

# 2016 Annual Report



COLLABORATING TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Dear Friends of LifeWay Network,

The word “transformation” best describes the busy year we had at LifeWay Network during 2016 and the spirit of our growing community. I am pleased to share some highlights with you.

Our focus in 2015 was on building a strong foundation for expansion and growth. In 2016 we saw these efforts come to fruition with the opening of LifeWay House 2 and the first anniversary of Aspire Home. Our Safe Housing Program now has the capacity to provide housing for over 20 women.

During this period, our Education Program increased the number of presentations given, and these efforts expanded the number of individuals who became engaged in working together to bring an end to human trafficking.

With the recent growth of our programs, we are even more aware of and grateful for a heartfelt sense of community and connectedness that is evident in every aspect of our work.

Communities of transformation are evident in the intentional and inclusive circles of strength and hope that make up the LifeWay Network family. From the Board with its deep commitment and collaborative working model; the Host Community, who walk with the courageous survivors every day; our dedicated staff that brings an amazing set of skills and talent; to our wonderful volunteers who are responsive and generous. In addition, those we reach through our educational presentations become indispensable advocates.

Through our many partners and supporters – coalitions, service providers, foundations, and donors – our efforts are empowered and our work together becomes fruitful.

As individuals and as a community joined in a common purpose, we have developed and grown, changing as we influence each other towards new insights and awareness which leads us to new depths of compassion. This is the heart of a transformative process drawing us closer to realizing our mission.

I hope that each of you, our friends and supporters, have a felt sense of sharing in this mission, and know that you are clearly an important part of our LifeWay family.

Together, we continue to bring an end to the crime of human trafficking, and ensure justice and freedom for survivors.

Sincerely,

Sister Joan S. Dawber, SC  
Executive Director

## 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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# 2016 Year in Review



## 2016 Annual Report



**JAN** – LifeWay Network joined the nation with the observance of Human Trafficking Awareness Month by focusing on awareness and prevention, and reaching new audiences through social media and educational presentations.

**MAR** – On March 22 LifeWay Network co-sponsored and presented a parallel event at the 2016 United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women Forum on "Dynamics of Human Trafficking: Catastrophe, Migration, Demand and Restoration."

**APR** – LifeWay House 2 opened! Thanks to the efforts of our broader community of support with renovations, furniture donations, cleaning, hiring staff and moving in the host community, it was a joyous day with our first guest.

**MAY** – May marked the first anniversary of the opening of Aspire Home, a collaboration of LifeWay Network and Covenant House NY to serve women aged 18-24 with room for two children.



LifeWay Network's annual fundraiser, "Event Towards New Life" celebrated the anti-trafficking legislative commitments of The Honorable Carolyn Maloney and featured Shandra Woworuntu, a Presidential appointee to the first U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, as the Voice of Freedom.



**JUN** – LifeWay Network's 5K Race for Freedom was held in Van Cortlandt Park on June 18 bringing together new people and loyal LifeWay supporters to walk and run for freedom.

**OCT** – LifeWay Network participated in a Domestic Violence Awareness Month event sponsored by Queens Council Member Elizabeth Crowley in conjunction with the NYPD 104th Precinct, providing general education and survivor perspective on this significant community issue.



S. Joan Dawber, SC, Executive Director, presented the deP. Goubeau Lecture at Yale University's St. Thomas Moore Center on October 30. Her address titled "A Modern Response to Modern Day Slavery: The Ministry of LifeWay Network" focused on the power of collaboration and the essential role of building community as a path toward healing and wholeness.

*"When people and organizations come together with a shared vision and diverse gifts, we can create something that is greater than the sum of the individual parts."*

**NOV** – LifeWay Network held its annual reunion. Previous house guests, volunteers, host community members and staff gathered to share food, laughter and stories of their lives since last being together.

**DEC** – LifeWay Network was honored by a visit from Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Trafficking. She travels the world to observe what is being done to prevent and combat trafficking, and wanted to learn about LifeWay's services and its unique community living model for our safe houses.





