



2016 Annual Report



Strengthening MOTHERS



Impacting FAMILIES



Transforming THE FUTURE



Dignity • Dreams • Strong Families • Hope



From the Executive Director



January, 2017

Dear Friends,

2016 was a year of great forward progress! We finished our 8th year with significant accomplishments, especially because of the large capacity building grant from Sacred Harvest Foundation. The pages of this report will give much more specific information, but here's a little summary:

- We set more records in finances, participation numbers and volunteers
- We graduated our 81st SFI graduate!
- We finished our Board Policy Manual and a significant amount of "internal" document alignment with our Vision and Mission.
- We had 200 volunteers that gave us 5,436.75 hours of their precious time – a 62% increase over 2015!!
- We published our SFI curriculum and rebranded our marketing materials – the front cover of this report being part of our new "look."
- We repaired and painted the entire outside of the building – it looks wonderful!!
- We successfully launched our new friend and fund raiser: Christmas at Court – don't miss the pictures and plan to join us December 7 or 8, 2017!

I hope you'll take the time to read the details. They celebrate our many victories and point out our challenges for 2017. Your partnership is more important than ever as we move forward.

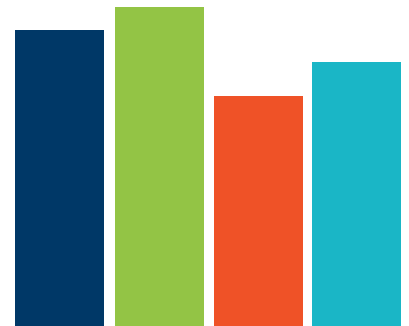
Yes, it was a momentous year. And I'm stealing a quote from my report last year..." I still haven't figured out how to capture the "feel" of the transformative things around here. It's difficult to explain, but it's palpable to feel. If you've been here, you know what I mean. If you haven't, it's time for you to visit! I hope you will." Come see us, breathe in the exhilarating air of transformation – it will transform you!

Thank you for your partnership, your encouragement and your commitment to My Safe Harbor. We know we could not do this without you. We depend on you to help us grow and to get the word out to your friends and colleagues. I'm looking forward to another great year as we work together to bring more and more mothers to join us on this pathway to hope.

Truly in your debt,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Becky Ahlberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Becky Ahlberg



From the Program Director



I am so glad to have a full year at My Safe Harbor under my belt. I knew MSH had something really special going on, but it wasn't until I got to experience it myself that I really understood the impact we are having. In 2016, I was able to join 21 women in their transformational journey through the Strong Families Institute. I met them when they first signed up as women who were unsure, nervous, and insecure. I watched as they began to make new relationships, obtain new knowledge and tools, gain a new perspective on life, and make a plan for the future. The women I met were strong and courageous mothers who loved their children but lacked in the areas of healthy relationships and appropriate tools and resources.

The women I know now are even stronger women who want to make a difference, not only in their own families but in the lives of their friends and community as well; and they know what to do to get there. It has been an amazing and humbling experience to join these mothers in their process. As a social worker, I am taught that the client has the strength for change, meaning that the individual has the capacity to move in their own self-interest, even if only by small steps, and this movement will lead to increased strength and more change.

It is exciting for me to see this theory in practice. The women we work with learn that they are not defined by their past or limited by their present, but that they possess the power and strength to change their future.

