

COURAGE & CONNECTION

SINCE 1953



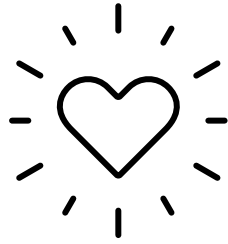
SINCE

1953



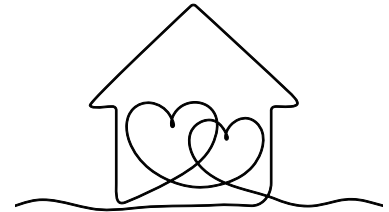
193,651

S'MORES SHARED AT
CAMP BLOOMFIELD



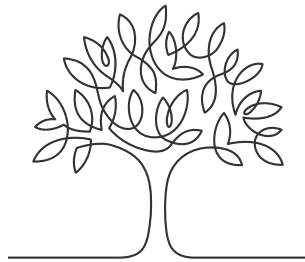
17,849

CHILDREN
ADOPTED



9,623

CHILDREN AND YOUTH
HOUSED AT THE COTTAGE
SHELTER



9,460

KINSHIP SUPPORT
SERVICES FAMILY
MEMBERS



20,987

BABIES WITH VISUAL OR
MULTIPLE DISABILITIES
RECEIVED CHILD
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



130,289

HOURS OF MENTAL
HEALTH THERAPY
PROVIDED





JAY ALLEN

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

What are your thoughts about your new role as president and CEO?

Wayfinder has had only three leaders before me in our 70-year history, which speaks to the stability of the organization. I know I am building on the successes of my predecessors. I was so flattered to receive this note from Angela Brown, a second-generation donor: “I’m so impressed and in awe with the accomplishments and ongoing projects. The newsletters and personal stories help me feel humanity hasn’t gone cynical! Very different from the little storefront on Wilshire Blvd. that Norm and Nadia [Wayfinder’s founders] started with. My dad would be over the moon!” I’m proud to lead an organization that has such a long history of positive impact in our communities.

Is Wayfinder planning changes in services?

We are continuing to provide full services in our areas of expertise: foster care and adoption, mental health, and visual and multiple disabilities. The change is in where we are providing them. We are moving from campus-based to community-based services. We are going to where people need us: in their homes and schools. We are expanding prevention services in communities. Rather than play catch-up downstream, upstream prevention can avert the need for crisis services.

What is your favorite moment or turning point from your 23 years at Wayfinder?

About 2010, a mother who had picked up her son after a week at Camp Bloomfield said to me with tears in her eyes, “Camp was incredible, but I’m still so worried. He’s about to graduate from high school and doesn’t have all the skills he needs for the world beyond camp and home.” In that moment, I realized that we had the opportunity to build up our transition services for youth and young adults with vision loss or multiple disabilities so they could develop skills for education and work. Two years later, at the Transition Services’ graduation ceremony, another mother approached me and said, “Thank you. I dropped off a kid, and I picked up a man!”

COURAGE & CONNECTION





GLENN A. SONNENBERG
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On Wayfinder’s 70th anniversary, what are some of your thoughts about the organization’s future?

The next 70 years for Wayfinder depend on what we do now. Prior generations created a financially healthy organization known for innovation and effectiveness at addressing some of our community’s greatest problems. That strong foundation enables Wayfinder to achieve life-changing outcomes for children and families, year after year. Now it’s our turn. Wayfinder’s future is up to us. As the new chair of the board, I want Wayfinder to be an even stronger organization when my term is finished. I believe we have the program, the team, the board and the community support to do just that.

I have known Jay Allen for many years and am sure he will be the visionary leader to take Wayfinder to the next level. One can already see, after only a few months on the job, how Jay fits so well into this new role. This is not surprising, as he has dedicated more than 20 years to Wayfinder and is committed to the organization’s mission, vision and values. From his initial role as VP of programs and now as president and CEO, Jay has overseen Wayfinder programs through a time of tremendous growth. I’m confident that he will forge a successful path for the organization and enhance Wayfinder’s sturdy foundation during his time as president and CEO.

What is one of your favorite moment from your years of involvement with Wayfinder?

