

SAFE HOUSE  
PROJECT

# HOPE REPORT

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2021

IMPACT



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PROJECT

Safe House Project | 107 S. West Street, Suite 720 | Alexandria, VA 22314  
[www.SafeHouseProject.org](http://www.SafeHouseProject.org)



# HOPE. FREEDOM. FUTURE.

Edmund Burke once said, “the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” A few years ago we saw an evil we could not unsee--child trafficking. When we realized hundreds of thousands of American children are trafficked across the U.S. each year, we refused to do nothing.

To increase victim identification above 1%, we developed training that equips people to identify and respond to trafficking. This year, 3 new OnWatch modules were launched, as well as our H.O.P.E. Training (Healthcare Observations for the Prevention and Eradication of Human Trafficking Training). To date, we have deployed training to over 200K educators, healthcare workers, businesses, and community members.

Our core mission remains steadfast--increase safe house capacity to protect survivors who have the courage to escape. Since 2020, we have served more than 207 survivors. That’s over 207 lives free from trafficking.

But the work didn’t stop there. We helped fund qualified safe house programs to get new doors open for survivors to heal. To date, we have helped launch 272 beds in 18 states to support trafficking survivors. Our pipeline of new programs continues to expand as our team deploys mentorship to programs across 23 states,

Now, we are excited to share our 2022 initiative. Through evaluating hundreds of programs, we have seen the deep need to elevate best practices to provide survivors with excellent care. We have heard survivors testify to the impact great programs have on their healing journey, but also the pain caused by subpar programs. With the support of survivors, industry leaders, government officials, and state agencies, Safe House Project will be helping to draft new legislation in Congress.

Our work is not finished until every man, woman, and child being trafficked finds freedom, the highest level of restorative care, and hope for their future. Until that is true, we refuse to do nothing.

*Kristi Wells*

**KRISTI WELLS**  
CO-FOUNDER & CEO





# OUR STORY

When Safe House Project was founded, Health & Human Services was reporting that 300K American children were being trafficked in the United States each year, but tragically victim identification is at 1%.

This begged the question, what was happening to the approximately 3K children identified each year? That's when our team realized that there were less than 100 beds that offered kids safe housing and care.

Safe House Project's mission is to increase survivor identification beyond one percent through education, provide emergency services and placement to survivors, and ensure every survivor has access to safe housing and holistic care by accelerating safe house capacity and development across America.

Our vision is to unite communities to end domestic sex trafficking and restore hope, freedom, and a future to every survivor.

"I have seen the immeasurable value in public-private partnerships in the fight to end human trafficking.

Safe House Project has once again answered the call to support those providing vital services to survivors of human trafficking.

When organizations come together to share resources, everyone benefits – survivors, frontline professionals, and even the government.

During my time with the Department of Justice, we struggled to provide sufficient housing to meet the needs of those victims exiting their exploitative scenarios.

With Safe House Project's generous grant dollars, safe caring homes will be opened up to allow survivors to heal, grow, and regain their autonomy while helping fill a much needed gap.

I am grateful for Safe House Project's commitment to serving those that need it most."

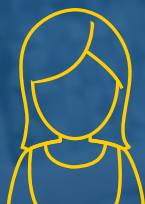
-Bill Woolf, former Director of Human Trafficking Programs, U.S. Department of Justice



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# SERVING & EMPOWERING TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS



## Identifying Victims

Increasing victim identification through education and training opportunities for healthcare workers, law enforcement, educators, employees, and community members.



## Supporting Survivors

Providing emergency transportation, basic necessities, and safe house placement to survivors exiting a trafficking situation. Hiring survivors to live out their career goals through a trauma-informed work environment.



## Restoring Lives

Elevating the national standard of aftercare through Safe House Project Certification. Investing in new or expanding safe house programs through mentorship and funding. Innovating to address the deepest needs and biggest gaps in survivor care.



