

We have all known the long loneliness,
and we have found that the answer is

community.

DOROTHY DAY




Wayfinder FAMILY
SERVICES

2023-24 Impact Report



About the cover quote:

Dorothy Day originally wrote “We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community.” However, her statement is widely paraphrased as, “We have all known the long loneliness, and we have found that the answer is community.”

the answer is
community.

We have all known the long loneliness,
and we have found that the answer is



Jay Allen

President and
Chief Executive Officer

Why is community the answer?

Since Wayfinder's founding, we have been building community. In the organization's early years, we gave children who were blind a chance to meet and befriend other children like them. At Camp Bloomfield, on trips to the circus and at dances, they built a community. We continue to build and nurture communities today in all our programs. For example, being a foster or adoptive parent is not easy. Wayfinder provides caregivers with opportunities to share their struggles and accomplishments with families in the same position. These connections strengthen and persist long after families graduate from our programs.

Tell us about the communities that are being built through Wayfinder's work?

Wayfinder is multiple communities that are mutually supportive. Our community of staff are connected to each other and the organization's mission. I am so impressed by the many ways staff step up for each other every day. Also, we build community for our clients. A mother, child or family in distress enters one of our programs, meets other clients and feels for the first time that they are not alone. Within each program, clients interact with fellow clients who are going through the same experiences, and we connect them to resources in their own community. On the next page, Glenn describes some of the communities in Wayfinder's programs. One result of Wayfinder's community building is visible in the excellent outcomes we achieved in client satisfaction in 2023-24. Please see the story on page 7.

Can you share a story about the power of the Wayfinder community that you saw in your first year as CEO?

In the story about TJ on page 4, his mom, Katharine, mentions her feeling of loneliness when her son was born with albinism. The family thought they would be raising a baby with disabilities all by themselves. This is a very common feeling for families before they find Wayfinder, whether they have experienced trauma or received a challenging diagnosis. But when I attend Wayfinder's beeper egg hunts, holiday events or support groups, I see families interacting and lifting each other up. Parents are exchanging tips. Children are playing together, with siblings included. There's so much joy. Wayfinder's power to change lives is not only about world-class direct services. As Glenn describes on the next page, Wayfinder brings families, children and adults together to combat loneliness and isolation. Wayfinder builds communities that enrich our clients' lives.



Glenn A. Sonnenberg

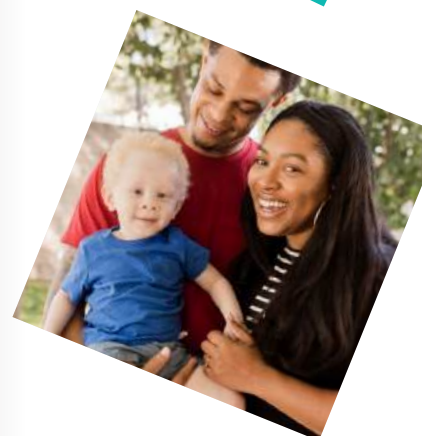
Chair of the
Board of Directors

What have you learned about the power of community?

Social connection is very important to well-being. Last year, the focus of The Conversation, Wayfinder's annual panel discussion on important issues in human services, was the health impact of loneliness. Our panelists discussed research in the Surgeon General's 2023 report on the epidemic of loneliness and isolation. They noted that being part of a community positively affects physical and mental health, safety, resilience and prosperity. In fact, since the time of the earliest humans, we have always relied on one another for strength and support. As a species, we need to be part of a community. In our modern society, increasingly driven by technology, the pandemic and other factors, connection to a community has declined. This is not good for individuals or our society's well-being as a whole.

What does Wayfinder do to combat this trend of disconnection?

