



# Returning Dignity to Victims of Sexual Violence

## **2017 – 2018 Impact Report**



# Our Mission

The Grateful Garment Project's (TGGP) mission is to ensure that every victim of a sexual crime who crosses the threshold of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) facility or who seeks medical attention and/or law enforcement involvement is provided with whatever new clothing, toiletries, snacks, and other miscellaneous items that he or she may require. TGGP has further expanded its mission and vision to encompass all victims of sexual violence. This includes, but is not limited to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and victims of Human Sexual Trafficking (HST).

TGGP's scope is wide but the purpose is narrow: The vision of TGGP is that no victim of sexual violence in our communities should ever experience further suffering due to a lack of clothing to wear home after he or she receives services from a Sexual Violence Service Provider.

## Letter from the Executive Director



Great things continue to happen

Due to your efforts and a small dedicated team of staff and volunteers, TGGP is experiencing a period of strong growth. I often find myself so caught up in the day to day I forget to step back and look at the whole picture. Not only have we expanded programs, added counties, and hired staff, TGGP has been able to participate in community building in ways we never have before. We are establishing new corporate partnerships and receiving recognition from local levels of government. In December of 2017, TGGP was awarded Starbuck's Project Give Good Award. In April of 2017 we received both a Proclamation from San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and a Commendation from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors!

A year ago in April, TGGP was hosted by The Silicon Valley Capital Club for Silicon Valley Gives. This very successful fundraising event allowed us to share our message with guests and members of The Capital Club. Then in April 2018, TGGP partnered with YWCA Silicon Valley to host the powerful exhibition, "What I Was Wearing" to honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Our community-wide resource drive, Operation emBRACE was a resounding success, generating \$32,650.00 in resources, with 50% of our top drives involving new donors! Other donors have hosted Gathering for Garments events in many cities and counties throughout the state—a huge bonus for our locally based operations!

We are now supplying resources to 33 counties. With your help, we hope to amplify to cover all 58. Expanding our reach enables TGGP's inspiring story to reach more people which results in more resources provided to victims of sexual crimes. As we grow, so does the need for this heartbreaking and very real need. As stated in our mission, our goal is that every victim of a sexual crime in California will have access to our resources, and can begin travelling the path to reclaiming dignity.

Lisa J Blanchard, *Founder and Executive Director*

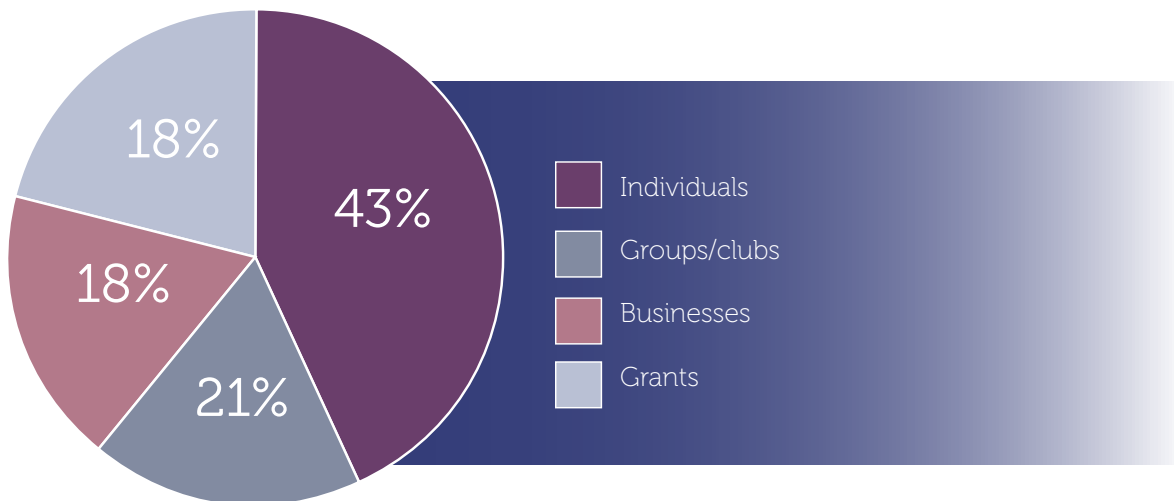


# Restoring Dignity

When sexual assault victims seek medical attention and rape kits are performed, those women, men and children are asked to surrender their clothing for DNA evidence. Once clothing has been surrendered, the traumatized victim has nothing else to wear home but a hospital gown...only adding insult to injury. Together, with your help, we can provide victims with the resources necessary to take the first step on the road to healing.

