

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026 Fiscal Year



**STRONG FAMILIES,
SAFE FUTURES**



When we care together, families thrive



CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION COUNCIL
ORANGE COUNTY

Table of Contents

01	Welcome
02	CAPC Mission and Objectives
03	Council Membership
04	Blue Ribbon Committee
05	A Message from Council Member
06	Public Awareness Performance Metrics
07	Lunch and Learn Trainings
09	Father Leadership Program
10	Blue Ribbon Campaign
14	Day of the Child Community Resource Fair
15	Community Partnerships
17	Council Recommendations
18	Help Us Grow

WELCOME TO THE RAISE FOUNDATION



OUR MISSION:

The Raise Foundation is dedicated to stopping the cycle of abuse through education, advocacy, community collaboration, and comprehensive services for families and children.

Since 1974 we have grown into a dynamic, well-respected nonprofit serving all of Orange County.

Our goal is to provide resources to strengthen families, making each home a safer place for children to grow up.

"Guided by this year's theme "Strong Families, Safe Futures," we have continued to strengthen our commitment to protecting children and supporting families through collaboration, education and community engagement. We know that safe, thriving children begin with strong, supported families and this work is only possible through collective action. This report reflects the progress we have made and the partnerships that help create safer, healthier futures for children and families throughout Orange County."



EMILY REYNOSO

Program Coordinator

Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)

MISSION:

To organize the community's efforts in the prevention of child abuse and to coordinate our collective response to it

OBJECTIVES:

To provide a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment and legal processing of child abuse cases

To promote public awareness of the abuse and neglect of children and the resources available for intervention and treatment

To facilitate professional training sessions in the detection, treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect

To recommend improvements in services to families and victims

To encourage community support for child abuse and neglect programs

To coordinate community resources necessary to provide services to new and/or high-risk parents

To facilitate and encourage other community organizations in the development of community-based child abuse prevention programs



Council Membership

Alison Robbins

Community Member

Andrew Tran

EMS Coordinator,
Orange County Fire Authority

Barbara Kim

Assistant District Attorney,
Supervising Head Court,
Orange County District Attorney

Bertha Manzanares

Regional Manager,
Community Care Licensing Child
Care Program,
California Department of Social
Services

Christine Laehle

Coordinator,
Orange County Department of
Education

Chris Nommensen

President,
Camel Financial, Inc.

Daphne Wong, MD

Medical Director,
Child Protection Team,
Rady's Children's Health of OC

Eldon Baber

Executive Director,
The Raise Foundation

Gary Taylor Jr.

Manager, Program Implementation,
CalOptima Health

Jennifer Nicolalde

Senior Assistant Public Defender,
Orange County Public Defender's
Office

Jessica Johnson

Division Director,
Orange County Probation
Department Juvenile Court Services

Joe Baldo

Executive Director,
Higher Ground Youth and Family
Services

Katherine Ahlswede-Hamel

Chairwoman,
The Raise Foundation Board Member

Sara Marchese, MD

Medical Director,
County of Orange Social Services
Agency

Tamara Armentrout (Lil Trout)

Agency Liaison,
Bikers Against Child Abuse
Orange County Chapter

Tiffany Williams

Retired,
Orange County Sheriff-Coroner
Department

Blue Ribbon Committee

The Blue Ribbon Committee serves as a dedicated committee of the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC), leading the planning, coordination and implementation of Orange County's annual Child Abuse Prevention Month activities and public awareness efforts. Through collaborative planning and partnership, the committee coordinates countywide awareness campaigns, organizes the annual Kickoff Ceremony, supports community outreach and education initiatives and recognizes outstanding community leaders through annual awards.

Members:

Amy Frias

Rady's Children's Health of OC

Ana Palacios

Radiant Futures

Alicia Carranza

Orange County Health Care Agency: TUPP

Claudia Juarez

Families and Communities Together

Debanhi Mujica

Families and Communities Together

Eddy Fuentes

Radiant Futures

Estella Partida

Latino Health Access

Gary Taylor Jr.

