

Ruby, mom of Adrian (pictured) and Damian, recently completed a medical assistant/nursing program at San Joaquin Valley College

Fresno

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Transforming lives, two generations at a time

shine

www.shinetogether.org

A Message from Sara

Hello Friends,

Wow! It's been a year since we transitioned to Shine Together. Like all transitions, we navigated a few bumps along the way, but we also encountered many new and exciting opportunities. The rebrand reconnected us with some of our past partners and gave us a way to introduce ourselves to new partners as Shine Together. The rebrand also helped to expand our program offerings to members based on their age and educational needs beyond high school. This presented the opportunity to be innovative and creative—to meet all the needs of our participants.

As a team of diverse leaders with a breadth and depth of experiences, including many of us who also know what it's like to be a young mom, we understand that how we do the work is as equally important as what we do. While we can accept that change is inevitable and constant, we always strive for some stability and a healthy pace for the organization. This is challenging when operating amid uncertainty. Over the past year, along with the communities we serve, we still felt the impact of the pandemic and its aftermath. We experienced collective distress when women's rights were attacked, and continue to be. Yet through our

solidarity with young moms, we will continue to look toward a bright future with a new paradigm as Shine—a paradigm of reproductive justice, social justice, and equity.

Fiscal year 2023 was also a time for celebration: We could celebrate young moms for the amazing mothers and students they are, in person. Shine provided them the tools to become empowered as the leaders, mothers, women, and students they aspired to be. Thank you for following our journey, and thank you for your support!

Thank you,
Sara Reyes
Executive Director



Sandra Santos, mom of Kaylani



Together, We Help Young Moms Shine

Educational Navigation



Planning and achieving educational goals

Health & Wellness



Connection to physical, reproductive, and health resources

Financial Well-Being



Financial literacy and career development

Childhood Development



Building skills and knowledge to support their child

Shine Together believes that education is the key to maximizing each person's potential and making communities strong. Our programs provide young mothers with the support needed to:

- Complete high school and post-secondary education
- Develop the knowledge and skills to nurture their child's positive development
- Enhance their financial literacy
- Improve health and wellness for themselves and their child

We believe that teen pregnancy is both a symptom and a cause of poverty, and it creates significant barriers for young mothers to prosper. Shine empowers young women who become mothers as teens to achieve their full potential in school and as parents, so that two generations thrive.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The young women we work with are strong and determined mothers and students who have often experienced trauma and are overcoming a myriad of barriers in addition to being a teen mother. Young mothers (ages 13-25) participate in our programs through high school completion to enrollment in a postsecondary degree or certificate program that leads to a living wage.

During this time, they receive comprehensive services through one-on-one coaching with an Advocate (staff who work directly with the mothers), peer learning groups, and community workshops. Our Advocates ensure that each young mother is connected to a health clinic and/or doctor, and can access physical, reproductive, and mental health services as needed.

To support the health and wellness of young families, one-on-one coaching sessions also focus on healing trauma young mothers face, life skills development, and creating positive peer connections with other young mothers. Advocates also work with participants to identify barriers to continuing their education and connect them to services such as counseling, childcare, housing support, and transportation support.

Shine uses Teen Talk, a comprehensive reproductive health curriculum grounded in research and best practice. Other evidence-based practices the program utilizes include Positive Youth Development, Developmental Assets, Girls Circle, Partnering with Teen Parents, and PowerSource Parenting.

CORE COMPONENTS

One-on-one coaching sessions (twice a month, 30 minutes to 1.5 hours):

Sessions focus on healing trauma, life-skills development, future planning, healthy relationships, connection to peers and community, emotional regulation, leadership development, brokering to resources, and developing and practicing appropriate parent-child interactions.

Peer learning groups (twice a month, 2 hours):

Groups focus on parenting, education, self-confidence, relationship building, sexual health education, and healthy relationships. Participants are given unbiased, medically accurate information that allows them to make healthy decisions. Also includes parenting education using the PowerSource Parenting curriculum and interactive/developmentally appropriate activities and skill development for mother and child to reduce stress when parenting (including Mommy & Me Kits and children's book distribution).

Service navigation (ongoing):

Referrals to community partners and health care professionals ensure members receive equitable access to high quality health care. Advocates accompany members to appointments when requested, and are available to discuss appointments outcomes, answer questions, and help them navigate any concerns.

