

Refuge for
W  men

KENTUCKY

NOT ENTERTAINMENT

THE SEX INDUSTRY AND THE PATH OUT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Refuge for Women Team	1
About Refuge for Women	2
About the Sex Industry	4
Refuge for Women Statistics	8
Stories from Our Guests and Graduates	11
Our Focus in 2015.....	16

REFUGE FOR WOMEN TEAM

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ABOUT REFUGE FOR WOMEN

The number of women involved in the sex industry is on the rise. The majority of these women do not desire to be employed in this line of work but due to life's circumstances have entered a dark industry. This industry is filled with violence, abuse, drugs, and crime. Many of these women involved are single mothers and living in a mode of day to day survival with a lack of hope for a brighter tomorrow. One young lady that we have been able to help stated it this way:

"At 21 years old I met a guy who promised me the world and I believed him. At 6 foot 8 inches, blonde hair, and blue eyes- so well spoken and seemingly educated I soaked up his words and gave him my heart. Two months later we were married. Two weeks before we tied the knot he took me to a beautiful place called Cristie's Cabaret. I'd never been to a place like this and I couldn't believe what I was seeing there. My first time in this world became the setting for everyday of the next five years of my life. He drove me to and from, I had to call every hour on the hour "or else". The first few years I'd sit in the parking lot and cry, beg, and plea to not have to go in. I wanted to run from him, but being whisked to Florida and made me believe that my family wanted nothing to do with me. I'd get back in the car after a few hours of being chased, hot, thirsty, tired, and completely alone. Eventually I became numb. I found a strange place in knowing my everyday routine. I knew the job was easier to do walking in not fighting it."

A study of exotic dancers found that 100% had been physically assaulted in the clubs where they were employed, with a prevalence ranging from 3-15 times over the course of their involvement in exotic dancing. Violence included physical assault, attempted vaginal penetration, attempted rape, and rape (Holsopple,1999).

One avenue of recruiting women for the clubs that has been used by owners is through Help Wanted ads that might read something of this nature:

"Tired of mindless, dead-end jobs? Seeking a career with flexible hours? Like to work with people? No experience necessary! No age minimum! No high school diploma required! On the job training provided! Special opportunities for children, poor women, single mothers, women of color!"

Eastern Kentucky University did a report in 2005 that estimated between 2500 and 5000 women involved in sexually oriented businesses in Kentucky. Lexington and Louisville combined have around 39 sexually oriented businesses located in these respectable communities. The major forms of sexually oriented businesses were escort services, strip clubs, massage parlors, and prostitution.

Statistics show that there are more strip clubs in the United States than any other nation in the world. There are an estimated 3000 strip clubs scattered throughout the 50 states. Groups of women are beginning to reach out to these clubs but I am unaware of many residential facilities exist that target the specific needs of this population of women.

THE SOLUTION

Refuge for Women is a faith-based, non-profit organization that aims to offer a new beginning to women who wish to leave the sex industry. There is no charge to guests as they live and work together as a family towards healing. Refuge for Women uses volunteers and curriculum through a mentoring style approach to help each woman progress through the unique challenges they have faced in life. We ask each woman for a minimum of a three-month commitment with the option of staying longer if she chooses.

During their time at The Refuge, women develop and work on a "Life Plan" focusing on physical and

emotional health, spiritual growth, education, and life skills necessary for a stable and productive life. Our desire is for each woman to identify the goals she wants to achieve while in the program. We actively seek to help her make strides towards the accomplishment of those goals. As women complete their time with us, they have the opportunity to serve other women in the industry through ministry internships or may choose to pursue resources towards further education and stable employment.

THE STRATEGY

Refuge for Women is in relationship with groups around the United States that reaches out to women involved in sex work located in their communities. Many of these groups will weekly visit local strip clubs and bring food or gifts and form relationships with the dancers. As the relationship develops if an individual desires to leave the sex industry and space is available they can come to our facility and receive unconditional love and acceptance. A commitment of 90 days is required upon acceptance with each individual being allowed to stay for a maximum of 13 months.

During their stay as a guest in Refuge for Women there will be 3 areas of focus that consist of healing, educating, and training for a brighter tomorrow. Partnerships with local organizations and volunteers will help assist the staff in seeing the fulfillment of this goal. Each guest will have opportunity to work through personal challenges and resolve lingering challenges that could keep her from moving forward towards her expressed goals.

Each guest is connected with a mentor upon arriving at Refuge for Women. They will meet weekly with this mentor for a time of processing and tracking the guest's accomplishments since their last meeting. They will set both short term and long term goals to be fulfilled. The mentor will meet with each guest throughout their time in the ministry.

Drug and Alcohol abuse are common amongst guests in the ministry. AA and NA meetings will be attended each week along with a faith based Celebrate Recovery meeting each week. Guests are encouraged to pray about locating a sponsor to assist in their recovery.

Professional counseling is required for each guest throughout their time at Refuge for Women. Processing time with staff is another aspect of time to work through both current challenges and challenges from their past. They will process with a mentor as well and this will be one more safe place for healing to occur. Beginning in 2014, there are 3 phases to the program with each phase building on the previous one. Phase one is focused on healing the heart and gaining stability in life. The curriculum is geared to educate about healing the heart and overcoming past traumas. Recovery is a major component of phase one and working the 12 steps is a daily priority. Phase one is 4 months in length. Phase two is focused on job preparation and getting ready for a job or schooling. Staff focuses on resumes, GED's, interviewing skills, job professionalism, and more. This phase is 3 months in length and in a different location than phase one. Phase three is guests are working each day and paying rent. They continue to do program work in the evenings and weekends and implementing the first 7 months of the program in the market place. Phase three can last up to 6 months in length. Once the guests has completed phase 3 they are considered a graduate of the program.