The opening of The Cottage, Wayfinder’s temporary shelter care program in 2016. The Cottage is a refuge for children recently removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment who are awaiting placement in a foster or kinship home. The Cottage is the convergence of all aspects of Wayfinder’s work: our expertise assisting children who are medically fragile, traumatized, or who have disabilities. The Cottage is crucial in the county because it is the only shelter of this kind that is licensed to care for infants and children under age 5. In eight years, as the infographic on P. 1 shows, The Cottage has cared for 9,623 children.



There should be more Wayfinders

“THE LONGER WE ARE WITH WAYFINDER, THE MORE INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM that Axton has,” says Arlisha, mother of Axton, a 4-year-old who receives Wayfinder’s Child Development Services. The program assists young children with visual or multiple disabilities in achieving developmental milestones.

Axton is a happy, funny, affectionate boy. He was born with an exceedingly rare genetic disorder. “The doctors couldn’t tell me much,” Arlisha says. “There are only three cases in the literature.” After he was born, baby Axton spent seven months in the neonatal intensive care unit. He came home with a feeding tube because he has difficulty swallowing. He has chronic lung disease and is developmentally delayed. He cannot see in one eye, and the other is misaligned.

Because Axton does not speak, he uses American Sign Language to communicate with his family. Arlisha already knew ASL before Axton was born, as did Axton’s adoring older sisters, Alyssa and Alaia.

At age 2, Axton entered our Child Development Services to address his vision challenges. Because Axton doesn’t talk, Arlisha wondered how much he could see. “I noticed that he never looked in the direction if you pointed,” she says. He bumped into things in his path because he did not see them.

Vilay, a Wayfinder specialist, explained that without vision in one eye, Axton does not have depth perception, so he has difficulty navigating stairs or walking from pavement to grass. He is far-sighted, so objects near him appear blurry.

Vilay taught Arlisha how to use auditory cues like tapping the wall where Axton needs to put his hand to feel his way or tapping the floor where he needs to put his foot. “Tapping has been a big help,” Arlisha says. “With the knowledge that I get from Vilay, I am more equipped to help him.”

Recently, Axton got a belt cane, which is a rectangular frame that attaches to a special belt around his waist. The base of the device slides along the floor in front of Axton so that it encounters obstacles before he does. The belt cane is helping Axton walk independently and safely.

Also, Vilay and Arlisha are teaching Axton to walk down stairs. “That is very helpful since he cannot see his way, or at least not clearly,” Arlisha says. As Axton learns to adapt to his disabilities, he is gaining confidence.

“My hopes for the future are that Axton is safe, happy and accepted. And that he reaches his full potential, whatever that may be,” says Arlisha. “There should be more Wayfinders and more Vilays. Because Wayfinder has made a difference for our family.”



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A S 19-YEAR-OLD KELSEY WALKS ACROSS her college campus, she greets friends and classmates. People know her as a dedicated student and a kind person. What they don't know is that sheer determination got her here ... or how much she endured in the child welfare system. Kelsey's strong inner motivation and the valuable mental health therapy she received from Wayfinder changed her life's trajectory.

Kelsey and her younger sister and brothers were removed from their home due to physical abuse when Kelsey was age 6. While her younger siblings have had stable foster placements, Kelsey has lived with nine different families. For children, each placement change is a trauma with psychological consequences that can produce poor outcomes in education, relationships and behavior.

In high school, she experienced another trauma when a couple who wanted to adopt her changed their minds. That's when Marlane, a Wayfinder therapist, got Kelsey's case. Marlane knew the teen was feeling rejected. "I explained that it wasn't her fault—the adults weren't prepared to adopt."

In therapy, Kelsey worked on controlling her anxiety. She worried so much that she was unable to sleep or function. Marlane had Kelsey set a timer—worry over an issue for five minutes and then move on. Kelsey called Marlane when she was feeling overwhelmed, and Marlane reminded Kelsey to use her coping skills.

Kelsey saw her sister often but not her brothers. When Kelsey turned 18, she bought a car, in part to see the boys. She asked how to approach the brothers' foster parents. "I pretended to be a foster parent," Marlane says, "and we did different scenarios." After Kelsey called the foster parents, she texted Marlane excitedly, "Foster parents agreed to once a week!"

Given the educational disruptions Kelsey experienced when she changed placements, it took determination and hard work for her to complete high school. Kelsey says, "I don't want to be another statistic," referring to the 50% of foster youth who don't finish high school and the 96% who do not earn a college degree.

