



SELAH**FREEDOM**

Bringing Light into the Darkness of Sex Trafficking



**2016 - 2017**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



A teal-colored graphic element consisting of two curved, arrow-like shapes pointing in opposite directions, one towards the top-left and one towards the bottom-right, positioned behind the text.

Selah Freedom exists to end sex trafficking  
and bring freedom to the exploited.

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"I LOVE  
IT HERE.  
I AM AT  
PEACE.  
I AM  
HOME."

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ELIZABETH FISHER

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# *A Letter From Our President/CEO*

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*As I look back over the past seven years, I stand in awe. When Laurie, Misty and I thought of "doing something," we thought that "something" would be to open one home. We had no idea we would find ourselves where we are today. I am so grateful for your support and your belief in our vision as we have grown into the nation's largest service provider for survivors of sex trafficking. The comprehensive scope that we offer is unique. It has not only been my great honor, but it takes my breath away every time I receive a call from someone in another state sharing that they have searched for the best provider for this population...and Selah Freedom is, again and again, the organization that stands out as an example of the highest standards of educating, counseling and transitioning young women out of sex trafficking into productive, meaningful lives.*

*We are excited about expanding the work we do throughout the Midwest (Chicago and Wisconsin), Florida, New York and LA. We are grateful for all of the brilliant advisors who have come along to make sure our expansion is done efficiently and expertly. We have been given the gift of a global expansion expert to ensure we can have the scale of a Starbucks, and the heart and DNA of Selah Freedom.*

*This is why I could speak with confidence when a professional sports franchise approached Selah Freedom and asked if we could move into other markets. I could say yes- with certainty! We now understand every bit of the timing and resources needed to bring our services into any market with great success!*

*The only thing that is greater than what I've just described, is the personal stories of the girls we serve. They are not only surviving; they are thriving. They walk with grace, confidence, and dignity. And they truly feel loved and empowered because our team is relentless in the pursuit of reaching them and sharing with them how valuable they truly are. Often it has taken up to two years to convince these young ladies that there is hope and that they deserve the new life we are offering. As we step into 2018 and beyond, it is thanks to our amazing staff, partners, donors and collaborators that we are reaching those who were once left and forsaken. Because of you, they are now living lives beyond their wildest dreams!*

*With great gratitude and love,*  
*E*

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TOMA MILBANK

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# *A Letter From Our Chairman of the Board*

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*Dear Selah Freedom Supporters,*

*I am thrilled that I have had the opportunity to stand as Chairman of the Board for what has become the most credible, fastest growing, and impactful anti-sex trafficking organization in the nation.*

*As a father of two girls, it pains me that countless children in our own American communities are bought and sold as commodities every day. I am so proud that Selah Freedom is combatting that through outstanding Outreach, Residential and Awareness programs and stopping it before it even occurs through our Prevention program.*

*I am excited to present to you, our faithful Champions, the outcomes that you have helped us accomplish over the past year and look forward to even greater impacts in the future. We are dedicated to bringing light into the darkness of sex trafficking. Thank you for partnering with us in this mission!*



*Sincerely,  
Toma Milbank  
Selah Freedom Chairman of the Board*



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MY SITUATION  
WAS REALLY BAD,  
BUT I DON'T LOOK  
AT IT THAT WAY  
ANYMORE, BECAUSE  
**I WAS GIVEN  
THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO GIVE MYSELF  
A BETTER LIFE AT  
SELAH FREEDOM."**

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SELAH FREEDOM ADDRESSES  
THE ROOT ISSUE OF SEX  
TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION:  
CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE

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**“THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS  
A 7TH GRADE SLUT. THERE IS  
ALWAYS A DEEPER ISSUE...  
A LITTLE GIRL WHOSE  
BOUNDARIES AND SELF-  
WORTH HAVE BEEN STOLEN.”**

-ELIZABETH FISHER, PRESIDENT/CEO

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# 110

## SURVIVORS SERVED

# *Residential Program*

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*"Selah" is a Hebrew word which means to "pause, rest and reflect." This is exactly what each survivor experiences at home on our serene campus. We are not a shelter, but a home...what you would want for your own daughter. There is a spirit of excellence throughout each home, teaching survivors that they deserve dignity and a safe, peaceful place to heal.*

*The Residential Program takes a holistic approach to restoration. Survivors, who have had everything stolen from them, get the stability and rest they need to dream again! While in our program, survivors are equipped with the wrap-around services and resources they need to be free. They can also accomplish goals they never knew were possible to tackle - things like getting their GED, reconnecting with their children and family, getting their driver's license, and even learning to swim.*