ABOUT THE SEX INDUSTRY

The sex industry is a multi-billion dollar enterprise that sexually exploits women and children for financial gain. Various segments of the sex industry include¹:

Streetwalking is the most often seen in impoverished urban neighborhoods and can be related to crack houses and crack trade in the same neighborhoods. Sexually-oriented businesses in neighborhoods signal tolerance of prostitution and invites johns to solicit women and children on the street.

Massage parlors and saunas are fronts for prostitution. They are often located in storefronts in impoverished urban neighborhoods, but can also flourish in downtown business districts. Same as brothels.

Brothels are set up in houses, trailers, hotels, and motels for the purpose of prostitution.

Escort services are fronts for prostitution. They are promoted as dating services in local telephone directories and newspapers.

Stripshows and nude juice bars feature nude or topless women and girls to dance and often engage in sexual activity with male customers in the establishment.

Adult book and video stores sell new and used pornographic magazines, books, and videos. Many have one-man booths for masturbating and viewing videos or live nude women.

Peep shows and live sex shows are featured in adult book and video stores and in some stripclubs.

Sex tourism is promoted as recreation and vacation for men and is tied to the economic development of many countries. Travel companies, cities, and resorts cater to different sexual activities and nationalities of men.

Trafficking is employed by networks of organized crime and channels women and children into prostitution and other areas of the sex industry across the world.

Sex rings can be organized in families, communities, and institutions. Sex rings have been exposed in association with pedophiles, cults, biker gangs, extremist hate groups, towns, and churches.

Pornography depicts the prostitution of women and children in writing and pictures.

Survival sex is a term used by youth social service workers to describe trading sex for basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, and money.

Any of these segments becomes human sex trafficking when a person is recruited, harbored, transported, obtained, or provided for the purpose of a commercial sex act.² Human sex trafficking is considered a "severe form of trafficking in persons" when a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion.³

According to the FBI, "[h]uman sex trafficking is the most common form of modern-day slavery."⁴ The Bureau

1 Sex Industry Info Packet, p. 15, The Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education, University of Minnesota Office for Student Affairs, taken from Fundamentals of Prostitution Packet from Volunteers of Minnesota.

2 22 USC § 7102(9)

3 22 USC § 7102(8)(A)

4 Human Sex Trafficking, p. 1, Amanda Walker-Rodriguez and Rodney Hill, FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin March 2011.

estimates that there are millions of domestic and international victims, most of whom are females and children “enslaved in the commercial sex industry for little or no money.”⁵

Unfortunately, many people see human sex trafficking as someone else’s problem. As Anita Alvarez, the State’s Attorney in Cook County, Illinois and the lead prosecutor for Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force, has observed, when most people hear the term human trafficking, they think of it as purely an international issue that doesn’t happen here. The public, she urges, needs to be more aware that, yes, human trafficking does happen here, that it is happening in our own back yards.⁶

The target here is young women who feel like they are missing something – a connection, a sense of belonging, and are looking for love in all the wrong places. This personal and emotional gap felt by these women creates a foot hold for predators to use deception to lure women from all backgrounds into the sex industry. Far too easily, young women, as young as 12 or 13 years old, are finding themselves in the arms of silver tongued pimps who capitalize on that inescapable desire for a sense of belonging, of family with false promises of love and a future that convince their prey to sell their bodies on the streets and online.

ENTRY: FRAUD, FORCE, COERCION

One of the biggest misconceptions is that American adult females enter the sex industry voluntarily. People assume that strippers, escorts, prostitutes, and “porn stars” know what they are doing going in. This is far from true for most of the women in the sex industry who were tricked, forced, or coerced, and for the women who entered under false pretenses.

When these elements exist, you are dealing with human sex trafficking.

PLAYING ON VULNERABILITIES. CREATING A DEBT.

Linda Marchiano is best known as Linda Loveless a cast member of the film Deep Throat. She only spent 17 days in the porn industry but her introduction into the sex industry happened early. Her entrance into pornography started when she met Charles Traynor, who seemed to her a kind and considerate gentleman. In an interview with CBS on June 24, 1986, Marchiano described the man as “the typical all-american college guy that your mom and dad would be proud of.” At the age of 21 and having problems with her parents, Marchiano moved in with Traynor who had offered her a “refuge.” They had a platonic relationship but when she told him that she was going to move back to her hometown of Long Island, New York, Traynor beat her up. The beatings continued every day thereafter. She was held prisoner for 2-1/2 years. She was forced into prostitution. She was forced into short porn films and the film Deep Throat. Marchiano felt imprisoned by the beatings, abuse, and Traynor’s M-16 semi-automatic machine gun and Walford PPK 45 automatic gauge shot.

CAPITALIZING ON DREAMS.

Corey Davis, the ringleader of a sex-trafficking ring that spanned at least three states that exploited as many as 20 females, lured victims with promises of modeling contracts and a glamour life. Davis then forced them into a grueling schedule that involved dancing and performing at strip clubs then walking the streets until 4 or 5 a.m. propositioning customers. He beat victims to force them to work and he also used physical abuse as punishment for disobeying the stringent rules he imposed to isolate and control them.⁷

FACEBOOK.

Larry Stinson of Kansas City pleaded guilty on March 26, 2012 to a federal sex trafficking charge. He learned

5 Id.

6 “Sex Slaves: Motor City Teens,” MSNBC (2011).