Kelsey's resourcefulness and drive kicked into high gear for college. She was accepted into more than one university, choosing a Cal State campus. She received six scholarships.

Now Kelsey lives in the dorms, and she is communicating more with peers. "She is not as anxious," Marlane says. "She's a different person now."

Kelsey is moving forward. "I want people to know me for who I am, not where I've been," she says. In therapy, Kelsey is focusing on the present—getting through college without any family support. "I am really proud of her," Marlane says. "She deserves all the good that's coming her way."

She
deserves
all the
good
coming
her way



“LOVE. THAT’S ALL ALAN WANTED,” says Marie, who decided to adopt Alan when he was bedridden in a total-care medical facility. Then, medical professionals told Marie that Alan, age 6, had profound disabilities and cerebral palsy. He would never be able to talk or walk. He harmed himself by hitting his head. What Marie saw was a cute little boy with a beautiful smile who needed love.

Alan had been removed from home at age 3 because his birth mother could not meet his medical needs. He had been in and out of a hospital and care facility for years before Marie met him via video calls during the pandemic. At the end of one call, she told Alan that she was coming to take him home.

Marie is a special person. She has two adult daughters and four adopted sons, two of them with disabilities and three adopted through Wayfinder. “She takes on children with patience and determination,” says Katie, Marie’s Wayfinder social worker. “She is so calm, loving and open.”

Marie praises Wayfinder. “Katie was wonderful,” Marie says. “She would listen, follow up, call me back, and ask if I needed more assistance.” Marie attended Wayfinder’s adoption support groups and continuing education classes for adoptive parents.

Retired from a career in healthcare, Marie was well-prepared to advocate for what Alan needed. “In health care, when you ask for equipment and services for someone with special needs, they want to say ‘no’ and have you go away,” says Marie. “But I don’t like ‘no.’ There is someone who can help me or point me in the right direction.” She fought for what Alan needed, including prescription glasses. He selected frames in his favorite color—green.

Marie suspected that most of Alan’s self-harming behavior was due to his inability to communicate. She taught him basic sign language to his express needs. She got green and red buttons for him to answer “yes” or “no” to questions. Able to communicate, his hitting decreased dramatically. Now, he is learning to talk a little. One of his first words is “mom.”

Now age 8, the boy who wasn’t supposed to walk or talk is still surprising people. Recently, as Marie was transferring him from his bed to his wheelchair, she told him, “Help me get you to your wheelchair.” He stood up! And he smiled. “I know he will walk with a walker,” Marie says.

One moment delighted Marie. “At Halloween, Alan led his class out of the school in his wheelchair, wearing a fire chief costume,” she says. “He looked so cute, and he had a big smile on his face. Before, he would have been shy or triggered by too many people. I was so proud to see how far he’s come.”





Alan thrives
with love

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The

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journey to independence

“ I HAD NO IDEA I COULD BE AS INDEPENDENT AS I AM RIGHT NOW,” says Justice after six weeks in Wayfinder’s Davidson Program for Independence. “Being able to get to a store six blocks away by myself ... I thought that would never happen.”

Justice, age 19, has cerebral palsy and cerebral visual impairment, meaning that his brain misinterprets signals from his eyes. Justice describes his vision: “It changes day to day. Sometimes I can see a tiny object but not a big poster, and sometimes vice versa.” Justice uses a power wheelchair, but he walks shorter distances.

Alexandrea, a Wayfinder transition counselor, describes Justice as “very energetic and bubbly. For Justice, every situation is positive.”

Justice wants to become independent so he can attend college and live on campus. His first step was enrolling in Wayfinder’s four-week Transition Services summer program for young people with vision loss ages 16 to 21, who live independently in dorms on a college campus.

Before the summer program, the longest Justice had been away from his family was one week. He had never done laundry. “The adulting part really hit me,” Justice admits. “I realized I have to start learning how to do things.” His favorite parts of the summer program were writing a résumé and practicing interview skills.

Then, Justice decided to enter our Davidson Program for Independence, a residential rehabilitation program for adults 18 and older with vision loss on Wayfinder’s Los Angeles campus. “From the beginning, I was giving 110%,” Justice says. “I’m here to learn everything they teach me.”

