Returning Dignity to Victims of Sexual Violence

2017 – 2018 Impact Report
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 Starbucks’ 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
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.

Medical and Law enforcement agencies are involved.

Medical Attention given then victim escorted to SART facility.

Victim may or may not be with family and will need to wait for interview and exam.

The victim is interviewed for details about what happened. Examined from head to toe. Physical evidence collected using SART kit. All clothing taken and processed and sent for analysis. Interview and exam can take at least four hours.

Very likely medication is administered and follow-up medical appointments arranged. Having something to eat and drink beforehand can be helpful.

New clothing is given so they have something to wear home.

Victim returns home if it is safe to do so. If unsafe to return home, they are taken to a shelter or juvenile facility. Counseling and follow-up medical appointments are arranged.

TGGP provides clothing, food and toiletries to safe houses, shelters and group homes.

TGGP helps transform atmosphere into setting conducive to healing.

TGGP provides emergency resources following a forensic examination including food, basic toiletries and new clothing.

TGGP provides clothing, food and toiletries to safe houses, shelters and group homes. Gift cards provided to facilities to encourage youth to return for medical and counseling appointments. Provide gift cards for clients to purchase court appropriate clothing (for low income or foster care children).

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
Barbara Otto  
*Board Chair*

Deepta Bhat  
*Treasurer*

Amees Desai  
*Secretary*

William Cotter

Aparna Gole

Michele Grisham

Nandini Rao

Joan Sherlock

100 Women Charitable Foundation  
American Sewing Guild  
Amber Baird  
Amy Blalock Castillo  
Andrea Bruna  
Angel Harsimrat Oberoi  
Anshu Narula  
Apple, Inc  
Be a Dear and Donate a Brassiere  
Bellarmine College Preparatory  
Betty Chase  
Bill Herndon  
Bombas  
Brooke Schafran  
Brother Tom Redmond S.M.  
Bud to Blossom Life Design, LLC  
Caroline Kane  
Centrify Corporation  
Charleye Schneiderman  
Cheryl A. Dewey  
Cheyney Family Fund  
Church of the Transfiguration  
Cindy Chan  
Colleen Kindlon  
Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women  
Deanna Stanley  
Deepa Bhat  
Delta Theta Tau Sorority (Epsilon Rho Chapter)  
Diana Hunter  
Donald and Susan Wilson Fund  
Elise Haas  
Elks Lodge 2121  
Evergreen Presbyterian Church  
Marge Gordon & FABMO  
First Chinese Baptist Church  
Frederick Koehler  
Gail Chaid  
George Davidson  
Gina LaMora 318  
Intero Cupertino  
Jammie Mountz  
JCC Los Gatos  
Jeremy Holland & Anna Durante  
Jessica Cantrell  
Joan Sherlock  
Joan E. Stutes  
Joseph Allen  
Joseph Baribeau  
Judith Pogue  
Julie & Bill Herndon  
Junior League of San Jose  
Kappa Kappa Gamma  
Karls Coleman-Sink  
Katarzyna Bartoszynska  
Kathryn A. Woodhall  
Kimberly Collins  
Knights of Columbus, St. Francis Of Assisi Council, No. 4981  
Laura England  
Laura Latham  
LinkedInCorporation  
Lisa Kleinhwort  
Lockheed Martin Employees Foundation  
Logitech  
Louise Halfhill  
Madeleine Gerdes  
Magda Dagnall  
Marge Gordon  
Maria Hanophy  
Mary Ellen Bray  
Mary Kelly  
Michelle (Mia) Gatmaitan  
Mariah Smith  
Monica Carey  
Nomadic Traders  
Orchard City Indivisible  
Pamela Mallory  
Pinpoint Foundation  
Pyrilux Cosplay  
Queen of Apostles  
Quota International of Cupertino  
Rachel Klepadlo  
Renee Jones  
Reva Wear  
Rick & JoLynn Darden  
Robin Feinman-Marino  
Rolayne Edwards  
Rotary Club of Morgan Hill  
Rotary Club of San Jose Foundation  
Roses of St. Elizabeth  
RuthAnn Garcia  
SanAndCo  
Sally Tompkins  
Sew for Love  
Shannon Loucks  
Sharon Yim  
Shelley Woodhouse  
Shen Jackson  
Slalom  
Soroptimist International of Diable Vista  
Stacey Bahr  
Stephanie Colello  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church Women Groups  
Starbucks  
Stephanie Okumura  
Susanne Brokaw  
Tamara & Charles Homan  
Teri Wolcott  
Terri D. Bullock  
Todd Nelson  
The Garrett Family Trust  
The Ginn Family Foundation  
The History Club of Los Gatos  
The Peninsula League  
UA Local Union 393  
Venture Christian Church  
Vera Hamano  
William H. Cilker Family Foundation  
Wish.com
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 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday – Friday or by appointment

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

1401 Parkmoor Ave., Suite 125
San Jose, CA 95126