



2021

Annual Report

About

Founded in 1998 by U.S. Congresswoman Linda Smith, Shared Hope International is a 501(c)3 give-with-confidence rated nonprofit with a threefold mission to prevent the conditions that foster sex trafficking, restore survivors of sex trafficking, and bring justice to vulnerable children. Shared Hope engages in diverse training, intervention, and legislative activities that confront sex trafficking in communities throughout America. Shared Hope envisions a world where every survivor is surrounded by trained professionals, an alert community, just law and policy, knowledgeable service providers, and appropriate shelter options.

Mission

Shared Hope International strives to prevent the conditions that foster sex trafficking, restore victims of sex slavery, and bring justice to vulnerable women and children. We envision a world passionately opposed to sex trafficking and a community committed to restoring survivors to lives of purpose, value and choice – one life at a time.

Vision

Our vision is to coordinate a national U.S. network of protection to improve the response to victims of trafficking. We believe we can create a world where every survivor is surrounded by trained professionals, an alert community, just law and policy, knowledgeable service providers and appropriate shelter options.

Letter from Linda

Chances are, I'm one of hundreds of executives and business owners tempted to begin the 2021 annual report with, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times..." So, I will just say that the forced hiatus in 2020 and 2021 was frustrating, yes, but it also allowed Shared Hope to adapt, become more creative, and carve out time for some very important priorities.

Our fiscal year 2021 covered the last six months of 2020 and disruptions of that period forced us to go virtual with the JuST Conference for the first time since 2014. Though it was an initial disappointment, we came to realize that peoples' access to conferences would be forever changed and out of necessity we became proficient at virtual and blended JuST Conference.

For our policy team, working virtual did not slow them at all. In fact it provided a much needed "gap year" to re-tool our process of grading states. The Protected Innocence Challenge was retired and an advanced legislative framework was laid out that would be the basis for grades in 2022. The new Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking will encourage states to adopt laws that provide services and civil and criminal justice procedures for survivors.

Faith Initiatives continued uninterrupted and were indeed strengthened with webinars and virtual gatherings to keep everyone engaged and continuing to focus on the "main thing". Because many churches were closed and people needed hope during the shut down, our focus was an invitation to weekly prayer time and webinars that featured inspiring messages from a survivor, a medical doctor, an FBI agent, and even a former buyer--all sharing how their faith equips them in the fight against sex trafficking. Hundreds of people have become part of our Faith in Action audience.

The trained volunteers, Ambassadors of Hope, learned to pivot their attention to virtual prevention education presentations. Newly developed tools and resources, and online workshops enabled them to be effective on social media to drive awareness information. This hiatus from in person training became an opportunity for Ambassadors to become better prepared to "meet" their lawmakers on virtual legislative advocacy calls along with Shared Hope's policy team members.

Through all the challenges of the year, our partners, both domestic and international, continued their life-saving, life-enriching efforts uninterrupted. Shared Hope's loyal donors provided the means for us to continue our pledged support.

I am proud of staff, partners, and all those working on behalf of survivors in legislative offices around the country for a year of undaunted perseverance.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Smith".

Linda Smith
Founder and President

Prevent

“There is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we are brave enough to be it.” – Amanda Gorman

We must give people the tools and knowledge to protect their communities as they navigate the ever-evolving technologies being used by youth, teens, and young adults. Without knowledge and proper training, we will continue to see vulnerable youth fall into the meticulously thought-out traps of traffickers and predators. Engagement in Shared Hope trainings and education is critical to protecting the next vulnerable generation online and preventing future victims from extensive trauma, while informing the nation how to best support and engage with survivors in their community.

When people know how to identify trafficking and what they can personally do to help prevent it, we create a network of superheroes within our existing networks. It is the responsibility of every person to keep each other, especially children, safe from all forms of harm, and people can only do this when they know HOW to do so. When we create informed and empowered communities, we save lives and protect futures so that all young people have the opportunity to grow into the well adjusted adults they are meant to be. Training creates a ripple effect of awareness that can result in everyone being safer.