## 2016 Annual Report

# Safe Housing Program

LifeWay Network is one of only two organizations in the New York Metro area that offers safe housing specifically for women survivors of human trafficking. In 2016 alone, we served 29 women and 3 children.

Our Safe Housing Program has housing options ranging from short term emergency safe spaces to longer term transitional housing where women can stay up to twelve or eighteen months. In all of these settings, we accompany women survivors as they begin to heal from their trauma and continue their journey to independent living.

When a woman arrives to reside with us, she joins a community of four to six other survivors, along with a host community of three women who live at the home full time. Staff includes a house manager and licensed social worker, and many dedicated volunteers provide companionship and mentoring.

In this community setting, the power of transformation is visible.

### Reflections from “Deborah,” a safe house social worker

*I have learned that I need to unlearn a lot of things in how I used to work with people because when you work with women who have been traumatized by trafficking, things like how people react to their situation, how social interactions go, and how to build trust are different.*

*Building trust with the women we serve requires a lot of compassion. It is being supportive, not giving advice.*

*My love for them as people has grown, not just as people I serve, but as wonderful human beings. Putting a face and personality on human trafficking has humanized the issue for me.*

### Reflections from “Liz,” a safe house guest and labor trafficking survivor from East Africa

*I expected a “shelter” with more restrictions and people just doing their jobs and not caring about you as a person. It’s not like that here, it’s like home.*

*I’m grateful to know that there are kind people in the world, someone to give an example, help teach what is ok in the culture of the United States.*

*Now I have my own voice. I can say what I want to say and people listen. People may agree, argue or say it’s not right, but we talk to each other. Being here has built my confidence. I’m not afraid to communicate with anyone.*

*Before coming here, I was scared of everybody. Now, I know how to deal with people. I’m not scared anymore. And I can help others with what I’ve learned.*



# Education Program

LifeWay's Education Program inspires individuals to become well-informed global citizens about this social problem that should have no place in the 21st century! In 2016, the Education Program continued to focus on raising awareness as a key to breaking the myths and misconceptions surrounding the term "human trafficking." Through education we transform mindsets that result in action and engagement in the community.

To date, we have reached over 11,700 persons with our message; including over 1,400 people through 39 educational workshops and outreach events in 2016 alone. LifeWay not only offers education workshops and training, but also hands-on service learning sessions which make a tremendous impact on our participants. In 2016, we collaborated again with St. Raymond's Boys High School and with new groups including Berkeley College and University of Colorado Boulder for service learning projects.

The program's 2017 calendar will continue to offer presentations and will emphasize youth audiences, social work professionals, law enforcement, and healthcare professionals.



## Audience impact:

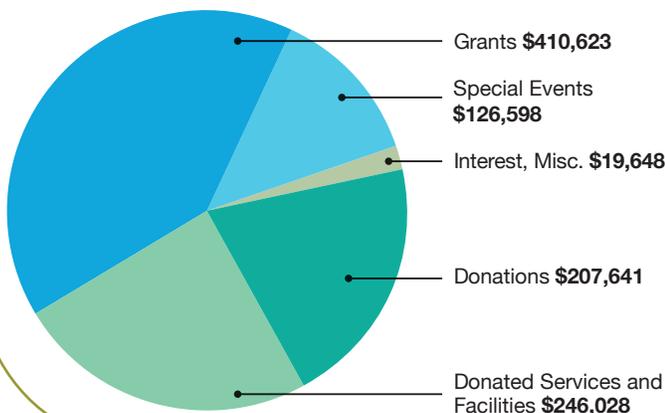
*"We all came back with completely new perspectives on the matter and everyone is so motivated to do more..."*  
 — University of Colorado Boulder Student

*"The presentation really stuck with me and immediately afterwards I spoke with my sister – a Health teacher at Brooklyn Technical High School - and suggested you as a guest speaker. Your presentation was so fantastic and definitely eye opening, to say the least. I truly believe it is a very important social issue that these students need to know about."*  
 — Fordham University Staff



## 2016 Audited Finances

### INCOME



### EXPENSES

