



Year-End Message from Brian Malte, Executive Director

As we reflect on the past year, we cannot overlook the devastating impact of the fires in Southern California. To our community, partners, and colleagues navigating these incredibly challenging times, we wish you strength, continued safety, and unwavering support. Our thoughts are with all those affected as we stand together in resilience and solidarity.

Amid these challenges, we must also confront another ongoing crisis that affects our communities—the massive loss of life due to gun violence and firearm suicides every year as California continues to grapple with the devastating ripple effects of firearm-related harm in our communities and our homes. This year alone, [one life was lost every three hours](#) as a result of the harm caused by firearms, and thousands more have suffered injuries and trauma. This is why we remain steadfast in our mission to reduce firearm-related deaths, injuries, and trauma through community-led strategies and systems change efforts.

Since its inception in 2016, [Hope and Heal Fund](#) has raised over \$10 million from individual donors, philanthropic grants, and public funding and has invested nearly \$6 million in strategic solutions to prevent and interrupt firearm-related harm and trauma. Today, Hope and Heal Fund continues to support communities in California disproportionately impacted by firearm-related violence and harm and serves as a model guiding other states on how to leverage innovative strategies, empower communities and stakeholders with actionable data, resources, and capacity, and drive systemic change.

Looking ahead, our goal is simple but urgent: to save lives and build safer communities for all Californians and work with other states to share our learnings and help them implement equitable and effective solutions. The critical need for [support in this work](#) cannot be overstated. We cannot wait for the next tragedy to spur action and support for Hope and Heal Fund. Gun violence and firearm suicide are public health crises. Now is the time to get engaged, educated, and activated. Despite the challenges that confront us, our work has never been more important

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At Hope and Heal Fund, we stand with our diverse communities, offering unwavering support and strength. Together, we will do everything in our power to keep our communities safe, amplify their voices, and build a future where firearm deaths, injuries, and trauma are no longer a devastating part of our reality.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for believing in this mission. Together, we can—and we will—create change.

Onward,



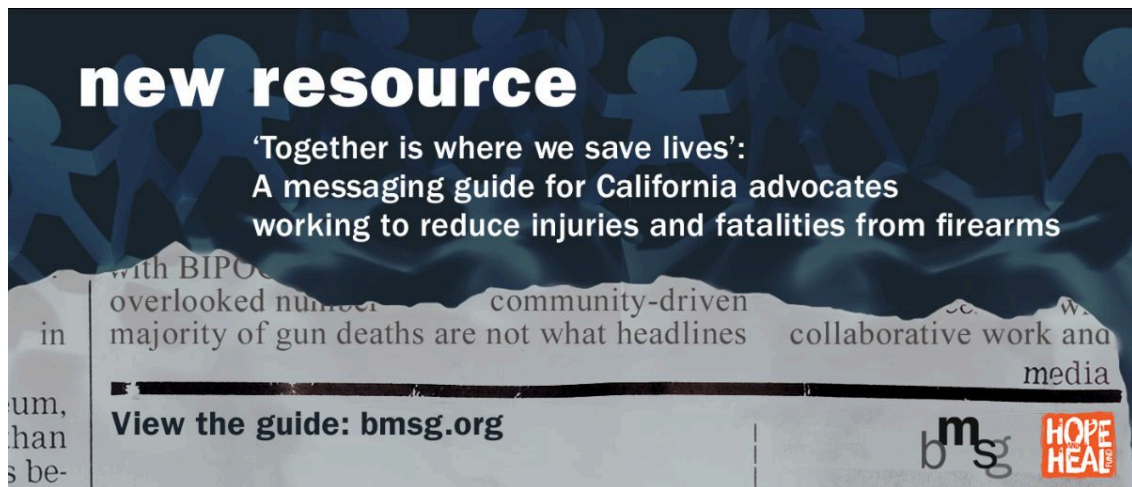
Brian Malte, Executive Director

2024 In Review

National Recognition for Hope and Heal's Work

We are thrilled that the W.K. Kellogg Foundation recognized Hope and Heal Fund's work in their Every Child Thrives newsletter. The newsletter features a powerful interview featuring Refugio "Cuco" Rodriguez, Hope and Heal Fund's Chief Strategy & Equity Officer, highlighting the critical [data revealed on the impact of firearm violence on children and families](#).