Justice is learning braille so he no longer has to read with his unreliable eyes. He’s mastering assistive technology, like software that reads text on a screen. In his orientation and mobility classes, “I am learning rideshare, Metro Rail, buses and getting around a big city,” he says. “I’ve always lived in small towns. I’ve ridden more city buses in the last six weeks than I have in my whole life!”

The first big test of Justice’s mobility skills was a solo trip to see his family in Northern California. “I took a rideshare to Burbank airport and flew to San Jose,” he says. “That was the first time taking rideshare and flying by myself.”

Justice is well on his way to college and a career in construction management. Construction sites have always fascinated him, and he likes keeping everything on schedule. His mother suggested that architecture might be safer. “I said, ‘Mom, you still have to walk around job sites when you’re an architect,’” he says. “I want to prove I can do it.” We have no doubt he will.



“I want to be the first blind African American Supreme Court judge.”

Pierrayae, winner of Wayfinder’s 2022 Stevie Wonder Star Student Award, with Aundrae Russell, CEO of Stevie Wonder’s We Are You Foundation, and Jay Allen, president and CEO of Wayfinder.



WAYFINDER PROGRAMS

EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

492 children + 1,476 family members: Our statewide **CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES** helps children with vision loss or multiple disabilities, ages 0-6, maximize any vision they have and reduce developmental delays. **93%** of children met at least 85% of their individual program goals in orientation and mobility, communication, socialization and self-help skills. **95%** made progress in their use of functional vision or compensatory skills.

27 students + 81 family members: Our **SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL** provides a safe, positive learning environment for children and youth ages 5 to 22 who have multiple disabilities, including vision loss. **87%** of students met at least **75%** of their goals in braille and communication, **86%** in behavioral and social skills, **83%** in orientation and mobility, and **72%** in independent living skills.



“I want him to be able to use what he’s learning now for the rest of his life. I want him to have life skills. I want him to be somewhat independent.”

Jerilyn, mother of Jordan, a student in Wayfinder’s Special Education School

WAYFINDER PROGRAMS

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

21 participants: **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. **100%** of participants achieved at least 85% of their individualized, short-term training goals in their service plans.

59 participants: 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. **87%** of participants 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.

34 participants: In **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING**, adults who are blind or visually impaired learn the latest assistive devices and software for success in the job market. **90%** of participants achieved at least 85% of their individualized training goals in their service plans.

20 participants: Adults with vision loss in **EMPLOYMENT SERVICES** receive assessments, training and job placement, as well as coaching and instruction in orientation and mobility to find and keep jobs. **100%** of participants achieved at least 85% of the individualized training goals in their service plans.



TRANSITION SUMMER

Wayfinder's Transition Services offers a four-week, residential summer program for young people with vision loss ages 16 to 21 to learn leadership, workforce-readiness and travel-planning skills. Participants live independently in college dormitories, also learning skills that increase their self-sufficiency, like cooking. "The program helped me realize what I can do on my own." says Justice, a 2023 participant.

OUR PROGRAMS



"I knew I had to step up and be the dad I needed to be for Liam. Wayfinder helped me out a lot."

Ryan, single dad to a son with visual and multiple disabilities in Wayfinder's Child Development Services



“With Wayfinder at Camp Bloomfield, we feel more comfortable. We don’t feel like my son has a disability. We feel like everyone else.”

Hagop, father of a teenager with multiple disabilities

WAYFINDER PROGRAMS

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

28 residents + 84 family members: Wayfinder operates five **GROUP HOMES** in single-family residences for children, youth and young adults with profound disabilities. **98%** of residents increased their independence by achieving two or more of their four individual goals in adaptive skills, e.g., grooming, eating, dressing.

Our **MEDICAL DEPARTMENT** provides 24-hour services to children with complex medical and mental health needs in our residential programs and Special Education School. Nurses administered an average of 179 doses of medication per day or 71,905 doses per year with an exceptionally low error rate of **0.0000231%**, compared with the industry standard 5% error rate.

412 clients + 1,236 family members: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES provides 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. In community mental health services Los Angeles, Butte and Shasta counties, **89%** of clients decreased the impairments that were preventing them from functioning well in their schools, families, relationships or social interactions.

200 campers + 588 family members: CAMP BLOOMFIELD welcomed campers, many with vision loss and other disabilities, for adaptive sports and memorable outdoor activities. They built friendships, developed self-esteem and gained independence, as demonstrated by **93%** who learned at least one new adaptive sport, recreational activity or independent living skill.

