

Annual Report 2018





# MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER & PRESIDENT



All of us at Forgiving For Living are grateful for another amazing year. Our wonderful sponsors, supporters and volunteers are the reason we're able to keep working with and supporting at-risk girls from across South Los Angeles and the Inland Empire. The Forgiving For Living Ambassador Program continues to make a difference in the lives of the girls we serve through mentorship, workshops and by providing some with scholarships to advance their education. Throughout the year we held classes using our curriculum, teaching each of them life skills and other tangible skills that can make a positive impact on helping them make positive choices for their future.

During 2018 we saw in the news more about the #MeToo Movement, #BlackLivesMatter, and #GirlsRising just to name a few. Almost weekly we were hearing more about men being accused of sexual harassment towards women, especially in the workplace, and women were standing up for themselves. We believe that there are positive role models of men that respect and love women and despite all the negativity in the world today we want to thank the men that have stood up to be the difference. We thank you for your voice and for helping to right some of the wrongs in society. Our girls need you. The world needs your voice too. It is important for us to make sure girls grow up with proper values of understanding their worth and ability. We need to make sure they are given opportunities to compete and achieve their position in society equally.

We held our 11th Annual PLUS Awards at the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills where we honored and highlighted the work of individuals in the community that impact others in a positive way, especially girls and women. Honorees included Clifton & Stella Albright receiving the President's Award and Barbara Perkins, Jennifer Newmark, Dr. Louise Stanger, Donald Kincey and Erika Guinn were each Community Advocate Honorees. Their work and voices stand strong throughout Southern California and beyond by helping to improve the lives of not only youth but the community at large.

During the last quarter of the year we held our annual "Healthy, Wealthy & Wise Conference" at the Boys & Girls Club of Watts/Willowbrook. Over 100 girls came together from across Los Angeles County and were given hands-on instruction by leaders from various fields on how to make healthy, wealthy (financial) and wise decisions for their lives. They were given tools to help them now as well as way into the future. We are grateful for all of the teachers, speakers and volunteers that came out to help make the day a success.

At the end of the day, we could not do what we do without the support of our generous supporters, sponsors and donors. Thank you goes out to Comerica Bank, U.S. Bank, CiT/OneWest Bank, SoCalGas, Torrey Pines Bank, NYX, ABC7, Thrivent Financial, Sydney D. Holland Foundation, Dr. Lauren Walton, Joyce Washington, Dr. Michael Flores, Los Angeles Sentinel, Marqueta Oliver, Disney Voluntears and everyone who donated time and resources. We thank you!

We are looking forward to 2019 being another amazing year. We will continue to break down the walls that hinder our girls from becoming their best selves and we hope that you will stay with us and build lives together.

Sincerely,

Wendy



## **About Us**

### **Message to Supporters and Friends**

Forgiving For Living, Inc. (FFL) was founded in 1999 with the mission to help at-risk girls between the ages of 13-18 overcome behavioral and mental health issues in addition to low self-esteem due to depression, abuse and/or abandonment. We help provide the necessary tools to live a healthy life through our Ambassador Program, workshops, and annual Conference, which offers mentoring and life skills. To date, we've touched the lives of over 3,000 girls.

### **Forgiving For Living Programs**

- ► Ambassador Mentoring Program
- ► Workshops & Annual Conference
- ► Annual PLUS Awards

Forgiving For Living, Inc. was incorporated in 1999 by Wendy Gladney to help women and girls who suffer from abuse, abandonment and low self-esteem. Coming from a childhood filled with sexual abuse by her father and abandonment by her birth mother, Wendy decided that she wanted to dedicate part of her life to helping others learn how to forgive so they could heal and move forward to enjoy a full and productive life.

Through the years Wendy has also experienced divorce, cancer, single parenting and building a business while taking care of her two children. Wendy viewed life's challenges as stepping stones instead of stumbling blocks to help teach others how they too can overcome and be successful. Out of the ashes she developed ten steps that have been a cornerstone in the "Healing Without Hate: How To Forgive To Live" process.







### **Board of Directors**

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

Wendy Gladney

**BOARD CHAIR** 

Sarah R. Harris President/Publisher, SuiteEvents

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### **Advisory Council**

Charisse Bremond-Weaver President & CEO, Brotherhood Crusade

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Karen E. Hudson Director, Paul R. Williams Architectural Collection

Ms. Shabazz Author and Speaker

Michèle G. Turner, Ph.D. Executive Director, USC Black Alumni Association

### **Community Partners**







Forgiving for Living selects girls, ages 13-18, to participate in the FFL Ambassador Program. As an FFL Ambassador, the young ladies are mentored in the areas of Forgiveness, Life Skills, Community Involvement, Social Etiquette, and Educational Responsibility.

The FFL Ambassador Program provides each young lady a one-on-one relationship with a successful professional woman for the period of 1 year. During this time the Ambassador will receive an enriched, hands-on relationship with their mentor to provide potentially positive life-changing experiences for both parties.