*Selah Freedom provides a three-phase Residential Program to survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation, with two safe houses in the Southwest Florida area and two in the Midwest. First, survivors enter the Rest Phase, which allows them to reflect and decide if they are prepared to move forward with stepping into the new life Selah Freedom offers.*

*The second phase is the Restore Phase, where women receive a personalized education plan, medical aid, trauma therapy, job placement, case management, and restorative services. They also have the opportunity to build healthy and safe relationships that will follow them into their final stage of the program. The final stage is the Relaunch Phase, in which survivors receive individualized planning and assistance with living independently, career goals, and continued support. Selah Freedom is there with them every step of the way through their transformation!*

*"In my opinion, no single organization has done more in the continuing struggle to end human trafficking than Selah Freedom."*

*-Ross Spano, Florida House of Representatives,  
Human Trafficking Caucus*



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"AT SELAH  
FREEDOM I'VE  
GROWN IN  
RESPECT FOR  
MYSELF. I HAVE A  
SAFE PLACE TO  
CALL HOME."

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# *Outreach Program*

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# 1,654

## SURVIVORS SERVED

*Selah Freedom provides outreach on the streets and in the jails through our sex trade support group, case management and resources for survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation. Selah Freedom partners with local law enforcement as the first point of contact for women identified as sex trafficking victims or at high risk of being recruited into sex trafficking. We are also proud to partner with the FBI, the United States Attorney's Office, and more, to reach survivors and bring them life-saving solutions.*

*Survivors who are still "in the life" are able to attend weekly groups and receive the resources they need, as well as build a trusting relationship with Selah Freedom. Once a woman is ready to step into freedom, Selah Freedom brings her into a place of safety and restoration.*

*Selah Freedom is proud to be a part of the collaboration that launched TYLA (Turn Your Life Around), a prostitution diversion program. The TYLA initiative is a partnership between the Sarasota Police Department, Florida State Attorney's Office, First Step of Sarasota and Selah Freedom that employs community outreach, diversion, and a re-directed law enforcement philosophy. TYLA is also supportive during judicial proceedings and is committed to each survivor we serve.*

*Selah Freedom actively trains law enforcement locally and across the country on how to confront sex trafficking and exploitation and in 2016 trained and partnered with Houston Police Dept during the Super Bowl, the nation's highest ranking sex trafficking event.*

*"Selah Freedom's outreach and case management of trafficking victims at the Cook County Department of Corrections would serve as a solid complement to the Office's ongoing efforts."*

*-Cook County Sheriff's Office*



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"BEING A PART  
OF SELAH  
FREEDOM IS LIKE  
HITTING THE  
"RESTART"  
BUTTON ON  
LIFE."

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# 306

## YOUTH SERVED

# *Prevention Program*

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*One out of three girls and one out of five boys is sexually abused and the average of entry into sex trafficking is between 12-14 years old. Selah Freedom's passion is to prevent youth from being sex trafficked and exploited before it happens. Our Prevention Program is designed to educate, empower and equip students to recognize the tactics of predators, risk-factors, what to do if they are endangered, and how to avoid exploitative relationships.*