“ We had a female, Caucasian teen survivor of sex trafficking come into our drop-in center. She sat in a chair across from me, telling me how she had been violently assaulted for years. She had very little belongings with her and told staff that she had not eaten in three days. Staff asked if she would like to pick out some items from the resource closet. She picked out a few articles of clothing, hygiene products and ... snacks. The items met her immediate needs and staff was able to build a relationship with her and earn her trust. Without The Grateful Garment Project’s donations to our agency, this survivor may not have taken a chance on our agency or felt empowered enough to leave her abusive relationship.”

**Sexual Assault Advocate, Placer County**

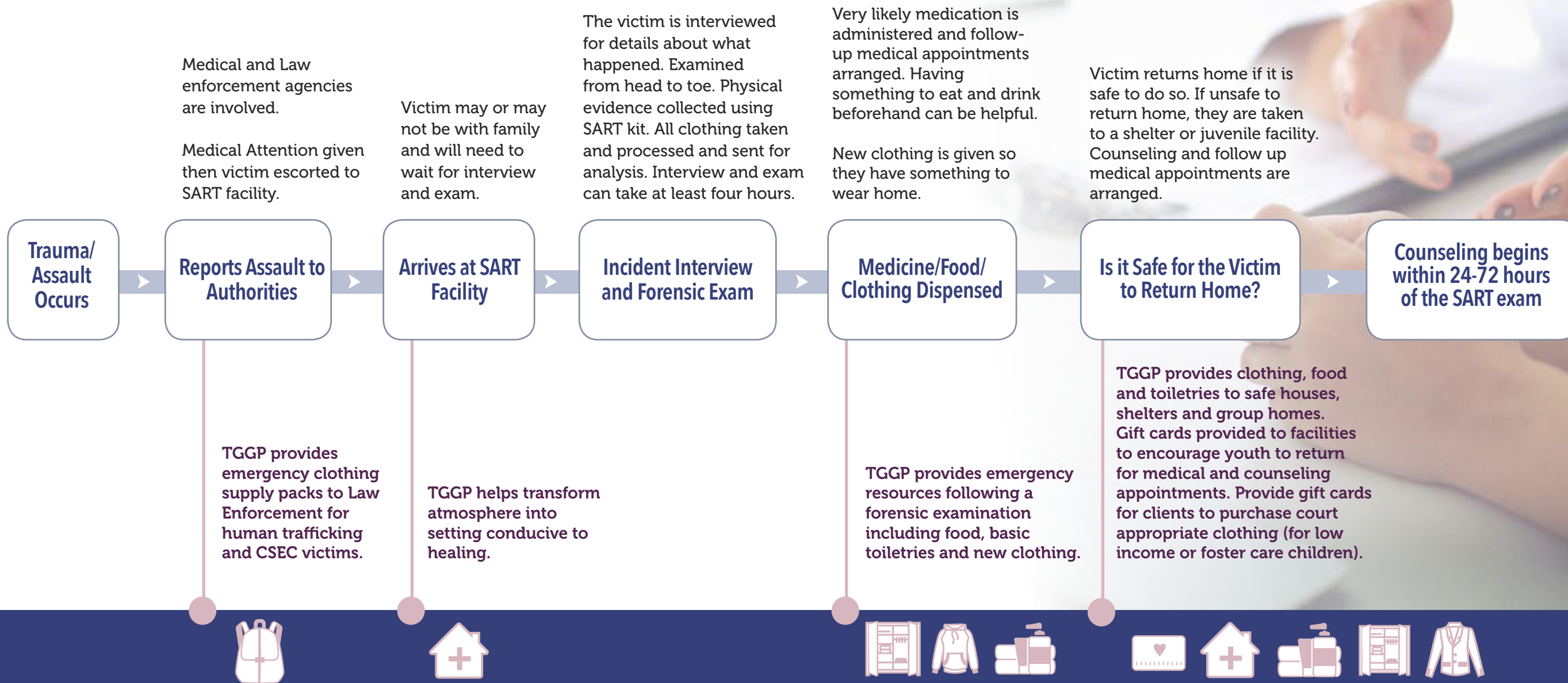


**Did you know?  
About our Funding Sources**

# What Happens After an Assault?

## What you need to know so you can help

Whether woman, man, or child, a victim of rape or sexual assault deals with far more than just reporting the crime. After having the courage to step forward, they run a gauntlet of challenging actions – from seeking help to receiving medical and counseling attention. Here is the reality and where The Grateful Garment Project assists.



All along the way, The Grateful Garment Project is in action.

# Our History

The Grateful Garment Project was born out of a university class assignment to help the community in March 2011 by Founder and Executive Director Lisa J. Blanchard. Having heard about the plight of victims of sexual assault—who sometimes had nothing more than a hospital gown to wear home—Blanchard knocked on the door of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) facility near her home and asked how she could help. She designed a program to collect new clothing and received an overwhelming generous response from the community. Word got out about the collection, prompting other SART facilities to ask for help. Realizing she had much more than a class project on her hands, Blanchard filed for 501c3 status, and The Grateful Garment Project was officially launched on May 17, 2011.

Since then The Grateful Garment Project has expanded to include many other items besides clothing. We also expanded from helping victims of sexual assault to include all victims of sexual violence in California, including Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and Human Sexual Trafficking victims.

