

Freedom in California

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING



House of Restoration

LOVE NEVER FAILS
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Introduction

In 2010, Vanessa discovered one of her 15 year old students was sold into the Bay Area sex trafficking industry. She went on a personal mission to find her. After weeks of searching she was eventually located and is now being restored. During her search, Vanessa encountered many other children and young adults who, like her student, were US born women, men and children trapped in modern day slavery. She was moved with compassion for this “lost” group of people, and her response was to launch LOVE NEVER FAILS, a non-profit organization which is dedicated to the *restoration, education and protection* of those involved or at risk of becoming involved in domestic sex trafficking. Love Never Fails believes the issue of sex tracking can be solved with committed demonstration of love through safe housing, mentoring, job training, outreach, education and prayer.

Service Area/Target Population

Human trafficking victims can be found in cities, suburbs, and rural areas in all 50 states. Victims (women, children and even men) are forced to work or provide commercial sex against their will not only in underground markets, but in legal and legitimate business settings. Psychological coercion or fraud is often used to keep a person in a position of exploitation. It’s been found that trafficking can even occur in the victim’s hometown¹. Often, victims are in plain view and interact with the community in seemingly normal ways; however, our lack of awareness and understanding of trafficking results in low levels of victim identification.² Once identified and rescued, the next challenge is finding emergency, transitional, and/or long term housing for human trafficking survivors, and their children.

A 2012 study by Polaris found there were only 529 beds exclusively and specifically designated to human trafficking survivors in the United States, and only 38 emergency housing beds in the region of California we are proposing to serve. A shelter bed refers to any bed that is available for at least one overnight stay and affiliated in some way with a non-governmental, non-profit organization that serves human trafficking survivors, exclusively or through a human trafficking-specific program or funding stream. There is a huge discrepancy between the number of reported sex trafficking victims and number of beds available for trafficking survivors, and especially so if a victim has minor children that need to be rescued as well. Another critical missing link is that traditional shelters are not equipped to support victims’ need for immediate medical, emotional, and mental care, and don’t address their need for protection from their abusers. A number of studies find that there are often complex mental health needs. Most

¹ http://www.jrsa.org/pubs/forum/forum_issues/for32_3.pdf

² <http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/what-human-trafficking/human-trafficking/victims>

emergency housing lack people specifically trained to provide trauma-informed care; the type of care these women need in order to begin the healing process.³

United States:

- 84% of victims in confirmed sex trafficking cases are identified as U.S. citizens.
- There are an estimated 100,000 - 300,000 child sex slaves in the US.
- The average age a teen enters the sex trade in the U.S. is 12 to 14-year-old

California:

- California harbors 3 of the FBI's 13 highest child sex trafficking areas on the nation: Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego.
- 40-60% of youth engaged, at least occasionally, in commercial sexual exploitation to meet their basic needs.

Current services in the area include short-term emergency shelters and sober living homes (for the victims only.) According to the Polaris study, there are 38 shelter beds designated for human trafficking victims in the region we serve – and only 8 beds that are specifically held open for them. To put this need into context, Love Never Fails encountered approximately 70 people in one month alone during its monthly street outreaches, of which 25-30 are exploited women. In just 36 hours of outreach performed by Love Never Fails last year 306 exploited women, men and children were encountered. **Just the outreach of one agency would fill 75% of the human trafficking housing capacity in the entire United States.**

In addition to the shortage of human trafficking specific beds, intake/waiting periods average 72 hours to 180 days⁴ in the shelters and homes that are not specifically designed for human trafficking. A survivor who is ready to escape from exploitation is not able to wait for 72 hours to 180 days. This is primarily because of the mobile aspect of exploitation. Exploiters purposely move their victims around to sell them to the highest bidder, isolate them, minimize bonding with outside people and keep their victims disoriented. Because of this aspect of exploitation, it is critical to provide victims, who want to escape, with immediate emergency shelter.

Who We Serve

The I AM, House of Restoration (“I AM Project”) focuses on rescuing and supporting adult women who have been or are being sexually exploited or trafficked, and their children. We focus on several major cities that make up a wide regional service area in the San Francisco Bay Area: Oakland, Berkeley, Hayward, Richmond, Fremont, San Francisco, San Jose, Palo Alto, Stockton,

³ As described by an issue brief found at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/HumanTrafficking>

⁴ Polaris Project. 2012. www.polarisproject.org

Manteca, Sacramento, and Fresno. An average of 17.2% of the people in these cities live below the poverty line. On an average evening, LNF interacts with approximately 70 people during our outreach on the streets, 2530 who self-disclose as being exploited.