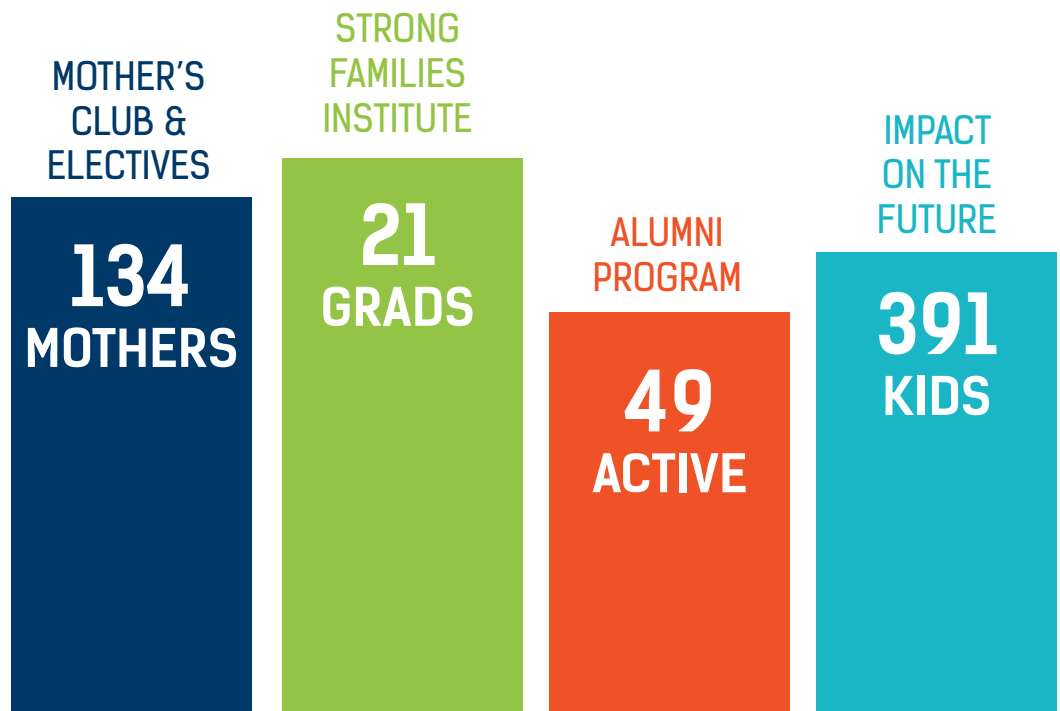
I am encouraged by what the women at My Safe Harbor are doing; we are simply providing a platform for them, they are doing the work to change their lives, the lives of their children, and ultimately our community.

Thank you for partnering with us and helping this happen.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessika'.

Jessika Ahlberg



Strong Families Institute



In 2016, we graduated 21 students (out of 22 who started), and started two new cohorts with 23 students who will graduate in June, 2017. **Since 2011, we have graduated 81 students and have a graduation rate of 85%.** We hope to see those numbers accelerate with our new curriculum, our increasing alumni participation and as the word gets out.

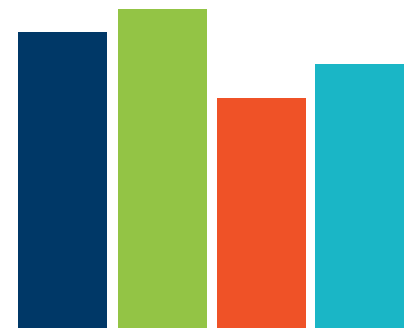
Rosa's Story

Rosa signed up for our SFI program after hearing about it at her son's school. She had recently gone through a divorce and was now a single mother of four children. Her self-esteem was very low and she was having some serious health problems. During her SFI program, she was scheduled to have a major surgery that would leave her immobile for several weeks. She was concerned about finishing SFI and even more worried about how she would take care of her home and children after surgery. Her eyes teared up when we told her that she could continue in the program and we would help her get through this tough time. It was Rosa's classmates, not MSH staff, who stepped up and took care of her and her family. They brought her food, cleaned her home, and gave her rides to class. Rosa shared, "My faith in God is great thanks to the blessings of being here (MSH)... He brought me here to this group where I met women like me, wonderful women with personal desires and wishes to learn to be better mothers, wives, but above all better human beings. Thank you for helping us to see that there are options for change for a life full of love, peace and friendship."



Our SFI Curriculum got a facelift! Thanks to the help of Mary Little (over 350 volunteer hours) and Jennifer Johnson, our editing consultant, we are on the home stretch of a major curriculum overhaul. By the time we're done this March, we'll have gone over every facilitator script, every workbook page and every PowerPoint slide. And in addition, it looks great, too! It was all part of the rebranding and marketing strategy that Sacred Harvest Foundation made possible this year.

Curriculum is really never done; tweaking is ongoing, but we are so proud to have the professional look to go with our effective content. It's another great step forward in our credibility.



Mother's Club & Electives

Not every mother is ready for a 32 week intensive program. Our Mother's Club is a non-threatening, peer led weekly get-together where moms can talk about life and share helpful parenting tips. We host a mother's club at our facility every week, led by SFI graduates who volunteer their time. In 2015 we started our first off-site Mother's Club at Orange Grove Elementary and in 2016 we started 2 more; one at Franklin Elementary and the other at Jefferson Elementary. We also started working on two more off-site Mother's Clubs that will start in 2017.



We bring our Mother's Club program to the schools once a month to engage mothers who may not have heard about us or are not quite ready to come through our doors alone. We have had huge success with this model and are continuing to strengthen our partnership with the Anaheim Elementary School District.



Elective classes are held twice a week at our facility and offer an array of topics from self-esteem and parenting to sewing and cooking. This is another way of getting mother's into our building and start to build relationships with them. Our electives are taught by our SFI graduates and faithful volunteers. Our favorite electives this year were our sewing classes, Building Self Esteem, and Cooking a Thanksgiving Meal.



