OVERVIEW of Programs and Services
Jenesse Center, Inc. is the oldest domestic violence intervention program in South Los Angeles. Five African American women who were survivors of domestic violence, and committed to creating a safe place for victims and their families founded the Center in 1980. Our mission is to provide victims of domestic violence with a comprehensive, centralized base of support that is culturally responsive, and ensures their transition from immediate crisis to stability and self-sufficiency. We seek to prevent and end the cycle of domestic violence through education, public awareness and outreach initiatives, public policy and advocacy strategies, and innovative collaborations with key partners.

The program is based on the philosophy and values that (a) domestic violence is a societal issue; it affects the lives of all people in society; (b) women and children are our primary clients; (c) children are equal victims of domestic violence; (d) clients should receive culturally sensitive and culturally competent services; (e) shelter is only the beginning of intervention; (f) clients must receive more than shelter – they must receive life skills; (g) services must empower and transform victims into survivors; (h) men and young boys have to be part of the conversation and program strategy; (i) services must be provided to populations that are generally turned away elsewhere; and (j) public opinion and public policy must be impacted to combat domestic violence.
“I knew it was time to leave when my husband sold the refrigerator and I could not keep my baby’s milk cold.” As a new “temporary” volunteer, that’s one of the first stories I heard a mother share as she entered Jenesse’s shelter. More than 25 years later, I am still here – learning something new every day. Every time we learn something, we develop a strategy to meet the associated challenge.

Since its establishment in 1980, Jenesse has come a long way – from a grass roots organization to one that has been recognized by the Federal Government and the State of California as a Model program. An organization that is always ready to take a project to scale – just waiting for the opportunity and many times making the opportunity happen.

During the early years I worked with two of the founders — Margaret Cambric, who focused on administration and policy, and Bernita Walker who spent many, many hours in the community sharing her recovery from domestic violence and why programs like Jenesse were important.

By the time I started volunteering, Jenesse’s business office was on South Broadway. It was their third location and not so fabulous; however, it was not about the address – it was about the hope inside. Individuals, women’s groups, elected officials and faith based organizations were an essential part of the organization’s sustainability during this period. The board of directors did everything!! Looking back, these people were trailblazers and heroes. Domestic violence was not an issue that was on the radar for a “full court press.” Nevertheless, Jenesse’s supporters knew that the women and children needed safe shelter.

I believe Jenesse’s journey of understanding that shelter was just the beginning was organic. The journey included understanding that many women stayed in violent homes because they did not have job skills. Others stayed because there were so few options available to them. A pathway to self-sufficiency is an essential component of our program. The journey involved understanding that children are impacted, and they too, are in need of intervention services. Thirty-four years later we know “what WAS enough at that time,” is no longer good enough today.

If we are to achieve our mission to end domestic violence, we know that the entire community must be involved in the discussion and solutions to address the violence in our homes. We know men and boys must be included in the conversation and Jenesse makes that happen. We must continue to re-imagine what all shelter related services and programs look like with the ultimate goal of working ourselves out of the need for shelter. Real solutions require outreach for pre-prevention, prevention and then comprehensive service delivery for those who are victimized, including children – especially children.

We are excited to celebrate 35-years as a beacon of hope. When we have the knowledge, program models and cultural context that informs our work, it is an honor and a gift to share and provide understanding to the world for our greater good. That is how we change the world.

Jenesse’s Overview of Programs and Services is our way of sharing the journey and highlights the amazing Angels who join us in this work.

Peace,

Karen Earl
In May of 2009 I was elected President of the Board of Directors of Jenesse Center, Inc. For the last four years it has been my honor to witness the continuing evolution of this organization from a place of shelter, to a place of empowerment and vocational training, to an international model for domestic violence intervention and prevention programs! During my tenure as President of the Jenesse Center’s Board of Directors, it was my great pleasure to be associated with some of the most remarkable and extremely caring individuals in our community. Few things in my life have been more satisfying than my work with the Jenesse Center’s CEO, Karen Earl and her incredible staff who daily and lovingly work to make the world a better place for all. Thank you for demonstrating what it means to put “Service Above Self” on a 24/7 basis. I have also been blessed with the best Board of Directors a President could ever work with. Each member of the Board has done the job entrusted to her/him and has gone beyond the call of duty to ensure that Jenesse Center’s life changing services are always available to those in need. Their dedication to the Center, the CEO and her staff is clearly evident. What we’ve done, we’ve done together.