As Jay mentions in his remarks, Wayfinder's programs provide clients with opportunities to join supportive communities. Parents, adults and children join these groups and realize they aren't the only ones struggling with an issue. For example, in Child Development Services, families with children who have disabilities can attend social and educational events to build their connections with families that are facing similar challenges. Wayfinder has groups for foster families, adoptive parents and kinship caregivers—relatives who are raising children so they avoid the trauma of separation from their birth family. Children with disabilities make lifelong friendships at Camp Bloomfield. Adults and young adults with vision loss build strong bonds in Transition Services and the Hatlen and Davidson residential rehabilitation programs. When they enter one of these programs, many clients with vision loss have never met another person who is blind. I'm proud to be affiliated with an organization like Wayfinder that is doing all it can to combat social isolation and increase community.



My heart melted

TJ is an adorable 18-month-old boy with a big personality. He is sociable, friendly and determined. When he was born, he gave his parents, Katharine and Tra'Len, a big surprise. Their baby was blond, with light eyes. Everyone in the family has dark hair and eyes.

They learned that TJ had a form of albinism, a rare, inherited condition, characterized by a lack of pigment in his skin, hair and eyes. It also affects his sight. "His eyes move randomly and rapidly," Katharine says.

Initially, his parents feared TJ was blind. Katharine was holding him when he was 8 weeks old, and he looked right at her, into her eyes. She knew he could see her. "My heart melted," she says.

Katharine and Tra'Len were not prepared for TJ's albinism. They wanted to do everything they could for their baby boy, but they lacked information. They did not know what TJ's condition would mean for their family or their son's future. "I felt loneliness at first," Katharine remembers, "because we didn't know anyone who was going through this. I want to protect him from all the things that might happen in the world."

After a geneticist confirmed TJ's diagnosis, Katharine sought information from a national organization for albinism. She learned that early intervention would help with TJ's balance and development.

That's when Katharine turned to Wayfinder's Child Development Services. The program assists babies and young children with visual or multiple disabilities in achieving developmental milestones.

TJ began working weekly with one of our specialists, Bertha. His vision is better than expected, Bertha reports. "The concern is his hand-eye coordination and seeing fast-moving objects," she says. Bertha kicks small lighted blocks around so TJ can practice following their movements. They stack blocks and do other activities to improve his hand-eye coordination.

"TJ is really active," says Bertha. "He's walking, climbing and jumping. He doesn't trip over objects."

"I feel like Wayfinder has been a guiding light for our family," Katharine says. "Wayfinder provided us with support, clarity and confidence to navigate the road ahead."

Katharine and Tra'Len don't feel alone anymore. "We started services when our baby was about 6 months old, and since then we've been connected to the community and resources of Wayfinder," says Katharine. "The family events are also amazing, and we bring our daughter along so she can connect with other siblings. Wayfinder means community."



“Wayfinder provided us with support, clarity and confidence to navigate the road ahead.”

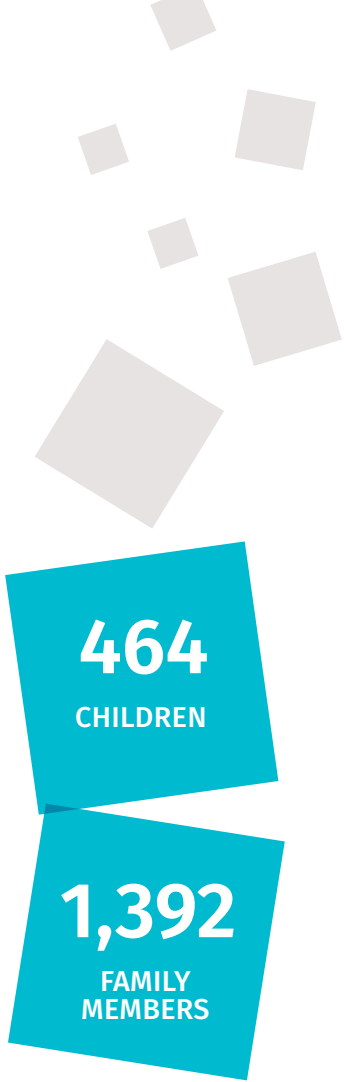
the answer is
community.