CalOptima Health

Jamie Cargo

County of Orange Social Services Agency

Jennifer Nicolalde

Orange County Public Defender's Office

Janira Perez

MOMs OC

Karla Lima

Latino Health Access

Kristen Lewis

Orange County Fire Authority

Natalia Vazquez

Latino Health Access

Marhaly Ramirez

Latino Health Access

Nallely Enriquez

Latino Health Access

Sandra Estrada

Latino Health Access

Tamara Armentrout (Lil Trout)

Bikers Against Child Abuse,
Orange County Chapter

A Message from Council Member

"As significant policy changes will impact service delivery for families and children, particularly the shift from mandated reporting to community supporting, Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council (OC CAPC) continues to stand out as a regional leader in community engagement and prevention, as reflected in the meaningful outcomes and accomplishments achieved over the past year.

OC CAPC has built a uniquely strong foundation, given its more than three decades of experience— from leading multi-sector collaboratives, coordinating countywide awareness campaigns, hosting professional capacity-building opportunities, delivering integrated services through community hub sites and championing innovative strategies that advance well-being.

That history positions the Council exceptionally well to lead and steward future system transformation efforts focused on the holistic care of Orange County's children and youth through a prevention-based model. I am honored to serve on the Council alongside so many others who are deeply committed to preventing child maltreatment in Orange County."



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GTaylor', written on a white rectangular background.

Gary Taylor Jr.

**Manager, Program Implementation
CalOptima Health**

Public Awareness

By the Numbers

Educating. Empowering. Strengthening Communities.

We raised awareness, promoted prevention and built stronger, healthier families through outreach, education and community partnerships



4,831

PEOPLE REACHED

THROUGH
PRESENTATIONS &
COMMUNITY EVENTS



51,596

TOTAL DIGITAL REACH

EMAIL & SOCIAL
MEDIA IMPRESSIONS



28,350

EDUCATIONAL
MATERIALS
DISTRIBUTED



35

TOTAL COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

PRESENTATIONS, EVENTS &
NETWORKING MEETINGS



EDUCATIONAL
MATERIALS
DISTRIBUTED

28,350

Total Resources Shared

Top Materials Distributed



6,360

Blue Ribbon
Art Contest
Packets



4,264

Kickoff
Ceremony
Invitations



1,000

Awareness
Calendars



916

"What is" series
Resource Flyers



COMMUNITY
PRESENTATIONS
& TRAININGS



20

PRESENTATIONS &
TRAININGS



587

PARTICIPANTS

Topics Presented



Drowning Prevention



Child Abuse and Neglect



Impact of Fathers



Building Strong Families



8

OUTREACH
EVENTS



3,990

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
REACHED



7

NETWORKING
MEETINGS



254

PROFESSIONALS
REACHED



DIGITAL
ENGAGEMENT

Email Campaigns



10

CAMPAIGNS



21,333

REACH



4,411

OPENS

Top Performing Emails

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month **911** OPENS
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month **682** OPENS
- Trunk or Treat Community Event **594** OPENS