To our wonderful supporters, please know that I, along with the Jenesse Center Staff and Board, appreciate each and every one of you more than we could ever truly express. While the news and media serve as a daily reminder that the realities of domestic violence are still a part of our world, we remain steadfast in our belief that with education, resources and your support… Change is possible. This belief is what sustains and motivates us each and every day.

And so we close a chapter and look ahead with great anticipation to the next one under the leadership of our new President of the Board of Directors, Naomi Young. During our years as officers together, Naomi has expertly balanced her commitment to the Jenesse Center with the incredible demands of a busy law practice, and she will be a tireless champion of this organization which we all love and support. My thanks to you all for the honor of serving this great organization for the past four years, and now please join me in welcoming the new Jenesse Center President of the Board of Directors, Naomi Young.

With warmest regards,

Avis Frazier-Thomas
Jenesse Center is so much more than a shelter. With six state-of-the-art facilities, dozens of culturally competent, and innovative programs and services, and a community outreach and education strategy that impacts more than 10,000 families each year, Jenesse is redefining what it means to provide women, men and children with effective domestic violence intervention services.

At Jenesse, we truly believe that we can work ourselves out of business by reducing the number of those in need of shelter with forward-thinking, comprehensive strategies. We are pleased to share our Prevention and Intervention models that have proven to be so effective, as well as our plan for Sustainability which will allow Jenesse to continue offering its life-saving services for many years to come.

In this booklet, you will see a snapshot of our work from 2012 through 2013, and highlights from some of our most noteworthy events, programs and services.
Beyond Shelter Walls — Rethinking Domestic Violence Intervention...

Jenesse Center is more than a shelter — it is a family institute that has been a beacon of hope in its community for over three decades. Jenesse truly believes that a world without domestic violence is possible if we all work towards it, which is why Jenesse spends tens of thousands of hours on community outreach and education each year regarding the issue of domestic violence.

Prevention

Jenesse Center is more than a shelter — it is a family institute that has been a beacon of hope in its community for over three decades. Jenesse truly believes that a world without domestic violence is possible if we all work towards it, which is why Jenesse spends tens of thousands of hours on community outreach and education each year regarding the issue of domestic violence.
Speak It! Teach It! Work Toward It!
Over the past two years, Jenesse has educated almost 20,000 men, women and children on domestic violence and healthy relationships through its participation in nationwide health fairs, symposiums, workshops, and events at schools, churches, businesses, and other pertinent venues. Through social media, Jenesse has been able to reach an even broader audience. In the past 5 years, Jenesse’s website has received over 1 million unique viewings.

Getting Men Involved
Domestic Violence is not just a “women’s issue;” it is a community issue that affects us all. Through our work with families in crisis, Jenesse knows first-hand the wide-reaching societal effects of family violence. Jenesse believes that men must be engaged in the conversation and the work to end domestic violence. Through educational activities and innovative outreach events that pique their interest and passions, Jenesse has had great success in reaching young men and boys, and enlisting their support in the fight to end the scourge of domestic violence. Through our dedicated corps of male staff and volunteers, Jenesse engages young men and boys in the community through workshops, presentations, educational activities, and one-on-one conversations on how they are an essential component in bringing an end to domestic violence.

Our Work with Boys & Young Men
Jenesse is one of the few domestic violence intervention programs that houses families with teenage boys. More importantly, at Jenesse we understand that early intervention is key in reaching our youth so that they do not find themselves repeating the cycle of abuse that has destroyed their own families. Our mental health programs are geared specifically to their needs, and we include positive male role models as part of our intervention programs and services. Jenesse’s youth program extends to young men and boys in the community. Our youth workshops focus on equipping them with the tools they will need to resolve conflict without resorting to violence. Jenesse’s peer-to-peer mentoring program partners young men and boys residing in our shelter programs with young men from middle and high schools throughout Los Angeles who act as mentors and anti-violence advocates to the youth in our programs.
Innovative Outreach and Forward Thinking Education

Jenesse is known for taking an issue as sobering as domestic violence and finding ways to engage people on the subject in a positive and uplifting manner. Since 1999, Jenesse has hosted “Conversations for Jenesse” informal, informational gatherings that highlight our work and feature ways that supporters can get involved. Jenesse’s annual “Silver Rose Weekend” fundraising event engages hundreds of participants each year, often-times is the beginning of many new relationships. Jenesse has also hosted fashion shows, teas, estate sales, and more, all with the objective of removing some of the stigma associated with the issue of domestic violence and making it a topic that is readily discussed and initiates a will to act.

