

SAFETY, HOPE & BELONGING IN A PANDEMIC

A REPORT ON
OUR COVID-19
EMERGENCY
RESPONSE AND
2019 HIGHLIGHTS



This is not our usual Annual Report. Instead, we will share all that StandUp for Kids has done to address the "new normal" we now live in. The past is no longer an indicator of the future. The youth and staff have been more isolated and we have had to be more intentional to make meaningful connections.

This report will also give you a summary of 2019 results and financials. We will share our priorities for the rest of the year and the conditions we will be operating in. Our youth's needs have adjusted, and we'll be continuing to refine our processes to give them the best care and support possible.

Our processes have changed, but our caring support of our youth hasn't. Read on to see what's changed and why many things stay the same; from caring for our kids; to providing opportunities for learning and improvement; to finding housing and building lasting partnerships with companies, government agencies, and other non-profits building a sustainable program to get our kids off of the streets.

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85%

Our success rate of moving homeless youth from crisis to stability

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

You never know what you can do until you're tested. In the last 17 years we have never seen adversity and uncertainty on the scale that we see today. But I can say with a great deal of certainty that the Orange County chapter of StandUp for Kids is stronger than ever, and I'm sincerely confident that we'll be impacting the at-risk and homeless youth population in an even greater capacity next year than this year.

We know our community, and we know how to be effective and work with the incredible partners around us to maximize the resources at our disposal. We know the insecurities our kids face every day, and how to be a leaning post for them to grow and prosper. We know the systems available, both public and private, to get our youth what they need, from housing to mental health services. We know what donors and volunteers care about, and how to maximize their support for the greatest impact on our kids.

Uncertainty is a constant, and an even larger specter looming over us. But we are not afraid. If we do nothing, things will get worse and our communities and youth will suffer. Thus, we will continue to do all in our power to promote an upward trajectory for our youth and give them a better chance to thrive.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Justine Palmore in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Justine Palmore
Executive Director

**"IF WE DO
NOTHING, THINGS
WILL GET WORSE
AND OUR
COMMUNITIES
WILL SUFFER."**

**-JUSTINE
PALMORE**

THE GREAT PIVOT

WE DO WHAT NO ONE ELSE WILL

Late in March 2020, the increased calls for help started coming in. Colleges closed and homeless students disappeared. So did food sources, bathrooms, and the couches they surfed. At-risk kids in high school and junior high were not in school and stuck indoors (if they were lucky) in overcrowded conditions. They didn't have computers, Wi-Fi, or even a place to do their homework. Tensions were high as parents and caregivers lost jobs with no hope of replacement. Nothing like this had happened before.

RESOLVE FROM STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND DONORS

We had to find a way to help, and we knew we couldn't do it without trained staff. Large donors came together and offered COVID-19 relief funding, and our rock solid partners were there to offer support and give us the financial backing to stay at full strength. The community then stepped up as more than 300 people applied to be volunteers and help our kids who desperately needed a shoulder to lean on. We formed a partnership with Mom's Against Poverty who provided us with a monthly food and supply delivery. We learned how to deliver "contactless" food. We began virtual mentoring and tutoring to engage the kids more often, more deeply and more purposefully. We loaned computers and got the kids connected. We created a new case management and tracking system. But we must keep it going!

WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT

Our ongoing resolve paid dividends when we received city housing grants to provide rapid re-housing for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) ages 18-24. Our youth now have a system to support them in a way that had never happened before in Orange County. We help them find a place, move in and provide temporary rental assistance, all while mentoring them to foster permanent housing stability. This breakthrough was noticed, as the Orange County Register ran a story about us on its front page, "Homeless young adults finally meet their housing match in Orange County."

The pandemic has dramatically affected homeless youth who can't shelter in place. And this is only the beginning.

OUR JOURNEY TO STABILITY IN 2020

What We Know:

We know that the current pandemic is increasing the risk of homelessness in our community. The impact of COVID-19 has been overwhelming. Today, with Stay-Home-Orders and Social Distancing in effect, finding young adults experiencing homelessness is more challenging than ever. College closures, stay-home orders, and business closures have pushed our youth to hide even more. Not only is it harder for them to couch surf, but finding stable housing is an almost unreachable goal due to business closures and crippling employment barriers for our youth.

