

20
YEARS
STRONG



the **village**
family services

fostering hope, transforming lives, securing futures



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“WE ARE STRONGLY
COMMITTED TO HELPING
PEOPLE WHO ARE
UNDERSERVED IN THE
SOCIAL-SERVICE SYSTEMS.”

HUGO C. VILLA, CEO

“FOR US, THIS
IS A WORK OF LOVE.”

IRMA SEILICOVICH, COO

*The African proverb,
“It takes a village to raise a child,”
inspired our name.*

TWENTY YEARS STRONG



This is a special time for The Village Family Services as we look back and celebrate two decades of success helping vulnerable children, youth and families in our community.

It's been an extraordinary journey and we are grateful to pause for a moment to celebrate all that has been accomplished, and to consider all that remains to be done.

The Village was established to meet an urgent need. As social workers in 1990s Los Angeles, we were seeing a critical shortage of bilingual, bicultural social services for Latinx children and families, particularly in the region's San Fernando Valley.

We founded The Village to fill the gap in services for the Valley's most vulnerable and underserved residents. Through the years, we've advanced and expanded our operations to include a full spectrum of trauma-informed programs and services, including vital support for homeless youth and those who identify as LGBTQ.

Today, we are a leader in the field, welcoming clients at three separate locations that offer a total of 25,000 square feet of program space. On the following pages, you'll learn more about us, and will meet several clients who, with help from The Village, have acquired the knowledge and skills they need to reclaim their lives and thrive.

We know that our work has been made possible by the incredible generosity and support of our board, donors, community partners and amazing dedicated staff.

Thank you, and here's to the next 20 years!

With hope and inspiration,

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a series of connected strokes.

Hugo C. Villa, LMFT
Chief Executive Officer

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a large, flowing 'I' and 'S' followed by several connected strokes.

Irma Seilicovich, LMFT
Chief Operating Officer

Fostering hope. Transforming lives. Securing futures.

We are committed to serving Los Angeles County's most under-resourced and overlooked communities.

The work isn't easy, but the rewards are great. A smiling child. A high school graduate. A family welcoming a new child.

Every day, The Village provides a full spectrum of trauma-informed programs to help struggling children, youth, and families live happier, more fulfilling lives.

We're leading the way in helping youth who are aging out of foster care, who identify as LGBTQ, or who have special needs.





OUR CORE SERVICES

COMPASSIONATE, TRAUMA-INFORMED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

A majority of our clients have experienced a good deal of trauma before they enter our doors.

Abuse, neglect, extreme poverty, homelessness, and co-occurring health problems such as poor nutrition and chronic illness all necessitate treatments that are specifically tailored to each person's needs.

From prevention to intensive therapy and support, our full spectrum of behavioral health services for children, youth and adults are informed by solid evidence and best practices.