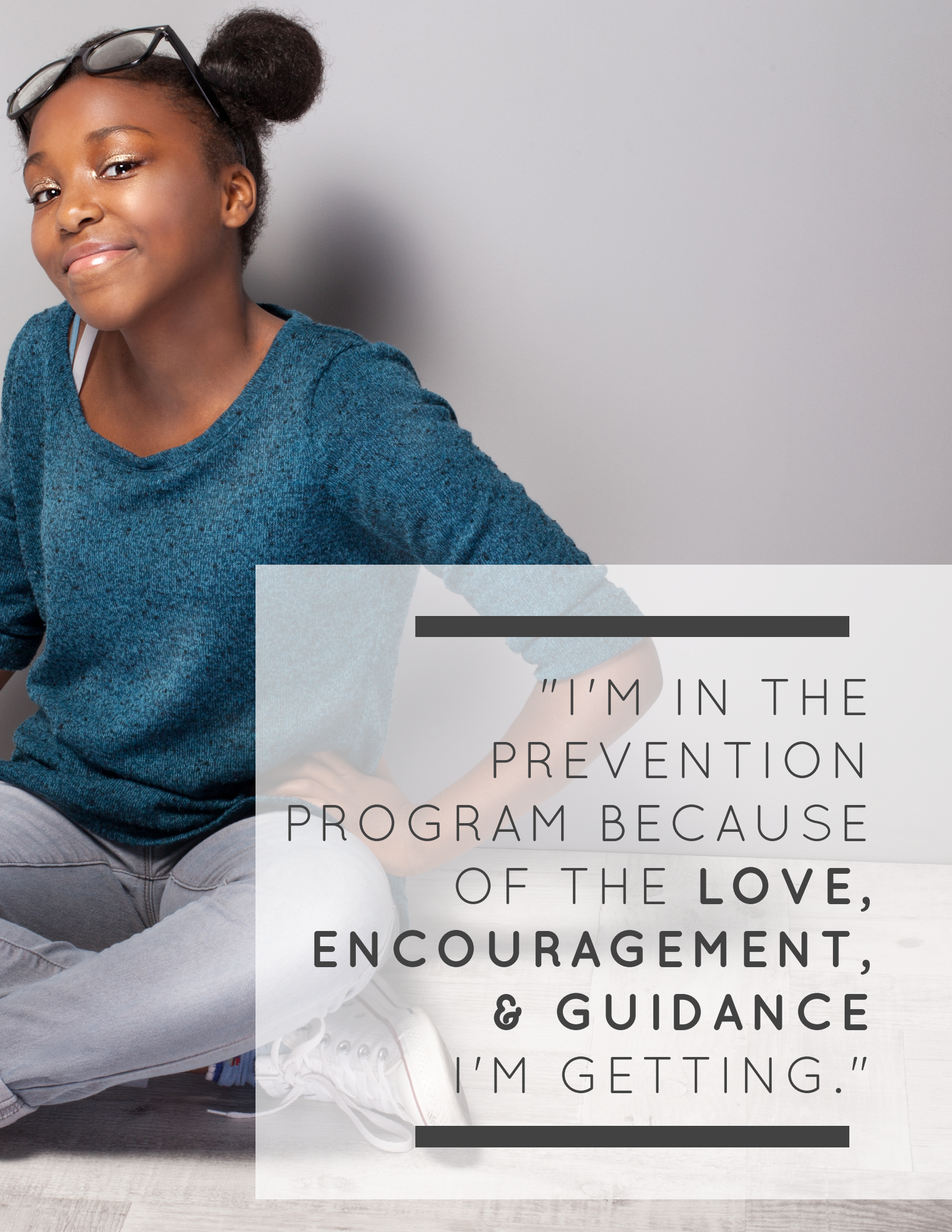
*We provide 6-8 week prevention groups for girls which are survivor and clinician led. These groups identify the realities of "the life" and what exploitation really looks like, as well as build self-esteem and allow for open, non-judgmental conversation about this issue. They have a high success rate at preventing them from being commercially sold later, as participants become advocates for the cause by taking part. These groups are vital in helping girls discover the power of their voice.*

*Selah Freedom also brings relevant and engaging education about sex trafficking to both girls and boys by presenting in the classroom, in youth groups and youth conferences across the country through our Freedom for Teens Curriculum. This curriculum is designed to fit into Health Class standards of the public school system so that it can be taught within two classroom sessions.*

*Selah Freedom also provides Teen Mentorship for at-risk girls through our Prevention Program. Building relationships based on trust and experience is an essential component in helping teen girls build self-confidence, set future goals, and protect themselves against abuse.*

*"The teen girls who attended our event geared toward prevention identified the session led by Selah Freedom as their favorite. They said that, "Not only was it was fun, but they really learned a lot."*

*-The Girls' Summit*



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"I'M IN THE  
PREVENTION  
PROGRAM BECAUSE  
OF THE **LOVE,**  
**ENCOURAGEMENT,**  
**& GUIDANCE**  
I'M GETTING."

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# *Awareness Program*

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82,700

EDUCATED

*Selah Freedom brings awareness about sex trafficking and exploitation to individuals across the country. Each year, we provide trainings through our Speakers Bureau and presence at community events. We are dedicated to raising awareness about this issue through our dynamic and moving presentations tailored to audiences of students, civic clubs, parents, nonprofits, first responders, hospital staff, educators, legislators, the faith community, and more.*

*We provide expert training on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. This training gives an in-depth look at the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Selah Freedom offers this multimedia education training that is open to the community. Receive a deeper understanding of this issue and learn more about the population Selah Freedom serves.*

*This year, Selah Freedom introduced an awareness presentation, in conjunction with our Prevention Program, entitled "Sex, Lies & Media." This training enlightens parents and those who work with youth on the tactics of predators, how social media platforms are used to lure in innocent children, how to initiate and sustain life-saving conversations with children and teens about this issue, and how to become an advocate for the cause. "Sex, Lies & Media" is also offered to youth to bring them the resources they need to be aware and take action to keep themselves safe in the digital age.*

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"THE FOUNDATION  
PROUDLY SUPPORTS  
SELAH FREEDOM TO  
HELP OFFER  
BRIGHTER FUTURES  
TO THE WOMEN AND  
GIRLS WHO GET  
CAUGHT IN THE  
ENDLESSLY ABUSIVE  
AND DEADLY CYCLE  
OF SEX TRAFFICKING  
IN CHICAGO AND ITS  
SUBURBS."