Educational Success

Wayfinder’s statewide **CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES** helps children with vision loss or multiple disabilities, ages 0 to 6, maximize any vision they have and reduce developmental delays. **77%** of children met or exceeded their individual goals in each domain: vision, language, socialization, and self-help or independent-living skills. **92%** of parents acquired knowledge to advocate for their child’s special needs.

FAMILY RESOURCE NAVIGATOR, a component of Child Development Services, deploys staff to hospitals, clinics and other locations to assist parents of infants born prematurely or with medical complications in navigating the care system. **100%** of caregivers increased their knowledge of local early intervention and social service programs.

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. **85%** of students met their goals in behavioral and social skills, **80%** in orientation and mobility, **78%** in independent living skills and **64%** in braille and communication.



“Our child development specialist always centers the session on things my child enjoys doing or things she can work on in a way she’ll enjoy. The session feels personalized.”

— Anita, mother of toddler in Child Development Services

“When you have a special needs kid, it takes a village.”

— Lori, mother of Special Education School student



Wayfinder Surpasses Targets in Satisfaction and Equity

Across all Wayfinder programs, we asked clients whether they were satisfied or dissatisfied with our services and if they were treated with respect. Clients’ responses help us measure whether we are living our values.

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR 2023-24 RESULTS

97% of Wayfinder clients were satisfied with our program services.
Exceeded 90% target

98% of Wayfinder clients reported they were treated with courtesy and respect for their family, culture and personal identity.
Exceeded 90% target



Wayfinder felt like a family to me

The first hint of trouble came when 16-year-old Sergio was playing baseball. “Less central vision in my left eye was making it harder to see the ball,” he recalls. “I was getting hit in the face by the baseball.”

As he sought answers, he began to lose central vision in his right eye. The rest of his vision became hazy. After six months, he received a diagnosis: Leber hereditary ocular neuropathy, a rare hereditary condition that produces loss of central vision most often in young adult males.

Despite his vision loss, Sergio needed to complete high school. “The world wasn’t going to stop for me,” Sergio says. “I had to keep going.” Sergio had been content to get C’s or D’s because college seemed unattainable. When he found out that organizations would pay for his college education because of his vision loss, his attitude changed. “I wanted to get straight A’s, but it was difficult,” he says. His teachers and fellow students helped him succeed.

After high school graduation, Sergio entered Wayfinder’s Hatlen Center, a residential rehabilitation program for adults with vision loss in Northern California. His sighted past gave him an advantage in independent living and orientation and mobility skills. Over his year in the program, he honed those skills, learned braille and enthusiastically embraced assistive technology.

But most of all, “I loved, loved, loved the people,” Sergio says. In the program, he realized that he had been hiding a part of himself. “I never felt I could be blind around my family or friends,” says Sergio.

“Before, I wanted people to see me before they saw my white cane,” Sergio says. A Wayfinder instructor showed him a different way to think. Sergio explains, “You should never try to be another person. Show people all of you.”

Wayfinder’s staff convinced Sergio that he could earn a college degree, even as a first-generation college student. Now enrolled at San Francisco State, Sergio makes the daily journey on his own from home to the university, using a bus, BART train and Muni light rail. And he navigates the campus with ease.

Sergio maintains his strong connections to Wayfinder’s Hatlen staff and alumni who were so important in his transformation. “Whenever we were at an event and we’d take a picture, I would say, ‘everybody say Wayfinder Family!’ It felt like a family to me.”

“

You should never try to be another person. Show people all of you.”

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Economic Opportunity

TRANSITION SERVICES enables teenagers and young adults who are blind or visually impaired to explore careers and successfully transition to independent living, college or the workforce. **98%** of participants increased knowledge of their options in employment and vocational or college education. **100%** of participants increased confidence in their ability to prepare for and secure employment.

161
TEENAGERS,
YOUNG ADULTS
AND ADULTS

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. **100%** of participants achieved a rating of 5 in overall independence on a 5-point scale or had an average increase of at least 2 points on a 5-point scale measuring their independent living skills. **100%** of graduates moved into independent living or enrolled in an education or training program within 12 months of graduation.