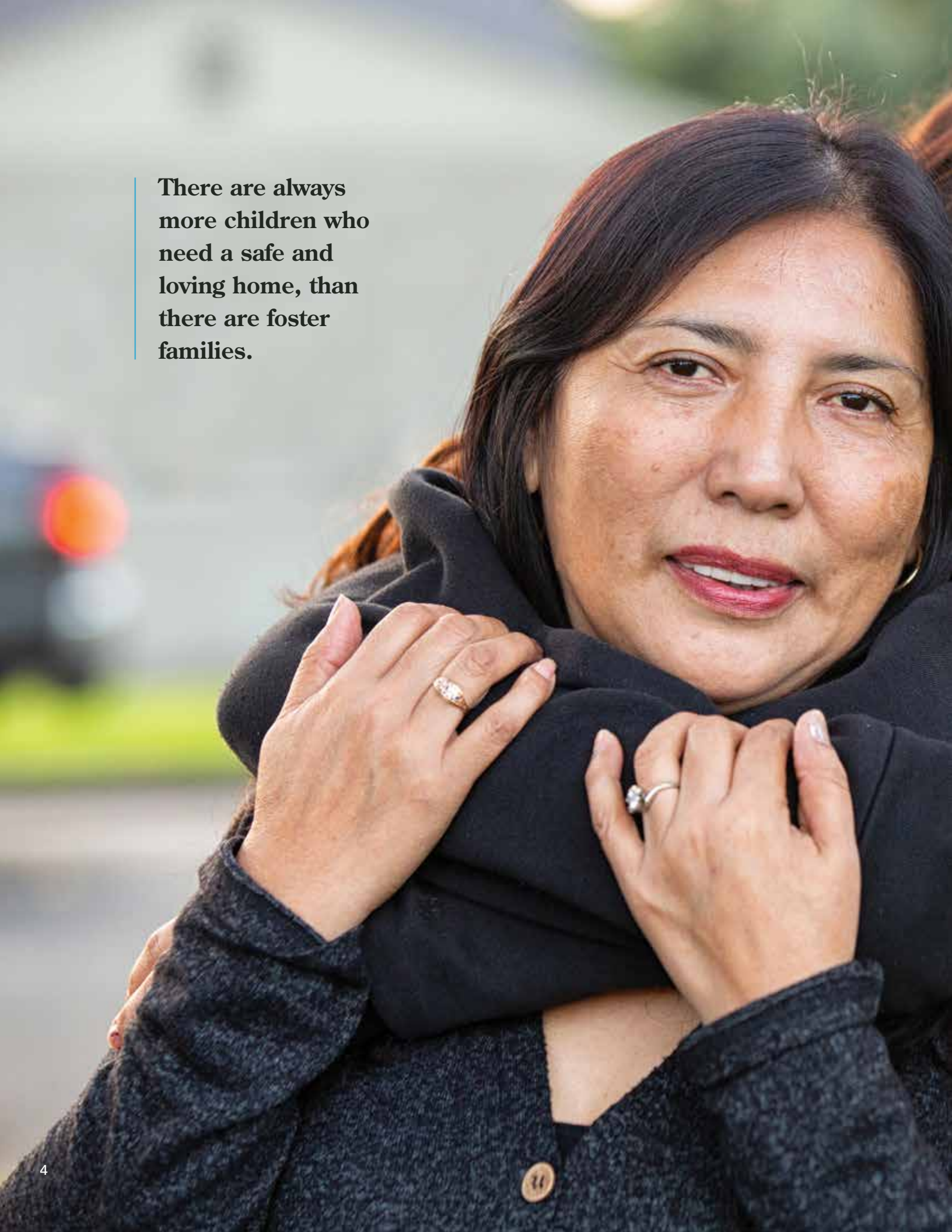
The heart of our agency is our highly trained multilingual, multicultural professional staff. Each brings a strength-based perspective to their work, focusing on clients' abilities, talents and resources as the starting place for life-changing healing and growth.

EVERY PERSON COUNTS:

More than

6,640 adults, youth
and children have received
free behavioral health services
and support from The Village.

**There are always
more children who
need a safe and
loving home, than
there are foster
families.**





OUR CORE SERVICES

BILINGUAL FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION SUPPORT

We were borne out of the need for more bicultural services, and we continue to possess an unwavering commitment to filling that need.

The Village has long been the leader in providing culturally sensitive foster care and adoption services to adults who want to make a positive difference in a child's life.

We recruit and prepare prospective parents to give children a safe, supportive environment, temporarily through foster care or permanently through adoption.