7 FBI Bulletin March 2011 P. 4 (see 18).

how to use the Internet to advertise prostitution. Eventually he expanded his ventures to Facebook where he would meet young women and begin consensual sexual relationships with them. He also instructed his victims to recruit other women from Facebook. When a woman recruited a victim from Facebook Stinson gave her the night off work. Kansas City KanKan, March 26, 2012 KCK man pleads guilty to federal sex trafficking charge.

LOVE & MARRIAGE.

According to the FBI, one method used by traffickers is to make promises of love and marriage, and later claim that sex acts are for their future together. FBI Bulletin p. 2. This was tactic used by Roshaun (aka "Kevin") Nakia Porter of Orange County, California. According to the criminal complaint filed in federal court, Porter operated a prostitution ring and used monogamous relationships to staff his enterprise. Porter met women on online dating sites. Women responded to ads and developed intimate relationships, which they believed were monogamous, with Porter. However, after maintaining romantic relationship, Porter forced women to work as prostitutes. The women had no means to support themselves and they lived and worked hotels. Porter determined the rates for illicit sex activity and victims paid all proceeds to Porter. Porter threatened victims by telling them that if they tried to leave, he would find them and hurt their families. He used physical violence to control some of the victims. Some victims ran away but Porter threatened via text and phone. FBI Los Angeles, May 1, 2012

CONTROL THROUGH FORCE, DRUGS, EMOTIONAL TACTICS. FINANCIAL CONTROL.

Marcus Choice Williams operated an interstate prostitution ring, including adult escort, websites, headquartered in Dallas-Fort Worth area and operating in Boston and the Washington, D.C. metro area. Williams recruited vulnerable women – specifically, single mothers from troubled backgrounds. In some cases, Williams used a combination of deception, fraud, coercion, threats and physical violence to compel the women to engage in prostitution, requiring each young woman to secure a daily quota of money.⁸

FALSE PRETENSES.

Stripping is big money but not for the dancers. Most of the money goes to stripclub owners. Yet, many women are lured into stripping because they need money – to pay rent, buy food, go to school, or take care of children. Add on tales of glamour and sexual empowerment, and you have someone too starry-eyed to see the danger and exploitation before it is too late.

Women who dance in stripclubs work in conditions that violate many fair labor laws. Most strippers are classified as independent contractors, which means that they do not earn any wage, and they actually have to pay stripclub owners 40% to 50% of their income to work.⁹ Many guests have federal and state tax controversies when they come to Refuge for Women because a stripclub owner reported money paid to the woman for stripping but he did not issue the annual income tax statement as required by the IRS. Guests report not knowing they had to file tax returns or having the document necessary for filing or documentation of business-related expenses.

Stripclub owners exercise a significant degree of control over dancers. They control the schedule and house. They impose stage and couch rental fees. They require women to pay staff tips. They set the price of private dances. They have specific rules about costuming. They dictate the sequence of stripping and nudity. They decide bathroom breaks, and impose fines for calling in sick, using telephone without permission, touching stage mirrors, not cashing in one dollar bills and dancing with their backs to customers.¹⁰

8 Fort Worth Man Sentenced for Sex Trafficking and Related Federal Charges, U.S. Department of Justice March 19, 2012 at <http://www.fbi.gov/dallas/press-releases/2012/fort-worth-man-sentenced-for-sex-trafficking-and-related-federal-charges>.

9 Sex Industry Info Packet, p. 3, The Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education, University of Minnesota Office for Student Affairs, citing Detroit News, October 20, 1991.

10 Sex Industry Info Packet, p. 4, The Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education, University of Minnesota Office for Student Affairs.

In addition, strippers are sexually harassed, solicited for prostitution, and sexually assaulted.

Strippers do not make big money. They are not in control. They are not empowered. Many of our guests reported experiencing significant financial loss as a result of stripping due to the fees, fines, and tips. The loss is only exacerbated by tax problems that frequently arise due to stripclub owners' illegal actions.

THE BENEFICIARIES

The people who benefit from commercial sex activities are stripclub owners, pimps and managers, clients, men and women acting alone and/or with gangs, prostitution rings, and other forms of organized crime. According to the FBI, "[t]oday, the business of human sex trafficking is much more organized and violent."¹¹

In April, a joint taskforce of NYPD, prosecutors and federal law enforcement, arrested a father- son duo in New York on charges of sex trafficking, promoting prostitution, and money laundering.¹² Vincent George Sr. and Vincent George Jr. operated a multi-million dollar sex ring and took very deliberate steps were taken to control every aspect of their operation. They controlled their victims by branding them with tattoos and arranging for cars to shuttle them to and from jobs. The Georges controlled the money by forcing the women to turn over all earnings each night and giving them each enough money for food and other basic necessities. The duo hid their illegally obtained money by setting up a phony business, Grip Entertainment, to launder their illegally obtained money.

Since 2009, the IRS has conducted a number of federal investigations in Portland, Oregon into allegations of money laundering, tax fraud, and prostitution. One of the major investigations involves a family, referred to by investigators as the "Owen-Savage Money Laundering Organization," that owns a number of stripclubs.¹³ This family-run crime syndicate is apart from other operations in the Portland by its scope and size. A federal court affidavit filed identifies 21 clubs, sex shops, video stores, and holding companies as part of the IRS investigation. Between 2002 and 2009, the businesses brought in \$9 million in proceeds from Oregon Lottery games at the clubs, and \$12 million through the ATMs at the clubs. These funds were deposited into family-controlled bank accounts. Between 2006 and 2009, stripclubs collected at least \$1 million for private dances and room rentals.

The perpetrators of these crimes – promoting prostitution, human sex trafficking, fair labor laws, money laundering, tax evasion – leave their victims, the women in the sex industry without any resources or recourse. They take consistent and deliberate steps to break the women down, "beating them down physically, emotionally to where they are so dependent on that person."¹⁴ Leaving a pimp puts a woman's life in danger. Women face stalking by their pimps, threats against their families, beatings and rape. If a woman does not have a safe place to go, she is vulnerable and her life is in danger. If this safe place does not meet her most basic needs, she could easily end up back on the streets.