In **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING**, adults who are blind or visually impaired learn the latest assistive devices and software for success in the job market. **100%** of participants increased competency in assistive technology, improving their job competitiveness.

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.



“I really liked meeting new friends with different personalities. I bonded with my roommates during the month I was in L.A.”

— **Destiny**, alum of Transition Services’ immersive four-week summer program for young adults with vision loss to learn workforce and independent-living skills



“It’s nice knowing you’re not alone, and not everybody who struggles with limited eyesight is over the age of 50.”

— **Jon Steinberg**, alum of Wayfinder’s Hatlen Center and independent-living skills instructor at our Davidson adult residential rehabilitation program



“What I liked most about Davidson was the camaraderie we had.”

— **Justice**, alum of Wayfinder’s Davidson residential rehabilitation program for adults with vision loss

Paper airplanes for mom

Angelo, age 4, was beginning to adjust to the idea that he was going to be adopted by his maternal grandparents because his mom had given up her parental rights. She was struggling with substance abuse. Claudia, a Wayfinder mental health therapist, was helping Angelo work through his emotions.

Despite her struggles, Angelo's mom, Emilia, was trying to get her life back on track. She saw her son often. Then Emilia committed a serious parole violation and was sent to prison for years.

This shook Angelo's already unsteady world. Grandma heard Angelo crying in his sleep. He refused to talk about his mom in therapy sessions. When Emilia called from prison, Angelo would not talk to her.

One day, out of the blue, Angelo said to Claudia, "Mom's in jail." He worried what might happen to her. "I gave him space to talk about his fears," says Claudia. "I used art-based therapy." They made social stories—pictures with simple language that help children understand an event—of his mom in prison.

"The social stories taught Angelo that there were systems in the prison to keep his mother safe," Claudia says. After a while, Angelo agreed to talk to his mom when she called.

Sometimes Emilia was unable to phone regularly. Claudia and Angelo created paper airplanes with drawings on them for

Emilia. They threw the paper planes across the room to "send these to mom," Claudia remembers. "We would laugh about the airplanes because they never flew."

Talking to Claudia, the grandparents came to terms with their own emotions about their daughter being in prison. They learned to support Angelo.

As his loss and sadness eased, Angelo did not cry in his sleep as often. In their sessions, Claudia frequently asked him, "What do you do when you miss mom?" Angelo responded, "I can make a plane," or "I can draw a picture." As he progressed further, he answered, "I can talk to Grandma." Claudia knew the family was ready to graduate from the program.

When the adoption was finalized, the family sent Claudia a photo of the three of them in the courtroom, beaming. Grandma's note said that Angelo was starting kindergarten. Claudia was very touched. "Being kept in the loop felt like they wanted me to be a part of their lives," she says.

“

What do you do when you miss mom?" Angelo responded, "I can make a plane..."

the answer is
community.