This year we had 134 mothers attend our Mother's Clubs and Electives. Many of those women also joined an SFI cohort after learning about our program in a Mother's Club or Elective.

Thanks to another superstar volunteer, Susi McLane, we started our first quilting club this year. Susi is a master quilter and she enthusiastically shepherds this group of 7-10 women. They meet twice a month to sew together and learn new skills. They are having a great time and their quilts are works of art!

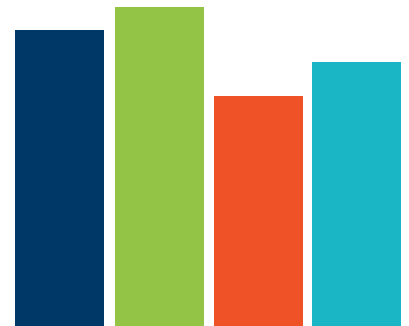


Elective Volunteers this year included Bethany Ahlberg, Susi McLane, Kristen Sliger, MarLynn Taylor, Rosaura Navejas, Veronica Navejas, Land Wayland, Lolly Domond,



Trusting Relationships

MSH was more like a family. I learned to trust people, to value myself, to believe that I was capable and that I had a future. – Maria Rodgers



Alumni Program



A key component of our model is our Alumni Program. We love that we don't have to close cases. Once you are a part of the MSH family, you remain a part of us. Our Alumni are vital to the success of all our programs. They serve as Mother's Club leaders and Elective teachers, Mentors to our SFI students, childcare volunteers, and more. They also stay connected to us in our monthly Alumni Reunion Potlucks. Our potlucks give our Alumni a chance to catch up with one another, to have a continuing education opportunity and to keep moving forward.

This year, we had 49 of our Alumni stay connected to us by attending a reunion or volunteering for us.

That's over 60%! We took 25 Alumni on an overnight retreat in August. For many of them, it was the first time they had taken time away for just themselves. It was a great time of connecting and growing.

Becky's first blog of 2016

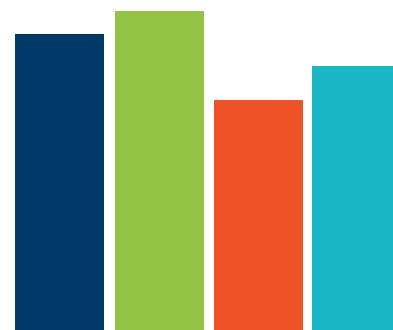
I had such a heartbreaking, yet heartwarming and affirming first week back at work! EVERY DAY last week a Strong Families Institute alumna was in my office in the midst of deep personal struggle...EVERY DAY. The substance of their individual struggles isn't important – all of them were gut-wrenching and challenging and in all of them we cried and hugged and looked for hope and solutions together.

I guess what has hit me so hard is that for every one of them their pre-SFI choices would have been so different than the ones they're making now. To a person they were thinking clearly, seeking support, knowing they needed help, accurately using acquired evaluation skills to assess their situation and coming in early in the crisis process to do these things...and they knew they would be safe coming in.

But maybe the most important thing to me in these shared experiences was this type of acknowledgment in the conversations: "I just knew I needed to get over here and connect. I want to make good choices right now and I want to be proactive in taking care of myself and my family." I'm tearing up just writing about this because it was such an affirmation to me that what we're doing...what God is doing... is bearing REAL fruit.

Anyone who is mature knows that life is full of challenges. No matter what "program" you graduate from, it doesn't inoculate you from life. I'm just so thrilled, so pleased, so grateful that God is leading so many on this pathway to hope and that our SFI grads are taking big steps...make that strides...toward becoming all that God wants them to be...even when life remains hard. It's just what I needed as we start a new year...My Safe Harbor IS making a difference. We MUST keep planting those seeds of hope!

Highlights from a few of our Alumni events



Our 2106 Volunteers



Once again our volunteers provided a crucial boost to our productive work! We had 200 volunteers give us 5,436.75 hours! We are so fortunate to have such a HUGE volunteer corps that does the hard work of keeping us going. They manage things behind the scenes, keep us looking good, teach and mentor and lead, take care of our children, and so much more.