The I AM, House of Restoration (“I AM Project”) provides survivors and their children with long term services, in collaboration and support with several community organizations, to allow victims to go through a process that takes them from a place of victimization to a realization that they are powerful, valuable, precious and loved. This long term transitional housing program will provide a wide range of flexible and optional services that reflect the differences and individual needs of survivors and their children. The I AM Project creates long term change through 3 transitional housing phases; helps women heal from sexual exploitation, provides education and training, and helps them grow into productive, purposeful members of society. The 3-phase transitional housing process also greatly increases victim safety throughout the duration of the program and provides focused recovery (counseling, education, and training) which increases the victim’s success rate. The average number of times a victim of domestic violence returns to their abuser is seven. The average number of times that a sex trafficked victim returns to their trafficker or a life of exploitation is 21. Love Never Fails has observed that victims with family members who can provide stable housing coupled with Love Never Fails services such as mentoring and job training have reduced the level of recidivism from 21 times down to 5 times. We will replicate this success, and believe we can reduce it even further, with the provision of stable housing and trauma informed services.

Restoration Plan

LNF has developed a team of professionals managed by our organization’s Executive Director, Vanessa Scott, to ensure the I AM Project provides survivors and their children with long term restoration that carries them from a place of victimization to a realization that they are powerful, valuable, precious and loved. To meet our goals and objectives, we have ensured that our innovative services are directly aligned with our mission and aspirations as service providers to the community. This program is different from the “you-gotta-want-your-recovery rules, fear and consequence based programs”. (Scott 2015) As you can see from the chart below, our approach holistically addresses survivors’ needs on their journey to safety and wholeness.



Our work with vocational training agencies, churches, counseling services, the business community, social services, and other organizations enables us to coordinate holistic services for the victim in order for them to be reconciled with God, themselves, the economy and their social environment. A more detailed description of the above process is described in the goals and objectives below.

Phase 1: Stabilization. Phase 1 will meet the immediate needs of trafficked persons which includes safety; basic needs (food, clothing, etc.); safe, temporary housing; medical, legal services, and life skills. Longer term needs will also begin during Phase 1, and includes comprehensive case management; trauma-specific counseling and treatment; and social support.

- Phase 1 Safe Temporary Housing: The facility in phase one is a 3400 square foot home located on a 4 acre gated campus, built in 2009. This 6 bedroom single family home includes 3 bathrooms, a large walk in closet in each bedroom and a large laundry facility. The home has space for 6-12 women (1 woman per room with up to 2 children, and, if necessary, no more than two single women in one room.) Women who are rescued from sexual trafficking are often coming out of a lifestyle where they have been programmed to compete over their male trafficker’s attention. Having a single room for each victim allows them to feel safe and helps in the restoration process. There is also a community garden where survivors will learn about planting and growing their own vegetables. Some experts believe that gardening has restorative benefits such as lowering blood pressure, boosting immune function, and reducing stress.

Phase 2: Sustainability. This second phase is a 24 month long program that continues to provide safe housing and comprehensive case management with regards to the development and implementation of a service plan for sex trafficking survivors. Survivors will engage in activities such as weekly recovery meetings, workforce development training, job support, education, and volunteer work. We will work with local coalitions to help coordinate service delivery to the survivors in the I AM Program.

- Phase 2 Housing: The program transitions survivors to a different housing location during the 24-month Phase Two period. It is important to move participants into different housing because they will need more access to the public than we can safely support in Phase 1. Phase 1 clients will not have access to Internet and cell phones where individuals in Phase 2 housing will be involved in activities that require access to a phone and Internet for job searching and accessing online school assignments. LNF will request \$225 a month from participants for “rent” which will be set aside in a savings account. Upon completion of 24 month program, Love Never Fails will pay for the graduates, phase 3 housing deposit, automobile purchase, and/or educational fees up to \$5000.

*Phase 3: Independent Living. “Surviving is important. Thriving is elegant.”- Maya Angelou
Independent living requires lifelong support. This can be accomplished through maintenance of relationships established during the first two phases of this program, along with providing continued support services. Through these intentional efforts, survivors will become economically independent and self-sufficient.*

- Phase 3 Housing: Exploited victims with children need long term housing to sustain their independence and freedom. While shelters and homes take in survivors, they are not always equipped to effectively assist survivors as they reintegrate into society. Lack of continued support makes survivors more susceptible to returning to a life of bondage and abuse, falling into a cycle of repeat trafficking. I AM Restoration will work with its affordable housing partnerships to find affordable housing for participants who have completed Phase 2 of the program in order to keep this cycle from happening.