New Messaging Guide: Shaping Narratives for Firearm Violence Prevention



Hope and Heal Fund, in collaboration with [Berkeley Media Studies Group](#) (BMSG), recently released a new [messaging guide for California advocates](#). Seven years in the making, this

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- Spotlight community-driven solutions
- Amplify authentic local stories
- Address the imbalances in mainstream media coverage
- Communicate effectively about domestic violence, community violence, and firearm suicide

The guide is driven by poll-tested, authentic messages that came directly from credible messengers from across California and across the country. In advance of the release of the messaging guide, we co-hosted [two powerful virtual workshops](#) for community leaders, which were led by BMSG.

Hope and Heal Fund at The White House in 2024



In a historic milestone, Hope and Heal Fund joined forces with the Community Justice Action Fund, Giffords, and Moms Rising to host the Hispanic Heritage Month Roundtable at the White House on October 10. This impactful event brought together Latino and Caribbean leaders to address critical issues surrounding firearm violence, suicide, and trauma in their communities. The discussion shed light on the unique challenges faced by Latino communities, including firearm trafficking and policy integration, while building on the momentum of the inaugural National Latino Convening on Gun Violence held by Hope and Heal Fund in February 2024.

After the success of the third AAPI convening in Houston last summer, Hope and Heal Fund Chief Strategy and Equity Officer Refugio "Cuco" Rodriguez and Executive Director Brian Malte participated in a pivotal [White House roundtable](#) to discuss the next steps in growing the AAPI movement against firearm violence. This discussion included AAPI advocates nationwide and

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alarming trends increasing firearm homicides and suicides and promoting impactful solutions within the AAPI community.

First National Latino Convening on Gun Violence Prevention

In February, we were honored to host the inaugural [National Latino Leadership Convening on Gun Violence](#), bringing together over 100 Latino/a leaders from diverse roles, sectors, and communities across the United States, including Puerto Rico. This groundbreaking event highlighted the critical need for culturally and linguistically tailored, community-driven solutions that honor cultural identities and harness the wisdom of Latino/a communities in addressing firearm violence and suicide. This convening marked an important first step in uniting Latino/a voices and perspectives in this vital work.

Thank you to The California Wellness Foundation for [highlighting this important work](#).



Co-hosted 3rd Annual AAPI convening



Hope and Heal Fund was honored to co-host the 3rd Annual AAPI Convening in June 2024 in Houston, TX. This national convening was an opportunity to continue the work from the first and second AAPI convenings, which helped establish the [AAPI Against Gun Violence Coalition](#).

Following the tragic shootings in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay in early 2023, there was a significant awakening regarding the impact of gun violence in AAPI communities. At the two-day conference, participants learned about the different forms of firearm-related harm effects on the AAPI community and how to access critical strategies and resources available to them to make an impact.

Data is Power - Mapping Firearm Suicides and Homicides in California

Hope and Heal Fund, with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and in partnership with RomoGIS, unveiled the new [California Firearm Suicide Map for 2016–2022](#), which expands on the previously released GIS Map showing [firearm homicides](#) across California. This innovative map provides an in-depth comparison of firearm suicides and homicides by county. Whether you're in a rural area or a bustling urban center, this first-of-its-kind map offers essential insights into firearm-related fatalities. It will help support the development of targeted, strategic strategies to reduce these tragedies across California.

After a successful release, the map captured [media attention](#) statewide, sparking conversations about where and how gun violence occurs in local communities. Prominent media outlets such as *The Mercury News*, *CBS Bay Area*, and *Fox 11 Los Angeles* featured the report, emphasizing its impact on public perception and the importance of accurate and timely data.

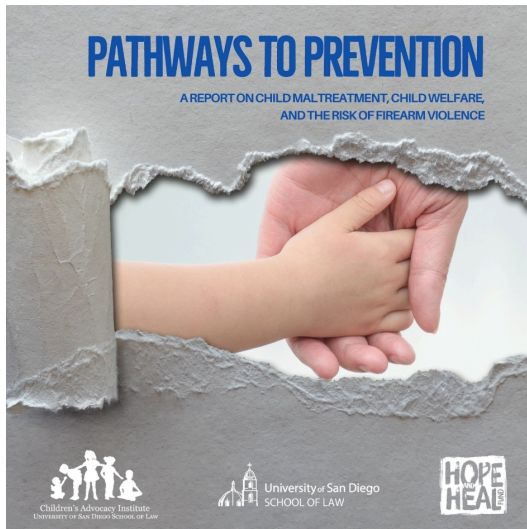
New Gun Violence Prevention Toolkit

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County Community Based Organizations (CCBOs) in aligning their missions and work with firearm violence prevention efforts. This toolkit covers key elements such as prevention, intervention, aftercare, data tracking, equity, and systems change, providing practical strategies for engaging in firearm violence prevention and leveraging data to drive lasting systemic change in local communities. The toolkit also includes a [catalog of organizations](#) across California and other states working to prevent firearm violence. Additionally, a webinar was held in November 2024 to review the toolkit. A recording of the overview can be found [here](#).

