain anonymous*

\*Founding member of Change the Future Fund

## \$5,000 – \$9,999

APM Cares

Bank of the Sierra

The Brotman Foundation of California

The Bruce Ford Bundy and Anne Smith Bundy Foundation

California American Water

California Bank & Trust

City of Hope

Ecolab Foundation

Stephanie Elkin

Elks of Los Angeles Foundation

Employees Community Fund of Boeing California

Erica Fernandez\*

Jean B. Fields Charitable Fund

Fraternal Order of Eagles Sires Unit 1

Fraternal Order of Eagles, California Sires/Arabellas Unit 8

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

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Launched in 2020, Wayfinder's Change the Future Fund is an alliance of donors making a collective impact to transform Wayfinder's ability to serve those in need. The founding donors have committed more than \$500,000 via four-year pledges toward a goal of \$1 million for the ongoing support of Wayfinder's programs.

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To find out more,  
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[vbotshekan@wayfinderfamily.org](mailto:vbotshekan@wayfinderfamily.org) or  
(323) 295-4555, ext. 205.

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# Our ben



- **THE PLACE:** Wayfinder's on-campus Special Education School
- **THE PEOPLE:** Student Ryan, his mother Courtney and school principal Nancy Berger
- **THE GREAT MOMENT:** Ryan, now 19, has attended our Special Education School ever since elementary school, while living in one of Wayfinder's group homes. After Ryan's most recent visit to his family, Courtney was very encouraged by her son's progress. He sat calmly at the table for meals, helped change his clothes and followed instructions. "It means so much to Ryan's family to know he is happy and can manage life skills and activities," says Nancy Berger.

## Wayfinder Moments



- **THE PLACE:** Cal State Los Angeles campus, where Wayfinder partnered with the university to offer a six-week Transition Services program in the summer.
- **THE PEOPLE:** Venecia Zamora, age 20, who attended the program. She has partial vision loss and is studying psychology in college.
- **THE GREAT MOMENT:** Venecia's work history had been solely in volunteer positions. Initially, she wanted to learn cooking, money management and job preparation skills—but she left the program with much more. "I learned these skills," Venecia says, "but I was not expecting to learn how to advocate for myself. Now, I use advocacy in my classes when I need help with something. Or when I need specific accommodations, I will go to the disability office and ask for those to make classes easier. Also, we learned how to fix appliances, change batteries and change light bulbs. We learned how to plan bus routes and to get around the CSULA campus. Wayfinder definitely moved me closer to my goals for the future."

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# Wayfinder Moment



- **THE PLACE:** Wayfinder's Temporary Shelter Care program, known as The Cottage, on our Los Angeles campus.
- **THE PEOPLE:** Wayfinder's staff in mental health and The Cottage programs. Brian, age 9, who was removed from his home and placed in The Cottage for more than a month, much longer than the average stay. Brian had severe mental health issues, including aggression toward others and destruction of property. If he didn't improve, he would not be able to be placed with a foster family.
- **THE GREAT MOMENT:** Through mental health therapy and consistent support, staff helped Brian deal with his mental health issues and create healthier boundaries. To keep him engaged, staff members developed a schedule of creative activities. The big breakthrough came when they discovered that Brian loves chess. Staff members asked Brian to teach them how to play the game, and then they organized chess tournaments in The Cottage. Brian's negative behaviors improved, and he was placed in a foster home.

## LEGACY SOCIETY *continued*

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