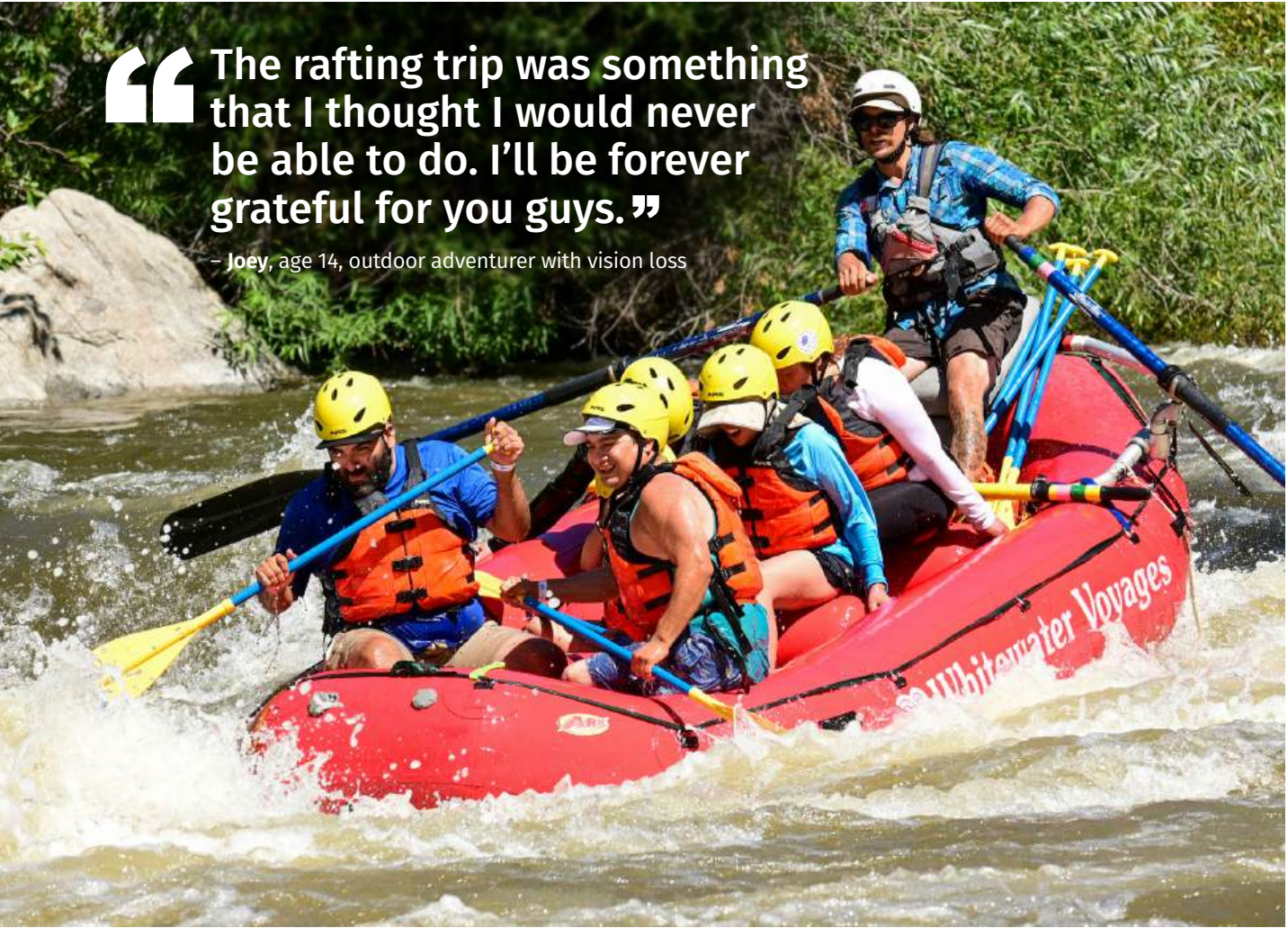
Health and Well-Being

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES provides therapy to children, adults and families in our programs and in the community who are dealing with trauma, behavioral issues or disabilities. In community mental health services, **80%** of clients decreased the impairments that were preventing them from functioning well in their schools, families, relationships or social interactions.

BE WELL mitigates mental health and wellness challenges for youth ages 14 to 25 who are experiencing mental health disorders or early symptoms. The program also supports healing, destigmatizes mental health challenges and strengthens resiliency for vulnerable youth. **97%** of youth in Be Well improved their capacity to manage mental illness symptoms and increased functioning.

1,155
CHILDREN,
YOUTH AND
ADULTS

3,123
FAMILY
MEMBERS



“The rafting trip was something that I thought I would never be able to do. I’ll be forever grateful for you guys.”

– Joey, age 14, outdoor adventurer with vision loss

“I think my favorite experience at Camp Bloomfield was the campfire that we had every night before going to sleep. It gave me a feeling of love and family warmth.”

