



ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING.
RECLAIMING LIFE.

LIFEWAY NETWORK IMPACT REPORT 2022

EMPOWERING SURVIVORS FOR A FREE AND INDEPENDENT FUTURE

SAFE HOUSING

When a woman arrives at LifeWay, she has many needs. Some are immediate: personal hygiene items, clothing, a roof over her head and food to eat. Some are less urgent, but no less important: a resume, job skills, a bank account. Some are impossible to buy from our Amazon Wish List: confidence, a sense of self-worth, coping skills and peace.

It's a mighty and nearly miraculous feat to meet these needs in the course of a year, and it requires tremendous effort on the part of the women who've survived such trauma—often a lifetime of pain, abuse of trust and struggle.

But each year we celebrate Independence Days — none with fireworks, but all with joy, awe and deep gratitude for our community of donors and volunteers who make possible the recovery and hope that we have the privilege to witness.

Recently we saw one survivor earn her driver's license; a rite of passage she never dreamed of experiencing. "I remember how all the staff were cheering for me when I decided to get my permit. Passing on the first try only empowered me to think I could do anything I wanted," she said.

Thanks to the economic empowerment workshops hosted by volunteer Marianne Lannig, this same survivor now has a job and an apartment of her own. "I was able to pursue my passion mostly because I had that peace of mind of having a safe place to live, food on the table and a supportive community who was encouraging and believed in me," she said.

Freedom is a basic need, as vital as a meal. LifeWay's safe housing program meets that need.

Meeting the Growing Demand

In 2022, LifeWay Network provided safe housing to 38 human trafficking survivors. Their transformative journey toward reclaiming their lives was inspiring: 40% pursued education, 35% sought employment and 25% did both. LifeWay remained steadfast in its commitment to stand in solidarity with survivors as they reimagined their lives.



Marianne Lannig provided resume-building and economic empowerment workshops for the residents of LifeWay Network's safe houses. Through these workshops, survivors gained valuable skills in banking and personal finance, job preparedness, resume building and identifying transferable skills for employment.



MESSAGE FROM LIFEWAY NETWORK LEADERSHIP

In 2022, LifeWay Network faced unprecedented opportunities and challenges, but we remained committed to emerging from this uncertain period even stronger and better equipped to serve survivors of human trafficking. While we originally thought the pandemic and other global challenges would have a shorter, less impactful timeline, our organization proved adaptable and resilient in the face of rapid change.

As part of our LifeWay community, I am confident that we can continue making extraordinary progress in the seasons ahead. Despite the difficulties of the past year, we remain focused on growing and flourishing. In 2022, we strengthened our services, developed our AfterCare Program and increased the number of women served by 35 percent.

Challenges persist daily for survivors of human trafficking, but we are proud of the following key points that reflect the unprecedented impact of LifeWay's safe housing and education programs:

- Economic empowerment programming
- Horticultural therapeutic workshops
- Life-skills support for residents on their path to long-term recovery
- Safe exits back into the community, maintaining employment, continuing in community
- An article published in Philanthropy News Digest
- Testimonial delivered at the United Nations

The success of our programs is reflected in our clients' ability to thrive after exiting our program, and in the reduction of PTSD symptoms by 25 percent through support provided by our horticulture workshops.

Looking to the future, we will continue to expand our vision for equal opportunity and equal pay for survivors. By establishing new ways to serve survivors beyond the safe house program and creating a system for their continued recovery and support in the AfterCare Program, we can help survivors secure brighter futures for themselves and their communities.

Business Performance Highlights:

- Revenue growth of 9.5% in 2022
- Welcomed more than 155 survivors from 38 countries since our founding
- Empowered survivors with our Dress for Success Closet
- Rose to meet the needs of a 35 percent increase in admission and referrals

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission of supporting survivors of human trafficking. With your continued support, we can provide vital services, opportunities and hope for those who need it most.

Jeannie Colangelo

Interim Executive Director, LifeWay Network

* As of October 2023, after four years as executive director, Marion Kendall has moved on from LifeWay Network. During her tenure, Ms. Kendall made a significant impact for LifeWay Network, and we are grateful for her dedication to our mission and the women she helped to support. We have already started the search for our next executive director and look forward to welcoming them to the organization in 2024. During this search process, LifeWay Network's six-year veteran and current director of finance and technology, Jeannie Colangelo, will serve as our interim executive director.