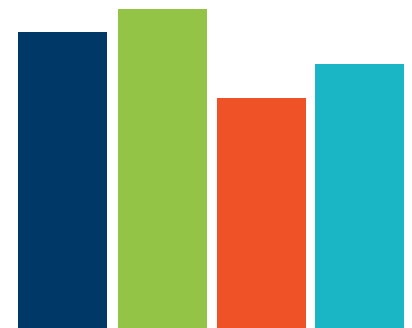
In case you didn't know, we categorize our volunteer hours by three monetary distinctions: \$8 per hour for general assistance, child care, clerical work, custodial, etc.; \$20 for leadership assignments like facilitating Mother's Clubs, Electives, being an SFI Mentor or on a working committee, etc.; and \$36 for professional services like computer/tech support, curriculum development, MSH Board members, etc. As a result of that the 5,436.75 hours translates into \$86,568.00 of equivalent dollars we would have to spend to do all the work!! What a gift that is to us. There are so many volunteers now that the place is always jumping with people who believe in what we do and put their time on the line to keep us moving forward. We are SO blessed!

One of the most thrilling things is to see how many of our SFI graduates volunteers are serving as volunteers – 36 in 2016. That is 44% of the graduates we have! They serve in a variety of ways and they bring such energy and passion to the work. They are great workers and they are fabulous ambassadors for MSH. This year's Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was part of Christmas at Court! Take a look at these pictures and see SFI grads, board members, community leaders, donors, and committed champions for My Safe Harbor. THANK YOU!!!!



Problem Solving

Thank you for helping us see that problems can be solved and that there are options to change ourselves for a better life. – Alejandra Palomares





Christmas at Court



His Majesty!



The Cast



Police Chief Raul Quezada, Captain Alex Orasco and Deputy Chief Julian Haavey acknowledge their applause.



The hall was full, the food sumptuous, the music glorious, the costumes amazing!



Fabulous Wenches!



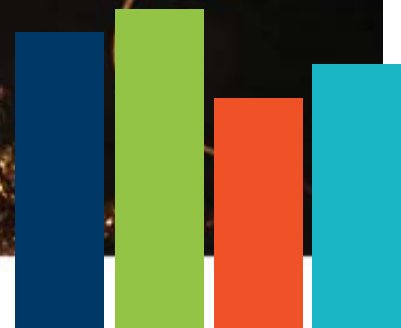
Jason Ignatius, Joe Perez, Rick Martens, Nick Mazzeo, Danny Valenzuela, Anaheim Sporn, and Chris Gillette



Queen Deborah thanks our volunteers (and she is one herself!)



Don't Miss Next Year!!
Circle December 7&8, 2017 on your calendar and plan to be part of an enchanted evening!



Look Who Volunteered This Year!

Bethany Ahlberg
 Eric Ahlberg
 Mark Ahlberg
 Candelaria Alquisirez*
 Lupita Alvarez*
 Kris Barnett
 Carl Berg
 Diana Barrera*
 Amanda Boyd
 Lyn Brammer
 Sarah Brown
 Dan Cahill
 Susana Calderon*
 Josifina Camacho
 Maria Carpio*
 Maria Cervantes*
 Tania Clemente*
 Laure Close
 Shawna Coan
 Sophia Cortez*
 Isabel Contreras*
 Areceli Crisostomo*
 Wendy Dallin
 Patience Davis
 Adriana DeLaTorre*
 Jan Doolittle
 Jennie Dorsch
 Teresa Edgington
 Steve Edgington
 Mercy Escomilla*
 Bibiana Estrada*
 Keianna Foster
 Arminda Garcia*
 Chelsea Garcia*
 Martha Garcia*
 Teresa Garcia*
 Chris Gillette
 Maria Gonzales*
 Julian Harvey
 Alice Hazlett

Mara Luz Irra
 Julieta Kent*
 Steve Komanapalli
 Noah Krueger
 Tessa Krueger
 Teri Larson
 Idalia Lazo-Batista
 Gabriela Lepe
 Connie Logue
 Jose Lopez
 Rick Martens
 Claudia Martinez*
 Gloria Martinez*
 Oswald Mata
 Yoshelin Mata
 Nick Mazzeo
 Kristi McCardell*
 Emily McCardell
 Lynne McConnell
 Rosa Mejia*
 Patrica Montalvo*
 Pilar Montesino*
 Yazbeth Morieda*
 Adelita Moreno*
 Yesenia Navarro
 Mariel Navejas*
 Rosuara Navejas
 Valeria Navejas
 Lucero Nopala*
 Rosie Ocampo*
 Daisy Olivo
 Alex Orosco
 Raul Quezada
 Joe Perez
 Sarai Pliego
 Maria Rodgers*
 Scarlett Rodgers
 America Rodriguez*
 Hank Rodriguez
 Lynda Ruiz
 Steve Sain