11 Human Sex Trafficking, p. 2, Amanda Walker-Rodriguez and Rodney Hill, FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin March 2011.

12 Father and son busted on sex-ring raps by Janon Fisher, NY Daily News, April 23, 2012.

13 Feds' probe strip club cash, Christian Gaston, Portland Tribune August 31, 2011.

14 Katy Connell, FBI Special Agent, FBI Human Trafficking Task Force Victim Specialist, "Sex Slaves: Motor City Teens," MSNBC (2011).

REFUGE FOR WOMEN STATISTICS

BACKGROUND

As of December 31, 2014, Refuge for Women has helped 67 women since opening its doors in July 2010.

METHOD

Refuge for Women collects information from each woman during entrance and exit interviews: age, ethnicity, state and number of children. To the extent possible, Refuge for Women continues to maintain communication with women after they leave the program through an employee that makes weekly contact to see how they are doing, what they need and how we can be praying for them. This allows Refuge for Women to collect data from women about re-entry into the sex industry and employment status.

Data is analyzed from July 2010, when our doors opened to the residential program through December 31, 2014. Some of the reporting to follow will not include the current guests in the program and will be so noted.

STATISTICAL FIGURES

Figure 1. Age range of all women served since opening July 2010

Figure 2. Ethnicity of all women served since opening July 2010

Figure 3. States represented by all women served since opening July 2010

Figure 4. Women with children served since opening July 2010

Figure 5. Re-entry in the Sex Industry for all women served since July 2010 (excluding 10 current guests)

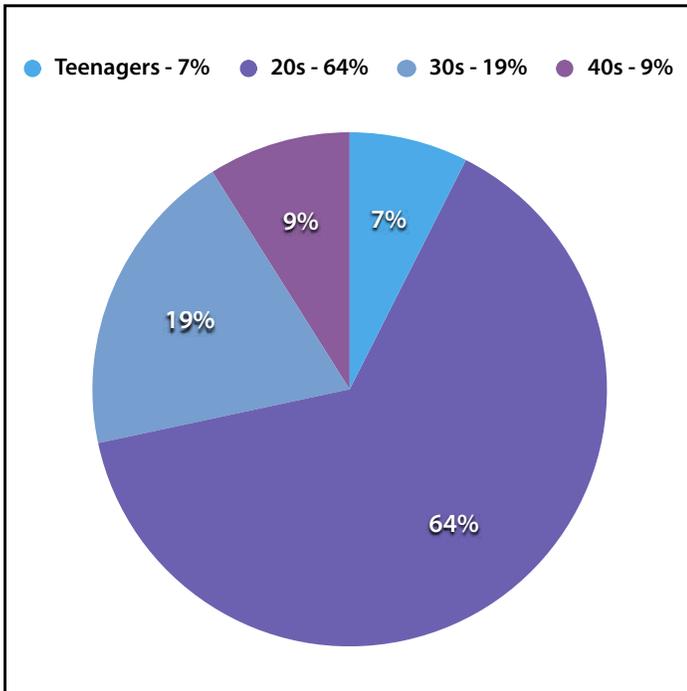
Figure 6. Employment status of all women served since July 2010 (excluding 9 guests in program = 1 guest is working full time in transitional living)