JILDA SHERNOFF HOSTS
A CONVERSATION FOR JENESSE

Jenesse Angel, Jilda Shernoff, hosted a “Conversations for Jenesse” event at her home on July 27, 2012. KJLH radio personality, Adai Lamar hosted the event, which was attended by many Jenesse friends and supporters who listened to three Jenesse clients tell their stories of courage, empowerment, and change.

HALLE BERRY HOSTS
A CONVERSATION FOR JENESSE

Halle Berry hosted her second “Conversations for Jenesse” at her home on July 8, 2012. The event was attended by many Jenesse friends, both old and new, who were interested in learning more about Jenesse. The “Conversations for Jenesse” events started in 1999 with the purpose of bringing together potential friends and supporters, in a relaxed environment, to discuss new and exciting
ways to support Jenesse. The events also provide an opportunity to discuss domestic violence and to remind people that survivors of domestic violence should be applauded and supported in their efforts to stand tall, and ready, to improve their lives and the lives of their children.

Volunteerism and Support Takes Many Forms

Jenesse relies on a cadre of dedicated volunteers who support and sustain our ever-expanding list of programs, projects, and services. Not only have our volunteer outreach efforts successfully educated our supporters about the importance of the work, but it has also engaged them by tapping into their passions to make a lasting change in the community. During that past year, volunteers have participated in numerous activities that reinterpret traditional notions of volunteerism.

SUPER NANNY COMES TO JENESSE

Parenting expert, Jo Frost of “Super Nanny” fame, hosted a special “Mommy and Me” class as part of Jenesse’s JMAC (Jenesse’s Mothers and Children) parenting enrichment program. Ms. Frost talked to 30 Jenesse mothers about practical parenting skills and the importance of taking “Mommy Time.”

WHAT A LITTLE LOVE CAN DO: VIOLA DAVIS APARTMENT REVEALED AT JENESSE CENTER

The latest addition to Jenesse’s “What A Little Love Can Do” project, created by Halle Berry, was unveiled on October 28, 2012. Named in honor of award-winning actress Viola Davis, the two-bedroom apartment was renovated by Jenesse Angels Leslee Feldman, Laura Feldman, and Aimee Carpenter. Viola Davis was on hand for the reveal of the finished apartment as was her friend, Oscar winning actress, Octavia Spencer. The Viola Davis apartment follows the “What A Little Love Can Do” project tradition of naming these family units after phenomenal and inspirational women.

The “What A Little Love Can Do” project is part of Jenesse’s strategic mission to reimagine shelter living for the 21st century. The beautiful spaces created by the project allow women to feel empowered and
special, and lays the groundwork as they begin their journey toward self-sufficiency.

This particular project was completed at Jenesse’s largest Transitional Apartment Facility. The complex contains two and three bedroom units, which enables Jenesse to provide shelter to women with large families and to offer programs and services to families right where they live.

JENESSE SELECTED AS FEATURED CHARITY BY VARIETY

Jenesse Center was one of the featured charities at Variety’s annual “Power of Women” event which honored Halle Berry for her work with our domestic violence intervention program. The event was held October 2012 in Beverly Hills.

Also honored at the event were Sue Kroll (Film Independent), Jessica Biel (Water, a non-profit organization), Felicity Huffman (Entertainment Industry Foundation and Stand Up to Cancer), Katherine Heigl (American Cancer Society’s Fight for More Birthdays) and Queen Latifah (Lancelot H. Owens Scholarship Foundation).

Ms. Berry explained, “This means hopefully more attention for the Jenesse Center and that’s what I’m all about — helping raise awareness about domestic violence.”

