

Medical Safe Haven



A Day of Collaboration, Growth & Impact

2025 Shared Learnings Symposium

On October 3, 2025, **Medical Safe Haven** leaders, champions, and partners gathered for the MSH 2025 Shared Learnings Symposium, a powerful day centered on innovation, resilience, and advancing trauma-informed care for survivors of human trafficking. The morning began with a meaningful welcome and reflection from **Kathleen Dowler**, followed by updates from the Gilbert Medical Safe Haven team, who shared insights on launching a new site and the opportunities that come with expanding this critical work.

Throughout the day, presenters explored pressing topics shaping survivor care. **Michelle Lacy**, LPC, PMH-C, provided a compelling overview of Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders, emphasizing early recognition and evidence-based treatment approaches, while **Drs. Sarah Chaffin and Reagan Summers** introduced a new curriculum on screening and managing STIs in trafficking survivors. Mental health and provider well-being were also front and center, with **Dr. Matthew Gibson** addressing treatment considerations for MSH providers and **Dr. Kauser Ahmed** leading an inspiring session on fostering resident resilience through trauma-informed care.

The afternoon featured collaborative discussions across all sites on best practices, research, curriculum development, tattoo removal efforts, and wellness initiatives. The symposium concluded with renewed energy and shared commitment, reinforcing MSH's mission to ensure survivors receive compassionate, comprehensive, and trauma-informed care at every step of their healing journey.

Celebrating Jennifer Cox and Her Incredible Legacy

With deep gratitude, we honor Jennifer Cox for her extraordinary dedication to the Medical Safe Haven program. Co-creating Medical Safe Haven in 2015 with Dr. Ron Chambers, Jennifer transformed a compassionate vision into a multi-state program serving family residency programs and clinics across California and, most recently, Arizona. Through her leadership, Medical Safe Haven has provided a safe clinical home for more than 1,400 victims and survivors, supported over 8,000 patient visits, and helped shape resident physicians into trauma-informed, survivor-centered providers. Jennifer was instrumental in expanding the program's educational impact, helping to reach over 22,500 individuals nationally and internationally, training more than 14,000 professionals—including physicians, RNs, law enforcement, social service agencies, educators, community members, and medical students and annually training over 120 resident physicians, with more than 850 residents and faculty trained to date. Jennifer often shares that this work has been the most meaningful of her career, a reflection of the compassion, advocacy, and heart she brought to every part of the program. Thank you, Jennifer, for creating something truly extraordinary!



“As I reflect on what it has meant to co-create and lead the Medical Safe Haven over the past decade, I feel deep gratitude. What began as a vision — that healthcare settings could become places of safety and dignity for survivors of human trafficking — grew into a multi-state initiative sustained by collaboration, courage, and shared commitment. Building teams and partnerships around this belief has been one of the greatest privileges of my professional life.

The Medical Safe Haven allowed me to work alongside extraordinary trauma-informed physicians, resident learners, patient advocates, and community leaders. Together, we built more than a program; we built a culture grounded in compassion, excellence, and the conviction that every survivor deserves to be seen, heard, and supported with competent, life-affirming care. This program has strengthened anti-trafficking networks and expanded healing impact in ways I could not have imagined at the beginning.

On a personal level, this work has been the most meaningful chapter of my professional life. I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me, the collaboration shared, and the friendships that grew from this mission.”

**Jennifer Cox, Medical Safe Haven Co-Founder &
Former System Director Physician Enterprise Medical Safe Haven**

Shared Hope International - JuST Conference 2025

The Medical Safe Haven team was honored to attend the Shared Hope International JuST 2025 Conference, the nation's leading conference dedicated to addressing juvenile sex trafficking. Thanks to the generosity of a long-time donor, advocates from all MSH sites traveled to Orlando, Florida to deepen their knowledge and strengthen their skills in survivor-centered, trauma-informed care. Our team also had the meaningful opportunity to present at the conference, sharing our workshop "Silent Stories, Bridged Voices: Uniting Advocacy & Action to Transform Trauma into Healing in Healthcare," presented by advocates **Malia Duran** (Santa Maria) and **Ritika Sharma** (Sacramento), alongside Program Manager **Laura Beas-Mejia** and Program Specialist **Gigi Barrios**. Additionally, former Program Director **Jennifer Cox**, MSH Medical Director **Dr. Ron Chambers**, and MSH Champion **Dr. Pamela Davis** presented on Medical Safe Haven care for family medicine residents and faculty. Being able to learn from and contribute alongside national experts in this space was both impactful and affirming of the work we do every day.



Amplifying Impact: MSH Featured on the Be the Bloom Podcast



[Click Here](#) to Listen!

We were honored to be featured on the **Be the Bloom** podcast, where **Dr. Pamela Davis**, one of our incredible MSH Champions and our MSH Program Specialist, **Gigi Barrios**, had the opportunity to share more about the Medical Safe Haven program. During the conversation, they highlighted the impact of our trauma-informed work, the importance of compassionate, survivor-centered care, and what inspires them to remain committed to anti-human trafficking efforts. Their voices helped shine a light on how intentional healthcare spaces can support healing, dignity, and hope for survivors.

Medical Safe Haven Officially Launches in Gilbert, Arizona!

On November 12, 2025, Medical Safe Haven (MSH) proudly launched its newest program site in Gilbert, Arizona! This exciting milestone follows months of preparation, including training medical teams in trauma-informed, survivor-centered care and building strong community partnerships.

Since launch, the program has already established care for 13 patients, with 17 visits completed. We are incredibly grateful for the leadership of MSH Champion **Benjamin Ihms** and the compassionate support of our Patient Advocate, **Evelyn Chavez-Aguilar**, who has been instrumental in supporting patients during these early days.

We are also thrilled to partner with **Hope Women's Center**, a trusted local organization providing free counseling, support groups, life skills classes, and resource navigation for women and teen girls, helping ensure survivors receive holistic, wraparound care.



Left to right: Eric Barkyoumb - MSH System Director, Laura Beas-Mejia - MSH Program Coordinator, Evelyn Chavez-Aguilar - Patient Advocate, Gigi Barrios - MSH Program Specialist, and Dr Benjamin Ihms - MSH Champion.

Program Stats

Overall Patient Impact: July 2025 - December 2025

The following sites were established in the corresponding years: Sacramento (SAC) in 2016, Redding (R) in 2019, Northridge (NR) in 2020, Santa Maria (SM) in 2022, San Francisco (SF) in 2023, and MSH CASH CLINIC (CASH) in 2024.

63

NEW PATIENTS
ESTABLISHED

670

VISITS
PROVIDED

312

PATIENTS
SERVED

63

SECONDARY
VICTIMS SERVED