



FAMILY  
**JUSTICE CENTER**  
Sonoma County  
*Foundation*

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024



### Spring Brings Growth to the FJC

As our County welcomes longer days, greener hills, and signs of growth with the dawn of Spring, the Family Justice Center is celebrating growth of our own as we continue our mission of empowering family violence victims to live free from violence and abuse and restoring hope in their lives.



Family Justice Center Sonoma County is proud to be a site of the **North Bay Trauma Recovery Center!** This new program offers FJC clients and their children quick access to free bilingual mental health counseling and clinical services as they process their trauma and break intergenerational cycles of violence.



Our FJC staff is also growing! The FJC now staffs our very own two, full-time Navigators to perform intake and serve as the vital single point of contact between the victim and the many on and off-site partners working with the client.

## New Partner Agency Alert

### VEST to support high-risk victims at the FJC

The FJC welcomes Victims Empowerment Support Team (VEST) as its newest onsite partner agency. VEST is a domestic violence service organization that will serve on the FJCSC's new Domestic Violence High-Risk Team. VEST staff will coordinate team meetings with multi-disciplinary partners and provide intensive case management to clients with the highest lethality risk. Stay tuned for more information on this lifesaving project!





# FJC Month in Sonoma County

THANK YOU SONOMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS!

March 2024 was the 2nd Annual Family Justice Center Awareness Month in Sonoma County. The purpose of FJC Awareness Month is to ensure that Sonoma County residents know about the critical services available to them at the FJCSC. All of our services are confidential, voluntary, and provided free of charge. The FJCSC takes pride in being the sole drop-in crisis support services center in the County for survivors of domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking. Together, with the support of our dedicated Foundation Board and the tireless efforts of our District Attorney, we continue to stand as a beacon of hope and support for those in need in our community.



## Spreading Awareness

HELLO CLOVERDALE!

Thank you to the Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce for displaying the FJC banner on the Cloverdale Welcome Sign on Highway 101. The FJC serves ALL of Sonoma County-- if you live in any corner of the community, the FJC is here to help!

## Learning Series

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Housing and Economic Rights Advocates (HERA) presented several webinars to clients and staff in the month of March to increase education and awareness. Topics focused on various aspects of tenant rights for survivors of domestic violence.

# Camp HOPE 2024



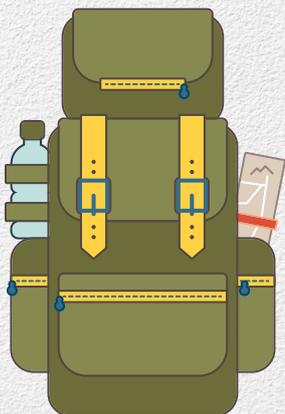
Camp HOPE is the only existing program of its kind that focuses on mentorship and a trauma-informed annual camping experience specifically for children and teens who have been exposed to domestic violence or sexual abuse. The mission of Camp HOPE America is to “give youth a brighter future by creating pathways to hope and healing.”

Each year, the FJC sends a group of students to a 6-day sleep away camp. While there, activities range from white water rafting, cliff jumping, and high ropes courses, to art projects and silly campfire songs. Campers are challenged to step outside of their comfort zone with these activities in order to overcome their fears.

We DOUBLED the number of campers sent last year with the help of generous supporters like you. However, more campers means more supplies are needed! Camp HOPE is offered completely FREE, and we need your help to ensure that campers have the essential items necessary for their week away.

By clicking on our Amazon Wish List linked below, you can browse through a carefully curated selection of items that will directly benefit the campers. From sleeping bags and backpacks to art supplies and educational materials, your contribution will equip our kids with the tools they need for an unforgettable camp experience.

The strength and determination displayed by our Camp HOPE children is a testament that, through unity and empathy, a brighter future is within reach. Camp HOPE aims to break the generational cycle of violence in the families of our campers in one generation.