Linda Sappington
 Carole Shelby
 Chuck Shelby
 Katelyn Shields
 Cliff Sliger
 Maria Solis*
 Sarah Steele
 Guillermina Suarez*
 Madison Taylor
 Savannah Taylor
 Emily Tajeda
 Nathan Terry
 Diana Torres
 Ashelle Taleja
 Wendy Taleja
 Jessica Valdespino
 Danny Valdespino
 Mimi Valenzuela
 Yuridiam Valle*
 Maria Vasquez
 Alicia Villagomez*
 Pat Voas
 Land Wayland
 Nicole Wohlgemuth
 Nathan Zug

OVER 25 HOURS
 Jeff Ahlberg 34
 Taylor Ahlberg 45.5
 Kris Barnett 30
 Carl Berg 30
 Amanda Boyd 45
 Lolly Domond 28.5
 Charlene Fears 48
 Debbie Franklin 30
 Adair Gillette 30
 Deanna Jasper 30
 Jennifer Johnson 30
 Suramy Krueger* 28.5
 Dan Little 38
 Rocio Lopez* 31

Lisa Luckey 33
 Viviana Mondragon* 37
 Merrilee Sandy 30
 Steve Sandy 30
 Linda Sappington 35
 Jim Shields 30
 Kristen Sliger 30
 Anaheim Sporn 36.5
 MarLynn Taylor 44
 Rick Terry 30

OVER 50 HOURS
 Lupita Alvarez* 53
 Alicia Espinosa* 71.25
 Charlene Fears
 HIU Interns (2) 60
 Kip Lines 55
 Tamsen Murray 55
 Veronica Navejas* 54
 Steve Richardson 71
 SFI (43) 1842

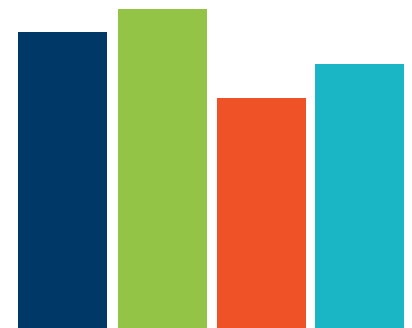
OVER 75 HOURS
 Kika Cortez* 88.5

OVER 100 HOURS
 Dan Ahlberg 123.5
 Bette Krueger 107
 Susi McLane 136
 HIU Interns (4) 120
 Elaine Richardson 101
 Hannelore Rojas 105
 Leticia Sanchez* 151

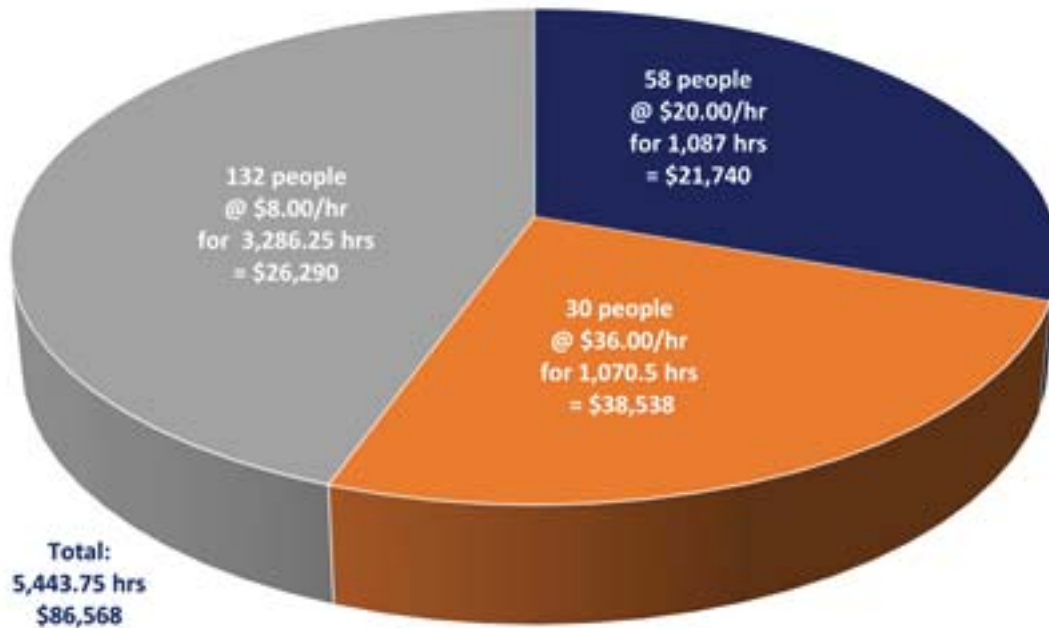
OVER 250 HOURS
 Mary Little 355.5

*Indicates SFI Grad

Did you notice that we had SEVEN superstar volunteers that gave over 100 hours this year? 40 gave more than 25 hours and that doesn't include our Interns or the SFI volunteer hours! Think about joining us. We could use you and we believe you will be blessed by saying yes to the support of a transformative process that is changing lives and this neighborhood.