BE@WB UNVEILS THEIR APARTMENT AT JENESSE CENTER

In the beginning of 2012, BE (“Black Executives”) @WB members and several other WB employees launched their largest fundraising campaign ever for BE’s community partner, Jenesse Center, Inc. BE raised almost $15,000 over the summer, enabling them to sponsor a complete remodel of one of Jenesse Center’s transitional housing apartment units as part of Halle Berry’s “What A Little Love Can Do” project. In August 2012 volunteers formed five teams to tackle different areas of a one-bedroom family apartment. The refurbishment, which took almost four months to complete, culminated in a special unveiling of the “BE at Warner Bros.” apartment on December 2, 2012.

Eva Davis, the former Executive Sponsor for BE, was on hand to deliver remarks at the ceremony.
Ms. Davis stated, “I feel so blessed to have been a part of this project and to have achieved our goal—to rehab an apartment for a family so that they would have a home that is modern, bright and with clean lines, which we felt would be part of creating an inspirational environment as they make the transition to a new life without domestic violence. We literally redid everything in this apartment-new floors, new forced-air and heating, new refinished counters, new furniture, new bathroom tile and fixtures—and this is only a partial list. So I want to give my deepest thanks and admiration to the team leads who did all this work.”

It’s All About the Next Generation

Jenesse’s strategic plan to end domestic violence begins with the next generation. Not only does Jenesse provide enrichment programs for youth in our residential programs, but we also engage and educate youth in the community to recognize the early signs of an unhealthy relationships and the importance of establishing respect and boundaries. Our outreach efforts with schools and other youth groups has been extremely successful, especially, our peer-to-peer mentor and leadership program which serves over 2000 youth each year.

Jenesse Center’s BeSo You! project is our signature healthy relationship workshop series on choosing respect and working toward creating a community that is free of violence. The interactive sessions focus on setting boundaries and building healthy relationships with friends, teachers, family, and romantic partners.

Jenesse’s “Teen Angels “ (aka “JTA’s”) is a peer-to-peer mentor and leadership program comprised of middle and high school students who focus on educating the next generation on the importance of ending relationship violence at all levels of society.
Jenesse University Grows and Expands its Reach

As our “Jenesse Teen Angels” move on to college, they are taking what they have learned from Jenesse and sharing it with their college and university peers throughout the nation. The first chapter of Jenesse University was founded by Aaron Francis in 2010 on the campus of Morehouse College. Jenesse University looks to expand its reach in 2013 as another group of JTA graduates head off to college.

Nationwide Youth and Young Adult Conversations

Jenesse continues to work toward its mission of ending domestic and relationship violence by engaging and teaching the next generation. Jenesse is guided in this work by the following principals:
1. Domestic violence is a family issue.
2. Children and teens are equal victims of domestic violence.
3. Young men have to be part of the conversation.
4. Domestic violence is sometimes a family cycle that continues from generation to generation.
5. This cycle can be broken with proper education, awareness, counseling, and preparation.

Jenesse’s Teen Angels hosted their Third Annual Youth Conversations on July 8, 2012, at the City Club in downtown Los Angeles, to discuss teen dating violence, healthy relationships, and to raise funds to benefit Jenesse Center’s youth programs. Hosted by actress Kyla Pratt, the program featured an open forum where teens could discuss what a healthy relationship looks like. Attendees learned more about the cycle of domestic violence, how to cope, where to get help, and what to do if they or their friends are ever faced with domestic violence.

Aaron Francis hosted Jenesse University’s second annual National Youth Conversation at Morehouse and Spelman Colleges in November 2012.

Black Friday

Last April, members of Jenesse’s Teen Angels and Jenesse University participated in “Black Friday,” an interactive outreach event designed to raise awareness about domestic violence. More than 300
youth and young adults from Los Angeles to Atlanta took part in the event. Black Friday participants wore “faux” black eyes to class, work, and other public venues, and posted pictures of themselves with black eyes on social media platforms in an effort to stimulate conversation, raise awareness and share information on the issue of domestic violence. The idea of Black Friday was created by the student leaders at Morehouse and Spelman who participate in Jenesse University.