## Supplies Needed!

### SHOP OUR CAMP HOPE WISHLIST

When you buy from this wishlist, you help make sure that each camper has the vital camping supplies needed at no cost to the families. Camp HOPE is free for all campers!

[\*\*SHOP HERE!\*\*](#)

IN THE NEWS:

## Devastating Funding Cuts to Survivor Services

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding provides for an array of critical services and programs that support survivors after they have experienced a crime. VOCA uses non-taxpayer money from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) for programs that serve victims of crime. VOCA funding provides for domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, child abuse, and homeless victims of crime in OUR County. These include crisis intervention, case management, crisis hotlines, legal assistance, and other vital services.

Every year, Congress determines how much to release from the CVF for VOCA. In March 2024 Congress finalized the fiscal year 23-24 funding bills, which constitute a roughly \$630 million cut to VOCA grants. The proposed California State Budget has no allocated no funds to address this shortfall.

VOCA funding cuts means domestic violence service providers and other victim services will experience steep across-the-board funding impacts that will directly alter survivors' ability to access safety. The below video details some of the stories about what California services stand to lose.



Due to shortfalls in the  
**Victims of Crime Act Budget**,  
they all face **drastic cuts** to their services.

Here are some of their  
**stories**  
about what they stand to **lose**.

[Click Here to View Video](#)

"I can cry thinking about people who are actually willing and get to the point where they're reaching out for help and nobody is there."

**Contact your CA legislators TODAY to urge them to fund VOCA at \$200 million this year.**

# Financial Freedom for Survivors

## FJCSC PROGRAM TO COMBAT EFFECTS OF FINANCIAL ABUSE FOR SURVIVORS

Research indicates that financial abuse occurs in 99% of domestic violence cases. Survivors report that concerns over their ability to provide financially for themselves and their children was one of the top reasons for staying in or returning to an abusive partner. To support local survivors with financial stability and long-term freedom from their abuser, FJCSC partnered with Corazón Healdsburg to implement a bilingual Financial Wellness Program for Sonoma County domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

The Financial Wellness Program goal was to enhance survivors' overall financial well-being. The Financial Wellness Coordinator supported FJC clients to navigate financial institutions, overcome financial insecurities, and manage both short-term and long-term financial aspirations.