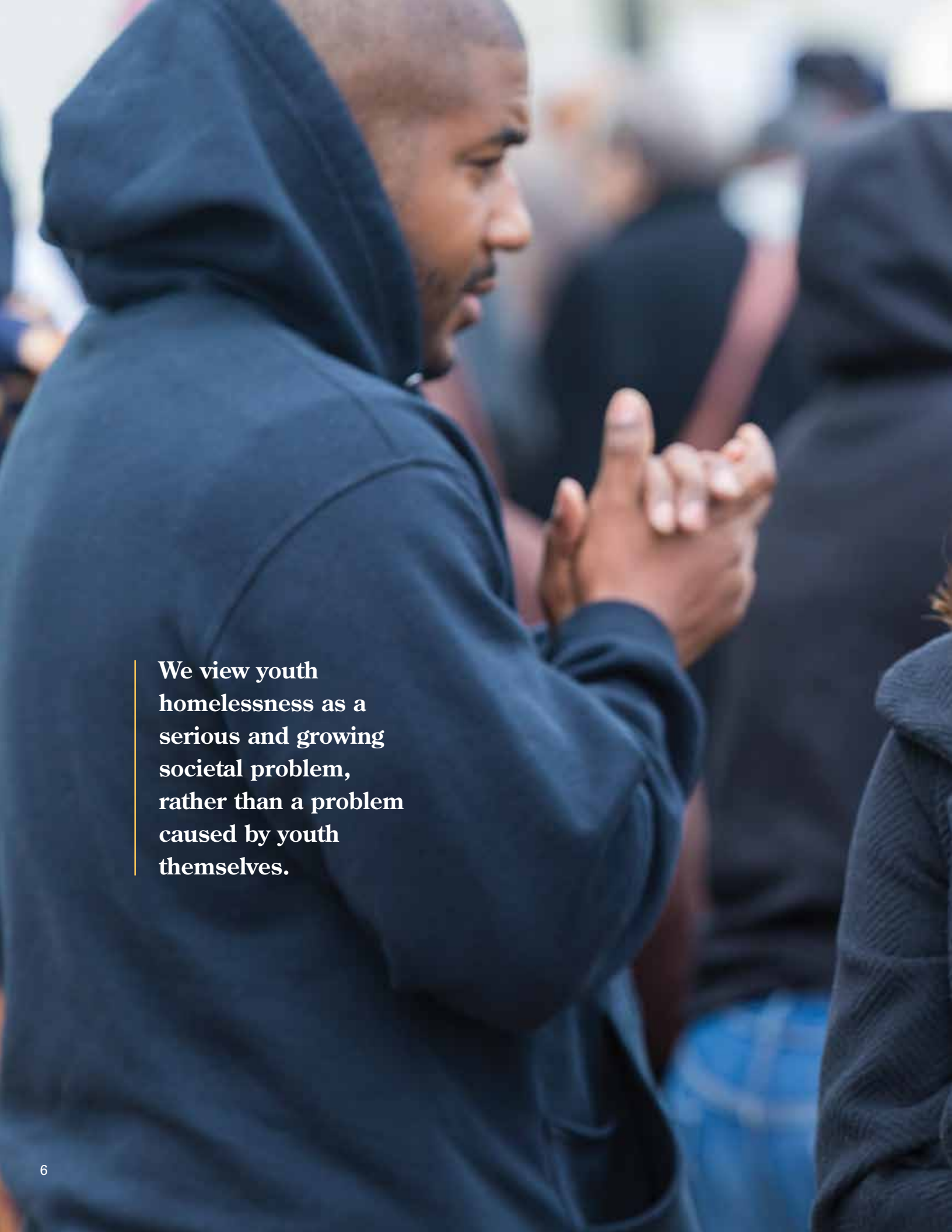
From navigating the application process to helping a child settle in comfortably, our staff works closely with foster families, providing essential, ongoing support and guidance.

EVERY PERSON COUNTS:

More than

6,130 individuals

have received supportive services through our foster care and adoption programs.

A young man with a beard, wearing a dark blue hoodie, is shown in profile, looking down. His hands are clasped together in front of him. He is standing in a crowd of people, with other individuals visible in the background, though they are out of focus. The lighting is natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

We view youth homelessness as a serious and growing societal problem, rather than a problem caused by youth themselves.



OUR CORE SERVICES

ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Youth homelessness is growing at an alarming rate.

We've seen first-hand the sharp uptick in the number of young people who have no home and no support system.

LGBTQ youth and those who are aging out of the foster care system are especially vulnerable. Of the youth who visit our Drop-In Center, 44 percent are from the foster-care system; the rest receive minimal family support.

It is essential to recognize that the needs of homeless youth are different from the needs of homeless adults. Their issues are complex, and most have experienced trauma.

Our Community Model takes trauma-informed care for homeless youth to the next level. It is designed to help young people achieve four important outcomes: stable housing, permanent connections, education and employment, and social and emotional well-being.

Ending youth homelessness is not optional. It is essential if we are to have a healthy, thriving community. And it will take all of us working together to solve it.

EVERY PERSON COUNTS:

More than

8,960 youth have been served at our Drop-In Center.