All-Year-Round Service Projects
Jenesse Teen Angels and Jenesse University members are engaged year round in order to foster a sense of teamwork and create an environment for them to become leaders and innovators.

Jenesse Teen Angel Oston Jemba Madengue hosted his annual toy drive for the children who live in Jenesse’s shelter program. For the past six years, Oston, now in his senior year of high school, has collected thousands of toys for Jenesse’s families.

THE M. SUE FRAZIER SUMMER CAMP AT JENESSE
Every summer, Jenesse Teen Angels and members of Jenesse University participate in Camp Jenesse, a summer enrichment program for children ages 6 to 13 who reside in our shelter programs. Camp Jenesse, now known as the M. Sue Frazier Summer Camp in memory of Jenesse Angel M. Sue Frazier, provides Jenesse children with an opportunity to form healthy relationships with each other and to participate in a variety of fun and educational activities.

JENESSE TEEN ANGELS HOST THANKSGIVING FOR JENESSE FAMILIES
Jenesse Teen Angels hosted their annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner and Program for the families who reside at Jenesse. Under the leadership of current President, Jordan Ferguson, about 25 youth and their parents participated in the Holiday event which included a lavish, homemade Thanksgiving dinner followed by games, read-alongs and karaoke for the moms and their children.

JENESSE TEEN ANGELS SPEND THREE WEEKS VOLUNTEERING AT JENESSE
Jenesse Teen Angels who attend Loyola High School and St. Mary’s Academy chose to complete their school-mandated, three-week community service module by volunteering with Jenesse. Volunteers performed a variety of tasks including painting buildings, assembling furniture, decorating apartments, cleaning, organizing, light office work, childcare and document shredding.
EXPERTS IN CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Jenesse Center was founded on the premise that you must understand the culture of the women, men, and children that you serve. Jenesse was one of the first organizations to begin a national discussion on the importance of culturally competent domestic violence services. Jenesse is also one of the pioneers in the implementation of programs and services that are designed to meet our clients where they are, and encompass their social, economic, and cultural background.

In an ongoing effort to reach the diverse populations that we serve, Jenesse has reached out to and established relationships with many faith-based organizations in our community in order to engage them in conversation around the issue of domestic violence. Jenesse has developed a training manual to help the faith-based organizations navigate issues pertaining to domestic violence. Highlights include participation in a Cultural Competency Training hosted by the DV Task force through Jewish Family Services and hosting a special faith-based workshop on domestic violence at the City of Refuge Church.

Today, Jenesse is recognized as one of the top leaders in the field of cultural competency and was recently selected by Blue Shield Foundation’s Strong Field Initiative to train other domestic violence programs throughout the State in order to replicate Jenesse’s best practices.

CHILDREN FOCUSED PROGRAMMING

From inception, Jenesse has provided more than 8,000 children and youth ages 0-18 with specialized programs including mental health sessions, “The M. Sue Frazier Summer Camp,” access to “Nahla’s World” — our children’s playroom, and special trips and activities designed to build self-esteem and teach them how to break the cycle of violence.

Jenesse believes that children are equal victims of domestic violence. Jenesse’s Children’s Enrichment Program is provided to our youth-aged residential and drop-in clients and is geared toward self-empowerment, mental health, and anti-violence education.

At Jenesse, we embrace the diversity of clients we serve, and we endeavor to work within their cultural norms to erase language barriers, misconceptions, and more.
Self-Sufficiency comes when the tools are accessible to succeed … And the WILL to use them are activated.

Intervention

Jenesse Center’s programs and services, which are nationally recognized, are culturally competent and geared toward helping our clients achieve long-term self-sufficiency. Since 1980, Jenesse has serviced thousands of women, men and children through both our residential and community-based services.
Jenesse’s Mothers and Children (JMAC)

Jenesse’s signature program Jenesse’s Mothers and Children (JMAC) is a nationally recognized program that utilizes music, games, nutrition education, and healing-through-the-arts therapy techniques to help children adjust to Jenesse’s program and strengthen their bonds with their mother and siblings.