Figure 7. Level of completion for all women served since July 2010

Figure 8. Baptisms while in program for all women served since July 2010

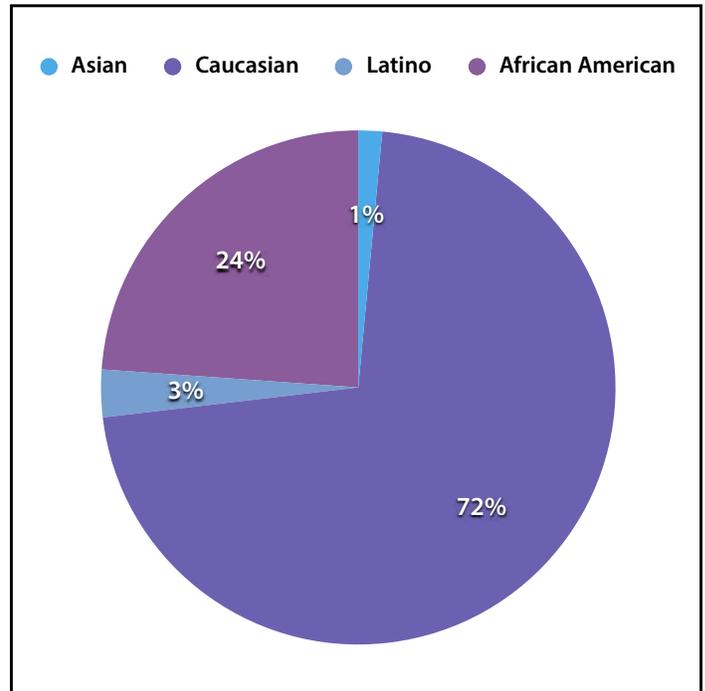
AGE RANGE

All women served including current guests



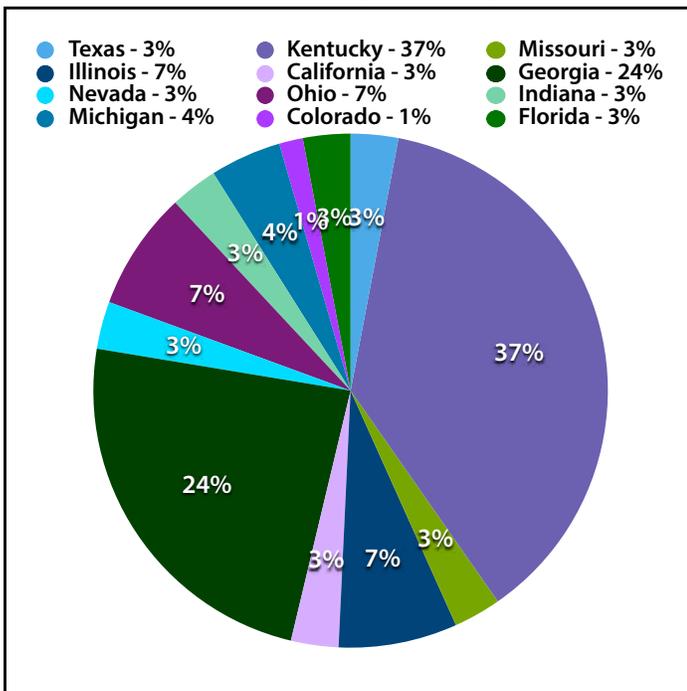
ETHNICITY

All women served including current guests

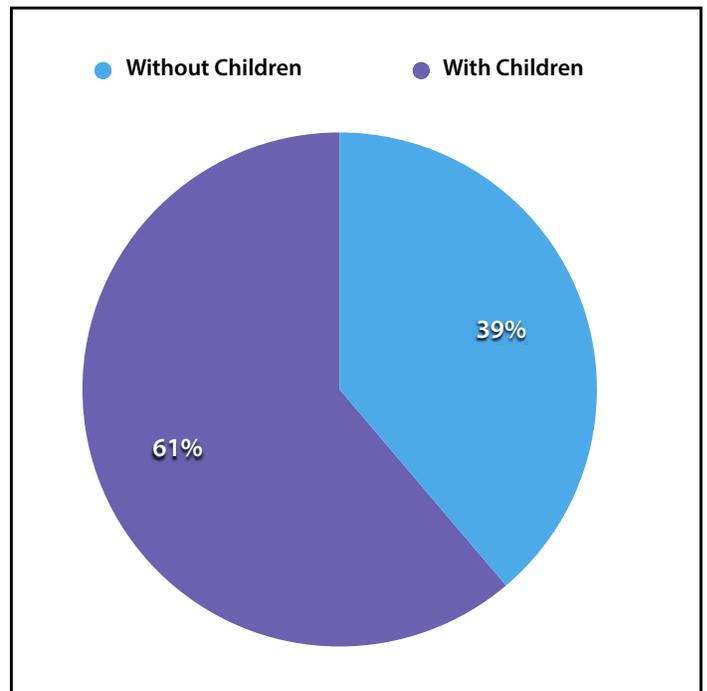


STATES REPRESENTED

All women served including current guests



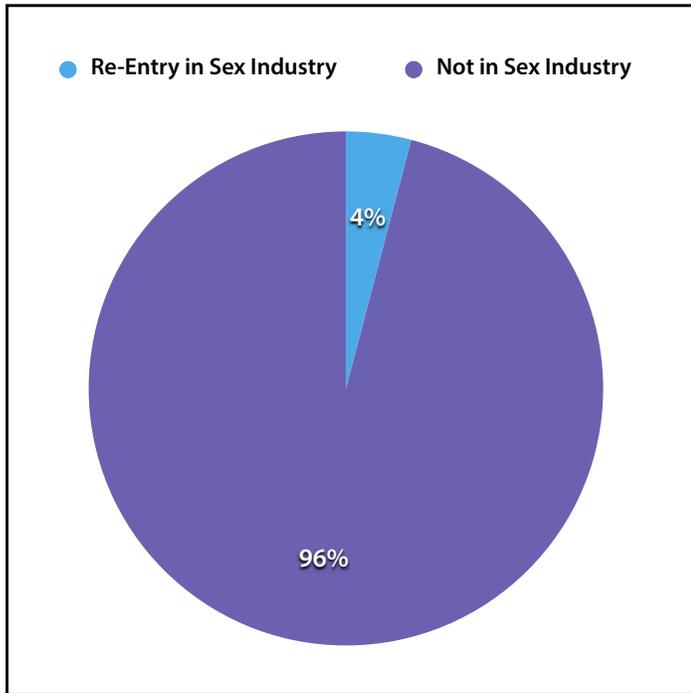
WOMEN WITH CHILDREN



Data Source: Refuge for Women statistical database 2014

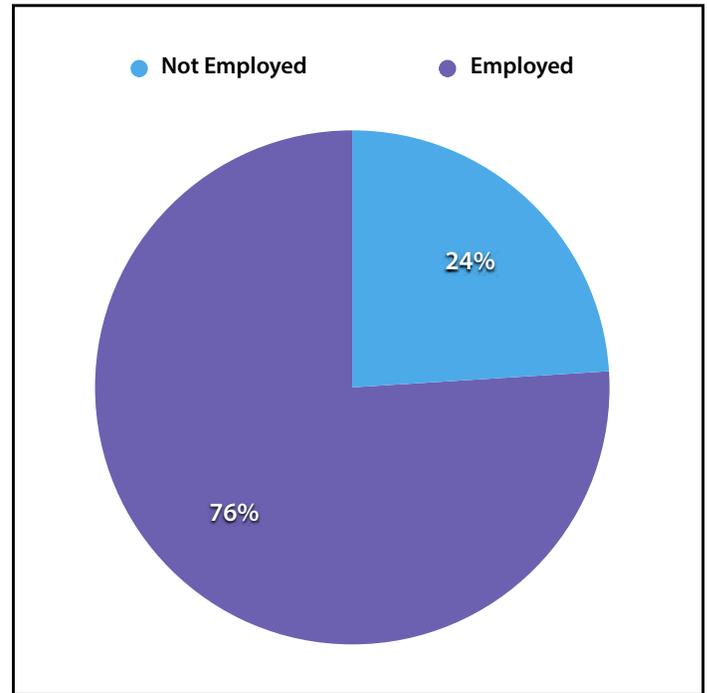
RE-ENTRY INTO SEX INDUSTRY

All women served, excluding current guests in program (10)