Service encounters:

- **23,582** Meals
- **16,161** Cases Managed
- **11,072** Showers
- **10,717** Survival Kits Distributed
- **7,006** Loads of Laundry
- **6,617** Clothing Distributed
- **6,609** Employment Assistance



“Everyone at The Village is committed to doing whatever it takes to bring about the best possible outcomes.”

Gina Murdock, a clinical supervisor with The Village for the last five years, was recently appointed to the position of Director of Adult Outpatient Services.

Under the new Full-Service Partnership (FSP) program, adults with severe mental health issues can receive intensive case management and therapy that may include psychiatric services and medication support delivered through a trauma-informed lens. In her new role, Gina provides clinical supervision to program therapists, FSP and intensive care coordinators and client advocates.

Adults are more challenging to treat than children, Gina observes, and progress is measured in small increments. “Treating children usually involves the family, the school and other professionals, all working together for the child” she says. “But our adult clients are often dealing with many tough issues all on their own.”

Every day brings new opportunities for Gina to help the therapy teams plan and problem-solve. “Some clients have had negative experiences with past therapy,” she says. “That’s an opportunity for us to turn that negative impression into a positive one.”

Gina attributes the success of The Village’s behavioral health programs to its staff. “Everyone at The Village is committed to doing whatever it takes to bring about the best possible outcomes,” she says. “Their dedication is amazing.”



Integrated Behavioral Health

**“THEIR
DEDICATION
IS AMAZING”**

GINA MURDOCK
Director of Adult Outpatient Services

A photograph of a man and a woman standing outdoors in front of a large tree. The man, on the left, is wearing a black jacket and has his hand in his pocket. The woman, on the right, is wearing a dark cardigan and is smiling. The background is a blurred natural setting with trees.

Foster Care and Adoption

**"THE
REWARDS
ARE BEYOND
WORDS"**

ARACELI MOLINA *and* MARIO RIVERA



“We have seen so many lives change for the better.”

Araceli Molina and Mario Rivera are the biological parents of three adults — and have been the foster parents of more than 500 children and youth.

Currently fostering five children, the Molina-Riveras have been active in The Village’s Foster Care and Adoption Program since the agency’s inception. Through the years, The Village has provided training and ongoing assistance that has helped the Molina-Riveras give hundreds of young people a safe, loving home.

“When we first began with The Village, I was at peace because of the support we received,” Araceli says. “From the case manager to the social worker, they helped us set up reasonable expectations and a strong foundation. They helped each new child transition seamlessly into our home and build strong relationships with my husband and me.”

Being a good foster parent requires dedication and patience. “Attending an information session and asking questions is the first step,” says Araceli. “Then you must ask yourself if you are ready to commit to this work.”

The Molina-Riveras’ own commitment to fostering has given a generation of children and youth in difficult circumstances a stable, nurturing, loving home.

“We have seen so many lives change for the better,” says Araceli. “Every story is heartbreaking, but we have seen children heal, overcome and build a healthier life. The rewards of this work are beyond words.”



Gayle Alvarez’s childhood was marked by instability. Her parents separated when she was little, and she bounced back and forth, living first with one parent, then the other. When her mother became ill and required full-time assistance, Gayle dropped out of high school to care for her.

When her mother’s health deteriorated further, Gayle had to move again. A series of unsatisfactory living situations followed. By the time she turned 18, she was living out of her car. Then her car was towed, and she didn’t have the resources to retrieve it.

Despite overwhelming odds, Gayle was determined to continue her education. By this time, she had graduated from a charter high school and was studying to be a medical assistant.

“Since coming to The Village, I had dreamed of working there,” Gayle says.

“So I got my résumé together and literally begged for a job.”

It happened that The Village was in the process of creating an employment referral program. Gayle became one of its first employment specialists, attending job fairs and recruiting community partners for The Village’s Drop-In Center.

Now 23, Gayle credits The Village for their support, and her own determination to make a better life for herself. “Nothing in life is free,” she says. “You have to want to make it. But The Village put their faith in me.”

And that has made a life-changing difference.



Ending Youth Homelessness

**“THE VILLAGE
PUT THEIR
FAITH IN ME”**

GAYLE ALVAREZ, *former client and
The Village Family Services Employment Specialist*

MILESTONES



Our initial logo



1997 | The journey begins!