-THE CHAUNCEY AND MARION  
MCCORMICK FOUNDATION

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# *Expanding Our Reach to Save Lives*

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Since our inception in 2010, Selah Freedom's programs have doubled and tripled annually. We are successfully offering services in the Midwest and Florida, and are now focusing on expanding in New York and LA.

The Midwest is now home to all four of Selah Freedom's programs, which originated in our headquarters state of Florida: Residential, Awareness, Outreach and Prevention. Each market is in desperate need of our proven services.

Continued expansion has been made possible thanks to the generosity of supporters such as an Anonymous donor, **The Chauncey and Marion McCormick Foundation**, an **Anonymous Donor** and **The Pentecost Family Foundation**. Their matching gifts exceeding \$1.5 Million have aided in our programs launching and sustaining in each market.



"The Foundation proudly supports Selah Freedom to help offer brighter futures to the women and girls who get caught in the endlessly abusive and deadly cycle of sex trafficking in Chicago and its suburbs."

-The Chauncey and Marion McCormick Foundation

"The Pentecost Foundation proudly links arms with God's blessing to pour back into the lives of women who've had so much taken from them. Our hope is for them to know God sees them- loves them and is relentlessly pursuing them in love."

-Mark and Cindy Pentecost

## ***In Bold Moves***

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### ***Growing Programs***

*Our Prevention Program is one we are most passionate about and are excited to announce that it has taken on an even larger scope to address the needs of American youth. We have created multiple custom curriculums, including workshops for parents, and one designed specifically for the school system to reach both boys and girls. And we are excited to expand into A with a very strong partnership.*

*Our Residential Program has grown, too, as we will launch our largest Residential Campus, yet, which will support 22 beds in the Midwest.*

*Selah Vie Boutique also launched its second premiere location as a sought-after upscale resale boutique and awareness hub in the community. Our grand vision has always been to launch "Selah Freedom Village," which will incorporate survivor businesses, a cafe, retail and more, as a model for strategic sustainability.*

### ***National Recognition***

*Selah Freedom is recognized as setting the highest level of outcomes, standards and measurements. We have been upheld by the state of Florida as the model organization serving this population, leading our organization to establish national recognition by Congress, Law Enforcement, the NFL and national press.*

### ***Increased Partnerships***

*Collaboration is a core value of Selah Freedom. We are proud to have established and grown influential partnerships with nationally renowned industry leaders such as the United States Attorney's Office, Cook County Sheriff's Office, Florida Statewide law enforcement, The Cook County and various Florida State Attorney's Offices and the FBI.*

*We continue growing partnerships with business leaders such as It Works! Global, True Fitness, Precision Racing, and N2 Publishing. More exciting partnerships are coming, as the PBS Visionaries Series will be highlighting our mission in a dedicated episode. We are also proud to partner with international fashion company, Rent The Runway in our 2018 A New Beginning Fashion Show!*

# *Confronting Sex Trafficking Nationally*

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*Through four strong and proven programs, Selah Freedom has scaled nationally, bringing light into the darkness of sex trafficking. This is thanks to our solid foundation and the expert advisors we have been fortunate enough to work with. Over the past two years, Selah Freedom has partnered with an incredibly successful global business advisor (Anonymous). Under his tutelage, we have learned the art of scalability, while still maintaining the heart and DNA of our organization in each market. Our goal is to have the scalability of Starbucks, with the heart and DNA of Selah Freedom. We are grateful for each of our advisors who have enabled our organization to create sustainability and credit nationally.*

*Pictured upper right: Midwest Residential Campus, beautifully transformed 100% by donors and volunteers.*

*Pictured lower right: Midwest Assessment Home, our largest campus yet, which will serve as survivors' first point of entry into freedom.*



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## PLANS FOR EXPANSION

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# *Capital Improvement*

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*Selah Freedom is proud to partner with **Siebert Architects** and **The Holliday Group** in efforts to provide the highest standard of care for survivors. Capital improvements have taken place on all Residential Campuses, but there is still much work to be done.*