– Rosa, camper with vision loss, age 12



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 205 doses of medication per day or 74,825 doses during the year with an exceptionally low error rate of **0.00006%**, compared with the industry standard 5% error rate.

OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND provides adults ages 55 and older who are visually impaired with training to assist them in living independently. As a result, older adults gain independence and self-sufficiency so they can participate more fully in their communities.

CAMP BLOOMFIELD welcomes child and family campers, many with vision loss and other disabilities, for adaptive sports and memorable outdoor activities. They build friendships, develop self-esteem and increase independence, as demonstrated by **97%** who gained confidence in their ability to participate in all activities and who strengthened their sense of independence.

Wayfinder’s **SPORTS, RECREATION AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURES** are adapted for athletes with disabilities. Among the varied activities were deep sea fishing, whitewater river rafting, surfing, snow skiing, a 5K run, tandem bicycle riding, goalball, blind soccer and beep baseball.

A dream come true

Herminia and Gerardo wanted so much to be parents. After unsuccessful fertility treatments, they thought about helping children who needed homes. A family friend recommended Wayfinder for fostering children with the potential to adopt.

Wayfinder trained and certified Herminia and Gerardo as foster parents. The couple was excited—and a little nervous—when they received a call in 2020 from a Wayfinder social worker about fostering two sisters, ages 7 and 2. “We opened the door, and we fell in love with them,” says Herminia, with tears in her eyes. “They’re good girls.”

Herminia and Gerardo adopted the girls in 2023 when it was clear that they could not be reunited with their parents. “We got the opportunity to become their parents officially,” says Herminia. “It’s been the most wonderful thing that ever happened to us.”

Next, Wayfinder asked the family to foster an 8-day-old boy. He is now 18 months old, and Herminia and Gerardo are in the process of adopting him.

“We love being a foster family, even though the kids have gone through a lot of situations with their birth parents,” Herminia says. “It’s amazing getting to know the kids and giving them a family.” Herminia feels as though their hearts expand with each addition to the family.

This year, Wayfinder approached Herminia and Gerardo again. Their little boy has three half sisters who needed a foster home with the possibility of adoption. Herminia wanted to take the girls, but there was a problem: Their apartment had no more room. Gerardo noticed their next-door neighbors were moving. “Why don’t you ask the landlord if he can put the two apartments together?” Gerardo suggested.

Herminia doubted the landlord would want to do this, but she asked him anyway. To Herminia’s surprise, the landlord agreed. “I know you wanted to be parents,” he explained. “Why not give you an opportunity to bring up the kids that you want.” With the two apartments combined, the three sisters joined the family.

“I have six kids now. I always thought I was going to have one or two maximum,” Herminia says. “God has given us the opportunity to be parents for those six kids, and I wouldn’t change anything.”

“I’m so grateful to Wayfinder. They have been amazing,” says Herminia. “If I need something I call. They always help me. I wouldn’t be a mom without Wayfinder.”

the answer is
community.



“

We opened the door, and we fell in love with them.”

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. **100%** of children who completed an exit survey reported they felt safe, their rights were respected and their needs met while in the program.

THE HAVEN provides shelter on our Los Angeles campus and long-term foster care for children ages 0 to 17 who enter the country unaccompanied by family. Our staff provide child-centered, trauma-informed services to refugee children, who have complex, intertwined needs, while searching for family members who can be suitable sponsors.

Our statewide **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. **96%** of children maintained stability in the same resource family home; **66%** exited to permanency, i.e., reunification, living with relatives, adoption or guardianship.

Wayfinder’s **ADOPTION PROGRAM** completed **74** adoptions of children from foster care across California.

Our **POST-ADOPTION SERVICES** maintain the stability and permanency of children in their adoptive families. **97%** of children remained stable in their adoptive homes after discharge.



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. One year after case closure, **97%** of children remained with a kinship caregiver, were adopted, lived with a legal guardian or reunited with their parents.

Our **FAMILY FINDING PROGRAM** searches for and locates relatives and people close to youth in foster care so that youth can maintain or establish valuable, supportive relationships. **88%** of youth were in contact with at least one newly identified extended family member at discharge from the program.

