



## CORPORATE BACKGROUNDER

In 1976, Petra Medelez made the difficult choice to flee her abusive marriage. It was then she realized the need for safe housing and emotional support to help other women and children in her community escape similarly abusive and dangerous situations.

For more than 35 years, Su Casa has served the Los Angeles community by offering immediate safe refuge, counseling services, case management and transitional housing to those impacted by domestic violence and abuse. Su Casa remains dedicated to Petra's mission and has continued to expand our services, staying true to our belief that every individual has the right to live free from the threat of violence.

## OUR MISSION

At Su Casa we believe that everyone, regardless of their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, deserves to have equal access to the assistance and advocacy they need. We understand not only the need to protect individuals and families from immediate danger, but the importance of continued support and education to help break the cycles of abuse. With the help of the community and our many programs, we are committed to helping individuals feel empowered and to achieve self-sufficiency. Our belief is that one right step leads to another and these steps lead to a Community of Peace.

## HISTORY

Petra Medelez was no stranger to domestic abuse. After fleeing her own abusive marriage and attending Cerritos College, she was inspired by her professor to create her very own non-profit to help other survivors find a path to safety the same way she did.

- 1979** 24-hour crisis hot line is created in Petra's home
- 1980** Petra opens her very own home as the first Su Casa shelter
- 1987** "Soroptimist House" emergency shelter opens, increasing capacity by 45% to 22 beds
- 1993** Advocate Counselor training is offered for the first time.
- 1996** Su Casa opens the Transitional Shelter, a 12-month program designed to help survivors get an education or find employment with the goal of becoming self-sufficient.
- 2008** Su Casa is open to all victims of abuse, including teens, men and LGBT persons.

## WHAT WE OFFER

We provide anyone in need with a 24 hour hotline that provides crisis intervention, referrals to safe havens and counseling. All of our direct service staff, including counselors, are bilingual and are trained in cultural competence to help expand our reach in the community. We have a 30 day emergency shelter facility for victims and their families and also provide long term transitional housing. We understand that it takes a village and are dedicated to community outreach and education, including programs for teens and continued education.



## DOMESTIC ABUSE & COMMUNITY NEED

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, intimate partner violence, or domestic violence, is the physical or sexual violence, stalking or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse regardless of sexual orientation and does not require sexual intimacy.

About **1 in 4** women and nearly **1 in 10** men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime.

**32.9%** of *California* women and **27.3%** of California men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.

> Center for Disease Control and Prevention

## SU CASA'S SUPPORT TO THOSE IN NEED

fiscal year 2018 - 2019

<b>10,973</b> bed nights utilized	<b>2,212</b> hotline calls
<b>3,034</b> counseling sessions	<b>40</b> years of support

## GET IN TOUCH WITH US

### Donations & Volunteering

Dean Lockwood

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### General Inquiries

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