Volunteer Hours & Value



You Can Help!

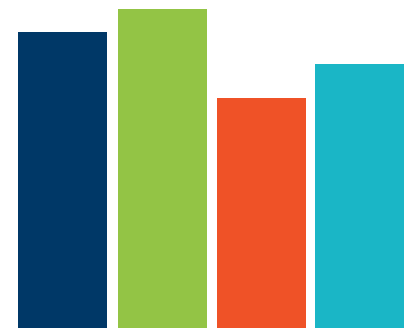
We need volunteers who:

- Provide regular, weekly office assistance
 - Provide activities for the elementary aged children during SFI classes
 - Provide childcare for SFI, Mother's Club, Electives, Alumni Potlucks
 - Provide meals for SFI weekly cohorts in their 1st quarter – January, April, October
 - Coordinate the "details" and be a weekly assistant for a SFI cohort
 - Provide assistance, supplies and support for Mother's Clubs and Enrichment Activities
 - Speak Spanish for both verbal and written translation
 - Facilitate an Enrichment Elective – what could YOU do?
 - Help with Graduation Ceremonies and Activities
 - Help with Facilities and Grounds Maintenance at the Harbor House
 - Help with cleaning and "first impressions"
 - Help with copying and collating curriculum workbooks and materials
 - If you don't see what you'd like to do on this list, let us know! We can always find a way to use you to make a difference!
 - Call or email us TODAY and we'll find something just for YOU!
marisel@mysafeharbor.org OR 714.399-0590 x206
- Invest in the future with your time today!**



Inspiration and Motivation

It has been so encouraging to watch My Safe Harbor transform the lives of these mothers by showing them that they are capable of not only changing themselves and their families, but also their neighborhood. -Anaheim Sporn, Neighborhood Services Superintendent, City of Anaheim.



2016 Financial Report



The most often asked question about our finances is, "How do you do it?!" We have continued to grow our program and at a significant rate, but our staff has stayed the same...we still only have ONE full time employee. Because our volunteers are so many and so dedicated even we are amazed at all that gets done!

The dilemma is that the day is fast approaching that we must move to more full time staff. Except for the Executive Director, the staff is all at 24 hours week. Mother's Clubs in area schools are facilitated by SFI volunteers but they are resourced and

supported by staff. By the end of 2017 we hope to have at 6-8 of them and to keep adding them as we can. As you read this we will have added another SFI cohort to the two that started in October; yes, that means we'll have 3 simultaneous groups going. Plus there will be more coming in April and October. We presently have 200 women on our roster and keeping them connected and informed is a growing challenge. Consequently we are stepping up our work to find grants and new partners to keep us growing. The good news is that we don't need to hire more staff, we just need to expand the hours of the staff we have!

67 Individuals and 13 Organizations gave us a record \$264,548.27 in 2016. Over 60% of the money given in the Individual Donor category was given by just 23 people. What a committed group!! Again, we need to swell those ranks! If you are not already a regular donor for MSH, 2017 would be a great year to start! \$2.75 a day puts a woman through SFI. It so doable! OR...

- \$25 covers a day for one of our school Mother's Clubs
- \$50 covers costs for one of our electives
- \$100 covers the cost of one day for our child care
- \$85 **a month** covers the **annual** tuition for one SFI mother.

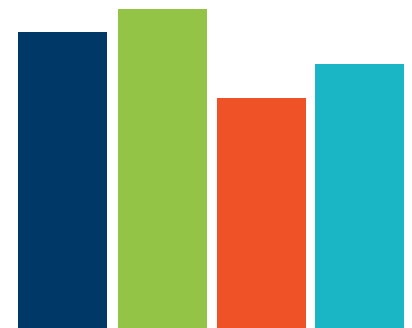
Our goal in 2017 is to double the number of REGULAR givers. Not only does it help cash flow, it connects more people to the regular work – day in and day out. Could you join us? Whether a onetime gift, or a monthly commitment, ANY amount will help.

You can send in a check, set up an electronic check from your bank or go to the website www.mysafeharbor.org and use your credit card. Join us in the investment of changing a neighborhood by building stronger mothers who take on the hard work of transformation.