2022 ENTNL CELEBRATED 15TH ANNIVERSARY

LifeWay is fundamentally an organization of hope, and that's what we brought to last year's Event Towards New Life.

It was our first in-person event after the pandemic, and while all were still tentative, the joy of celebrating together at the University Club of New York was palpable.

We also marked 15 years since Sister Joan Dawber founded LifeWay Network. When we consider the hundreds of lives that have been changed since, the title of our signature fundraiser takes on an even deeper meaning.

We were delighted to celebrate our Freedom Award honoree, Stacey Bendet, who embodies so much of what we value in our community. She is the CEO of Alice + Olivia and cofounder of the #ShareTheMicNow movement, which was created in an effort to help amplify African-American women's voices.

Thank you so much to all who supported the event through donations of items, time and dollars. It was a vital renewal of commitment among community.



Stacy Bendet, ETNL Freedom Award honoree, left a profound and lasting impact on ETNL attendees through her inspiring speech.



Lynn Shaw of Lynn's Warriors is a longtime activist in the anti-trafficking movement.

HONORING FOUNDER'S DAY



In July, we proudly celebrated Founder's Day with the esteemed Sr. Joan Dawber, founder of LifeWay Network. Executive Director Marion Kendall and the LifeWay community shared heartwarming stories while honoring Sister Joan's outstanding creative achievements.

OUR AFTERCARE PROGRAM

LifeWay's AfterCare Program plays a vital role in providing support to survivors who have secured stable housing. The program offers invaluable assistance and resources to survivors, enabling them to tackle legal concerns, resolve disputes with landlords and access behavioral and treatment resources. Its ultimate goal is to help survivors establish self-sufficiency and security, thereby breaking the cycle of abuse, promoting healing and fostering empowerment.



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Whether they have been enslaved for a few months or for many years, trafficking victims need a place that provides security and comfort for both physical and emotional healing. Our safe housing program is the only one in the New York metro area that provides safe housing for both domestic U.S. citizen and foreign national women survivors of every form of human trafficking. LifeWay Network envisions a world in which human trafficking is abolished and every survivor is strong, connected and free.



EDUCATION

ADVOCATING AND RAISING AWARENESS FOR THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING MOVEMENT

Toward our vision of a world in which human trafficking is abolished and every survivor is strong, connected and free, LifeWay provides preventive education in the form of online Lunch and Learn sessions, in-person presentations and workshops, and blogs, social media and graphics.

We also are active in advocacy on behalf of survivors, particularly in the partial decriminalization effort led by New Yorkers for the Equality Movement. We partner with organizations and leaders throughout the New York City metro area; in 2022 our network expanded to include the Queens County District Attorney's office.

SOME SPECIFIC INITIATIVES IN 2022:

LifeWay's executive director and education director were invited to speak at the New York City Council Women's Caucus to discuss LifeWay's work and the importance of anti-human trafficking efforts by the council.

LifeWay Network held its first virtual New York City Council Lunch and Learn.

Queens County District Attorney Melinda Katz invited LifeWay to participate in a panel on labor trafficking for Human Trafficking Awareness Month.



LifeWay joined the New Yorkers for the Equality Model in Albany for a day of activism on behalf of the Sex Trade Survivors Justice and Equality Act.



In honor of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, celebrated July 30, LifeWay spotlighted the positive and negative impact of technology on human trafficking with a webinar.

Philanthropy News Digest published an article by Executive Director Marion Kendall entitled "Community-centered Work Requires Trust from Funders," highlighting the need for flexible funding.



Marion addressed the United Nations in December during their meeting on "The Social and Legal Challenges that Fuel the Trafficking in Women and Children," walking the panel through how LifeWay Network answers "what next" for survivors.

In 2022 we bid farewell to Education Director Tori Curbelo when she left LifeWay for a position at UNICEF. We remain grateful for her tireless activism. We were very fortunate to welcome Josephine Crisostomo to the role; Josephine brings experience from her work for the NYC mayor's office and a heart for serving the LifeWay community.

Get involved! Watch our social media and sign up for our email list to receive news about legislation, informative blogs and learning opportunities.

You can download resources from LifeWayNetwork.org and request a presentation for your organization by emailing Director of Education Josephine Crisostomo at JCrisostomo@lifewaynetwork.org.

We encourage engagement — it takes all of us to push back against the darkness of human trafficking and shed light.