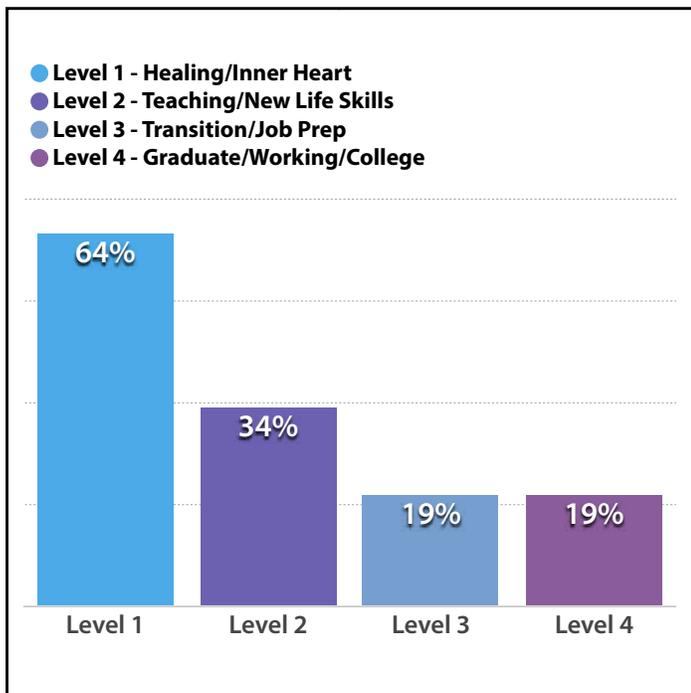


EMPLOYMENT STATUS

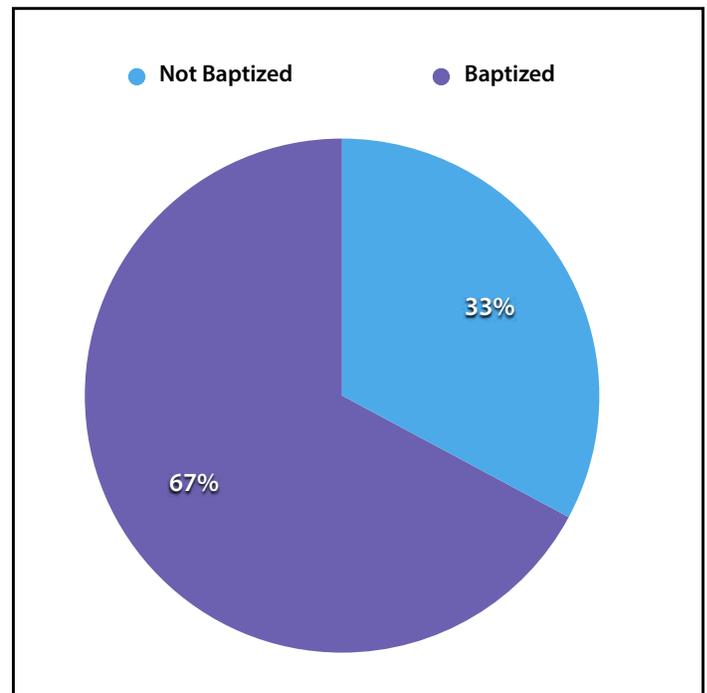
All women served, excluding current guests in program (9) = 1 guest working full time in transition



LEVELS OF COMPLETION



BAPTISMS WHILE IN PROGRAM



Data Source: Refuge for Women statistical database 2014

STORIES FROM OUR GUESTS AND GRADUATES

The following section includes stories of some of the women served. Some of their names have been changed to protect their identities.

ANNE'S STORY

Many of the women who come to Refuge for Women are in their 20's but women also come to the program in their 30's, 40's and 50's with histories built on decades of abuse.

Anne left the sex industry and began healing in her mid-30's. She had been a prostitute and a stripper, and her "manager" was the man who vowed to love, protect and cherish her: her husband.

Anne came to Refuge for Women with a passion for the ministry and for helping exploited women, but she struggled to fight for herself.

During her years of sexual exploitation and abuse (physical, emotional, verbal, and financial), Anne had built a wall that shut out those issues and pain, and allowed her to function. Anne's husband had stolen her money, ruined her credit, forced her and their family into poverty, left her destitute, then used her past as a prostitute against her to gain custody of their three children. He brainwashed their children to believe that Anne was a whore and that she didn't love them.

Anne struggled to reconcile her past abuse, exploitation, and vilification with the woman she wanted to become and the dignity she so desired. In some ways, Anne faced challenges that were sturdier, more resolute than those of her sisters at Refuge for Women because of the decades of abuse that spanned the years when she grew from a girl into a woman.

ALICE'S STORY

Alice was an escort in Detroit, Michigan. She was one of the many African-American women recruited from low-income neighborhoods into the sex industry.

Alice dropped out of school in the ninth grade. She became pregnant as a teenager. She describes her family as dysfunctional and her relationship with her mother as strained.