Reasonable Expectations

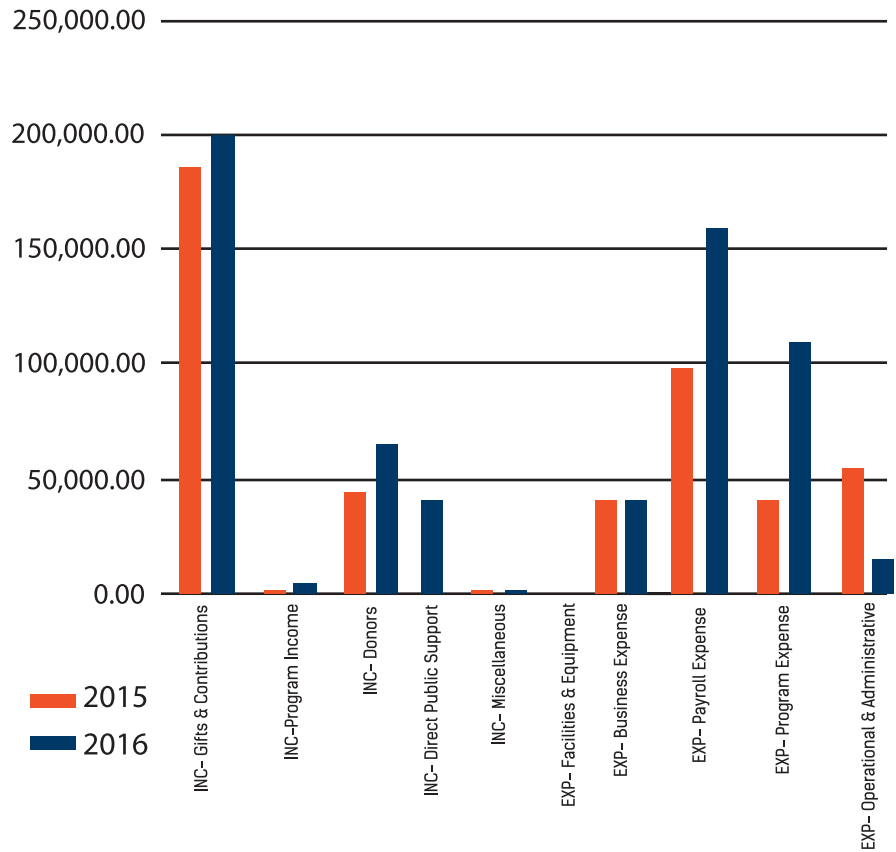
For the first time in my life I heard people say, "You can do this!" They actually believed in me and expected me to succeed. And you know what I found out? I can do this! – Angela Toland



2016 Financial Report

We are so grateful for partners like Anaheim First Christian Church and Sacred Harvest Foundation. We could not do this work without their substantive support.

However, we must find more to join them and us! Remember that as you look through these numbers:



MSH BUDGET OVERVIEW

Income

| | 2015 Actual | 2016 Budget | 2016 Actual |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Gifts & Contributions | 186,002.01 | 205,000.00 | 199,753.58 |
| Program Income | 926 | 5,000.00 | 5,821.00 |
| Donors | 44,385.97 | 63,000.00 | 64,794.69 |
| Direct Public Support | 68.70 | 44,051.00 | 42,656.56 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,644.40 | 2,620.00 | 2,218.09 |
| Total | 233,027.08 | 319,671.00 | 315,243.92 |

Expense

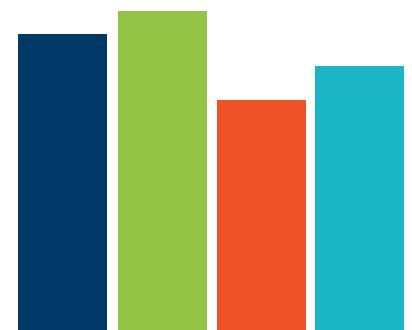
| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Facilities & Equipment | 687.80 | 7,500.00 | 0 |
| Business Expense | 11,698.50 | 12,850.00 | 12,066.97 |
| Payroll Expense | 100,122.69 | 163,028.00 | 159,457.19 |
| Program Expense | 41,991.69 | 110,900.00 | 109,588.79 |
| Operational/Administration | 54,182.34 | 30,004.00 | 16,332.57 |
| Total | 208,683.02 | 324,282.00 | 297,445.52 |



Parenting Empowerment

So much focus is on youth issues today, and that is important, but providing stable homes and strong parenting is key to really solving the problems our young people and our communities are facing. If you're looking for a place where your investment makes a difference, I recommend My Safe Harbor."