*Custom modular homes to replicate our unique Residential campuses in each market are underway. We are working with national leaders in this space and plan to have them fully funded and complete in 2018. These homes enable Selah Freedom to provide state of the art graduate housing for survivors in our program, allowing our team to provide the vital continuum of care needed after survivors graduates.*

*These homes are fully customized and maintain the Selah Freedom spirit of excellence we hold dear. Our goal is to provided survivors with a high level of dignity and comfort on their journey to restoration...a place to heal like you would desire for your own daughter.*



*We will also be breaking ground on **Julie's Place**, funded by the generosity of Anonymous donors. This space will provide counseling rooms, art therapy, fitness, education, and survivor entrepreneurial opportunities.*

*Naming rights and "adopting" each room to transform for survivors are available for each modular graduate home.*



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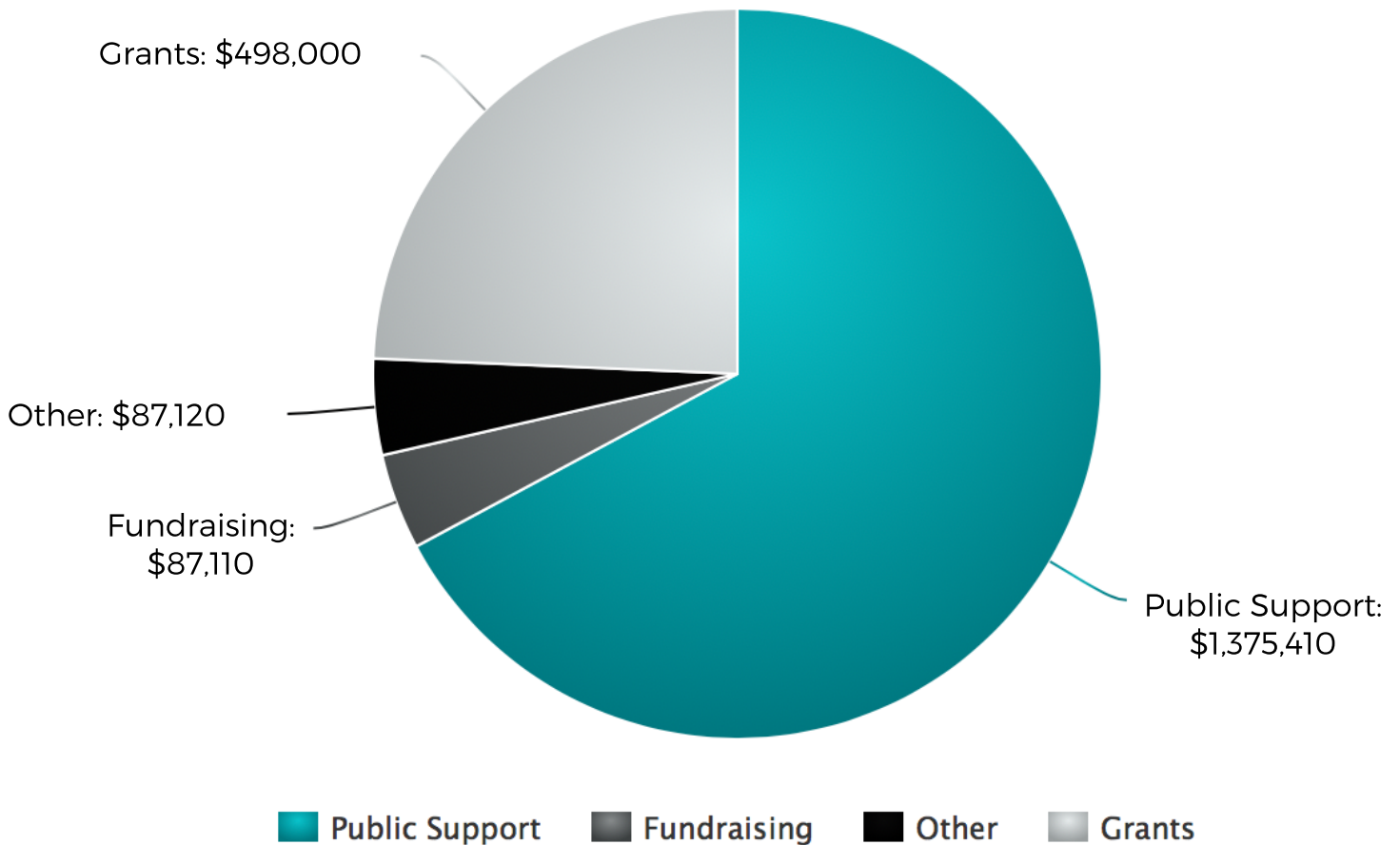
SELAH FREEDOM'S YEAR