In 2011, Alice realized that she was in a dangerous situation – her boyfriend was abusive and it was becoming increasingly dangerous to be an escort in Detroit. She was involved in a dangerous business in which African-American women were being killed.

Alice spent one year with Refuge for Women and made a successful transition to independent living in January 2012. She has a full-time job at Toyota and she is building an impressive savings. She is working towards her GED. She frequently says that never in her life could she imagine that she would have the life that she has now. Until she fled to Refuge for Women, Alice was resigned to a life of poverty.

CAROLINE'S STORY

Women come to Refuge for Women from many states but so far three guests have come from Michigan. Caroline was a stripper. She began to earn money for school but the schedule, fees and expenses of dancing soon left her trapped in a cycle that left little room to escape.

Caroline was a good student in high school. She became pregnant during her junior year of high school by

her high school sweetheart, who was inconsistently in their daughter's life. Caroline was essentially left to raising their child alone.

Caroline often found herself bouncing from one house to another depending on whether or not her parents would let her live at home. Despite all of these challenges Caroline refused to give up on her education and she graduated from high school.

Caroline came to Refuge for Women from Eve's Angels, a faith based outreach program in Michigan. Caroline was five months pregnant. She experienced years of abuse, including rape and beatings, which left her angry. During her nine months with Refuge for Women, Caroline became a leader of the house.

In November 2011, Caroline welcomed a baby boy into the Refuge family. She returned to Michigan in April 2012 to work with Eve's Angels. She also returned to cosmetology school with the goal of opening a salon. She is rebuilding her relationship with her family.



KATIE'S STORY

Many of the women at Refuge for Women have children and face challenges to their parental rights as a result of their involvement in the sex industry.

Katie came to Refuge for Women from Indiana. She was on probation on drug charges but the court allowed her to complete her probation as a guest of Refuge for Women. Due to her addiction to pain killers, criminal history, and involvement in the sex industry, the state removed Katie's children from her care and placed her two boys with a cousin.

Katie knew that she would have to fight to get her boys back. She completed 90 days in the Refuge for Women program. When she returned to Indiana, she lined up a job (sometimes working two jobs), rented a house, participated in supervised visitation and completed all requirements by the state and court related to her parental rights.

In early 2012, Katie was reunited with her sons. Katie's hard work did not just change her, it changed her family tree.



KYRA'S STORY

Women come to Refuge for Women with many different emotions. Some women are in denial and try to hide their hurt and pain. Other women come to the program very, very angry. This was Kyra.

Kyra is from Texas where she was a prostitute and a manager within a sex trafficking ring. She scheduled appointments with women and clients. When she became pregnant with a son by her pimp, Kyra realized she had to leave the business because it was unsafe.

Kyra bounced between programs for single mothers. When money was tight, she went back to the streets. She was arrested for prostitution and even kidnapped by a husband and wife duo, who drove her to Houston, sold her for sex, then left her on the street with no money or transportation back to Dallas. When Kyra arrived at Refuge for Women she was angry and despondent. She did not interact with staff or guests. She needed love, though. One weekend, a staff member asked Kyra to tell her story. The staff member decided that Kyra needed a teddy bear. This seemingly small gesture began to open up Kyra's heart. She became brave enough to develop relationships, share her hopes, fears, and hurt, and fight for her son and their future.

Kyra spent nine months with Refuge for Women. Today she lives in Lexington and works full- time at Wafflehouse. She hopes to go to college someday.

Kyra is an example that women at Refuge for Women do not change over the same period of time. It is personal. But with patience and hope, time spent with the program can produce life changing results.

CLAIRE'S STORY

Unfortunately, some women leave the Refuge for Women and return to the sex industry. It can be very difficult for women to break the habits they learned. However, with time, women do break free. Claire is an example of a woman who did just that.

Claire came to Refuge for Women from Florida. She was 20 years old and a victim of human sex trafficking at the hands of her pastor. Claire struggled with significant mental health problems – she lived on the line between being a child sold for sex and working to become a woman.

After eight months, Claire left of her own free will with another guest. She returned to the sex industry, as it was a familiar place, and she did not maintain sobriety. However, within a year, Claire turned her life around. She left the industry. She is sober. She works for an assisted living facility for the elderly and she is going to college.

Claire's journey shows difficulty women face when leaving the industry, but she also demonstrates that hope is never lost – no matter how many attempts you make to change your life.

LEILA'S STORY

When women leave Refuge for Women they pursue different opportunities. Leila chose to go to college.

As a preteen, Leila found herself homeless and on the streets of Louisville. She was lured into prostitution as a means to survive – shelter, food, money. Her pimp became her family, her source of support and safety. Growing up on the streets, a victim of sex trafficking, Leila saw people get stabbed, bleed out on the sidewalk, and she was the target of, sometimes deadly, physical violence.

In the spring of 2011, Leila came to Refuge for Women and completed 90-days. Her dream is to open a non-profit organization like Refuge for Women that rescues child victims of sex trafficking. While she struggled with her transition to a life outside of the sex industry, she still fought for her dreams.

Today, she lives in Ohio with another Refuge graduate and is attending college. She still plans to establish a non-profit organization for child sex trafficking victims.

A GLIMPSE OF OUR GRADUATES

FRANCES' STORY

"I'm a 45 year old grateful lover of Jesus and a recovering addict. For the last 30 years of my life, I had been in and out of prison, in and out of rehabs and addicted to drugs and alcohol. After being sexually abused at only 7 years old and seeing only violence and abuse around me as a child, I began being sexually active and accepting money for it in my early teens. This destructive addictive pattern continued through my life. I lost parental rights to my three children.