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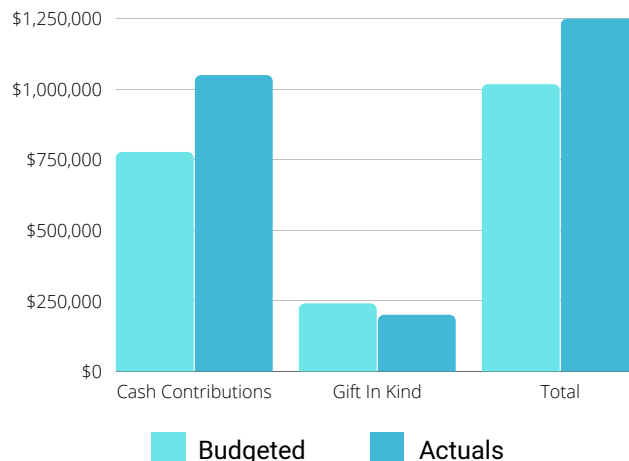


# YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING

## 2021 Budget (Actuals)



## 2021 Revenue



## PLAN FOR ERADICATING CHILD TRAFFICKING BY 2030



A Safe House network in all 50 states to protect, to serve & to empower survivors



6 million people trained to spot, report, & prevent sex trafficking in America



Train 250 corporate partners to disrupt human trafficking



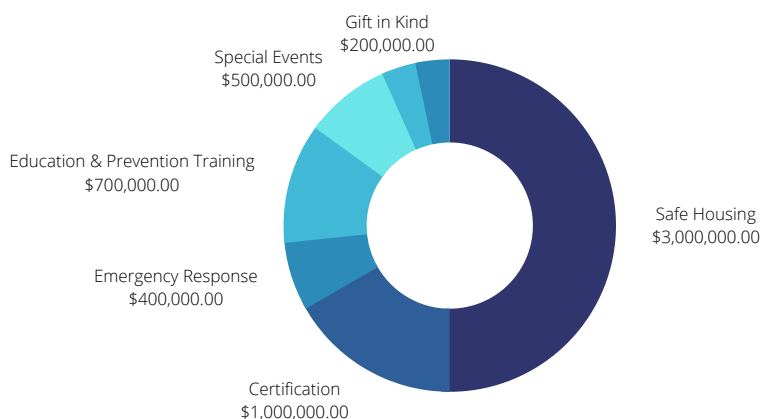
Launch the National Safe House Certification Network

## FUNDING THE VISION

### 2022 Budget



### 2026 Budget



Our 2022-2026 plan will cost a total of \$31 million, growing our annual operating budget from \$1.5 million in 2022 to \$6 million in 2026.



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TRAFFICKED SINCE AGE 13

# ELIZABETH

## A MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT ESCAPE

I am not sure how I found Safe House, but I am beyond thankful... I had been admitted to the hospital and knew that was my chance to escape. I made the call, not sure what to expect. On the other end of the line was a woman who said, "We will figure this out. We will get you out." With the help of local law enforcement and healthcare professionals, they sent a husband and wife team to help move me in the middle of the night. When I boarded that plane to a safe house, there were still a lot of unknowns. But today, today I have a new job, I am going through a safe house program, and I am receiving the care I so desperately needed.



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# SPOT. REPORT. PREVENT.

## EDUCATION IMPACT

Education is the key to preventing trafficking and identifying trafficked individuals in our communities.



### 36K People Trained

OnWatch™, launched September 2020, is a survivor-led training designed to empower you to spot, report, and prevent sex trafficking where you live, work, and play. Over the past year, we have released 3 new modules. Take the training at [IAmOnWatch.org](http://IAmOnWatch.org)



### H.O.P.E. Training Launched

The Healthcare Observations for the Prevention and Eradication of Trafficking Training, or H.O.P.E. Training, is a survivor-informed, trauma-informed, and patient-centered online training that equips all healthcare workers to identify potential human trafficking victims, give support, and offer resources.



### 15 New Leaders in Freedom

15 new corporations joined the fight to eradicate human trafficking by becoming a Leader in Freedom. To find out which corporations, or for more information, visit [SafeHouseProject.org/corporations](http://SafeHouseProject.org/corporations)

To date, Safe House Project has deployed training to more than 200k people across America, equipping them to spot, report, and prevent trafficking.



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TRAFFICKED SINCE AGE 11

# ALEX

## SHATTERING THE TRAUMA BOND

Abuse is all I have ever known. I didn't know how to escape from the grips of my trafficker because where the heck was I supposed to go?

My brother was my trafficker.

I didn't know how to leave him...

But the night he tried to kill me, the bond that kept me with him shattered. I fled not knowing where I would go, but thank God I landed at a hospital who knew who to call. They reached out Safe House Project who sent a team in to help me escape. They coordinated the safe retrieval of my IDs, and got me on the next flight out to a safe house far from the hell I had been living.