Social Media Impact



2,999

FOLLOWERS



80

POSTS



30,263

REACH



1,134

ENGAGEMENTS

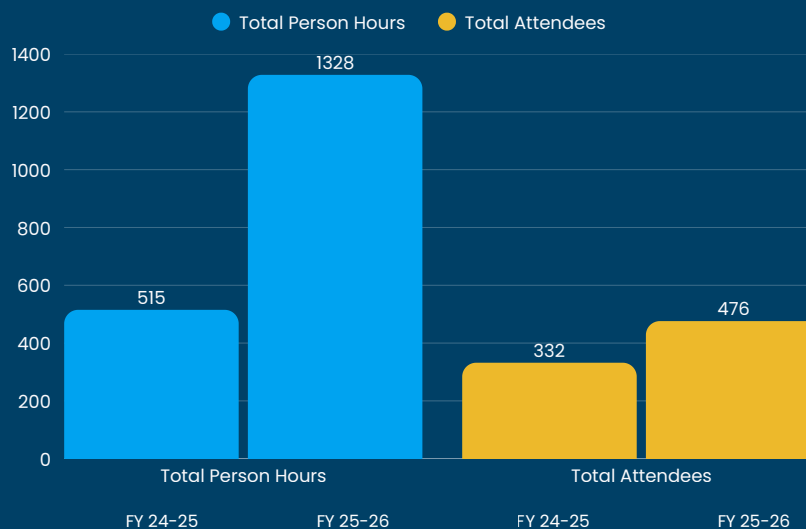
Top Performing Posts

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month **3,140** OPENS
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month **2,710** OPENS
- Trunk or Treat Community Event **1,557** OPENS
- Dove Release and Name Tribute **1,469** OPENS

Lunch and Learn Trainings

Highlight

Our monthly Lunch & Learn series continues to grow as we establish a consistent training opportunity for community partners and professionals. Now in its second year of meeting every Tuesday each month, the series has seen steady increases in both attendance and participant hours.



FY 2024-2025

Total Attendees: 332
Total Person Hours: 515

FY 2025-2026

Total Attendees: 476
Total Person Hours: 1,328
Hours (Trainings & Father Leadership Program)

*Person Hours: typically refers to time spent on education or skill improvement outside of paid working hours

Childhood Bruises: When are they Concerning for Abuse?

This presentation focused on recognizing and responding to signs of child abuse, with a special emphasis on distinguishing between typical childhood bruises and those that may signal abuse. Attendees learned how to spot suspicious bruising patterns, understand common injury patterns, and how to respond and report when necessary.

Person Hours Distributed: 97

Strategies for Grief and Loss

This training was designed for professionals supporting individuals through grief and loss. They gained compassionate, evidence-based strategies to support others and oneself through the complexities of bereavement.

Person Hours Distributed: 52

Know More, Do Better, For Family Resource Centers

Professionals learned what human trafficking, exploitation, abuse and child sexual grooming look like in Orange County and discovered resources for prevention, intervention and support. They learned how these issues affect children's mental health, why strong protective relationships matter and when to use tools and professional help to keep children safe online and offline.

Person Hours Distributed: 69

Bridging Gaps: How My Family ID Technology Supports Prevention, Protection and Connection

The workshop discussed how the My Family ID app helps families quickly share vital information to assist in locating missing children and wandering senior citizens with Alzheimer's.

Person Hours Distributed: 4

Overview of Harm Reduction

Provided a general overview of harm reduction and how it can be applied to a variety of high-risk behaviors and situations.

Person Hours Distributed: 22

Hidden in Plain Sight

A conversation between two mental health practitioners on how trained and experienced professionals can miss subtle indicators of sexual abuse in children. Participants gained enhanced skills in their ability to notice, document and act with care and confidence when working with children.

Person Hours Distributed: 31

Substance Use

A clinician-focused training that offered a comprehensive exploration of diagnosis, suicide risk assessment, treatment levels and modalities.

Person Hours Distributed: 15

Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

This presentation underscored the importance of online safety and protecting children in today's digital landscape.

Person Hours Distributed: 30

Strengthening Drowning Data

The session offered a thorough overview of the factors contributing to drowning incidents in California, highlighted available data sources for further analysis, and outlined future steps to strengthen data collection and support evidence-based prevention strategies.

Person Hours Distributed: 25

The Gang Trafficking Pathway: How Youth Get Pulled in and How We Can Intervene

The workshop examined how trauma, unmet needs, survival pressures, and exploitation can lead minors into gang involvement and highlighted how survival behaviors are often misunderstood and criminalized.

Person Hours Distributed: 90

Motivational Interviewing

This presentation educated service providers on the principles of motivational interviewing (MI) and strategies to implement MI, e.g when engaging community members around tobacco cessation and stress management.

Person Hours Distributed: 22

The Youth E-Bike Health and Safety Crisis

This presentation reviewed the rising youth e-bike injury trend, including common injury patterns, risk factors, and causes of crashes. It also highlighted evidence-based prevention strategies, safety education and counseling approaches to promote safer e-bike use.

