



## COLLABORATING TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Dear Friend of LifeWay Network,

Our goal for 2015 was to step up to meet the needs of more women survivors of human trafficking, and it was indeed a year of building a strong foundation for our expansion and growth.

Early in 2015, our safe housing capacity was seven beds (five in long-term housing, and two emergency short-term beds). As our current period of expansion comes to fruition, with the addition of Aspire Home and LifeWay House 2, we will be providing housing for over 20 women, almost a threefold increase in capacity.

Preparing to open LifeWay House 2 has been a collaboration of a wide network of our supporters: staff worked on extensive house renovations; volunteers tirelessly cleaned and organized; donors helped purchase furniture, housewares, and décor.

At the same time, we are continuing to expand our development efforts to maintain the ongoing sustainability of our services to these vulnerable women.

We thank all who partner with us in this most important work.

Sr. Joan S. Dawber, SC  
Executive Director

### Our Continuum of Services

With the growth of our Safe Housing Program, we are expanding the breadth of our services with a multi-tiered approach.

Emergency Safe Spaces provides housing for short periods of time. Our long-term transitional safe housing provides housing and comprehensive support services for up to one year. Because our women residents often meet financial and housing challenges when the time comes for them to leave LifeWay House, we are currently assessing the feasibility of establishing a Community Living Program that will assist women with housing for an additional few months.

### Our Mission

LifeWay Network joins the global movement against human trafficking by providing safe housing for women who have been trafficked and offering education about trafficking to the general public.

LifeWay Network envisions a world in which human trafficking is abolished and every survivor is strong, connected and free.

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*(As of December 2015)*

## 2015 LifeWay Network News

It was a busy year as LifeWay Network continued to fulfill its commitment to provide safe housing for trafficking survivors and raise public awareness about the crime of human trafficking.

**JAN** On January 8, during Human Trafficking Awareness Month, WAMC Northeast Public Radio airs a segment about human trafficking that included interviews with LifeWay Network's Sr. Joan S. Dawber, SC (Founder and Executive Director) and Lima James (Education and Training Coordinator).

**MAR** LifeWay Network marks the third anniversary of the opening of LifeWay House.

A Caritas Concert to benefit LifeWay is hosted by *Sacred Music in a Sacred Space* at the Church of Ignatius Loyola on March 18. Mezzo-soprano Sara Murphy and pianist Michael Sheetz treat the audience, including LifeWay Network staff and residents, to a magnificent recital.



**APR** LifeWay Network co-sponsors the "Slavery No More: Breaking the Supply Chains of Human Slavery" conference at Manhattan College on April 18.

**MAY** Aspire Home, a collaboration of LifeWay Network and Covenant House NY, opens its doors to provide safe housing for seven women survivors of trafficking.

LifeWay Network presents the Freedom Award to Sheryl WuDunn at its annual fundraiser "Event Towards New Life – Working Together to End Human Trafficking," in recognition of her work to raise awareness of human trafficking.



**JUNE** Pax Christi Metro New York honors Sister Joan S. Dawber, Founder and Executive Director of LifeWay Network, with the Sister Christine Mulready Peacemaker Award at its 2015 Peacemaker Awards Reception on June 7.

**SEP** On September 26, LifeWay staff and volunteers participate in the Queens contingent of the 15th Annual Brides March. Speakers include Queens Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and Jasmine Ortiz of LifeWay Network.



**"You are giving me the opportunity to spread my wings and fly!"**

*A woman resident of LifeWay House*

# Safe Housing Program

LifeWay Network's commitment to provide safe housing for women survivors of trafficking remains strong, and 2015 was a year of growth as our Safe Housing Program was expanded, enabling us to serve more survivors.

## LifeWay House

Opened in March 2012, our first long-term transitional safe house continues to welcome survivors and accompany them in residence for up to one year. The heart of our Safe Housing Program is the community living model which includes a host community living in the house, along with the support of a house manager, a social worker, and network of committed volunteers.

During the course of 2015, nine women were embraced by this caring community. With individualized attention and support, each survivor addresses her needs for education, employment and health, that enables her to move forward into the next phase of her life.



## LifeWay House 2

In response to the need for safe housing for trafficking survivors in New York City, the opening of a second long-term transitional safe house was mandated as part of our five-year strategic plan for 2013–2017. During the course of 2015, these plans moved forward. It was an exciting year of planning and preparation: extensive renovations were made, a host community was recruited, and staff and volunteers were trained to ensure that LifeWay House 2 would be ready to welcome our new residents.