Innovative Legal Services

Jenesse Center is one of the few domestic violence intervention programs with a free in-house legal department and the ONLY one in our community. This is a tremendous asset to our clients who are already overwhelmed and on a good day have trouble navigating the legal system. Since 1999, legal staff members meet on-site with Jenesse clients at the Education Center during daily programming while maintaining confidentiality and the attorney-client privilege. Jenesse also runs a legal clinic that operates out of the Inglewood Courthouse. Jenesse advocates on our clients’ behalf and even accompanies them to court.

SERVICES

• Self-Help Legal Services
• Paternity, including custody, visitation, divorce and more.
• VAWA Immigration
• Sexual Assault/Stalking Issues
• Legal Education, including Legal Rights and Safe Environment Training

Access to fair and comprehensive legal services is a social justice issue that cannot be ignored. The families who come to Jenesse Center for assistance present with a myriad of legal issues, with approximately 90% struggling through legal matters such as child custody, support, and visitation that must be resolved through the Family Law courts. Jenesse understands that the law can be intimidating, and sadly, too many parents come to Jenesse Center with a terrible uncertainty about the fate of their families.

Although access to legal justice is a fundamental right, the unique complexities of Family Law Court - where some of the most difficult, high-stakes cases are decided - do not always lend themselves to just and fair results. Financial constraints, and very little knowledge about how the legal system works, can make parents and their children, who have already been victimized, feel that they have encountered another hurdle that they may not be able to overcome. A survey conducted in 2002 by the California Judicial Council Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants found that 72% of Family Law litigants in Los Angeles County are self-represented at the time of filing. Since few people are familiar with the intricacies of the law, and even fewer understand how the law interacts with
federal laws, the Constitution, and public policy, an un-represented parent can irrevocably prejudice their rights if they receive inadequate information and training. Also, self-represented victims of domestic violence often find themselves legally forced to interact with their self-represented abuser in Family Law Court, despite the existence of a restraining order prohibiting the abuser from having contact with them. This exceptional circumstance often leads to the continued, legally sanctioned, abuse and stalking of domestic violence victims through the very court system that was designed to protect them from their abusers. Therefore, it is imperative that parents learn how to navigate the Family Law court system in order to protect themselves and their children.

The charts on this page represent data regarding common legal issues that Jenesse clients face. The data was compiled using a random sample size of Emergency Shelter clients who were seen by our legal department between January 1, 2010 and December 21, 2012. During the time period surveyed, 128 Emergency clients were assessed by the legal department. All 128 clients presented with at least one legal issue, and the vast majority presented with multiple legal issues. We were able to break the legal issues down into 11 categories: “TRO,” “Family Law,” “Employment Law,” “Landlord/Tenant,” “Benefits and Housing,” “Immigration,” “Traffic Fines,” “Probate,” “Criminal Law,” “Education,” and “Other.”

Of the 128 clients surveyed, 99% required assistance in obtaining a TRO; 95% had Family Law issues including custody, support, divorce, and open DCFS cases or investigations; 50% pre-
presented with Employment issues; 60% present with Landlord/Tenant issues; 95% needed an explanation of their benefit rights and assistance in obtaining public benefits such as CalWORKS, SSI, or Section 8 housing; 50% had Immigration law issues; 90% had unpaid traffic/MTA tickets, many of which were in warrant status; 10% had Probate law issues surrounding guardianship or conservatorship; 60% had Criminal law issues; 10% had Education law issues mostly pertaining to children not receiving services pursuant to an IEP; and 3% presented with “other” non-recurrent legal issues.

EMPOWERING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Part of Jenesse Center’s strategic plan includes the expansion of our Legal Services Department through the creation of a brand new program entitled, “Learning Everything Legal.” The Learning Everything Legal program will allow Jenesse Center to create a community hub that promotes interactive learning and offers not just our clients, but the greater community, access to all the programs and services they need to assert their legal rights.

Not only will our Legal Services Department continue to assist self-repre- sented litigants with document preparation and filing of motions and pleadings (including assistance in obtaining domestic violence restraining orders, child custody, support and visitation orders, and VAWA petitions), explanation of court process, and court accompaniment as appropriate, but our new “Learning Everything Legal” program will offer much needed legal empowerment seminars and interactive mock trial/hearing workshops to the community at large, thereby ensuring that parents will acquire the tools and resources they need to become educated on the law and empowered to protect themselves and their children.