-Raul Quezada, Anaheim Police Chief



2016 Generous Donors

M/M Dan Ahlberg
D/M Eric Ahlberg
Smile.Amazon.com
Anaheim First Christian Church
M/M Mitch Baird
Cameo Baranowski
M/M Larry Balden
LaSharnda Beckwith
Benevity
M/M Russell Brammer
M/M Craig Brauks
M/M Dan Carrier
Mary Carter
M/M John Carter
Cedar Forge Financial
M/M Chris Chrisman
M/M Mike Close
Cook Induction
Nema Dagbandan
M/M Gregg Domond
M/M Forrest Doolittle
M/M Keith Doolittle
Jennie Dorsch
Gail Eastman
D/M Steve Edgington
M/M Richard Ekgan
Charlene Fears

Fieldstone Foundation
D/M Greg Franklin
Megan Malone-Franklin
D/M Glen Gaerte
Pam Gayle
Geraci Law Firm
D/M Chris Gillette
M/M Michael Grismer
Alice Hazlett
D/M Curtis Holtzen
Jaspreet Kaur
Ruth Kennedy
Kevin Kim
Liz Knarr
M/M Noah Krueger
M/M Reinhardt Krueger
M/M Dan Little
Connie Logue
Melissa Lucar
M/M Kip Lines
M/M Kevin Luckey
M/M Andrew McCardell
Lynne McConnell
Tammy McKim
Fran McGuinn
Susi McLane
Amy Martinez
Nancy Mershon

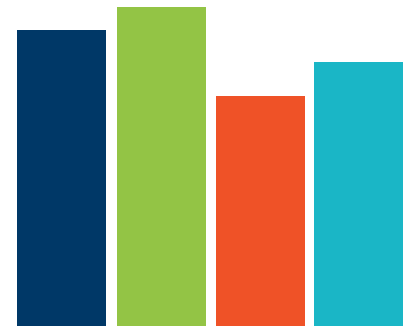
Melissa Martorella
Debbie Moreno
Tamsen Murray
Nationwide Insurance
Jenny Park
Regent Pacific Insurance
D/M Steve Richardson
Hannelore Rojas
Sacred Harvest Foundation
Jill Sandy
M/M David Schenk
Pauline Scholl
M/M Chuck Shelby
Paul Sievers
M/M Brentt Sporn
Southern California Foundation for Stronger
Communities
M/M Doug Stude
M/M Rick Terry
M/M Ryan Thompson
Sarah Towne
Truist Fund
Victoria Vartanian
Pat Voas
Walmart Community Foundation
Quinn White



Practical Tools

My Safe Harbor gave me the tools to see beyond my own little world view making it easier to see a clearer, broader view of both the present and my future.

– Alicia Villagomez



Accomplishments In 2016

- We continue to beat attendance and number of participant records!
- We expanded Mother's Clubs to more schools
- Our Board Policy Manual and the Ancillary Addenda are complete!
- We professionally published our SFI Curriculum
- We rebranded ourselves with an update new logo and marketing materials



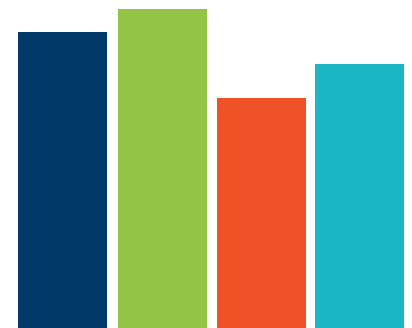
- We increased our Annual Income by 40%.
- We had our 2nd Alumni Retreat and monthly Alumni "4th Quarter" Potlucks are growing in number and in the "buy-in" from Alumni. They have organized a Planning Committee.
- We had seven volunteers with over 100 hours and one with over 350 hours!
- We got the outside of our building repaired and painted – it looks GORGEOUS

Dignity • dreams • strong families • hope



Personal Accountability

SFI opened the door for a deeper, more honest dialogue where together we looked for solutions and not someone to blame. I know that the only person I can change is ME! –Maria Cervantes



2016 Board Of Directors

Rebecca S. Ahlberg, MA, Chairman
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James L. Carter, MA, Advisor
jim@child-focus.org

Laure Close – Advisor
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Kevin (Kip) Lines, PhD
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Lisa Luckey, MA
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Tamsen Murray, PhD, Vice Chairman
tmurray@hiu.edu

Stephen L. Richardson, D.M. Sec'y/Treas
stelrich1@gmail.com

Anaheim Sporn
asporn@anaheim.net

Collaborative Partners

Anaheim City Departments: Community Services, Police
Anaheim Elementary School District
Anaheim First Christian Church
Anaheim Harbor Family Resource Center
Anaheim Religious Community Council
Children's Bureau of Orange County
Community Service Programs, Inc.

Family Oasis Family Resource Center
Giving Children Hope
Hope International University
Mission Increase Foundation
Network Anaheim
Orange County Family Justice Center
Orange County Social Services: P.E.P.
Sacred Harvest Foundation
Western Youth Services