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# *Financial Review*

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## 2016 Revenue



*"The Pentecost Foundation proudly links arms with God's blessing to pour back into the lives of women who've had so much taken from them. Our hope is for them to know God sees them- loves them and is relentlessly pursuing them in love.." - **Mark and Cindy Pentecost***

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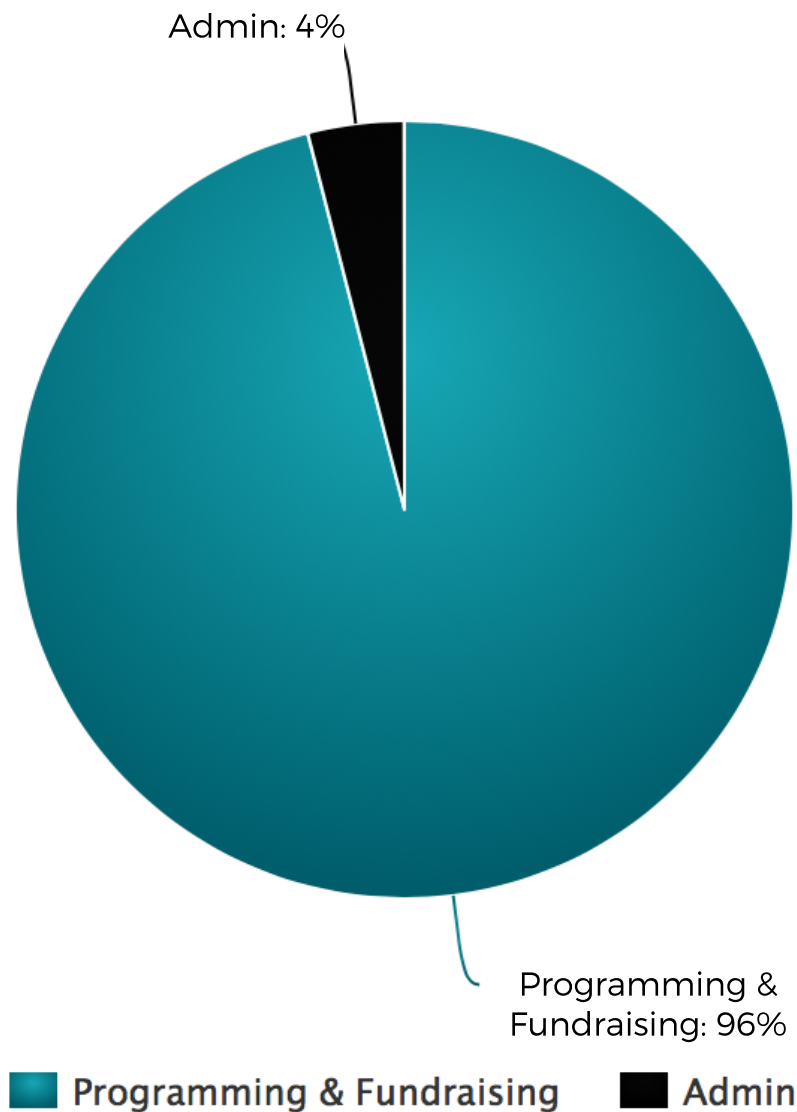
SELAH FREEDOM'S YEAR

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# *Financial Review*

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## 2016 Expenses



*"The Chauncey & Marion D. McCormick Foundation proudly supports Selah Freedom to help offer brighter futures to the women and girls caught in the endlessly abusive and deadly cycle of sex trafficking."* - **The Chauncey & Marion D. McCormick Foundation**

# *Annual Events*

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*Each year Selah Freedom hosts events which not only share our mission to end sex trafficking and bring freedom to the exploited, but also showcase the undeniable resilience and brilliance of the survivors we serve.*

*This year, each event welcomed many new Champion supporters to our cause, as many were not previously aware that sex trafficking and exploitation takes place right here in our own backyard.*

*Thank you to all of our event chairs, co-chairs, volunteer committees, sponsors and underwriters who made each event memorable and impactful!*

*We are looking forward to each event being scalable in each market to multiply the unique success of each.*



## ***A New Beginning Fashion Event***

This champagne luncheon and fashion show has become our most anticipated event of the year in Sarasota, FL., featuring stunning fashions, gourmet fare and an unforgettable survivor speaker.



