

**“Continue to be who and how you are,  
to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness.”**

**— Maya Angelou**

Our country is catalyzed by dread, but some have more to fear than others. For the children we serve at WestCoast, who live at the intersection of racism, poverty, and systemic indifference, there are no shortage of things to be afraid of.

Take Marisol, eleven years old. Her backpack is heavy – not from books, but from fear. Her mother told her not to speak Spanish at school anymore: *“Ellos están escuchando (They’re listening),”* she said. So Marisol stays quiet in class, but fills her notebook with poems in Spanish, the language that connects her to her family. Resilience, for Marisol, means keeping her culture alive even when she has to hide it. But she shouldn’t have to.

Jamie keeps an “All-Gender” bathroom sign on their shelf like a medal. When the high school removed it to comply with new federal policy, Jamie kept the sign as a reminder that there was a place they felt they belonged. With help from their WestCoast team, they started a peer-counseling group to create a new space.

And Farhan, frustrated that the adults in his life *“act like they don’t know what to do”*, leads his school’s early warning network – alerting classmates when ICE is near, helping families prepare and stay safe.

Facing cruelty disguised as policy, Marisol, Jamie, and Farhan become experts in resistance. They organize in lunchrooms, connect online, write their own stories in the margins, and build safety where they can. When laws are passed that try to erase who they are, they respond by becoming even more themselves. They are building something stronger than policy. They are building community.

Our children, born in a time of backlash, are not just the future. They are leading right now – with courage and conviction. What they need are adults and communities who stand for and with them. **Because no child should have to choose between being safe and being themselves. And no family should have to choose between protection and care.**

At WestCoast Children’s Clinic, we make sure they don’t have to. We provide a refuge where healing begins, and resilience is nurtured. We help kids find security in trusted relationships – and we fight for systems that protect their right to grow and thrive.

Your support lets us help children and families waiting for our mental health services. Connect families to food and resources they need. Distribute red cards. Sponsor legal consultation. Create safety plans that protect and empower families under threat.

Children shouldn’t have to be experts in survival. They deserve the freedom to simply be – students, artists, dreamers, and leaders.

Together, we can build a world where every child’s safety is not a privilege, but a right.

Join us.



# WESTCOAST CHILDREN'S CLINIC

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