What We Don't Know:

We do not know how long we will be living this new normal. We don't know if schools will go back to distance learning due to an increase in exposure. Will the economy improve? Will an effective vaccine be developed? ... and will our community embrace it? Will our young adults need to find new ways to attain entry-level positions due to business closures and bankruptcies? Will this push our youth to become more skilled employment candidates?

How We Are Moving Forward:

Easy... we will not stop. Now more than ever, our youth need us. We will continue to develop out of the box ways to support and empower our youth. When there was hunger, we developed the "We Deliver" Program, delivering much needed whole foods to our youth. When there was a gap in technology for our school-aged kids, we bridged it through our technology initiative by providing all youth enrolled in StandUp for Kids with the equipment needed to conduct distance learning. We then equipped our youth with 1:1 tutoring support and a mentor. Many things may have changed, but we are still providing our youth with the weekly mentoring and guidance they need to learn to become self-sufficient and stay that way. Did we stop there? Of course not, today, we are continuing to expand our in-school programming into the Santa Ana and Newport Mesa School Districts.

Is It Working?

Unequivocally yes. Based on surveys over the summer our youth still feel connected and supported by StandUp for Kids, and we've been able to maintain a level of support that gets our youth what they need.

Food

Mentor

Housing

Service

Transp

Educa

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

2020's changes have required us to shift and re-imagine many of the processes and systems that we relied on before COVID-19. Here are some of the changes to our major areas of service.

THEN

We would receive meal support for our mentoring sites from local non-profits and our families would use existing food pantry support for groceries and supplies.

We would meet in person with youth in a group setting at one of our seven sites across the county.

We would house youth based on the organizational budget allocated to housing, making sure our funding would last through the year.

We would provide support in getting driver's licenses, social security cards and support our youth with their basic needs, while equipping them with the life-skills they need to become self-sufficient.

We would provide bus passes and Uber/Lyft rides to youth to get to mentoring sites, jobs, school and other appointments.

We would pay for fees associated with getting a GED, applying for college and many other continuing education opportunities for our youth.

NOW

Our We Deliver program launched to provide weekly grocery and supply deliveries to our youth and their families. Virtual lunches have been coordinated so that businesses and groups can provide lunch for our youth and meet them in a virtual space.

Now, thanks to our virtual platform, our youth attend group and individual meetings. We pair our youth up with a mentor, a youth navigator, and even a tutor, when necessary; increasing the number of touchpoints each week.

We have received housing grants from cities across the county to bolster our budgets and house youth with funds specifically earmarked for transitional aged youth experiencing homelessness.

We continue to provide our youth with the same support, but on a virtual platform while adding a food stability program.

This has decreased substantially as many of these prior in-person appointments are now virtual.

We have expanded our educational programs by offering tutoring services and laptops for our college students in need.



**"THEY GAVE ME
SAFETY, A
FAMILY, AND A
FUTURE TO LOOK
FORWARD TO."**

**-NATZUMY,
15 YEAR OLD STUDENT**



**"STANDUP FOR
KIDS IS AN
ORGANIZATION I
DEFINITELY WILL STAND
UP FOR."**

**-DILAN,
20 YEAR OLD
UCLA STUDENT**



**"STANDUP FOR KIDS
PREPARED ME FOR A
JOURNEY INTO
RECOVERY."**

**-ALEX,
21 YEAR OLD
EMT STUDENT**

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

StandUp for Kids would be nothing without the donors and volunteers (including our beloved Advisory Board) that give the organization the life to prosper. Here are some of the most impactful, recent supporters.



MOMS AGAINST POVERTY

Providing food and supplies monthly to make sure our youth have what they need.



ARBONNE

A key \$50,000 monetary gift, \$50,000 in-kind for COVID-19 PPE and support of other chapters was key to our national stability.



KIA MOTORS AMERICA

Donated \$750,000 to our national organization in 2020.



SEABREEZE MANAGEMENT

Donating and volunteering with the support of their entire company.



WALMART

Leading through sponsorship and volunteerism.