## ***Tee It Up Against Sex Trafficking***

It has become an annual tradition to hit the green to fight sex trafficking in the Midwest. Guests competed at Kenosha Golf & Country Club, followed by dinner and inspirational guest speakers.

## ***Sail Into Freedom***

Sail Into Freedom was held against the backdrop of the Gulf of Mexico and hosted an exceptional crowd. It highlighted the moving story of a survivor graduate. Guests were awestruck as they realized the reality of her resilience in overcoming domestic sex trafficking.



## ***Freedom Lunch & Learn***

This afternoon with professionals in Chicagoland proved to be one of the most impactful of the year, featuring our President/CEO, Elizabeth Fisher, Virginia Mary Kendall, United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and Dr. Jason Quintal, PhD, LCSW



## ***Rock The Boat Against Sex Trafficking***

This event was the first of its kind on the rooftop of the Westin, in downtown Sarasota, FL. Guests enjoyed a stunning evening, including views overlooking the cityscape and Gulf of Mexico. They left inspired by the moving story of a survivor graduate.

# *Parties With A Purpose*

*Hosting a Party With A Purpose or Cocktails For A Cause is one of the greatest ways to raise awareness and funding to fight sex trafficking and exploitation. This year, our Champions came together in Florida, Chicago, New Jersey and beyond, to raise their voices against this issue and raise their resources to fuel our mission.*



# *Special Honors & Recognition*

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*Misty LaPerriere, Director of Outreach, won the distinguished honor of Survivor Advocate of the Year at Attorney General Pam Bondi's Annual Human Trafficking Summit.*



*Elizabeth Fisher, President/CEO, testified as an expert before Congress on fighting the exploitation of our own American children, bringing attention to the reality of domestic sex trafficking. Thanks to her testimony to our nation's leaders, attention has been brought to the importance of bringing action and resources to those affected by this injustice right here in the United States.*

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TAKING ACTION

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# *Locking Arms To Fight Sex Trafficking*

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*Champions from around the country got involved this year in the fight to end injustice by raising their hands, raising their voices and raising their resources. Check out some of our incredible volunteers, donors and advocates bringing light into the darkness of sex trafficking.*



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SELAH FREEDOM

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# *Advisory Board*

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## Midwest -Chicago

<i>Judge Virginia Kendall</i>	<i>Rita L. Smith</i>
<i>Quin R. Frazer</i>	<i>Jennifer Davidson</i>
<i>Dina Bair</i>	<i>Brandon Frein</i>
<i>Judy Gold</i>	<i>Amy Ellis</i>
<i>Kathleen Sleigh</i>	<i>Valerie Kahan</i>
<i>Barbara Best</i>	<i>Roland Jacobs</i>
<i>Jessica Badgley</i>	<i>Kristina Bonesteel</i>
<i>Lauren Harper</i>	<i>April Oury</i>
<i>Molly Archibald</i>	<i>Sarah McCarron</i>

## SE-Florida

<i>William Russell</i>	<i>Carolyn Mason</i>
<i>Mark Pentecost</i>	<i>Pat Robinson</i>
<i>Donna Koffman</i>	<i>Sandy DeFeo</i>
<i>Tammy Karp</i>	<i>Amy Goldman</i>
<i>Debra Pitell-Hauge</i>	<i>Toni Thompson</i>
<i>Karen Roth, PhD</i>	<i>Cathy Slusser</i>
<i>Renee Frigo Graeff</i>	<i>Hamilton Coffey</i>
<i>Pamela Hagen</i>	<i>Mimi L. Carlin</i>
<i>Kimberly Payne</i>	

