



a 501 (c) 3, non-profit organization

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Since 1999

## MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

Forgiving For Living has been officially in service since 1999. Over the past seventeen years we've had the pleasure of working with at risk and underserved young ladies from Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Looking back over the past year, 2016 was a year of many changes. We had to say goodbye to two of our Ambassador Programs with which we had the pleasure of serving for many years. One of these programs was with the young ladies at Jordan Downs Housing Community in Watts. Due to some adjustments and transition at the property, our partnership has come to an end. Jordan Downs was our longest ongoing Ambassador Program site and it was tough for us to leave, but we left with many fond memories of the girls and our times shared with them. The second program that recently came to an end was our Ambassador Program at the Center for Learning & Unlimited Education Success School, also known as C.L.U.E.S., located in San Bernardino. Our season with them came to an end with new changes in their administration. Although our season at these two sites has to come to an end, we are grateful for the seeds we were able to plant and hopefully will continue to grow in the lives of the girls we served.

It is said that when one door closes, another window may open. This was true for us at FFL in the 2016 calendar year as we began working with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Carson, working directly with young ladies attending Markham Middle School in Watts. Longtime supporter and Assistant Program Director, Marqueta Oliver, began working with the Ambassador Program helping to facilitate the Program onsite weekly at Markham. Marqueta's involvement also included her assistance with the annual "Healthy, Wealthy & Wise" Conference held in the Fall. We are excited about our new partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Carson, and to be working with the young ladies at Markham, and we look forward to seeing where this path will lead.

2016 also brought us our largest annual PLUS Awards to date! Our honorees included: Salvador Mendoza, Senior Vice President, Community Reinvestment for City National Bank receiving the President's Award; Cynthia Heard, Vice President Business Development & Communications for the YWCA Greater Los Angeles; Kiesha C. Nix, Executive Director Lakers Youth Foundation; Rene Nourse, CFP Urban Wealth Management, LLC; Dr. Roslyn Blake, President MB Ellison, Inc.; and Michelle Wulfestieg, Executive Director Southern California Hospice Foundation as our Community Honorees. We were able to award close to \$10,000.00 in scholarships and continue to keep the mission and work of Forgiving For Living thriving for another year.

We are continually thankful to all of our supporters, volunteers and donors for believing in the work we do to build up the self-esteem of the next generation. We at Forgiving For Living, Inc. believe in "the power of one" and "each one reach one." We are dedicated to quality over quantity and it is our ultimate goal to touch the life of a young lady, today, which possesses the power and potential to touch the lives of others tomorrow.

Sincerely,

**Wendy Dean**

Wendy Dean  
Founder & President



# 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
- ▶ Resource & Referral Directory
- ▶ Annual PLUS Awards

Forgiving For Living, Inc. was incorporated in 1999 by Wendy Dean 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.



**"Forgiveness says you are given another chance to make a new beginning."**

- Desmond Tutu



## OUR VISION

The Vision of Forgiving For Living, Inc. is to give our girls hope and purpose through understanding the power and importance of forgiveness. We hope to restore one's self esteem, self-confidence and provide tools for a better and more productive life.





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

**Wendy Dean**

### BOARD CHAIR

**Sarah R. Harris**

President/Publisher, SuiteEvents

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## ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Charisse Bremond-Weaver** – President & CEO, Brotherhood Crusade

**Darrell R. Brown** – Senior Vice President, U.S. Bank, Greater Los Angeles Region

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**Ms. Shabazz** – Author and Speaker

**Michele G. Turner, Ph.D.** – Executive Director, USC Black Alumni Association

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



The Center for Learning  
& Unlimited Educational  
Success, Inc.  
(C.L.U.E.S.)





# PROGRAMS

## AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

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-on-one mentoring, attend FFLAP Kick-Off and a monthly workshop, take mentee to observe mentor work environment, and participate in our annual PLUS Awards.











## PROGRAMS



### JORDAN DOWNS HOUSING PROJECTS (SINCE 2011) & THE CENTER FOR LEARNING & UNLIMITED EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS, INC. (C.L.U.E.S.)

Forgiving For Living, Inc. provides an approved on-going 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.

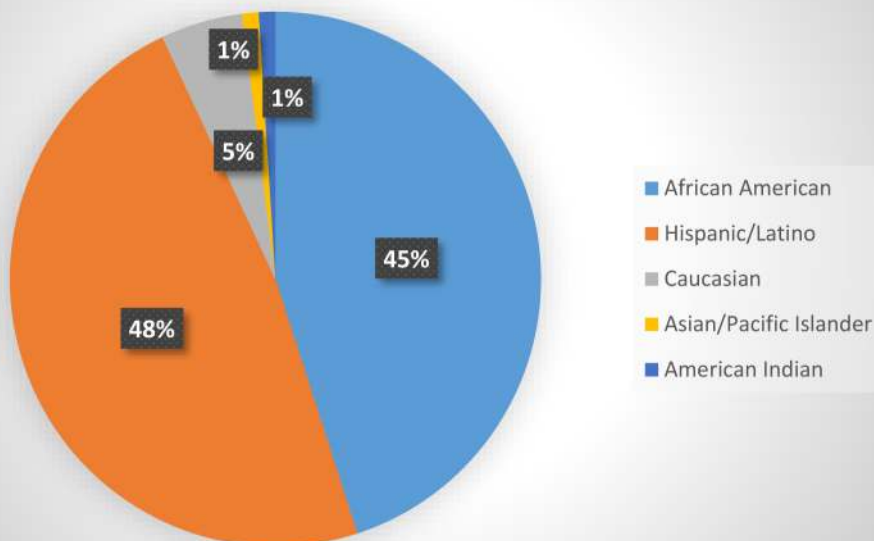




## PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

(Youth (Girls) between the ages of 10 - 17. Total served in 2016 = 325 Young Ladies)