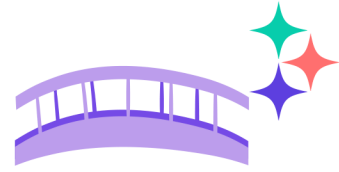
Teen Success



Steps to Success



Bridge to the Future



All of Shine's programs are designed to meet the various populations served and developmental stages in their lives.

Teen Success: Our youngest members benefit from our core program to get their bearings, finish their high school education, and understand the many opportunities that are available to them.

Steps to Success: Young moms ages 19–25 who are determined to complete their high school/GED receive tools to navigate the obstacles before them while being supported as they work toward their educational goals.

Bridge to the Future: Pursuing a post-secondary education requires dedication and resiliency—and is even more challenging for young mothers. Shine supports participants of our Teen Success and Steps to Success programs to further their education with all the skills they need to pursue post-secondary education.

Highlights from Our Regions

Bay Area

The Bay Area program shined bright all year long due to the support of its wonderful partners, community members, and colleagues.

Thanks to a collaboration with Franklin McKinley Children's Initiative, Shine members could use its facilities for in-person support groups and gained direct access and resources to Educare. The Bay Area team also recognizes March of Dimes, Stanford's Children Health, Baby2Baby, and Legal Link—all new partnerships that supported group workshops, new referral pipelines, resources for members, and staff training.

A highlight of the year was the 11th annual Spring Luncheon held at the Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club, the first big in-person event since the pandemic. Members, partners, and donors came together to celebrate post-secondary scholarship recipients and new program successes.

This Shine team wrapped up the year with summer field trips to Children's Discovery Museum, Aqua Adventure Waterpark, and Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, all thanks to the City of San Jose's Safe Summer Initiative Grant. They were able to have fun under the sun with an average of 30 participants at each field trip!



Not only does the program support moms but children too. Through donations, two generations are able to thrive and receive help.

Sofia Jaquez, Shine Ambassador, former Shine participant, Mission College graduate, and current student at University of California, Berkeley

Fresno

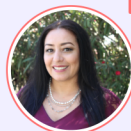
A recently remodeled center gives young moms an inviting place to drop by, attend programming, and study or relax. The inauguration of this special space attracted the attention of ABC 30 Fresno, which interviewed Fresno Regional Director Sarah Villa, along with Staff Representatives Dameane Douglas and Daniel Sepulveda, Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula, and Congressman Jim Costa, who recognized the team with certificates. During the event, Ruby Pizano and Chyann Wilson, Shine post-secondary students and scholarship recipients, shared their educational journey.

Throughout the year, Advocates in Fresno held fun activities, such as a Galentine's Day event on February 10. In addition to a discussion about self-love and wellness, the participants painted canvases and decorated cookies. The therapeutic, fun day was all about celebrating friendships and love!

Another highlight was a generous donation of 60 tickets from the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. These were spread out over two trips that included meals and snacks, animal visits, a scavenger hunt, and other fun activities.

Fresno also participated in Read Across America with a birthday party for Dr. Seuss. The little ones enjoyed snacks and took part in themed activities including reading activities, kinetic sand, and even a ball pit! In between all the fun were discussions about the importance of early literacy and reading to children.

A full-circle event happened when Vanessa Padilla was hired as a new Advocate by her former Advocate, Sarah Villa. Both Vanessa and Sarah are playing pivotal roles with the rest of the staff in supporting young moms in the Fresno area.



I had the advantage of the lived experience, and being a young mom myself, there were teachable moments that I would share with them from my personal journey when there were absolutely no programs for myself.

Sarah Villa, Central Valley Regional Director

Sacramento

The Sacramento region spent the year deepening partnerships, ensuring the accessibility of its offices, and making the most of its new program space on the Capital City High School campus.

A key highlight was a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate its partnership with the school, its new space, and Shine Together's name change. At the event, Aneyah McCorvey and Emiko Ropp, two current Shine members and scholarship recipients, shared their inspiring stories. The Sacramento team is thankful for the collaboration with both existing and new partners that allows Shine to make a greater impact, and they thank staff from Sacramento State University, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and others for attending.

Another focus was providing essential resources during times of need, made possible by generous donations. The holiday season included sponsorship of two families and food donations from community partner California Automobile Museum. The Sacramento team also became a community partner with Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services Bank to provide families with diapers, wipes, and baby formula.

Accomplishments for Shine members: Emiko Ropp, Yahaira Ramirez, Salina Yang, Megan Gutierrez, Shaniah Richardson, and Alicia Larson became high school graduates, and Lillian Torees completed her post-secondary studies. Young moms were celebrated at the Sacramento Shine End of the Year event in July at Glenn Hall Park in Sacramento. Moms were able to swim and bond with their children, while bonding with other young moms and growing friendships and bonds.