The Village Family Services is officially established by two Southern California therapists, Hugo C. Villa, LMFT, and Irma Seilicovich, LMFT. They continue to lead the agency today as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer, respectively.

1999 | Our first county partnership.

Contract with the Los Angeles County Probation Department enables us to provide domestic-violence prevention services.

2004 | New county partnerships fuel our growth.

- First contract signed to provide foster care services with the Los Angeles County Department of Child & Family Services (DCFS).
- First foster child placed with a loving foster family.
- First Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) contract to provide counseling and therapeutic services.

2006 | Broadening our strength-based services.

We entered into our first Wraparound contract to help children, youth and their families.

2010 | Deepening our specialized services.

- Project Q is launched, providing supportive services to LGBTQ youth.
- An Intensive Services Foster Care and Multidisciplinary Assessment Team were added to reach emotionally and behaviorally challenged, as well as developmentally and/or medically fragile children.



2013 | A major step towards ending youth homelessness. Our Drop-In Center for homeless and at-risk youth opens in SPA 2.

2015 | Recognized for our experience.

- Our street outreach team is launched to connect with homeless youth.
- Received prestigious three-year accreditation from the International Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for its Adoptions, Foster Care, Mental Health, Wraparound and Drop-In Center for Homeless Youth services.

2016 | County taps our homeless youth expertise.

The Village becomes SPA 2's Lead Youth Coordinated Entry System (YCES), a decentralized, "no-wrong-door" approach to serving homeless youth by connecting them to organizations providing shelter, housing and services, in a fair, systematic and efficient manner.



2018 | Filling an essential gap. Our 38-bed residential facility for homeless youth opens in Burbank.

2019 | Evolving to meet community needs.

- Awarded our first Adult Full-Service Partnership contract.
- Expanded foster care services to medically fragile children via new contract.

2012 | Strategic expansion and LGBTQ recognition.

- Grand opening of our satellite office and full-service, bilingual Family Wellness Center in Huntington Park, located in Los Angeles County Service Planning Area (SPA) 7.
- Awarded Department of Mental Health contract to deliver LGBTQ youth technical assistance training.
- Earned the Human Rights Campaign's "All Children-All Families" seal of recognition for outstanding competency in serving LGBTQ youth.

WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS ALONE.



A special thanks to the Honorable Zev Yaroslavy, Los Angeles County Supervisor Retired. His early recognition of our community's needs, and the trust he placed in us, helped to make our Drop-In Center for homeless youth a reality. Thank you, Zev!

The Village's growth and impact reflects what can be accomplished when the public and private sector join forces to solve problems and serve communities.

We are forever grateful to the partners we have had the opportunity to work with over the past 20 years, which includes:

PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERS

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Los Angeles County Probation Department
Los Angeles Unified School District
The National Child Traumatic Stress Network

HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS

Brandman University
College of the Canyons
CSUN College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Los Angeles Valley College
UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

PHILANTHROPY PARTNERS

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The Ahmanson Foundation
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Hollywood Charity Horse Show
John W. Carson Foundation
S. Mark Taper Foundation
California Community Foundation
United Way of Greater Los Angeles

PROVIDER PARTNERS

Baby2Baby
CRI-Help
Hathaway-Sycamores
Hope of the Valley
LA Family Housing
Jewish Vocational Services
Northeast Valley Health Corporation
Phoenix House
RaiseAChild
Shelter Partnership's S. Mark Taper Foundation Shelter Resource Bank
Tarzana Treatment Center
Valley Community Healthcare

WE'RE EMBRACING THE FUTURE.

Now, more than ever, our communities are faced with unprecedented challenges. At the same time, we are united and empowered by the possibilities that lie before us.

The Village is committed to capturing these possibilities and raising the bar on our success. Together with our board, partners, and staff, we are moving forward to develop a bold new strategic plan that will guide us successfully into our next 20 years.

We look forward to including you in our journey!





thevillagefs.org

HEADQUARTERS

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email: Contact@TheVillageFS.org

**DROP-IN CENTER
FOR HOMELESS YOUTH**

6801 Coldwater Canyon Avenue
North Hollywood, CA 91605

FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER

6728 Seville Avenue
Huntington Park, CA 90255



A PARTNER IN

NCTSN

The National Child
Traumatic Stress Network