JENESSE CENTER, INC. CELEBRATES 14 YEARS OF SERVING CLIENTS

Jenesse hosted an Open House Reception to celebrate the 14-year
anniversary of Jenesse Center’s Legal Services Department and to recognize some key partners and supporters who stand shoulder to shoulder with the organization in their mission to ensure that there is “Justice for All.”

Jenesse Center presented the Champions of Justice Award to those community leaders who have shown their commitment to social justice through education, empowerment, advocacy, and access to the legal system, and who have been catalysts in Jenesse’s ability to perform quality legal services for families in crisis.

Distinguished Honorees included: The Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, The Honorable Patricia J. Titus, Judge Mablean Ephriam, Former Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for the Second District, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge, and, CEO and Founder of the Judge Mablean Ephriam Foundation.
Mental Health Experts

Jenesse Center is one of the few domestic violence programs with an in-house mental health department. Both residential and drop-in clients receive the following services:
- Individual, group, peer, and family counseling by trained, registered MFT counselors
- Empowerment and enrichment classes
- Substance abuse and anger management classes

Jenesse’s Mental Health Department is managed by Dr. Rhonda Brinkley-Kennedy. Dr. Kennedy oversees our mental health staff and clinical internship program which draws participants from colleges and universities throughout Los Angeles and beyond.

“As Clinical Director, I have the pleasure of training and supervising graduate level psychology students who are attending local colleges and universities, including Alliant International University, USC, Pepperdine University, Azusa Pacific University, Pacific Oaks, Phillips Graduate Institute and the Cal State Universities. These students volunteer 10 to 25 hours per week to Jenesse offering mental health services to the families in the program who are recovering from domestic violence. They serve Jenesse by providing domestic violence, anger management, parenting, substance abuse, self-discovery and children’s groups as well as clinical assessment, and individual and family counseling.

I get to witness the psychological and emotional growth of the Jenesse clients as well as the professional and academic growth of the psychology interns. The interns have an experience with a DV population that is often misunderstood and underserved. The training and clinical experiences Jenesse offers these future professionals, assists the interns in becoming informed leaders upon graduation into their respective fields. I like to say that our interns ‘learn to serve as they serve to learn.’

The juxtaposition of working with clients as they come out of overwhelming and painful family experiences, and working with future psychology leadership, who will bring new understandings to the field as it relates to families who are recovering from domestic violence, is a blessing. I see myself as a conduit between the underserved families in our community, and the future leadership that has the ability to inform social policy recommendations regarding underserved families in our community. What a win-win job!”
—Dr. Rhonda Brinkley-Kennedy

Healing through the Arts

Jenesse’s “Healing Through the Arts” Program incorporates music, dance, writing, art, food, and photography in ways that are empowering and therapeutic. Sessions last year included a special photography lesson at Griffith Park with world-renowned photographer, Mark Liddell, and an “Express Yourself” collage media art class with acclaimed artist, Phoebe Beasley.
Comprehensive Vocational Education Programming

Jenesse has adopted a holistic approach to ending the cycle of domestic violence for residential and drop-in clients. Upon entering the program, clients are given a vocational assessment to determine their educational and vocational needs. Clients receive one-on-one guidance in returning to school, if needed; this includes online certificate and degree programs, as well as traditional college enrollment.

Jenesse’s Vocational Training Committee hosts a variety of programs that include resume writing, “dress for success” workshops, successful job search strategies, and mock interviews.

Residential and drop-in program participants attend classes at the Educational Center Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in subjects ranging from mental health and parenting to computer skills and financial literacy. The Education Center hosts a fully functioning classroom, state-of-the-art computer lab and boutique.

REDEFINING SHELTER LIVING

Jenesse has always been at the forefront in redefining shelter living. At Jenesse, we believe that our families deserve the very best and that they are more than their circumstance. We understand that families need more than a roof over their head when they are transitioning out of crisis — they need 24-hour supportive services in a nurturing, hopeful environment. Our pioneering approaches to domestic violence intervention have led us to elevate shelter services beyond just housing. We provide our clients with clean, sophisticated, and serene spaces for living and healing that offer families everything they need to succeed right where they live. Our modern facilities lay the foundation for healthy mental development, positive self-imaging, and long-term success.