207 children and teens + 621 family members: Wayfinder's **SPORTS, RECREATION AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURES** are adapted for athletes with disabilities. Among the varied activities were deep sea fishing, surfing, skiing, goalball and more.



INCLUSIVE CAMP

Youth and teens with vision loss from Camp Bloomfield attended an inclusive session with sighted children.

“We want to educate the sighted community about vision loss,” says Annelie Du Plessis, Wayfinder’s manager of recreation services, “what people with vision impairment are capable of and that they are all different.” Wayfinder plans to expand the program next summer.



“The ocean is a scary place. And when you are blind it’s really scary. When one of our teens was able to stand on a surfboard and ride away, it was magical.”

Annelie du Plessis, Wayfinder’s manager of recreation services





“Our social workers are amazing and knowledgeable people. I get emotional about them. They become part of the family.”

Rebecca, who with husband Lee, adopted two daughters through Wayfinder

WAYFINDER PROGRAMS

SAFETY AND RESILIENCE

933 children: 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. **98%** of children who completed an exit survey reported they felt safe, their rights were respected and their needs met while in the program.

489 children + 625 family members: Our **FOSTER CARE PROGRAM** matches children and youth with families that can provide safe, caring homes. Wayfinder offers specialized training and support for families to foster children with health and mental health conditions. **85%** of children maintained stability in the same resource family home; **65%** exited to permanency, i.e., reunification, living with relatives, adoption, or guardianship.

82 children: Wayfinder’s **ADOPTION PROGRAM** completed **82** adoptions of children from foster care across California.

44 adoptive children + 26 family members: Our **POST-ADOPTION SERVICES** maintain the stability and permanency of children in their adoptive families. **96%** of children remained stable in their adoptive homes one year after discharge.

716 children + 634 family members: 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. **94%** of case-managed children whose cases closed in 2022-23 remained in care with a kinship caregiver, were adopted, lived with a legal guardian, or reunited with their parents.

164 youth: Our **FAMILY FINDING SERVICES PROGRAM** searched for and located relatives and people close to youth in foster care. We connected them so youth can maintain or establish valuable, supportive relationships. **90%** of youth were in contact with at least one newly identified family member at discharge from the program.

311 children + 208 adults: **PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES** provides counseling and support to prevent at-risk children from entering or re-entering foster care. **96%** of families remained stable with no recurrence of maltreatment and no children re-entering foster care six months after discharge.

18 children + 18 family members: **CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT** strengthens parenting skills to reduce the risk of out-of-home placement for children. **100%** of children remained with their families and were not placed in out-of-home care during the program.

333 adults + 334 children: **VISITATION AND COACHING SERVICES** strengthens parenting and sustains family ties for parents whose children are in foster care. **96%** of adults improved their ability to provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children.



“I don’t want any kids to feel that the social worker doesn’t care about what they want, or that they will never have contact with their family again.”

Nick Murray, Wayfinder family finding social worker who was adopted as a child



“When I donate to Wayfinder, I know the money is going to support children and families in need.”

Erica Fernandez, secretary of the Wayfinder Board of Directors and member of the Wayfinder Community Council



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 12th 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.

FINANCIALS

AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 863,471
Accounts, grants and credits receivable	12,544,153
Pledges receivable	437,275
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,979,119
Investments	30,296,907
Property held for investment	2,989,000
Property and equipment	10,772,469
Operating leases – Right-of-Use Assets	804,349

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 60,686,743

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts payable	392,845
Accrued liabilities	6,212,781
Operating leases – Right-of-Use Assets	812,279
Total Liabilities	7,417,905

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	52,636,685
With purpose and time restrictions	212,273
With perpetual restrictions	419,880
Total Net Assets	53,268,838

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$ 60,686,743

COURAGE & CONNECTION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Statement of Activities

