Annual Report

TO THE COMMUNITY

2021

strength • diversity • empowerment
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Standing Together to End Sexual Assault’s (STESA) Board of Directors, I’m pleased to share the 2021 Annual Report.

As you will see in the pages that follow, our staff members, volunteers, and community partners have been hard at work in supporting survivors and preventing all forms of sexual assault.

Over the past year, our community has experienced collective loss and trauma as we have continued to experience the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been an especially challenging time for many survivors of sexual assault. Increased health challenges, social isolation, economic insecurity, and general uncertainty have added new challenges for survivors and their loved ones. Through it all, our community has come together like never before and STESA has stepped up in many new ways to support survivors.

When reflecting on the many challenges that STESA has worked through over the past year, I am optimistic about the organization’s bright future. With your support, STESA will continue to serve and empower survivors as they pursue healing and justice. STESA will continue to educate our community about the root causes of sexual assault and confront the many myths and stereotypes that create inaccurate understandings of sexual assault. Furthermore, STESA will continue to promote gender and racial equity, as well as social justice, through all of our efforts to realize a future that is free from sexual assault.

Ethan Bertrand

STESA Board President

P.S. Thank you again for your support of STESA. Please join me and my fellow Board members in giving what we can to support this important work.
Has Your Company…

- **satisfied the legal requirement to provide sexual harassment prevention training?**
- **identified some concerns regarding sexual harassment?**

Have you done your due diligence? In a company of five or more employees, all supervisors and managers must receive two hours and non-management employees one hour of instruction in the prevention of sexual harassment every two years.

**STESA offers virtual and on-site interactive training on sexual harassment prevention for management and non-management employees in English or Spanish that satisfies the California sexual harassment prevention laws.** Group and individual rates available.

Contact Felisa Vasquez Gonzalez, Community Education Coordinator, at 805.963.6832 x12 or email felisa@sbstesa.org

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**DID YOU KNOW...?**

When you make a tax-deductible contribution to STESA, you help provide the following services:

- $100  Bus tokens, taxi vouchers, phone cards, food vouchers for a survivor who doesn’t have other means.
- $250  In an emergency, provides a survivor of sexual assault a safe place to stay for 2 nights.
- $600  Two self-defense classes and educational materials for teens.
- $1000 Access to STESA’s 24-hour hotline for one month for survivors of sexual assault and their loved ones.

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24-Hour Hotline: 805.564.3696   http://sbstesa.org
Over the past year, STESA had the opportunity to implement a new evidence-based prevention curriculum for youth in south Santa Barbara County.

**Shifting Boundaries**, led by Youth Educator, Holly Scala, is an eight-week program that explores the topic of school sexual harassment and boundaries. The program guides youth in identifying their own boundaries, defining personal space, and fostering empathy and problem-solving skills through a “Respecting Boundaries Agreement”.

Additionally, the program dissects the normalization of sexually harassing behaviors and prevalent societal myths. The program invites participants to engage in activist efforts at their school, disseminate what they learned and catalyze societal change.

Since its inception, **Shifting Boundaries** has been implemented virtually at **San Marcos High School** and through youth serving organizations, including **Hope Refuge, 4 Kids 2 Kids**, and **Girls Inc. of Carpinteria** and **Santa Barbara**. We have seen success in the curriculum’s implementation in virtual and in-person modes.

Participants have shown an increased understanding of personal boundaries and have gained concrete tools to assert their emotional, physical, and digital boundaries.
“I didn’t know that there were more than just sexual boundaries; we can set other kinds of boundaries, too!”

—Shifting Boundaries student

Students expressed that they learned about boundaries in relation to social and sexual interactions, as well as gaining knowledge in how to set boundaries virtually. For instance, storing their phone away while doing homework and telling their friends not to call or text during that time.

Video Conferencing Chat Box —A LIFELINE

During COVID-19, some youth have been isolated in homes with perpetrators, without the appropriate outlets traditionally provided by schools to let trusted adults know that they are undergoing traumatic experiences.

At our educational presentations, some youth have used the chat box to reach out to STESA educators to disclose abuse they are experiencing.