## Aspire Partnership with Covenant House

Aspire Partnership, a collaboration of LifeWay Network and Covenant House New York funded by a three-year grant, opened Aspire Home in May 2015, providing safe housing for up to seven women survivors of human trafficking aged 18 to 24, and can also accommodate up to two children. Since then, Aspire Home has served seven women.

## Emergency Safe Spaces Program

Since 2009, LifeWay Network has offered short-term emergency harbor for women survivors. Women can stay anywhere from days to weeks, while other arrangements are being made. During 2015, we were able to provide 483 nights of safe housing for seven women, two of whom transitioned to live at Lifeway House.

### *A Survivor's Story: Naomi*

Determined. There isn't a better word to describe Naomi\* and her passion for education as the way to embrace a bright future after the trauma of being trafficked.

Supported by the LifeWay House community and volunteers, Naomi achieved her first goal of passing the GED. Next, she was accepted into college. Thanks to generous LifeWay donors, Naomi received funding to pay for some of these courses.

Now she is working as a tutor at her college and living independently in her own apartment.

Naomi captured the meaning of LifeWay's support for her when she said, *"You are giving me the opportunity to spread my wings and fly!"*

*\*Her name has been changed to protect her privacy*

# Education Program

2015 has truly been a year of growth and expansion for LifeWay's Education Program. The Education Program seeks to raise awareness, deepen understanding, and engage individuals and the community on the issue of human trafficking. To date, the Education Program has reached over 10,000 people with its message, including over 2,800 people through 43 educational workshops and outreach events in 2015 alone.

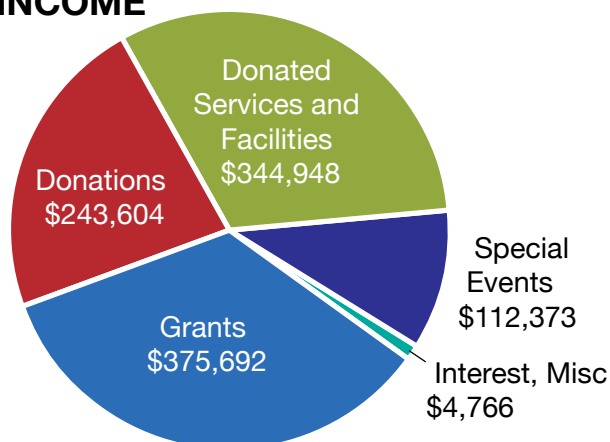


Expanding our reach in 2015, we collaborated with service providers to educate groups of social workers, health care providers, and more. We were also present at the national JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Conference in Washington, D.C., and collaborated on service learning projects with students from St. John's University's Homeland Security Program and St. Raymond's Boys High School's junior class.

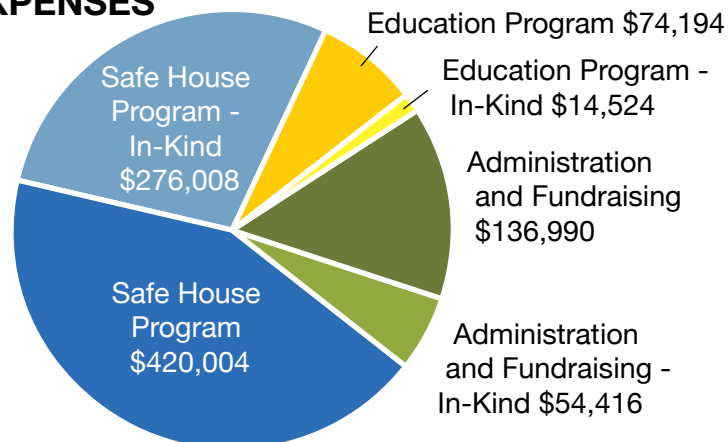
The Education Program's 2016 calendar will continue to offer presentations, as well as service learning projects with individuals, community groups, service providers, schools, and universities.

## LifeWay Network 2015 Finances (Unaudited)

### INCOME



### EXPENSES



Grant Income includes Aspire Partnership Grant of \$166,192.

The generosity of individuals giving of their time and talents contributes 35% of our operating costs.

***Thank you for your support!***

**DONATE NOW** at [LifeWayNetwork.org](http://LifeWayNetwork.org)

Visit our website to learn more about our efforts, human trafficking, and to sign up for our emails.

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