REVENUE

Private Support

Contributions \$ 2,016,872*

Trust income 1,695,337*

Contributed property, goods and services 682,759*

Wills and bequests 452,902*

Subtotal 4,847,870*

Government Fees and Other Revenue

Government contracts,
fees for service and grants 41,309,528*

Other revenue 168,480*

Subtotal 41,478,008*

Other changes

Gain (loss) on investments 2,519,452*

Investment income, net of fees 1,294,380*

Gain on sales of equipment 15,500*

Subtotal 3,829,332*

TOTAL REVENUE 50,155,210*

EXPENSES

Program services 40,820,283*

Management and administrative 5,559,046*

Fundraising and public relations 2,068,095*

TOTAL EXPENSES 48,447,424*

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS 1,707,786*

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR \$ 53,268,838*

*Wayfinder's 2022-23 increase in net assets was due to an unrealized gain on investments.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Program Services Expenses

Foster Care and Adoption \$ 17,402,203

Group Homes 5,762,470

Temporary Shelter Care
(The Cottage) 5,390,720

Mental Health Services 4,188,563

Davidson Program for Independence 1,640,413

Special Education School 1,626,632

Strategic Initiatives 1,213,467

Child Development Services 1,168,086

Camp Bloomfield and Recreation 929,468

Hatlen Center 785,737

Public Education Program 579,036

Transition Services 130,306

Hillsdale and TAY 3,182

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES \$ 40,820,283

“On a human level, I believe we are all here to be of service and to love. By supporting Wayfinder, I feel I am doing a part of that duty.”

Anita Siraki, member of Wayfinder's Impact Council



OUR BENEFACTORS

\$100,000 and above

John and Marjorie Bancroft *
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
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 & Cellilio
Electric
California Community Foundation
Clark Pest Control
Linda Myerson Dean*
The Derfner Foundation
The Carl & Roberta Deutsch
Foundation
QueensCare
Andrea and Glenn Sonnenberg*
Stevie Wonder/We Are You
Foundation
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
Independent Financial Group
Hana and Richard Kaplan*
Kirchgeßner Vision Foundation
The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Foundation
The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris
Foundation
Annunziata Sanguinetti Foundation
Reva Shakkottai/RBC Wealth
Management*
Valley Jesters
And those who wish to remain anonymous
*Founding member of Change the
Future Fund

\$15,000 – \$24,999

Employees Community Fund of
Boeing California
Carin and Scott Farkas and Family*
Marcia Israel Foundation
Ann Jackson Family Foundation
Miki Jordan and David Emehiser*
City of Napa
John Nicolaus/Wood Rodgers, Inc.*
Meta & George Rosenberg
Foundation
Sacramento County's Transient
Occupancy Tax Grant Program
Vistas for Children, Inc.
And those who wish to remain anonymous
*Founding member of Change the
Future Fund

\$10,000 – \$14,999

Kimberly and Albert Brooks
Grady D. Bruce
The Campbell Blind Fund of First
Presbyterian Church of Santa
Monica
Johnny Carson Foundation
Comerica Charitable Foundation
Ecolab Foundation
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
Green Leaf Foundation
Held Family Foundation, Lisa and
Robert Held
Steve L. Hernández/DLA Piper LLP
Insperity
Kelly Foundation
Lawrence Livermore National
Security
Oakville Fund
Pasadena Community Foundation
Rite Aid Healthy Futures
Christina H. Saylor
Ticket to Dream Foundation
Roberto and Patty Vecchiarello,
with matching gift from the Gap
Foundation*
Tara Voss
Bernard E. & Alba Witkin Charitable
Foundation
And those who wish to remain anonymous
*Founding member of Change the
Future Fund

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Marie and Jay Allen
Lester Arespacochaga
Associated Roofing Contractors of
the Bay Area Counties, Inc
Bank of the Sierra
Renee and Matt Baur
Paul Stanford Bernhard Foundation
The Brotman Foundation of
California
The Bruce Ford Bundy and Anne
Smith Bundy Foundation
California American Water
Constance W. Dunitz
Elks of Los Angeles Foundation
Philip Feinberg
Erica Fernandez*
Jean B. Fields Charitable Fund
Jodie and Steven J. Fishman
Golden State Foods Foundation
Grand Aerie Fraternal Order of
Eagles
David Haerle
Marian & Pink Happ Fund
The William H. and Mattie Wattis
Harris Foundation
Frank Watters & Mary Anne Houx
Children's Fund
Rita L. Johnson
Kelly Charitable Remainder Annuity
Trust
Los Angeles Department of Water &
Power Employees' Assoc.
Jeannette and Dr. Jonathan Macy
Callie D. McGrath Foundation
Joe H. Miller, Jr.
Moskowitz Family Foundation
Occidental Entertainment Group
Holdings, Inc.
Placer Community Foundation
Sence Foundation
Annette and Leonard Shapiro
Sharks Foundation
Lucille Ellis Simon Foundation
Lillian C. Smith Trust
Lon V. Smith Foundation
The David Stearn and Joanne Stearn
Fund
Celia Stern*
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
Union Bank Foundation
United Healthcare
Variety the Children's Charity of
Southern California
The Venable Foundation
Camilla Walker/City National Bank