Current Partnerships

Several Courageous Community Collaborators, “Triple C” partners, have committed to collaborate with Love Never Fails in the fight against human trafficking on an ongoing basis. Each has graciously applied their resources, finances, time and support Love Never Fails program members and staff in the amount of approximately \$5,000 annually. These partners include:

- Faith Fellowship, San Leandro, Ca
- Lift Initiative, Hayward, Ca
- Kol Emeth Temple, Palo Alto, Ca
- Cornerstone Church, Livermore, Ca
- Oakland City Church, Oakland, Ca

In addition to the above committed partners, we have established ten MOUs with service providers such as Arm of Care and Dr. Carol Crofts, licensed Psychologist, who can provide stabilizing clinical care during Phase 1 as well as other agencies such as Saffron Strand, Regina’s Door, and Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center who can provide life sustaining workforce development services in phase 2. These agencies will provide the services that a survivor of human trafficking needs to gain their life back.

The I AM Project has been launched as a result of the generous contributions from one of our Triple C partners above as well as two private donors. The total contribution equals \$208k over the next three years.

Budget Summary

A. Personnel:	\$417,894
B. Transportation	\$ 69,000
C. Equipment	0
D. Supplies	0
E. Construction	0
F. Housing	<u>\$427,512</u>

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS Phase 1 & 2 **\$914,406**

A. PERSONNEL & BENEFITS

NAME/POSITION	COMPUTATION	COST
<u>Phase 1</u>		
Clinical Case Manager	\$24,960 x 75% (30 hrs) x 36 months	\$56,160
House Manager	\$24,000 x 100% x 36 months	\$72,000
Childcare Provider	\$20,800 x 100% x36 months	\$62,400
Fringe Benefits	\$190,560 x 10.7% x 36	\$18,387
<u>Phase 2</u>		
Clinical Case Manager	\$24,960 x 75% (30 hrs) x 36 months	\$56,160
House Manager	\$24,000 x 100% x 36 months	\$72,000
Fringe Benefits	\$190,560 x 10.7% x 36	\$18,387

- Clinical Case Manager is a thirty-hour weekly position that monitors the health and emotional needs of the transitional survivors and their children. This person will also work as the liaison between the social services, court systems and the House Manager.
- Childcare Worker will work a 40 hour work week assisting the transitional survivors and their children as they adjust back into society.
- House Manager is a live-In position that facilitates the transitional survivors and the support staff (Childcare Worker and Case Manager) in the adapted living requirements for the transitional survivors and their children.
- Fringe Benefits have been calculated based on the Salaried positions noted in A. (See Budget Sheet for details.) Total Percentage added to positions is 10.7% x 36 months. (Employer's Fica – 6.2%, Unemployment (SUI) – 1.1%, Medicare – 1.45%, Workers Comp – 1.95%)

TOTAL PERSONNEL: **\$417,894**

B. TRANSPORTATION

	COST
Gas	\$20,000
Insurance	\$10,000
Vehicle Lease (one nine seat minivan for each phase)	\$36,000

Staff Mileage Reimbursement \$ 3,000

TOTAL TRANSPORTATION: \$69,000

- Transportation will cover gas and maintenance of vehicle and public transportation costs on an as needed basis to and from training facility and other group activities.
- Transportation may be required for Legal, Medical, Personal needs of transitional survivors.

C. EQUIPMENT

There are no equipment costs expected at present.

D. SUPPLIES

There are no supply costs expected at present. It is expected that supplies will be donated in collaboration with various agencies and partners supporting this project.

E. CONSTRUCTION

There are no expected construction costs at present. House maintenance needs are being provided by volunteers.

F. HOUSING

ITEM	COMPUTATION	COST
Housing Assistance (P1 & 2)	\$7,500 per month x 36 months	\$270,000
Utilities (electrical, gas, water)	\$500 per month x 36 months	\$18,000
Food/Supplies for 20 people incl. children @ \$5/day		
	\$3042 per month x 36 months	\$109,512
Legal & Medical Services	\$834 per month x 36 months	\$30,000

TOTAL HOUSING: \$427,512

- Housing Assistance is for two 6 bedroom single-family home, at 3400 square feet.
- Utilities for two single-family residences which include, but are not limited to electrical, gas, water, cable are expected to be approximately \$500 a month at an annual cost of \$6,000. Public assistance programs will be obtained to keep the rates at a lower program cost.
- Annual costs of food are expected to be approximately \$36,500 based on a five dollars per day allocation for 20 people including children.
- Legal and Medical Services will vary based on the recommendations provided by the Clinical Case Manager and the Live-In House Manager. At present, due to outreach programs available for the transitional survivors, costs are expected to be approximately \$10,000 for the initial year of the Phase 1 program.