STESA’s educators have been able to connect with these youth, provide immediate intervention, and make appropriate referrals to STESA’s 24-hour Hotline and other important resources.
STESA SUPPORTERS

STESA was able to address its mission with the support of these individuals and businesses in the past fiscal year.

Thank you for helping us do this vital work.

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On May 14th, STESA sponsored its 12th Annual Chocolate de Vine fundraiser. This year was unlike any other, but the virtual event was a success!

This year’s event featured a powerful story from STESA Board Member, business owner, restaurant executive, mother, accomplished trail and ultra-runner, and survivor, Melissa Danehey. She shared her experience of having been assaulted and the strength and resilience that carried her through in her healing process.

Melissa also described how important it is for survivors of sexual assault and their loved ones to have access to services such as those provided by STESA.

View Melissa’s video on this link: https://vimeo.com/549757726/2408aa79b8

STESA’s Executive Director, Elsa Granados, and the Founder of the ‘me too’ movement, Tarana Burke, had an engaging and energetic conversation.

It was so exciting to welcome Tarana to the event to talk about the ‘me too movement’, present and future.
Sponsors enjoyed chocolate and wine donated by Chocolate Maya and Foley Wines. In the tradition of the in-person Chocolate de Vine event, there were “door prizes” of passes to CorePower Yoga and Wine.

STESA surpassed its fundraising goal through the generosity of its donors, sponsors and supporters. With the help of supporters and donors like you, STESA is able to work towards the goal of ending sexual assault in our community.

Check out STESA’s feature in The Daily Nexus for a recap of the chat between Tarana and Elsa.

We look forward to seeing you in person next year at

**Chocolate de Vine, May 2022!**

*Subject to COVID-19 restrictions.*
In 2020–2021…

- STESA staff and volunteers assisted **333 survivors and their loved ones** with a total of **2,940 services** including counseling & emotional support, medical & legal advocacy and accompaniment, and information & referral.

- There were **3,268 members of our community** who learned information about the impact of sexual assault in our lives and strategies for prevention. Of this number, **2,260 were youth**.

- **47 clients** took steps to regain a sense of confidence and power over their lives by attending counseling sessions and support groups.

- **In-service trainings** were provided to **330 professionals** including law enforcement, medical staff and social service professionals.

- **41 volunteers** joined our efforts to end sexual assault and gave **4,379 hours** to STESA. They provided a network of support, including crisis intervention, advocacy and community education, and assisted with office support and special events.

**STESA’s Total Operating Budget** for FY ’20–’21 was **$1,298,110**.

This graph illustrates the importance of local contributions to STESA’s operations and provision of services to survivors of sexual assault, as well as the work towards eliminating sexual assault from our society.
SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022 AT 10AM

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

Linda Sanders of One on One Fitness is helping us to kick off April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, by sponsoring an event to raise critical funds for Standing Together to End Sexual Assault.

The class will include functional training: TRX, kettle bells, Landmine, cardio blast, yoga, stretch, and much more.

Location: 1809 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Suite B, Montecito, CA 93108
Cost: $75.00 per person
Contact: Linda Sanders, 969-9107

All proceeds will go directly to Standing Together to End Sexual Assault.

Come prepared to get a great workout and have a blast doing it!
Standing Together to End Sexual Assault (STESA) is a community-based organization working toward a world free from sexual assault. STESA has served southern Santa Barbara County since 1974. The organization is dedicated to supporting and empowering sexual assault survivors, their family members and friends, and to eliminating all forms of sexual assault from our society.

STESA supports sexual assault survivors throughout the initial crisis and subsequent stages of healing. Through community education, training and activism, STESA is committed to creating attitudes and beliefs which support the prevention of sexual assault.

**Board of Directors 2021**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Ethan Bertrand</td>
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**Honorary Board 2021**

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**In Memoriam**

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**STANDING TOGETHER TO END SEXUAL ASSAULT (STESA)**

433 E. Cañón Perdido Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

sbstesa.org

24-Hour Hotline: 805.564.3696