Jeffrey Wilson
The Wood-Claeysens Foundation
William and Mary Zant
And those who wish to remain anonymous
*Founding member of Change the
Future Fund

\$2,000 – \$4,999

Carole and Kenneth Adashek, M.D.
ANA Trading Corp., U.S.A.
Shirley A. Anderson
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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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With your commitment, Wayfinder can predict and guarantee funding to meet the growing demand for our services. Your generous gift will help care for the children, youth and adults who are often forgotten. Your pledge will transform Wayfinder's ability to serve those in need over multiple years.

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To find out more, contact Vanessa Botshekan at vbotshekan@wayfinderfamily.org or (323) 295-4555, ext. 205.

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THE PLACE: The school bus to Wayfinder’s Special Education School.

THE PEOPLE: Danielle, age 14, who has total vision loss and developmental delays, plus a beautiful singing voice. Jordan, a happy, cheerful 13-year-old with autism spectrum disorder, an intellectual disability, and difficulty speaking. Jerilynn, Jordan’s mother, who worried that her only child did not have any friends.

THE GREAT MOMENT: One day, Jerilynn heard Danielle say, “Good morning, Jordan. How are you, Jordan?” when he got on the bus, even though Jordan could not respond. When he got off the bus, Jerilynn heard Danielle say, “See you tomorrow, Jordan.” Danielle has continued to talk to Jordan every day on the bus. “Danielle is his first real friend,” Jerilynn says with gratitude.

WAYFINDER MOMENTS



THE PLACE: Inclusion session for Wayfinder’s visually impaired campers in a traditional camp program with youth who are sighted.

THE PEOPLE: Lucas, age 10, who is partially sighted. The 11 other boys in his cabin, two of them with vision loss and nine without visual impairments.

THE GREAT MOMENT: Lucas and his cabin mates became fascinated with Rubik’s Cubes. Lucas suggested they time each other to see who could solve the puzzle the fastest. The boys got faster and faster, setting new records every day. The boys did not even notice who was visually impaired or sighted. They were just having fun at camp with their new friends.

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THE PLACE: The Cottage, Wayfinder’s temporary shelter program on our Los Angeles campus for children and youth who have been removed from their homes due to maltreatment and are awaiting placement with a relative or resource family.

THE PEOPLE: Dante, age 14, whose medical condition and trauma-related behavioral issues had delayed a placement for him with a resource family. Bettina, a Cottage staff member who was building rapport with Dante.

THE GREAT MOMENT: Dante was struggling with his emotions as he saw other youth leaving The Cottage in a day or two to live with a resource family. Learning that LEGOs had inspired Dante’s interest in becoming an architect, Bettina brought in an unassembled LEGO set with 2,600 pieces. A joyful Dante, Bettina and other staff worked for hours assembling the complex set. Dante felt such pride when he saw the completed construction. His spirits lifted, Dante maintained a positive attitude until his placement with a caring resource family.

WAYFINDER MOMENTS

THE PLACE: An elementary school.

THE PEOPLE: Julian, age 8, a very traumatized child who was struggling with his emotions and misdirecting his anger at students and teachers. Paula, a Wayfinder mental health clinician who says Julian was her most difficult client. Blanco the Seal, a stuffed animal that each child in Julian’s class got to take home for a night.



THE GREAT MOMENT: When it was Julian’s turn to take Blanco the Seal home, everyone noticed his anxiety and anger decreased. The change was so dramatic that Julian’s teacher and his classmates decided to give Blanco to Julian permanently. He took Blanco everywhere with him. Julian found it hard to focus in therapy sessions, so Paula used Blanco to engage the boy, asking him, “What did you and Blanco do today?” By the end of the school year, therapy and Blanco had transformed Julian into a boy who processed his feelings appropriately and got along with everyone at school. Paula, who was able to close his case, says, “I am so proud.”

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