To ensure the toolkit's relevance and effectiveness, a focus group was conducted with Gente Organizada in Pomona, CA, to gather feedback. This input helped refine the toolkit to better meet the needs of those seeking to understand and engage in the firearm violence prevention ecosystem.

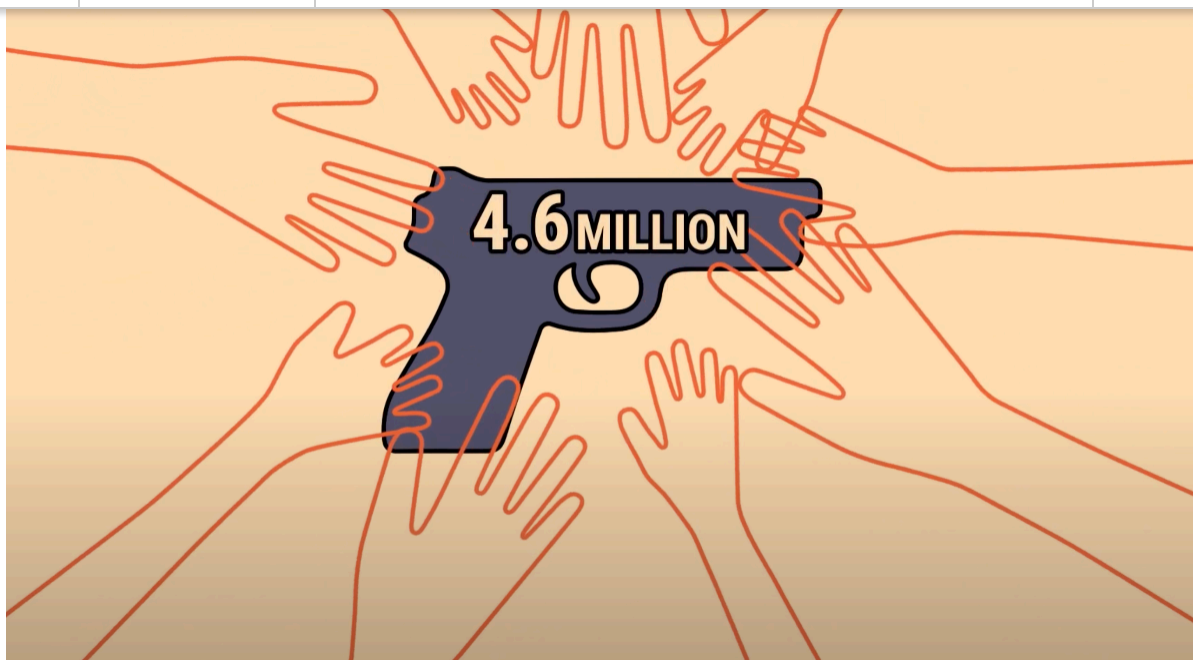
The Connection Between Child Maltreatment and Gun Violence



In collaboration with the University of San Diego Children's Advocacy Institute, Hope and Heal Fund is proud to present Pathways to Prevention. This groundbreaking white paper examines whether child maltreatment and experiences within the child welfare system increase the risk of suicide or perpetrating gun violence later in life. The research provides critical insights into how childhood trauma—such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, and exposure to domestic violence—correlates with a heightened risk of both experiencing and committing firearm violence. We invite you to read the [full report](#) and help amplify the message that prevention begins with understanding.

LGBTQ+ People and Gun Violence: Threats and Strategies to Promote Safety

In collaboration with UCLA's Williams Institute, we were honored to co-host the timely and impactful webinar [LGBTQ+ People and Gun Violence: Threats and Strategies to Promote Safety](#). Our esteemed panelists delved into critical risk factors, including mental health, intimate partner violence, and firearm access, while also providing context around hate, inequality, and their disproportionate impact on LGBTQ individuals. The discussion highlighted actionable strategies for individuals and organizations to promote safety and equity, with a particular focus on LGBTQ+ people of color.