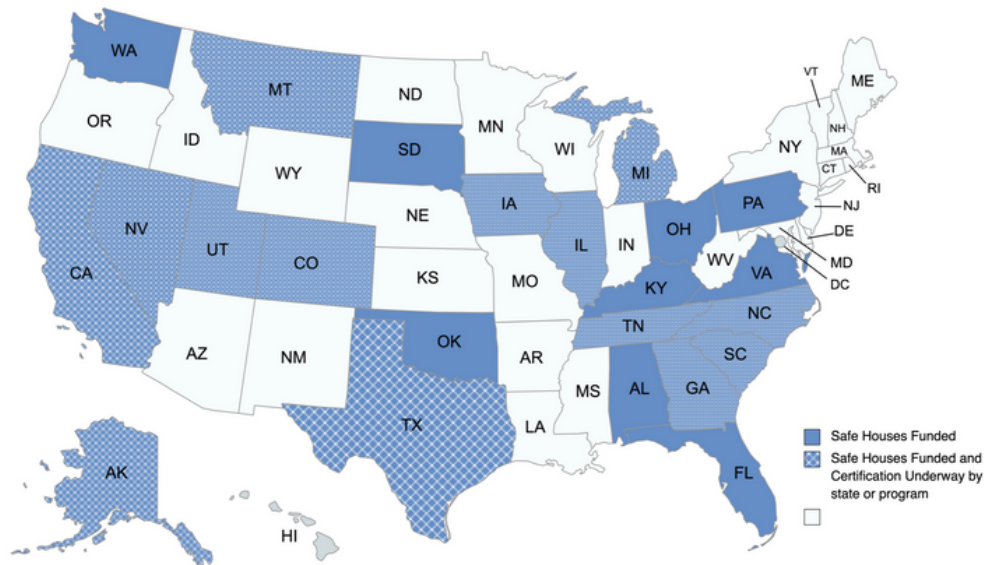
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# SAFE HOUSE CAPACITY BUILDING

## 272 Beds Launched



Your investment is building a nation wide network of safe houses.  
Safe House Project accelerates safe house development through funding and mentorship.

### FUNDING APPROACH

As an organization that mentors and funds programs, as well as serving as a national clearinghouse for survivor placement, Safe House Project is in a unique position to identify gaps in the continuum of care for survivors of human trafficking.

This year, we focused on funding new or expanding safe homes whose efforts would fill critical gaps. This included funding programs serving men, mothers with children, and survivors in states where no restorative care home previously existed.

### CERTIFICATION APPROACH

Safe House Certification was developed by industry professionals to elevate survivor care by standardizing the use of best practices. The goal of Certification is to ensure that all survivors receiving restorative care have access to ethical, safe, therapeutic, well-resourced, and sustainable residential programs that are equipped to provide them with the standard of care they deserve.

In addition to better serving survivors, Certification drives innovation, continuous improvement, and collaboration with programs within the movement.

"Daily we see quality programs break the cycle of victimization for trafficking survivors. Certification provides a clear way to evaluate organizations and elevate those meeting best practices, while driving all programs to excellence—reducing re-victimization nationwide. Safe House Certification is a collaborative initiative driven by industry experts including survivors, law enforcement, social workers, health care professionals, mental health professionals, and leading residential programs for trafficking survivors in order to provide survivor care that goes above and beyond a basic industry standard of care."

- Alia Dewees, Safe House Project Director of Aftercare Development



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TRAFFICKED SINCE AGE 14

# TASHA

FINALLY FEELS LIKE HOME

...when I woke up in a foreign country, I was terrified. I couldn't speak the language, all the businesses looked the same. But I had to find help to try and get myself and the other girls trapped in this room with me to safety. Secretly, I sent an email to an organization I had heard about... I gave them all the information I possibly could. The SHP team relayed that information to Homeland Security Investigations, who eventually found me and helped me get back to the U.S. As soon as I touched down, SHP had a team of victim advocates ready to help me get to safety. Now I am in a safe house, receiving care from a team that feels like family. I am learning the true meaning of love. For the first time in my life, I feel like I have a home.



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# SAFE HOUSE CERTIFICATION LAUNCHED

## SURVIVOR FOCUSED & TRAUMA-INFORMED



### National Standards

Safe House Programs are evaluated on their ability to meet national standards and best practices developed by industry professionals; including survivor consultants, restorative care programs, mental health professionals, physicians, etc.



### Survivor Review

Certification is reviewed by trafficking survivors who understand the needs, value, and challenges of restorative care and seek to elevate the national landscape to meet the needs of future survivors.