### Demographics



10%

of the girls  
we serve are  
part of the

**LGBT  
COMMUNITY**





# EVENTS

## ANNUAL PLUS AWARDS

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.

## 2016 HONOREES

### President's Award

#### Salvador Mendoza

Senior Vice President, Community Reinvestment, City National Bank

### Community Honorees

#### Dr. Roslyn Blake

President, MB Ellison, Inc.

#### Cynthia Heard

VP, Business Dev. and Communications, YWCA Greater Los Angeles

#### Kiesha C. Nix

Executive Director, Lakers Youth Foundation

#### René Nourse

CFP, Urban Wealth Management, LLC

#### Michelle Wulfestieg

Executive Director, Southern California Hospice Foundation

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

### Mistress of Ceremonies

#### Michelle Valles

Co-Anchor and Reporter, NBC4 Southern California

### Entertainer

#### Jerome Dean Entertainment

featuring Hope Easton and Sarah Daye

**Forgiving For Living, Inc.**  
**2016 PLUS AWARDS**  
 BRUNCH & AUCTION  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016  
 11:00AM - 2:00PM  
 BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL  
 9641 SUNSET BLVD, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210

**Wendy Dean**  
 Founder & President

**MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES**  
**Michelle Valles**  
 Co-Anchor and Reporter  
 NBC4 Southern California

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**  
**Salvador Mendoza**  
 Senior Vice President,  
 Community Reinvestment,  
 City National Bank

**COMMUNITY HONOREES**

<b>Dr. Roslyn Blake</b> President, MB Ellison, Inc.	<b>Cynthia Heard</b> VP, Business Dev. and Communications, YWCA Greater Los Angeles	<b>Kiesha C. Nix</b> Executive Director, Lakers Youth Foundation	<b>René Nourse</b> CFP, Urban Wealth Management, LLC	<b>Michelle Wulfestieg</b> Executive Director, Southern California Hospice Foundation
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**SPONSORED BY**

4You, EDISON, CITY NATIONAL BANK, usbank, JEROME DEAN ENTERTAINMENT, SuiteEvents, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HOSPICE FOUNDATION

To inquire about sponsorships or for more information,  
 951.313.4732 or wendy@forgivingforliving.org

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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.

## PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

### Opening Speaker

**Stacey McBride-Irby**

Entrepreneur

### Keynote Speaker

**Dominique DiPrima**

Radio Personality, KJLH

### Entertainment

**Oran Smith, Flight School (Poet)**

### Workshop Speakers

**Michael C. Flores, PhD**, Professor, Cypress College

**Christina D. Ford**, Actress

**Lynne Garcia**, Director of Business Development, Claremont Lincoln University

**Rosanna Manzano**, Agent, New York Life

**Gingi Montes**, Founder, Cross Messengers, Life Coach & Motivational Speaker

**Dr. Theresa Randle-Price**, Founder/Executive Director, National College Resources Foundation

**René Nourse**, CFP, Urban Wealth Management, LLC

**Wenonah Valentine**, Founder, iDream For Racial Health Equity

**Sonya Young Aadam**, CEO, California Black Women's Health Project

**Oran Smith & Honey Gomez**, Poets/Artists, Flight School







# FINANCIAL REVIEW

## REVENUE

### Corporate Grants

Edison International	\$10,000
US Bank	\$10,000
City National Bank	\$10,000
Wells Fargo	\$5,000
Lakers Youth Foundation	\$5,000
Ronald McDonald House of Charities	\$4,500
SoCalGas	\$2,500
Toyota	\$1,500
NBC4 You	\$1,000
T. Rowe Price	\$900

### Foundation Grants

California Wellness Foundation	\$5,000
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### Government Grants

N/A

### Donations

Fundraising Efforts	\$13,443.75
Board Support	\$3,300
L. Kenneth Brooks	\$1,000
Thrivent Financial	\$600

**Total 2016 Revenue** **\$73,743.75**

## OVERVIEW

Beginning Balance as of January 2016	\$78,011.84
Income/Money Raised	\$73,743.75

**Total Revenue:** **\$151,755.59**

**Total 2016 Expenses** **\$113,020.46**

Checking Balance \$38,735.13

Savings Balance \$15,711.34

**Grand Total** **\$54,446.47**





# 2016 SPONSORS

& Supporters (In-Kind Donations)



LAUREN WALTON, MD

INLAND VALLEY NEWS

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about our programs,  
visit us online at:  
[www.forgivingforliving.org](http://www.forgivingforliving.org)

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