2,607
CHILDREN

1,391
CAREGIVERS



“

Being a foster or adoptive parent is very isolating and hard. Wayfinder created a community for families to support one another and made the work easier.”

— Annie Hallsten Narayan, adoptive mom and member of Wayfinder’s Community Council

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES provides counseling and support to prevent vulnerable children from entering or re-entering foster care. **95%** of families remained stable with no children re-entering foster care six months after discharge.

CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT strengthens parenting skills to reduce the risk of out-of-home placement for children. **83%** of families enhanced their parenting skills and improved child and family functioning.

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.

FAMILY EVALUATION assesses resource families, including adoptive families, by completing resource family evaluations within county timeframes.



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 13th 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

Statement of Financial Position

AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 829,883
Accounts, grants and credits receivable	4,977,296
Pledges receivable	200,124
Prepaid expenses and other assets	2,171,302
Investments	39,145,421
Property held for investment	2,989,000
Property and equipment	11,230,170
Operating leases – right-of-use assets	1,409,282
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 62,952,478

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 365,234
Accrued liabilities	6,642,189
Operating leases – right-of-use liabilities	1,414,326
Total Liabilities	8,421,749

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	\$ 53,914,332
With purpose and time restrictions	196,517
With perpetual restrictions	419,880
Total Net Assets	54,530,729

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 62,952,478
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Statement of Activities

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

REVENUE

Private support

Contributions	\$ 1,853,171
Trust income	1,103,648
Wills and bequests	551,683
Contributed property, goods and services	403,952
Subtotal	3,912,454

Government Fees and Other Revenue

Government contracts, fees for service and grants	35,470,686
Other revenue	189,607
Subtotal	35,660,293

Other changes

Gain (loss) on investments	4,176,059
Gain from insurance settlement	1,671,597
Recovery of bad debt expense for employee retention credit	1,667,430
Investment income, net of fees	764,666
Gain on sales of equipment	1,300
Subtotal	8,281,052

TOTAL REVENUE	47,853,799
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EXPENSES

Program services	\$ 39,008,845
Management and administrative	5,854,641
Fundraising and public relations	1,728,422
TOTAL EXPENSES	46,591,908
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,261,891*
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 54,530,729

*Wayfinder's 2023-24 increase in net assets was due to a gain from an insurance settlement in a legal case against a utility company over damaged property in 2018.

Program Services Expenses

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

PROGRAM SERVICES

Foster Care and Adoption	\$ 14,312,658
Group Homes	5,547,942
Mental Health Services	4,952,420
Temporary Shelter Care (The Cottage)	4,660,898
The Haven	2,175,508
Davidson Program for Independence	1,603,094
Special Education School	1,543,851
Child Development Services	1,438,227
Camp Bloomfield and Recreation	692,208
Hatlen Center	674,012
Strategic Initiatives	549,924
Public Education Program	469,757
Older Individuals who are Blind	292,756
Transition Services	95,590
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	\$ 39,008,845

“The Four-Star Rating is the highest possible rating an organization can achieve. We are eager to see the good work that Wayfinder is able to accomplish in the years ahead.”

— Michael Thatcher, President and CEO of Charity Navigator

Our Benefactors

You are essential members of the Wayfinder family. We are so grateful.

\$200,000 AND ABOVE

The Rose Hills Foundation
And those who wish to remain anonymous

\$100,000 – \$199,999

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

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The Valley Foundation
And those who wish to remain anonymous

*Founding member of Change the Future Fund

\$15,000 – \$24,999

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\$5,000 – \$9,999

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DONATIONS LISTED WERE MADE FROM JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024.

WAYFINDER HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ACCURATELY LIST DONORS. IF YOU NOTICE AN ERROR, PLEASE CALL THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AT (323) 295-4555, EXT. 220.