Person Hours Distributed: 15

Father Leadership Program



Orange County Rescue Mission, Cohort 2

For the past three years, our Father Leadership Program has empowered fathers to take a more active and meaningful role in their children's lives. Through workshops, peer discussions, and skill-building activities, the program promotes healthy parent-child relationships, positive co-parenting practices, effective communication, and evidence-based approaches to fatherhood. Participants gain practical skills and tools to strengthen their connections with both their children and partners while building a supportive network of fellow fathers.

This year marked several important milestones for the program. In recognition of its impact and the leadership developed among participants, a former repeat participant was hired as a program facilitator, creating a powerful example of growth, mentorship, and community investment. The program was expanded with two additional sites, increasing access and extending our reach to more fathers and families throughout Orange County.

As the program continues to grow, we remain committed to supporting fathers as engaged, confident, and positive influences in their children's lives, helping to strengthen families and promote long-term well-being for future generations.

FY 2025–2026 Metrics:

Curriculum: *24:7 Dad and Nurturing Fathers*

Total Facilitators: 3

- Jose Sosa, Veronica Juarez, Nicolas Nieto

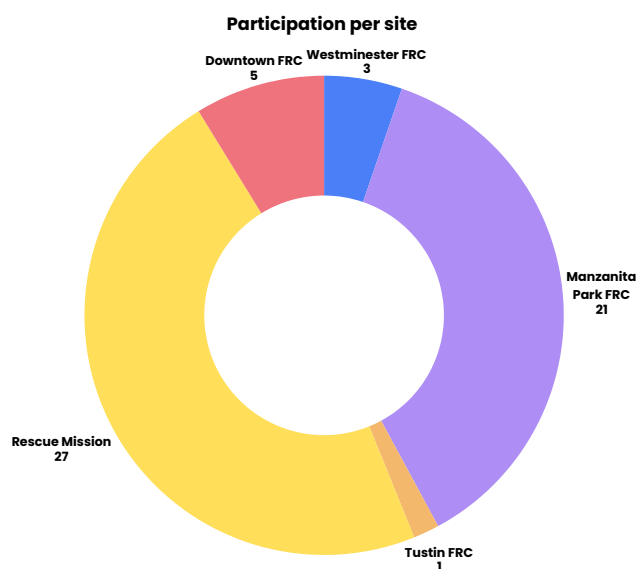
Total Attendees: 57 Fathers

Total Cohorts: 7

Total Sites: 5 (Westminster FRC, Manzanita Park FRC, Tustin FRC, Downtown FRC, Rescue Mission)

Total Person Hours: 856

Hear from a Father Leadership Program Participant: [Click to watch video](#)



Blue Ribbon Campaign

"Strong Families, Safe Futures"



Blue Ribbon Kickoff Ceremony

Centered around the 2026 Child Abuse Prevention Month theme, **"Strong Families, Safe Futures,"** the 32nd Annual Child Abuse Prevention Month Kickoff Ceremony was held on Thursday, April 2, at the Heritage Museum of Orange County. The event brought together community leaders, advocates and families in a shared commitment to protect children and strengthen families throughout Orange County. The ceremony highlighted the critical role that prevention, education and community collaboration play in building safer futures for children.

The ceremony welcomed six community partner organizations that provided valuable resources, information and support services to attendees, reinforcing the importance of a connected network of care for families. Featured speakers brought awareness to pressing issues impacting children and youth. **Loan English from County of Orange, Social Services Agency** spoke on child welfare and the importance of prevention-focused services that empower families and protect children. **Melanie Garcia from Orange County Soccer Club** shared the positive impact of youth sports programs in fostering confidence, mentorship, and healthy development for young people. **Julianna Arnold from Parents RISE!** delivered a powerful presentation on internet safety and bravely shared her family's devastating loss of her child to sex trafficking and fentanyl overdose, emphasizing the urgent need for awareness, education and community action.

The ceremony concluded with a heartfelt child tribute and dove release honoring the four Orange County children who lost their lives due to abuse or neglect this past year. This moving tribute served as both a remembrance and a call to action, inspiring attendees to continue working together to create strong families and safe futures for all children.