Families receive:
- Direct Aid
- Mental health services
- Healthcare
- Vocational education
- Legal assistance

Transitional Apartment Shelters are self-contained with——
- A classroom
- Computer lab
- Children’s room
- Counseling center

Jenesse Center’s facilities offer clean, sophisticated, and serene spaces for living and healing that offer families everything they need to succeed
The Silver Rose Weekend

Each year, Jenesse Center hosts its annual Silver Rose Gala and Auction. Chaired by Academy Award-winning actress Halle Berry, this is Jenesse’s signature fundraiser and a key aspect of our sustainability strategy. **The purpose of the event is to introduce new supporters to the work that we do, while raising the funds we need to help maintain our programs.**

Honorees for the event represent those individuals and corporations who work diligently all year to heal families and connect communities.

Another aspect of the Silver Rose weekend is the “Halle Berry Celebrity Golf Classic.” Held at the Wilshire Country Club, this fundraising event emphasizes Jenesse’s commitment to providing avenues for men to be a part of the conversation around the issue of domestic violence.

Jenesse Hosts SoulCycle event

Jenesse Angel and award-winning actress, Jurnee Smollett, joined singer/musician Josiah Bell to host Jenesse’s “Ride for Hope” event on June 16, 2012 at SoulCycle in West Hollywood — one of the many innovative fundraisers that we host year round.

More than 40 Jenesse supporters donned their workout gear and came out to sweat for a cause! The high-energy cycling fundraiser treated participants to an hour of spinning, music, and fun.

MONTHLY SUSTAINERS’ PROGRAMS

Jenesse’s monthly sustainers’ programs allows individual supporters to donate funds on a consistent basis. All monies from these monthly tax-deductable gifts go directly into funding our facilities, programs, and services.

HOPE ANGELS

Participants in the Hope Angels program automatically donate monthly to Jenesse. Participation begins at $10. Since its inception two years ago, the Hope Angels have raised approximately $10,000 a year for Jenesse.

WORKPLACE GIVING

Workplace giving participants are an invaluable source of support for Jenesse. Workplace giving participants donate to Jenesse through their place of employment. Many employers participate in “matching” programs that match or enhance their employees’ contributions to Jenesse.
Our Services

State of the Art Housing and Program Facilities

1. Emergency Shelter
2. Transitional Apartment Facilities
1. Education Center
2. In-House Legal Clinics

26 beds in Emergency Shelter
95 beds in Transitional Apartment Facilities

122,304 Approximate hours of Case Management during an average client stay.
600 Hours of Legal Services offered per month
7,300 Approximate number of DV Education classes offered.
Approximately 2,500 clients served at legal clinic

5,172 Meals served per year
over 6,000 hours of Mental Health services offered in two years.
3,000 hours of transportation provides per year

800 Number of Health and Wellness Services offered per year
Jenesse Center, Inc.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Our Clients

35% are Women
2% are Men
99.5 percent come with their children
63% are Children
< 1% Transgender

2.5
Average number of children per mom

2 years, the average stay for a client

Jenesse services approximately 2,500 clients a year

100% of Jenesse clients are in need of some type of legal assistance.

Socio/Economic Breakdown

$16,000, average income of clients

Majority of clients come from SPA 6, one of the most impoverished areas in the nation.

85% of our clients are on some type of public assistance.

The majority of clients have not finished high school.

2% of our clients have reached a level of education higher than high school

1-49
General age range

25
Average age of a mother

Racial Breakdown

65% African-American
30%
Hispanic/Latino(a)
5%
Other
Sustainability

Jenesse Center is committed to sustainable growth by strengthening our ties with supporters and offering them innovative and varied ways they can support our cause. With six facilities, dozens of programs and services, more than 2,500 clients serviced per year and an outreach program that touches hundreds of thousands of people nationally and internationally, Jenesse is so much more than a shelter. As a result, sustainability is essential if we are to continue to grow and innovate as we provide culturally competent and transformative services to families in need. This is a challenge, but it is one that we embrace. And, as more people, corporations, foundations, and organizations recognize the value of our work, we are confident that Jenesse will be positioned for a future of limitless possibilities — “Where the sky’s the limit.”
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