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And those who wish to remain anonymous

*Founding member of Change the Future Fund

\$2,000 – \$4,999

Carole and Kenneth Adashek, M.D.
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THE PLACE
Wayfinder’s Camp Bloomfield

THE PEOPLE
Arzum, age 15, for whom camp was the first activity away from her family since her recent total vision loss. Lorena, Arzum’s one-on-one camp counselor, who knows that building trust and giving step-by-step instructions help campers with vision loss step outside their comfort zones. Other campers and counselors.

THE GREAT MOMENT
On the morning of the last day of camp, the counselors gave out awards they had decided on as a group. Lorena stood up and said she was presenting an award to a camper who persevered in activities even though she was scared at first. “She rode the horse!” Lorena exclaimed. “I’m so proud of her. The ‘Brave’ award goes to Arzum.” The other campers cheered and chanted Arzum’s name as the teen rose with a delighted smile to accept her award. Later in the summer, Arzum’s growing confidence and independence were evident when she attended the inclusive session with sighted campers. Arzum asked when she could ride a horse again and talked about all the activities she wanted to try.

\$1,000 – \$1,999 (continued)

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Generous bequest and trust gifts received in full or in part this year are paving the way to the future for children and families.

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Legacy Society members, who provide for Wayfinder in their estate plans or establish a charitable gift annuity, are investing in a better world for generations to come.

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Wayfinder moments



THE PLACE

The Conversation, downtown Los Angeles

THE PEOPLE

Hosts: Wayfinder’s Board of Directors and Impact Council. Moderator: Award-winning journalist Val Zavala Panelists: Alberto M. Carvalho, superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District; Dr. Mark Ghaly, secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency; Dr. Debbie Innes-Gomberg, Ph.D., deputy director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; and John Kobara, chief facilitator of change and founder of Random Acts of Progress. And 200 guests eager to hear the expert panel’s insights into the impact of loneliness on society.

THE GREAT MOMENT

Honoring Harold A. Davidson, Wayfinder’s longest tenured board member; Camilla Walker, co-chair of Wayfinder’s Impact Council; and The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation for their commitment to children, youth and families in Los Angeles County and beyond.



THE PLACE
Derby Day, Sacramento

THE PEOPLE
Wayfinder’s Community Council members and supporters in their Kentucky Derby finery to watch a livestream of the races and raise funds for Wayfinder.

THE GREAT MOMENT
Honoring John Nicolaus, principal landscape architect for Wood Rodgers, Inc., who six years ago volunteered to design the landscaping of Wayfinder’s Citrus Heights office. Moved by Wayfinder’s mission, he joined the board of directors and co-chairs Wayfinder’s Community Council. “We are incredibly grateful to John for his leadership, generosity and dedication to children, youth and families,” said Jay Allen, Wayfinder’s president and CEO.

- LEGACY SOCIETY (continued)**
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THE PLACE
The Haven, a residential program for unaccompanied children on Wayfinder’s campus

THE PEOPLE
Jacob, age 16, and other teenage boys residing in The Haven. The Haven staff, who give youth options for celebrating birthdays and strive to make every birthday unique.

THE GREAT MOMENT
Jacob was the first resident to have a birthday at The Haven. He chose a piñata, along with cupcakes and music, to celebrate. The boys, who were from different parts of the world, had learned about piñata traditions and were very excited. The staff spun blindfolded Jacob around. He hit the star-shaped piñata with a stick several times, harder and harder, but it didn’t break. Jacob removed the blindfold and offered the stick to the other boys to take turns. At last, one of the boys broke open the tough piñata and candy spilled out for the cheering boys.

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The Wayfinder community needs you.

Please join Wayfinder in building a community that changes the future. Your generous donation ensures that Wayfinder has the resources needed to assist the next TJ, Angelo, Sergio and Herminia. With your help, we can change the future. Please consider setting up a monthly donation—every amount is significant. Please give to Wayfinder today.

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To the Wayfinder families, children, youth and adults who shared
their stories of community in this year's report.

Some clients' names and minor details have been changed to protect their privacy.