Melanie Garcia



Loan English



Julianna Arnold

Child Tribute and Dove Release



This year we are honoring 4
children who passed away due to
abuse or neglect

Yogesh, 11 years old
Haley, 3 years old
Alejandra, 2 years old
Daphne, 5 days old

As part of the ceremony, two outstanding community leaders were recognized for their dedication and impact in advancing child abuse prevention efforts. The Blue Ribbon Award and the Shining Light Award were presented to honor individuals whose leadership, advocacy and service have made a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families across Orange County.



Shining Light Award Winner

"Pat and Ernie Casarez embodied the spirit of 'Strong Families, Safe Futures' through their lifelong dedication to protecting children and strengthening families. On March 1, 2026, Pat passed away after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer, facing her illness with the same compassion and strength that defined her life's work. Ernie continues to honor her legacy through advocacy, training and community partnerships. Together, they leave a lasting legacy of service and hope, inspiring safer communities and brighter futures for children and families."

Nominated by: Scott Burdick, Deputy Director – County of Orange Social Services Agency



Blue Ribbon Award Winner

"Sr. DDA Cope-Vega is the epitome of what we as a community want in our prosecutors. She is wholly devoted to her cases, her victims and the community. She spends countless hours not only on the legal aspects of her cases, but on building the strength of the community that fights to combat child abuse. This devotion is shown in all she does and she does it so well. Sr. DDA Cope-Vega's dedicated work ethic and acknowledgement of the entire child abuse community have resulted in a remarkable turn-around in the way child abuse prosecutions are handled here in Orange County."

Nominated by: Barbara Kim, Assistant District Attorney, Orange County District Attorney

Blue Ribbon Art Contest

Theme: Rooted in Kindness



1st Place Winner Elementary School

Celine E., 10 years old



1st Place Winner Middle School

Andrea S., 13 years old



1st Place Winner High School

Alina T., 17 years old



The Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Council and the OC Blue Ribbon Committee proudly hosted the Annual Blue Ribbon Art Contest, empowering youth ages 6–18 to become advocates for child abuse prevention through creativity and self-expression. This countywide initiative engaged schools, after-school programs and community organizations in meaningful conversations about building safe, supportive and compassionate communities for children and families.



Centered around the 2026 theme, “Rooted in Kindness,” the contest provided young artists with a platform to share messages of hope, resilience and prevention through their artwork. Selected pieces were showcased throughout the Blue Ribbon Month campaign and featured in promotional and outreach materials, helping amplify awareness efforts across Orange County and elevating youth voices as part of the prevention movement.



Through this initiative, the Council continued its commitment to prevention-focused education and community engagement by fostering creativity, strengthening awareness and inspiring collective action to protect children and support families. Winning artists were recognized for their contributions through prizes, community recognition and a special celebration honoring their impact.

Social Media and Outreach During Child Abuse Prevention Month (March–April)

Overall Social Media Engagement

Total Posts: **15**
Reach: **9,127**
Engagement: **426**

3 Email Campaigns

Our email campaigns reached **6,270** individuals and included a kickoff ceremony invitation and a Blue Ribbon Art Contest reminder.

Public Awareness Materials Distributed

Total: **5,129** printed materials
Copies included “What Is” series flyers, awareness calendars and Blue Ribbon community kit supplies.

60 Community Awareness Kits

Community kits were given out to organizations throughout Orange County. Each kit included Blue Ribbon Month supplies, pinwheels and public awareness materials.

3 Trainings

Topics include: Youth gang involvement, online sexual exploitation of children and drowning prevention.

3 Presentations

Topics included Blue Ribbon month overview, child abuse and mandated reporting overview and 5 protective factors.

2 Outreach Events

Total Attendees: **586**
For March and April 2026 events

Day of the Child Community Resource Fair

The Raise Foundation's 3rd annual Day of the Child Resource Fair brought together families, community partners and advocates for a day dedicated to strengthening families and promoting child well-being. In collaboration with Higher Ground Youth & Family Services and Bikers Against Child Abuse - OC Chapter, the event featured **55 community vendors** providing valuable resources, services and family-friendly activities.