I had no hope of ever changing my lifestyle until February of 2012 when I knew God was calling me to seek healing at the Refuge for Women in Lexington, Kentucky. I was skeptical at first, but I was also desperate and at an all time low. There was something different about this place, while I wanted to give up on myself, I didn't. It's been a year and a half and I am so grateful to be living in a transitional home and working full time. I know that God has always had His hand on me for if not, I would not be here. I have a heart to "give back" to others and am blessed to serve at the Refuge for Women and love on the guests! My God is an awesome God and I thank him daily for saving a wretch like me!"

DEBBIE'S STORY

"My life was full of physical and sexual abuse as a young girl. Living in a house with an alcoholic mother and her physically abusive boyfriends caused me to rebel and the anger inside of me just raged as I grew into my teen years. I was tossed around from foster home to foster home, but no one could handle my anger.

I spent time in Teen Challenge. At the age of 18, I began experimenting with drugs. I was always trying to fill the void in my heart with things, men, drugs and alcohol. I lost 4 children due to my lifestyle and choices. My second husband introduced me to stripping. I loved the 'high' I felt while on stage, somehow I felt I had power and was beautiful. I became suicidal and slipped into a dark place.

I prayed for God to help me if He was really out there. Some women who were coming into the clubs gave me a brochure about the Refuge for Women. I had found out I was pregnant again and was growing attached to my unborn child. So I left for Kentucky, for a new beginning.

I completed my 1 year in the program almost a year ago and now I am the mother of an 18 month old daughter. I sing on the praise and worship team at church, and I am interning at the Refuge for Women. I had never felt so much love than while I was at the Refuge. They always pointed me to Christ and loved me no matter what! It is an honor to be able to "give back." The Refuge for Women saved my life, I do not know where I would be today without the program!"

JESSICA'S STORY

"I was a 23 year old mother of a 6 year old daughter struggling to make money to support us in Detroit, MI. My childhood was rough as my family was dysfunctional and there were drugs, alcohol and abuse all around me. After becoming pregnant at only 16, everyone told me to have an abortion, but I just couldn't. I got mixed up with the wrong crowd and found myself stripping to make money to provide for me and my baby girl. But that life just led to more abuse and life got out of control. I was doing things I never thought I would do for money.

While dancing, a woman came in to the club and gave me information about the Refuge for Women in Kentucky and she said it could help me get out of the clubs and start over. I desperately wanted to be a mother to my daughter and give her a good life. While going through the program at the Refuge I have learned so much about who I am, and that my past doesn't define who I am today. I learned about God and

what he wants for me and my daughter. I am a "cycle breaker". No more addiction and abuse, it stops with my generation. I graduated from the Refuge 1 year program over 2 years ago and have been working full time, was given custody of my daughter and have a great home. I love to cook and am saving money and want to open my own restaurant some day!"

BRITTANY'S STORY

"I was born into a family of alcohol addiction and Financial struggles that caused many problems and led to my parents divorcing. My mother's second husband was an abusive man who raped me when I was in my early teens and provided drugs for me to get high with. My real father was killed in an accident and having to pull the life-support caused me much trauma as I was close to him. I began to drift into sexual promiscuity and a drug habit to fill a void in my life. I began prostituting myself at 15 years old to support my drug habit. Different men every night and drug binges became my life. I felt dirty, a shower couldn't wash me clean. But I learned to put my feelings aside and began to live in a state of "numb", not feeling any pain. I was in and out of rehabs for a couple years. After turning 18, I was arrested for drug paraphernalia and narcotics and went to adult jail for the first time.

In April, 2012, so far from God and living in a dark hell, and in jail again, a lady came in and gave me some information about the Refuge. I considered myself an atheist at the time. Conspiracies and delusions of my addiction still controlled my mind. I chose to go to the Refuge program and I know now that God was relentlessly pursuing me all along. I had been rescued out of slavery in Egypt and placed in the Promiseland. Every attempt at happiness up until this point was missing one key ingredient, the love of the Father.

I am a 1 year graduate of the Refuge program and just started college at a Christian university. I have a new life ahead of me. I had to let God do a work in me. Now I am grateful that He is using me to share hope with others. I know that I can only keep what I have, by giving it away!"

OUR FOCUS IN 2015

Refuge for Women's primary focus during 2015 will be on expansion into 3 locations. Each Refuge for Women will be identical in nature and have a franchising approach to their establishment. Three cities have been identified to begin with and then access future start up locations. These initial locations will be Las Vegas, Chicago, and South Florida.

LAS VEGAS, NV

A Board of Directors has been formed and a leadership team established for a home in Las Vegas. A City-Director has been hired by the name of Karen Diers and momentum is building to open a home towards the end of 2015 or early 2016. This home will be centrally located to meet the needs of the West Coast.

CHICAGO, IL

A Refuge for Women is set to open in July of 2015 in Chicago. Karen Schultz has been hired to be the City-Director of Chicago. A Board of Directors meets each month and a home has been given to use free of charge.

SOUTH FLORIDA

Olivia Turner knew years ago that God was calling her to reach trafficking victims in the Florida area. Through a series of events her paths crossed with Ked and the decision to partner was made and a Refuge for Women will be in the South Florida area at the end of 2015.

To make an online donation to Refuge for Women visit RefugeForWomen.org/Donate
or

Mail your donation to:
Refuge for Women | 342 Waller Avenue, Suite D | Lexington, Kentucky 40504

Refuge for Women is a tax-exempt organization under IRS 501(c)(3)
and all donations made to Refuge for Women are tax-deductible.

For more information about supporting Refuge for Women, please contact:

Ked Frank, Executive Director | ked@refugeforwomen.org

or

Cindy Warr, Development Director | cindy@refugeforwomen.org

or

Office Phone | 859.254.0041

Thank you again for your generous support!