OMID

Providing one-on-one mental health support to our youth.

IN MEMORY OF KEVIN JONES

Kevin Jones supported StandUp for Kids since 2010 and is the most giving individual or entity in the Orange County chapter's history. His generosity has changed countless lives and consistently given the chapter the resources to grow and increase our impact year over year. He was a true inspiration and someone whose light shone bright. We will sincerely miss you Kevin.

1,634

NIGHTS OF SHELTER
PROVIDED



83

young adults

400

unduplicated
youth

3,427

nutritious meals
served

4,533 HOURS OF MENTORING



In 2019 we continued to be there for our kids when they needed us. There were 9,997 times over the course of the year where we were there to support 400 unduplicated youth with food, housing, information, and just a person to rely on. Included in that number is: 4,533 hours of mentoring and tutoring, giving our youth support and care with homework help, job searching, skill-building and a shoulder to lean on. 3,427 nutritious meals and 1,634 nights of shelter were provided for 83 young adults who found us at their most vulnerable without a roof over their head otherwise.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

2019

SOURCES OF REVENUE

Corporations (9%)	\$42,034
Gifts-In-Kind (7%)	\$32,693
Special Events (21%)	\$98,080
Individuals (23%)	\$107,421
Private Foundations (40%)	\$186,820
Total Contributions	\$467,048

EXPENSES

Programs	\$391,218
Administration	\$12,757
Fundraising	\$21,262
Total Expenses	\$425,237

PROGRAM EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

Mentoring (30%)	\$117,365
Meals (20%)	\$78,244
Youth Services (20%)	\$78,244
Housing (15%)	\$58,683
Education (15%)	\$58,683
Total Program Expenses	\$391,218

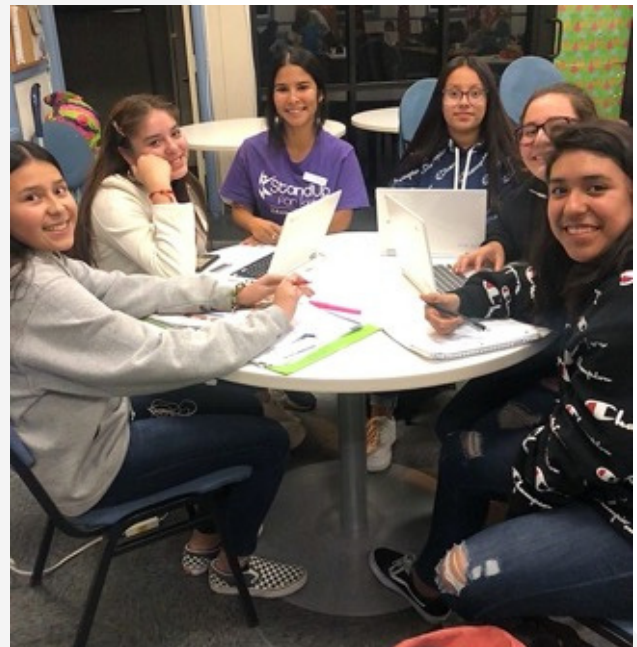
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS (END OF 2019)

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$338,103.12
Accounts Receivable	\$8,321.69
Lease Deposit	\$1,620.00
Total Assets	\$348,044.81
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$348,044.81

ASSETS (JULY 31st, 2020)

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$379,184.95
Accounts Receivable	\$976.47
Others	\$9,000.00
Total Assets	\$389,161.42
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$389,161.42





ABOUT STANDUP FOR KIDS

We are unique in providing comprehensive services and a sense of belonging to youth ages 12-24.

STANDING UP FOR KIDS FOR 30 YEARS

Thank you sincerely for your support of StandUp for Kids. If you are ready and willing, we ask for renewed support. This could be financial, as a volunteer, as an advocate for StandUp for Kids, or in whichever arenas are applicable to you. Please share our message and mission with any Individual, company, group or entity that may be interested.

Email: orangecounty@standupforkids.org

Phone: **714-356-5437**

Make a Donation:

www.standupforkids.org/orangecounty/donate

Mail a Gift To:

StandUp for Kids - Orange County

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