Ambassadors are mentored individually and conduct community outreach in the greater Los Angeles area and Inland Empire.

All FFLAP mentors are required to administer one-onone mentoring, attend FFLAP Kick-Off and a monthly workshop, take mentee to observe mentor work environment, and participate in our annual PLUS Awards.

"You took the time to talk to us about things our parents never did." - Asia



### **PROGRAMS**

### **Watts Willowbrook**

(Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Los Angeles)

Forgiving For Living, Inc. provides an approved ongoing curriculum to young ladies in both the Los Angeles & San Bernardino Counties. The curriculum focuses on helping restore and build up the self-esteem of at risk girls who may have a difficult time believing in themselves. We also believe it is important to provide them with mentoring and life skills that will carry them beyond high school and college. These skills include financial literacy, as well as exposing them to resources and opportunities to increase their success in life. Upon completing the necessary steps and requirements the young ladies can qualify and apply for an academic scholarship.

"Forgiving for Living is a reminder that I'm free to be me.
And to be kind to myself and to others." - Victoria





"You taught us about *life*.

This program was very *empowering*.

It gave me *confidence*."

- Destiny

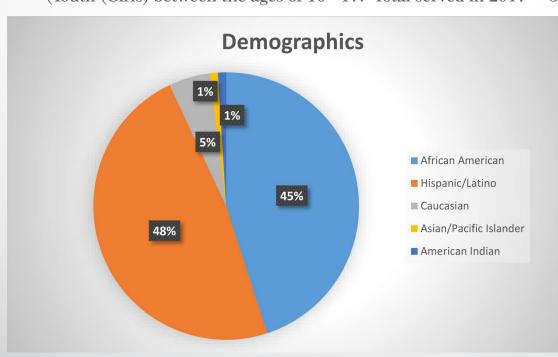
Words the girls picked that remind them of FFL:

Love
Warrior
Hope
Believe
Trust



## **Programs by the Numbers**

(Youth (Girls) between the ages of 10 - 17. Total served in 2017 = 310 Young Ladies)







#### **Community Awards**

#### Erika Guinn

Global Director, Education & Training, NYX Cosmetics

#### **Donald Kincey**

SVP, CA Community Affairs & Corp. Comm., Comerica Bank

#### Jennifer Newmark

Catering Manager, Four Seasons Los Angeles at Beverly Hills

INFO: (951) 313-4732

Barbara Perkins Life Coach, Author & Spiritual Practitioner

#### Dr. Louise Stanger, Ed.D, LCSWCIP

Author, Educator, Speaker & Interventionist

#### **Mistress of Ceremonies**

#### Veronica Miracle

General Assignment Reporter, ABC7 Eyewitness News

The PLUS Awards, an annual fundraiser that benefits Forgiving For Living, Inc., links together gatekeepers in the political, corporate and community arenas and advocates to recognize their achievements and efforts in making a difference in the lives of others.

















WELCOME

## 7th Annual Healthy, Wealthy & Wise Conference

Saturday, October 6, 2018 Watts Willowbrook Boys & Girls Club

#### **PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

**Keynote Speaker** 

**Dr. Meghan Nicole Brewer** 

College and Career Counselor & Owner, Destiny College and Career Advising

#### **WORKSHOP SPEAKERS**

#### Paula Bond

Facilitator of Future Success, Know Better To Do Better

Christina D. Ford

Actress & Founder, Fit 4 LYFE

#### Erika Guinn

Global Director Education & Training, NYX Cosmetics

#### **Myara Langley**

Retail Personal Banker. Comerica Bank

### Janet Ifekwunigwe

Sales Executive, AT&T

#### **Kerry Neal**

Founder & CEO, Urban Birds & Bees

Dr. Lauren Walton

Addiction Psychiatrist

#### Gloria Zamora

Retail Personal Banker, Comerica Bank



The Healthy, Wealthy, & Wise Conference is an annual event designed to provide information and awareness in the areas of developing and leading healthy lifestyles, fitness & nutrition, financial literacy, college preparedness, self-esteem, and goal setting. Working professionals donate their time by providing valuable tools and knowledge in their areas of expertise in our workshops. These tools and information are provided to assist the youth with making wise choices in life.

SuiteEvents 🎬



















# Financial Review

## **REVENUE**

| Corporate Grants      | \$28,000 |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Donations/Fundraising | \$54,118 |
| Board Support         | \$4,690  |
| Total 2017 Revenue:   | \$86,808 |

## **OVERVIEW**

| Beginning Balance              | \$38,785  |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Total Revenue Raised in 2018   | \$86,808  |
| Total 2018 Expenses            | \$108,542 |
| <b>Ending Checking Balance</b> | \$17,051  |
| Balance in Savings             | \$18,121  |
| Grand Total:                   | \$35,172  |











## 2018 Sponsors

& Supporters (In-Kind Donations)































For more information about our programs, visit us online at: www.forgivingforliving.org

@4giving4living

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