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As part of our ongoing efforts to shift the narrative and prioritize equity in prevention, we partnered with Joel Lava, a talented creative director, who produced a compelling [Public Service Announcement](#) (PSA) that underscores the importance of safe firearm storage in homes. This PSA, available in both English and Spanish, bridges language barriers and ensures critical safety information is accessible to Spanish-speaking communities. And a big thank you to About Films for the introduction to Joel.

In addition, we joined forces with the [Hispanic Communications Network](#) (HCN) to develop culturally and linguistically sensitive Spanish-language PSAs on [safe firearm storage](#). Recognizing the limited resources available to Spanish-speaking families, Hope and Heal Fund and HCN stepped in to fill this gap, creating vital tools to promote safe storage practices. Stay tuned for more resources as we continue our work to protect families and communities.

La Prevención Fortalece Nuestra Comunidad

En Hope and Heal Fund, creemos en el poder de la comunidad para transformar realidades. Este año, con gran entusiasmo y compromiso, lanzamos nuestra campaña [La Prevención Fortalece Nuestra Comunidad](#), una iniciativa dedicada a iluminar y combatir los desafíos que enfrenta nuestra comunidad Latina en relación con la violencia armada, la violencia doméstica, y el tráfico de armas.

Educating Frontline Networks on California's Gun Violence Restraining Orders

collaboration with the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the California Institute for Behavioral Solutions (CIBHS). With support from Kaiser Permanente and in partnership with key stakeholders, we continue to educate and empower frontline networks—including mental and behavioral health professionals and colleges and universities—about the importance of Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) and firearm screening for patients in crisis. These efforts aim to ensure these critical systems not only understand what GVROs are but also know how and when to use this life-saving tool during moments of crisis. By increasing awareness and appropriate use of GVROs and other effective tools, we strive to reduce firearm suicides, which account for half of all firearm deaths in California.



For more information on GVROs, please read our [FAQ](#).

Preventing Firearm Violence and Suicide Among College Students

In two exclusive webinars for California State University (CSU) and California Community College (CCC) faculty and staff, Hope and Heal Fund facilitated an essential conversation on firearm violence and suicide prevention among college-aged adults. Nearly 300 professionals attended the webinars, including those representing student mental health, campus security, and emergency services.

Participants were equipped with life-saving tools and strategies to help prevent self-harm and violence on their campuses. We are deeply grateful to Kaiser Permanente for its generous support of this critical initiative.

2024 Community-Based Investments

Beyond the key initiatives of Hope and Heal Fund, we invested in a diverse group of organizations working to advance community safety, reduce firearm violence, support survivors,

Battered Women’s Justice Project
Berkeley Media Studies Group
Collective Cultures Creating Change
Gente Organizada
Inland Congregations United for

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In 2024, Hope and Heal Fund provided grants to the following organizations, empowering them to expand their reach, strengthen their impact, and drive meaningful change. These investments created a ripple effect—supporting critical interventions, amplifying survivor voices, pursuing public funding, and fostering safer, more resilient communities

***One Community Action
Project Unloaded
Santa Barbara Alternatives to
Violence Project
United Playaz
Vincent Chin Institute***

2024 Funding Partners

A heartfelt thank you also goes to all our funding partners, including the 55+ individual donors who supported us in 2024—your generosity fuels our mission. Your financial support, combined with your unwavering passion and commitment to equity and the prevention of gun violence and firearm suicide, makes our work possible. Together, we are creating safer, healthier, and more equitable communities. Thank you for standing with us as we work toward a brighter future for all.

***Blue Shield of California Foundation
The California Endowment
The California Wellness Foundation
California Health Care Foundation
CARESTAR Foundation
Cedars-Sinai
David Bohnett Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
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Sierra Health Foundation***

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Additional Media Highlights

Podcast on The Nonprofit Fundraising Exchange (NPFX)

The Nonprofit Fundraising Exchange (NPFX) podcast, [Engaging Audiences with Effective Messaging & Storytelling](#), featuring Hope and Heal Fund Executive Director Brian Malte

Public Health Institute's Top Highlights in 2024

[Together Is Where We Save Lives](#) messaging guide has been featured as one of the Public Health Institute's (PHI) top 24 highlights of 2024.

For more information about Hope and Heal Fund, a fiscally sponsored project of New Venture Fund, please visit our website at HopeAndHealFund.org.



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