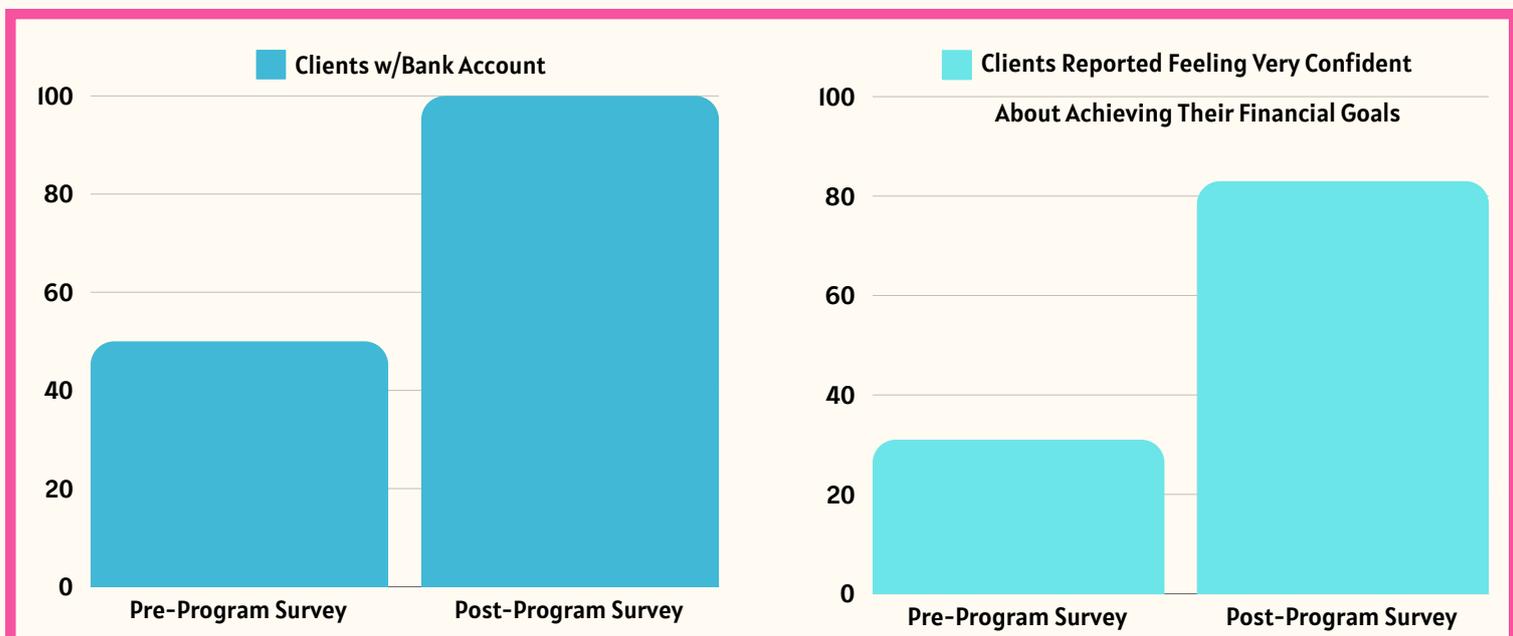
In exit surveys, 100% of respondents stated that they feel more empowered to make informed financial decisions after participating in the FJC Financial Wellness Program. Clients reported a variety of successes including opening and growing a savings account for the first time, purchasing a car, increasing their credit score, becoming debt free, securing stable employment, and more. The charts below show two results from the pre- and post- program surveys completed by participating clients. All survivors exited the program with a bank account and there was a significant increase in those who reported feeling very confident about achieving their financial goals.

### We'd love to share one of many success stories from this programming:

Elizabeth was financially reliant on her abuser at the start of her work with the Corazón Healdsburg Financial Wellness Coordinator. Her long-term goal was to be financially independent and stable, which would allow her to leave her abusive partner. Elizabeth and the Coordinator met six times, during which Elizabeth created a personal cash flow statement, opened a bank account, obtained employment, created a budget form, and was able to move into her own apartment, free and safe from her abuser partner!



**THANK YOU TO CORAZÓN HEALDSBURG FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THIS VITAL PROGRAM!**



**25%** of proceeds will be donated to the  
**Family Justice Center Sonoma County!**

**RAFFLE**

EXPLORE  
**Venice  
&  
Croatia**

11 DAYS/  
10 NIGHTS  
.....  
RT AIRFARE  
INCLUDED

**Enter  
to Win**

Rotary  Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary  
Grand Prize Raffle

**\$50**

**WIN A TRIP TO VENICE, SPLIT & DUBROVNIK OR \$10,000 CASH**

Visit our website at [srsrotary.com](http://srsrotary.com) to see more amazing prizes. Winner responsible for all taxes..  
Event and drawing is on 4/20/24 at the Finley Center. Make checks payable to Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Foundation.

## Support the FJC and WIN!

**PURCHASE YOUR RAFFLE TICKET BEFORE  
APRIL 20TH FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN BIG!**

This year, the Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary has generously pledged to donate 25% of the raffle proceeds to the Family Justice Center!!

Only \$50/ticket for a chance to win an 11 day/10 night trip to Venice and Croatia!

To enter, scan the QR code or click the linked picture above to complete and submit the ticket purchase form.

The Super Raffle drawing will be held Saturday, April 20th a Grand Prize of a 10-day luxury trip to Venice and Croatia for two! The prize includes airfare, first class hotels, guides and drivers. Dates are at the winner's discretion; this will be the trip of a lifetime. There are fabulous other prizes to will be won by lucky ticket holders as well!

**Please consider supporting the FJC!**