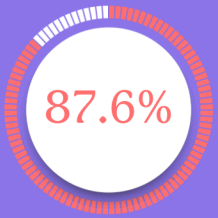


Monterey County

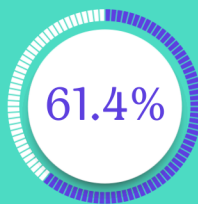
The Teen Success program hosted by Harmony At Home celebrated 22 graduates, and three members completed postsecondary programs. This Shine team continues to grow, adding six Advocates in the past year. This expansion allows an increase in support to 90 young moms across Monterey County!

The team provided many services to end the cycles of violence and abuse by empowering children and young adults with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to lead healthy and productive lives. The team is proud of the strides young moms are making in Monterey County!

In the 2022-2023 program year, Shine empowered 232 young moms and supported 278 children.



of Shine participants have graduated from high school or are on track to do so, compared to 50% of young moms nationwide.



of Shine participants are pursuing postsecondary education. Nationally only 2% of young mothers achieve a college degree by age 30.

Participant Demographics

- 32%** ↪ are experiencing unstable housing
- 44%** ↪ are the child of a young parent themselves
- 39%** ↪ have been previously expelled or suspended from school
- 14%** ↪ have lived in a foster/group home
- 85%** ↪ Latinx
- 6%** ↪ Black
- 5%** ↪ Multi-ethnic
- 4%** ↪ Caucasian

Health/Wellness

- 98%** ↪ children are up-to-date on their wellness doctor visits
- 96%** ↪ children up-to-date on their immunizations
- 83%** ↪ Shine members experienced a reduction in parental stress

Culture

- 99%** ↪ of members reported that they have been treated with respect at Shine
- 98%** ↪ of members would recommend the program to other moms

"Everyone at Shine is very friendly and welcoming and that's what makes it perfect for the mothers that need help."

— Chyann Wilson, participant of Shine



Investors That Shine

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Thank you for helping young mothers and their children reach their full potential!

\$500,000-\$100,000

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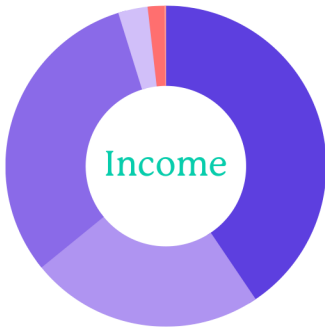
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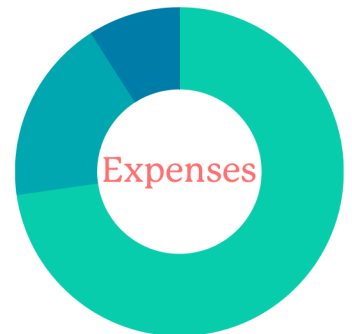
Financials

Income



Foundations: \$902,999
Government: \$414,947
Individuals/Corporations: \$542,445
In-kind: \$47,665
Events: \$37,843
Other: \$3,557
Total: \$1,949,454

Expenses



Program: \$1,820,979
Management/General Operating: \$321,418
Fundraising: \$255,593
Total: \$2,397,990

Net Assets

Beginning of year:
\$1,700,054

Revenue:
\$1,949,454

Expenses:
\$2,397,990

Net surplus/(deficit):
(\$448,536)

Net assets with donor restrictions:
\$123,333

Net assets without donor restrictions:
\$1,123,883

Total net assets, end of year:
\$1,247,216



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Graduate Spotlight



Selena De La Rosa was 5 months pregnant when she heard about Shine Together from a coworker. Nervous at first, she was soon put at ease by the patient and communicative Fresno staff. They shared resources and supported Selena as she worked toward finishing her studies at Fresno High School while also learning how to be a good parent. “As a first-time mom, I did not know anything and had no ideas on how to bond with my baby,” Selena says.

When baby Maliyha was born, Shine helped mother and daughter get close through fun mommy-and-me activities. Selena also quickly realized that she was not alone as she got to meet and connect with other moms just like her. Plus, Shine’s monthly supply of diapers helped with a critical expense. “Shine is a good experience for new moms who need extra help, and this program really helps everybody,” she says.

Now 18, Selena is a high school graduate working toward getting her degree at Fresno City College. Shine is very proud of all that Selena has accomplished so far!

shine

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Shine Program Partner Harmony At Home

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