As part of our commitment to supporting families, Raise Foundation staff and volunteers distributed family resource calendars, diapers and water safety materials to attendees. These resources helped connect families to local services, address basic needs and increase awareness of water safety practices to help keep children safe.

More than a community gathering, Day of the Child served as an opportunity to connect families with critical support systems, increase awareness of available services and celebrate the importance of creating safe, nurturing environments where children can thrive. The event reflected the collective commitment of our partners and community to supporting children, strengthening families and advancing child abuse prevention efforts throughout Orange County.

Relive Day of the Child: [Click Here](#) to watch highlights from this year's Day of the Child Community Resource Fair, where **565 individuals** came together under the theme "Strong Families, Safe Futures".



Community Partnerships

The Raise Foundation maintains 12 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with these family-strengthening agencies:

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

American Academy of Pediatrics

Academy dedicates itself to the health of all children by offering professional resources, education, advocacy and policy development



Bikers Against Child Abuse – OC Chapter

Social Biker Club dedicates itself to creating safe environments for children through advocacy, support and community collaboration



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER
ANAHEIM-CYPRESS

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Anaheim-Cypress

Dedicates itself to all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens



The Cambodian Family

Promotes social health by providing refugee and immigrant families the opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and desires for creating health and well-being in their lives



Families Forward

To prevent and end family homelessness by providing access to housing and resources that create lasting stability



Higher Ground OC Youth and Family Services

Expands purpose, possibilities and hope for at-risk families and youth through mentorship



Jamboree Housing Corporation

Affordable and quality housing developer that includes family strengthening programs onsite at all affiliated properties



Latino Health Access

Partners with communities to bring health, equity and sustainable change through education, services, consciousness-raising and civic participation



Olive Crest

Transforms the lives of at-risk children through the healing power of family; uses proven models to help end child abuse and neglect, stop the cycle of child abuse, and enable children and families to become healthy and productive citizens



Orange County Children's Therapeutic Arts Center

Provides innovative, artistic, educational and therapeutic programs that inspire and transform children, at-risk youth and their families to fulfill their highest potential



Radiant Futures

Builds a safer community by providing crisis support services for all survivors, and education to prevent domestic violence and trafficking



San Clemente Domestic Violence Task Force

Identifies the needs of victims, educates the community, monitors domestic violence legislation, supports local domestic violence agencies and provides healthy activities to keep our community safe

Council Recommendations

Whereas Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council and collaborative partners work together to serve children and families, prevent child maltreatment, and create strong families and safe futures for children, the Council respectfully submits the following recommendations to support Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting:

01 Education

Strengthen educator preparation by expanding mandatory child abuse prevention and mandated reporter education for teachers and school personnel, ensuring they have the knowledge and confidence to identify concerns early and connect families with appropriate resources.

02 Funding

Increase funding for Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and other community-based prevention services so more families can access early intervention, parent education, case management, emergency assistance, and other supports before challenges escalate into crises.

03 Support

Expand family support services by investing in programs that reduce stressors, strengthen protective factors, and connect parents and caregivers to practical resources that promote safe, stable, and nurturing environments for children.

04 Trainings

Mandated Reporting trainings remain free and accessible to educators, child-serving professionals, nonprofit staff, volunteers, and community members, reducing barriers to participation and fostering a well-informed network of individuals committed to protecting children.

CAPC Annual Report

Help Us Grow

Donate:

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us provide essential resources and services to families in Orange County.

Volunteer:

Join us in our outreach efforts and events. Your time and dedication can help us reach more families and raise awareness within your community about child abuse prevention.

Keep in Touch!

Social Media:

www.instagram.com/theraisefoundation

www.facebook.com/theraisefoundation

www.linkedin.com/company/the-raise-foundation/

www.x.com/raisefoundation

www.youtube.com/@theraisefoundationoc

Phone :

(714) 884-3421

Website :

www.theraisefoundation.org

Address :

180 E Main St., Ste. 101
Tustin, CA 92780

Email address :

info@theraisefoundation.org

Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Council | Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