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SELAH FREEDOM

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## *Board of Directors*

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*Toma Milbank, Chairman*

*Catherine Fernandez Vernon*

*J. Chris McGee, Secretary*

*Elise Free*

*Timothy Murray, Treasurer*

*Elizabeth Fisher*

*Simi Chaddha Ranajee, PhD, MBA*

*CEO/President of Selah Freedom;*

*Co-Founder of Selah Freedom*

*Ex-officio Board Member*

*Jen Skanron*

*Laurie Swink*

*Lynne Cumming*

*Director of Education and Global Training;*

*Co-Founder of Selah Freedom*

*Dan Boehnen*

*Ex-officio Board Member*

## *Ambassadors*

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*Dr. Jason Quintal*

*Sandy Zannino*

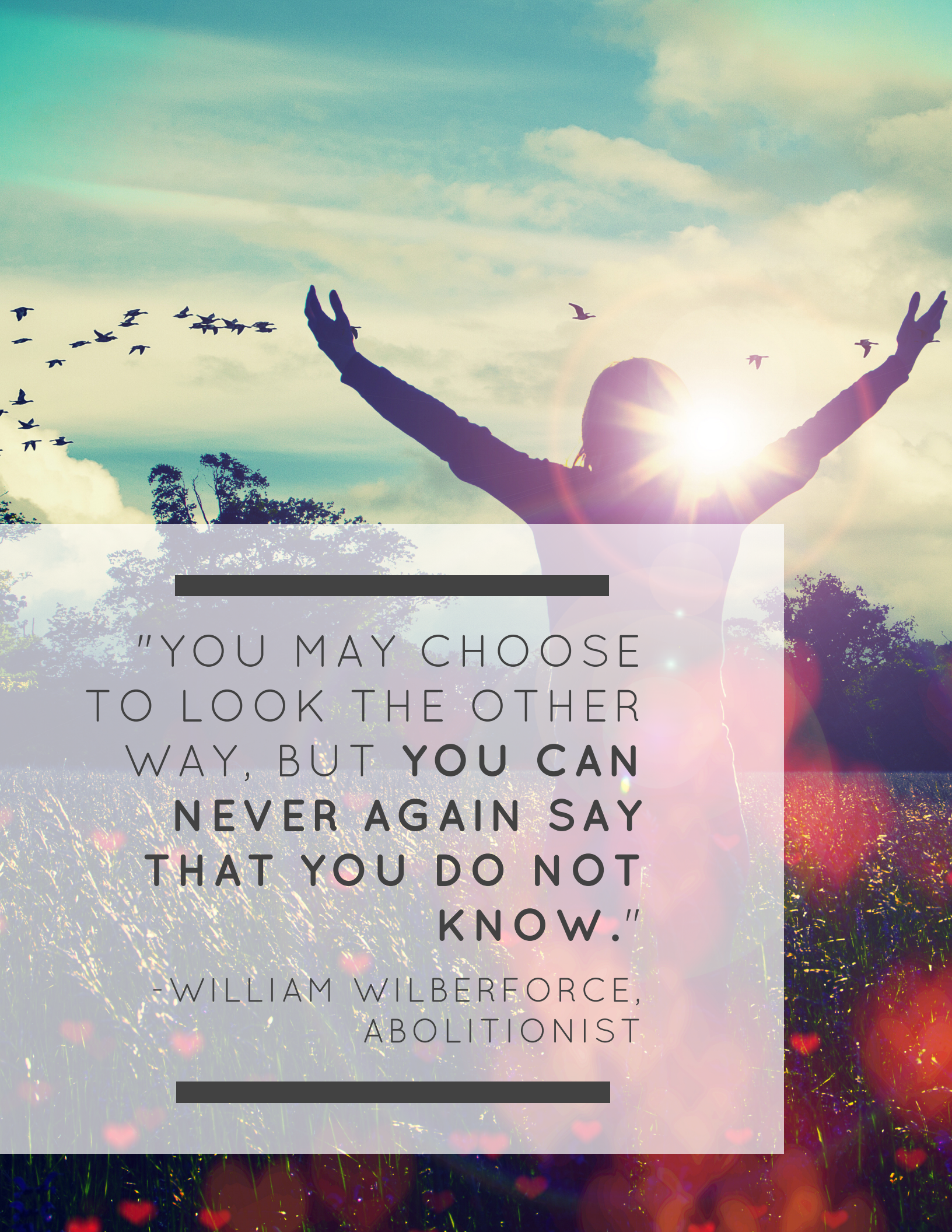
*Mary Lou Johnson*

*Nick Drizos*

*Laurin Ripley*

*Irene Gerontianos*

*Ava Whaley*

A person is seen from behind, standing in a field of tall grass and flowers. Their arms are raised high in the air, reaching towards a bright, hazy sky where the sun is setting or rising, creating a lens flare effect. Several birds are flying in the sky. The overall mood is one of hope, freedom, and inspiration.

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"YOU MAY CHOOSE  
TO LOOK THE OTHER  
WAY, BUT **YOU CAN  
NEVER AGAIN SAY  
THAT YOU DO NOT  
KNOW.**"

- WILLIAM WILBERFORCE,  
ABOLITIONIST

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**SELAHFREEDOM<sup>®</sup>**

Bringing Light into the Darkness of Sex Trafficking



Selah Freedom  
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[www.SelahFreedom.c](http://www.SelahFreedom.c)  
501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization