PATHWAYS TO HOPE

Ventura County Family Justice Center and Foundation

Thanks for Your Continued Support

Board of Directors

Once again, we thank our community for the continued support of the Ventura County Family Justice Center and Foundation. Our virtual event, An Evening of Hope; the Essential Supply drive; and the Toy Drive were all successful due to your generosity.

The new year brings change, new goals, and new opportunities. The Board thanks retired District Attorney Greg Totten for his service to our community and his commitment to opening the first Family Justice Center and looks forward to working with new District Attorney Erik Nasarenko to expand and improve services like Camp HOPE.

IN THIS ISSUE

NOTE FROM THE BOARD
PATHWAYS TO PROMISE PROJECT NEWS
SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES
ABOUT US

The **Camp HOPE America-California, Ventura County** program is an evidence-based camping and mentoring program that is a program of the Ventura County Family Justice Center. Since 2015, 32 Ventura County child victims/witnesses of domestic violence have attended Camp HOPE-VC. The program is designed to foster healthy relationships and build hope, resiliency, and pathways to goals and dreams. The Camp HOPE motto is, "My past does not define my future."

Our Board has adopted this program and is launching a campaign to support its growth. Please help us spread hope!

https://linktr.ee/VCFJCFoundation

Pathways to Promise

Jupneet Singh, Volunteer

Hello everyone, my name is Jupneet Singh, and I am a volunteer at the Family Justice Center. I graduated from Rio Mesa High School in 2019 and am a sophomore at MIT majoring in Chemistry and minoring in Anthropology. I am involved in Air Force ROTC and MIT Mock Trial, and I eventually want to go to medical school and have a career in health policy.

At the Family Justice Center, I am working with the FJC team on the development of the **Pathways to Promise** project. Children are often faced with many challenges in the outside world and home is looked to as a safe space. Unfortunately, that is not so for children who witness domestic violence. In Ventura County, the site of this project, there are more than 10,000 cases of domestic violence, abuse, and assault each year. One in fifteen children is exposed to intimate partner violence and 90 percent of those are eyewitnesses to domestic violence. Studies consistently find that children exposed to domestic violence are at higher risk for emotional, social, and behavioral difficulties. Exposure to childhood trauma has also shown to cause higher rates of illness, disease, and criminality in adults.

Peace for a child starts with their surroundings. Pathways to Promise looks to provide a safe space so children can find inner peace and a consistent support system. This program includes a monthly curriculum with a vocational focus, consistent mentorship, and an element of fun. This project will build on Camp HOPE, a week-long summer camp that is run by the Family Justice Center Youth Programs Manager, Karen Simpson, and supported by the VCFJC Foundation.

Pathways to Promise will create a peaceful space for children to envision their own future, grow, and create lifelong connections with mentors and fellow Pathways members. The program will have three components to help children reach their educational or vocational goals: field trips, keynote speakers, and college-bound workshops. Along with the events, mentors will be a constant presence throughout the program, as they will attend monthly events and cultivate relationships with the children. During this upcoming summer we will be holding Pathways events prioritizing team and community formation to start building momentum for monthly Pathways events. By kicking off Pathways to Promise during the summer of 2021, we will create a blueprint for a year-round mentorship program beyond the summer.

Working on the development of this project, and at the Family Justice Center in general, has been a wonderful experience. The support from everyone I have been working with has been amazing!

Social Media Handles

@the.vcfjc
@vcfjc_foundation

@thevcfjc
@vcfjc.foundation

@the_vcfjc

ABOUT US

VCFJC Foundation, Inc.
3170 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 652-7636
vcfjcfoundation.org
vcfjcfoundation@gmail.com
Tax ID# 82-2765815

Officers
Angela Cabrera, Chair
Joseph L. Strohman, Jr., Esq.,Vice Chair
Billie Jo Rodriguez, CPA, Treasurer
Irene Pinkard, EdD, Secretary

Directors
Chris Cuilty
Thomas K. Duncan, DO, FACS, FICS
Dianne B. McKay
Anthony Mireles

Advisors
Erik Nasarenko, District Attorney
Michael Jump
Joyce Donehue

Staff
Joshua Varela
Pilar Sandoval-Moberg