## Programs



**RESOURCE CLOSETS:** Providing emergency resources for victims of sexual violence once they have undergone a forensic examination or have sought Sexual Violence Service Provider services



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING/CSEC RESOURCES:** Provide additional resources (clothing, toiletries, etc.) to safe houses, shelters, and group homes for victims who don't have a safe place to return



**PACK-IT FORWARD:** Emergency portable packs provided to Law Enforcement/ Sexual Violence Service Providers for human trafficking and CSEC victims



**YOUTH GIFT-CARD/INCENTIVE PROGRAM:** Gift cards provided to encourage youth to attend follow up medical and/or counseling appointments



**DRESS FOR DIGNITY:** Gift cards provided to our clients to be used for the purchase of court appropriate clothing for low income and/or foster care survivors; helping to provide dignity and confidence during the court process



**BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS:** Helping transform service provider atmospheres into settings conducive to healing

# We are grateful to our donors

## Staff

### **Lisa J. Blanchard**

*Executive Director and Founder*

### **Jahaira Morales**

*Program Resource Coordinator*

### **Monica Wilson**

*Community Outreach  
Development*

## Key Volunteers

### **Mary Ellen Bray**

*Emeritus President  
Church Drive Coordinator*

### **Nancy Beth Garrett**

*Volunteer Coordinator*

### **Katherine "Katie" McClelland**

*Gratitude Ambassador*

## 2017–18 Board

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**Deepa Bhat** (*Treasurer*)

**Amee Desai** (*Secretary*)

**William Cotter**

**Aparna Gole**

**Michele Grisham**

**Nandini Rao**

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# Our Impact **By the Numbers**



**43,215**  
items distributed  
to date



**Helping 84  
Partner Agencies**

Across **34**  
California counties

## **Donate Online or Give NEW Clothing and Other Resources**

Donations can be mailed or  
dropped off between  
9:00AM and 4:00PM  
Monday – Friday  
or by appointment

To arrange a drop off time:  
(408) 674-5744  
info@gratefulgarment.org



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San Jose, CA 95126**