### Continual Improvement

Certification demonstrates an organization's commitment to self-assessment, improving quality of care, and adopting new methodologies to improve the effectiveness of their program.



### Community Engagement

Participation in the certification process affirms a commitment to quality, which increases local sustainability, community involvement and volunteerism.

"Since 2019, Wellspring Living has actively worked alongside Safe House Project to provide pathways of recovery for trafficked survivors. Through this collaboration, the Wellspring Living Institute has had the opportunity to assist in supporting the opening of safe homes and in the process, seen the quality work of Safe House Project. Certification of safe homes is a critical need in the field of trafficking. Safe House Project has created a thorough process which will provide direction to those opening homes as well as hold a high standard of care to ensure every survivor has appropriate services with accountability."

- MARY FRANCES BOWLEY, Founder of Wellspring Living



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TRAFFICKED SINCE AGE 8

# KRISTEN

NEW MEMORIES. NEW TRAUMA.

I thought I knew my entire story. I thought I had already done the hard work of processing the trauma. But I started to struggle with my mental health when the new memories started to appear. The floor went out from under me. I was kicked out of my apartment and needed support. I decide to find a transitional program, so I could get my feet back under me. Safe House Project connected me with a program and came alongside me as I adjusted to my new home. Now, I am working full time, have an apartment of my own, and am receiving mental health treatment to work through the new memories of my past.



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## A REMINDER OF HOPE

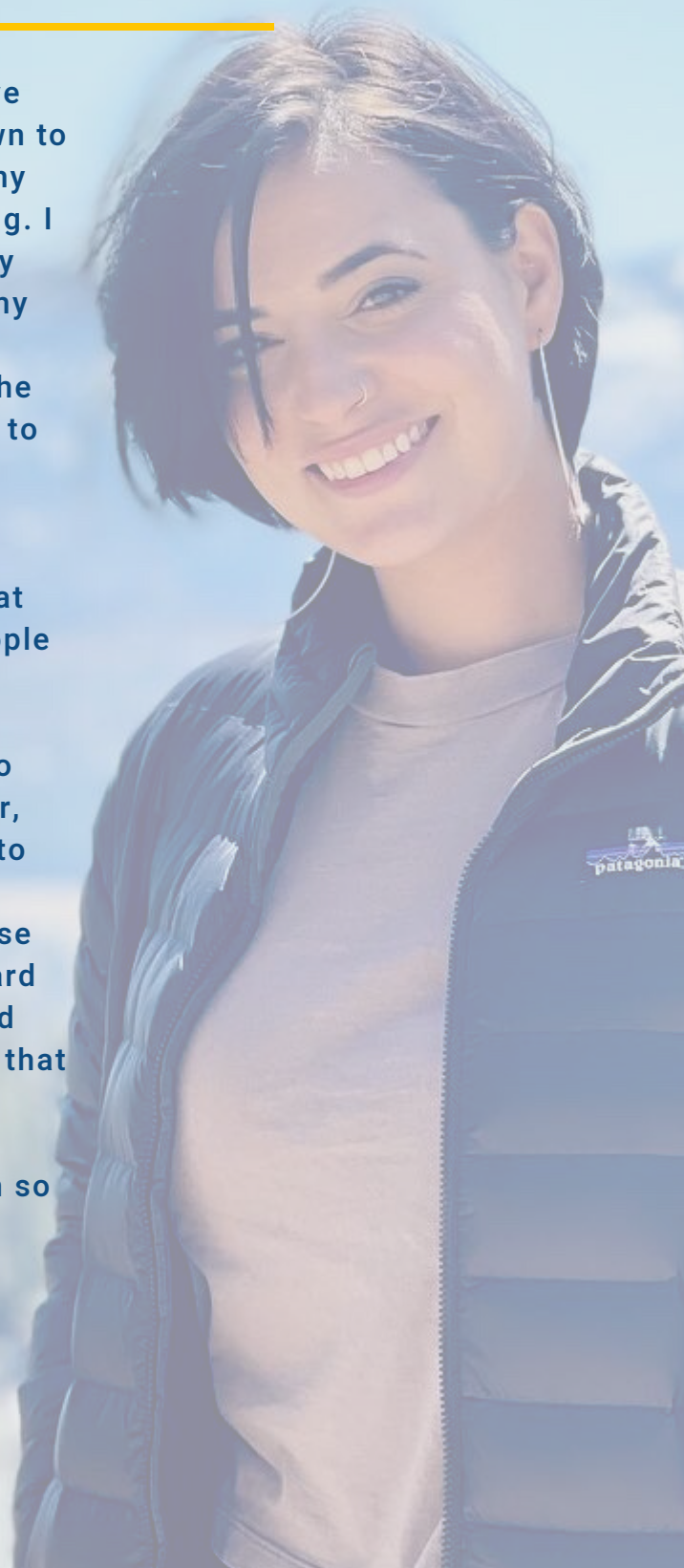
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Since my escape from my trafficking situation, I've worked hard. Working hard is something I've grown to be extremely proud of because it's one of the many things I was told I would never be capable of doing. I was told I was useless, incapable, stupid, and only suited to use my body to provide for myself and my children. My hard work provided space for me to dream. With each "impossible" task I completed the ceiling of what I was capable of continued to rise to the point where now it seems endless.

