

# San Mateo County Tattoo Removal Program

A program of the Redwood City Police Department, San Mateo County's Sheriff's Office, and San Mateo Probation Department, in collaboration with San Mateo County Sheriff's Activities League and Redwood City Police Activities League







# HELLO!

I am Jennifer Martinez

Brazilian and Mexican descent and was raised between the United States and Brazil. I am bicultural and speak Spanish and Portuguese fluently. I studied Social Work at San Francisco State University, and California State University, East Bay, graduating with a master's in Social Work.

As the new Juvenile and Family Services Specialist, I will use a unique combination of law enforcement and clinical social work to provide prevention and early intervention services to youth and their families.

# About

The San Mateo County Tattoo Removal Program was created in 1996 to address the increase in youth related violent crimes in San Mateo County, particularly involving gang activity. In 2009, the program expanded to remove tattoos of survivors of domestic violence. In 2011, the program extended services to survivors of human trafficking.

**The program provides the participant a safe place and the opportunity to eradicate the physical signs of ownership, build self-esteem and positively move forward in their healing journey.**



# Participant testimonies

"I had to erase the tattoos because the marks are a stigma that follows me through life."

"The last step in recovering my freedom."

"The moment when all my pain is finally gone."

"Every time I took a shower or look at my body the tattoo reminded me of the violence and abuse."



# *Referral Process*

<https://www.redwoodcity.org/home/showpublisheddocument/24806/637840568662100000>

<https://redwoodcitypal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/RCPDTattooRemovalApplicati.pdf>

# Applicant Requirements

- People of any age starting at 10 years-old (Applicants 18 years old or younger, must have written parent/legal guardian consent as well as be accompanied by parent/guardian during sessions).
- Complete 20 hours of community service
- Attend school, volunteering, and/or working or actively seeking employment
- Agree to a background check - Safety





# Confidentiality & Safety

- We are committed to maintaining the accuracy, confidentiality, and security of your personal information.
- Screening may include a criminal background check and verification of any information provided on the application form.

# Application Process

- 1.** All applicants must complete the application form found on the RCPD and PAL websites and submit it to the Juvenile Specialist via email, fax, mailing it, or dropping it off in person at the PD. *All information obtained in the application process will be kept confidential and used for statistical purposes only. More information regarding privacy to personal information is listed under privacy policy in the application.*
- 2.** After submitting the application, the juvenile specialist a program supervisor will contact the applicant for a screening and the enrollment process.
- 3.** If the application is accepted, applicant will be notified by phone and informed of what to expect during the first session. A letter will be sent to the applicant to inform of acceptance or denial of acceptance to the program.



# Types of tattoos removed

- Visible
- Violence-related
- Anything that poses a threat to your safety





The SMCOTR provides tattoo removal free of charge. This is possible thanks to the generosity of volunteer trained medical professionals including physicians, nurses, technicians, and support staff.

They use state of the art laser equipment that has been purchased through the generosity of local donors.

We also have the equipment and facility necessary to provide this service.



## Medical Professionals needed to change lives through laser tattoo removal.

Erasing *the Past*

Changing *the Future*



IN COLLABORATION WITH

SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, SHERIFF CARLOS G. BOLANOS  
REDWOOD CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, CHIEF DAN MULHOLLAND  
SAN MATEO COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT, CHIEF JOHN KEENE  
SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S ACTIVITIES LEAGUE  
REDWOOD CITY POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE





2,200

Participants since 1996

1,000

Of volunteer hours

25,000

Of community service hours completed by participants

# The Process

The laser tattoo removal procedure is performed with the MedLite C6 laser.

The purpose of this procedure is to attempt to remove, fade or significantly lighten the tattoo(s).

The laser passes through the top layers of the skin and breaks down the tattoo ink into small particles which are then eliminated from the body (through the immune system).



# Efficacy

Tattoo removal is a gradual process that depends largely on your tattoo's location, depth, density and ink type and colors. For example, black ink is the easiest for our lasers to target, whereas colored ink can be a bit more complicated.

The number of visits required to remove a tattoo depends on a variety of factors, Some may be removed in as few as two visits while others may require several. Complete tattoo removal is not always possible.

Some patients will have very noticeable improvement, while others may have little or no improvement. A series of treatments is usually needed for maximum results.

“

“I was crying out for help and ended up making many big mistakes. My tattoos were trademarks of a hard life lived. They were also unfriendly and constant reminders of the domestic violence I experienced over 20 years ago.

20 years, that is a really, really long time to stare at one moment of a mistake.”

Elizabeth - Tattoo Removal participant





“

“Because you begin to wonder whether you’ll ever be anything but the person those tattoos say you are.”

Naticia, a survivor of eight years of sex trafficking

# The San Mateo County Tattoo Removal Program

is seeking medical professionals to volunteer in this collaborative effort to provide laser tattoo removal for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking and for former gang members

As a volunteer, you would be providing people with the ability to enhance their self-esteem, self-worth, and enabling a new beginning through removing tattoos that are reminders of past trauma. Through this service, these individuals are given a new hope.

REMOVING  
THE PAIN OF  
THE PAST

After my first treatment, I went home and cried, because I realized,

*Wow, a new me!*

-D.A.

## VOLUNTEER DETAILS

We are looking for **RNs, NPs, PAs, MDs** and those who have tattoo removal experience, trained to operate a laser. Responsibilities will include utilizing the **Cynosure Medlite C6 Laser** for the tattoo removal process. The desired minimum commitment is **one session per year**, which is approximately **6 hours**. The services will be provided in **Redwood City**

For more information contact Juvenile and Family Services Specialist Jennifer Martinez

Redwood City Police Department  
1301 Maple Street, Redwood City, CA 94063

D: 650.780.7195 | C: 650.670.2582

[jmartinez@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jmartinez@redwoodcity.org)





# *Additional Programs*

- Family Intervention (status offenses, such as truancy, running away from home, failure to obey parents and curfew violations)
- Truancy Abatement Program
- Diversion
- Parent Project - 2023
- Internship Program - 2023
- Liaison with the Community and Schools
  - Presentations on Bullying awareness
  - Educating parents on gangs

# For more information

## **Please contact**

Jennifer Martinez

Juvenile and Family Services Specialist

1301 Maple St. Redwood City, CA 94063

E-mail: [jmartinez@redwoodcity.org](mailto:jmartinez@redwoodcity.org)

650-780-7195