Since my escape, my dream has been to use my experiences and hard work to be part of lifting that ceiling for other survivors and supporting the people and organizations promising them a better life.

When I knew I would be leaving my previous job to move across the country and support my daughter, Safe House Project didn't just use their contacts to find me something new, they curated a position especially for me on their staff which utilizes those gifts and talents I had been honing through my hard work. They believed in my calling and abilities and have provided me the space to use them in a way that is making serious change in aftercare programs across the country. I'm viewed as knowledgeable, qualified, and deserving of a seat at the table. I'm so excited for what we will do together.

-Alia Dewees, Director of Aftercare Development,  
Survivor Leader



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# Safe House Project 2022 Leadership

## Safe House Project Team

**Kristi Wells** | CEO & Co-Founder  
**Brittany Dunn** | COO & Co-Founder & Executive Director of OnWatch  
**Alia Dewees** | Director of Aftercare Development, Survivor Leader  
**Lora Trent** | Executive Assistant & Event Coordinator  
**Kari Wood** | Bookkeeper  
**Sarah-Beth** | Content Creator, Survivor Leader  
**Bill Woolf** | Government Relations Consultant  
**Derik Timmerman** | Corporate Development

## Safe House Project Board of Directors

**Joel English** | Executive Vice President of Centura College & Chairman of the Board  
**Darin Ely** | President of Virginia Asset Group  
**Kenneth Walker** | Past Chairman & CEO of Driven Brands  
**Kristi Wells** | CEO & President of Safe House Project  
**John Allen Waldrop** | Vice President & General Counsel at Loyalty Brands  
**Scott Hasenbalg** | Executive Leadership Consultant  
**RaeAnn Hancock** | Vice President of Healthcare Consulting, NTT Data Services  
**Vickie Walker** | Philanthropist

## Safe House Project Certification Review Board

**Mary Frances Bowley** | President & Founder of Wellspring Living  
**Dr. Marlene Carson** | CEO & Founder of The Switch & Lived Experience Expert  
**Miriam Elizabeth Bowman, PhD, LICSW, LCSW-C** | Gallaudet University Professor & Lived Experience Expert  
**Tawfik Jarjour** | Senior Consultant, Accenture Strategy  
**Ashley Hodges, PhD, WHNP-BC, FAANP** | Professor at University of Alabama

*Thank you to Nigel Anderson & Lynda Campbell for serving on the Safe House Project Board in 2021, your leadership and expertise has been instrumental in guiding this organization into the future.*

COLLABORATION. INNOVATION. HOPE. INTEGRITY. STEWARDSHIP.



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## SAFE HOUSE PROJECT

# CHOOSE JUSTICE. HOPE. FREEDOM.

We believe Freedom Requires Action.

We are willing to take action.

We call our peers to stand beside us.

We inspire generations.

We are the change.

We believe in hope, freedom, and a future for every child.

We are ambassadors for prevention.

We believe in a childhood for every child, with dreams and a whole life to come.

We believe people are not property.

We believe that someone's past should not make their dreams unattainable.

We are the change.

We protect the vulnerable, in our families, in our communities, and in our Nation.

We stand in the gap for the underserved.

We refuse to contribute to an industry that reduces human beings to commodities.

We do not purchase commercial sex, pornography, or prostitution.

We are the change.

We now know that hundreds of thousands of children will be sex trafficked this year.

We must answer the call to change that number.

We will not stop until that number is zero.

We are the change.

We believe all American children have value, dignity, and worth as human beings.

We accept the call to speak that truth to them, through words and through actions.

It is time to end child sex trafficking in America.

We stand willing to make a change.

First in ourselves, then in generations to come.

We are the change.



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