Impact

2,316

**STUDENTS,
FAMILIES, AND
PROFESSIONALS,
ALERTED ON HOW
TO PROTECT YOUTH**

1,255

**PROFESSIONALS
AND ADVOCATES
TRAINED THROUGH
THE JUST
CONFERENCE**

1,231

**INDIVIDUALS
GAINED SKILLS
VIA ONLINE
TRAINING**

Ambassadors of Hope

Prevention in Action

Shared Hope Ambassadors make a difference because they reach people that our team couldn't possibly reach. They are the ones who know a school counselor or a health class teacher. They have connections in their book club, parenting group, or church small group. They're the business people, professionals, and trusted adults in some children's lives. It is our privilege as the Shared Hope support team to help them make a difference by providing materials and resources to ensure they are most effective.

Because of Ambassadors, Shared Hope is able to report that 7,888 audience members heard the prevention message in 2022. Those numbers represent a lot of kids who are safer because they have learned about the signs of grooming, the dangers of online predators, and know what to do to protect themselves and their friends!

Faith in Action

Prevention Through Faith

"In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Our Faith Initiatives audience know that if young people, their parents, teachers, counselors, healthcare professionals, pastors, youth leaders, and advocates aren't able to teach kids how predators work, those children are even more vulnerable simply because they don't know. They have chosen to put their faith into action by educating their own congregations, hosting community events, and guiding parents to resources from Shared Hope.

Shared Hope helps improve protections for their children by offering tools and resources. Our goal is that young people and their caring adults will know the signs of grooming, the dangers on the internet, and how to navigate healthy relationships. And because they know, they'll be safer. We do that through offering informative and inspiring webinars, free printed resources to share, and monthly newsletters to activate the national praying army.

Restore

Shared Hope continues to give real hope and a future to those victimized by sex trafficking. With the help of donors, Shared Hope was able to provide support to vulnerable girls and boys in the United States and around the globe.

Shared Hope is proud to have supported 9 domestic partners and 4 international partners in India, Nepal, and Jamaica. Through partners, Shared Hope is able to directly support crucial services such as:

- Residential and Medical Care
- Advocacy and Case Management Services
- Pro Bono Legal Services
- Community Training and Awareness
- Education for Survivors
- Residential and Medical Care for Boys

Impact

14

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

9

DOMESTIC PARTNERS

4

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Mercy's Story

United States

Mercy is an adorable 12-year-old African-American who is doing remarkably well given the horrible truth that she has endured sex trafficking for the past 2 years, being sold by a guardian. She was abandoned by her mother, and was expected to be a primary care provider to her younger brother. She is now in a residential program and our partner will continue to provide advocacy services to her for as long as she desires. She is acclimating well and her main concern right now is maintaining an A average in school. She is making great strides and is beginning to identify and experience emotion again and is beginning to recognize she was a victim. This is often one of the harder milestones to navigate. She has a long journey ahead but we are hopeful and will remain by her side.

Rohan's Story

India

Shanti is 30 years old and a mother of two, brought up in very hardship surroundings. No education, no survival skills, and a drunkard father who was helping to run the family by painting the houses.

At a very young age, she had an affair with a man and lived with him for several years. At the young age of 15, she became a mother and gave birth to a daughter and after that a son named Rohan...

Life was going well until she found out about another relationship with her husband. He left her and she had to live on the street for seven years. An alone lady on the street surviving only on 50 Rupees or sometimes \$1 a day. This kind of situation of survival was miserable and in this kind of situation, they fall into the trap of a trafficker.

She was brought into a brothel, but her heart was towards her children. King, a friend who is working in a red-light district, pleaded with us to keep Rohan as there wasn't any safe place for him to live.

We welcomed Rohan at the age of 13 and he is happily living with the boys.

Bring Justice

In the shift to online activism and advocacy, Shared Hope was able to support advocates and legislators in over 30 states on anti-trafficking legislation.

Shared Hope hosted a Virtual Advocacy Summit, which included:

- Over 40 meetings with Congressional legislators on child and youth sex trafficking
- Over 300 people took action over the course of 3 days to target Congress regarding child and youth sex trafficking.

Most notably, Shared Hope released the first Report Cards on Child and Youth Sex Trafficking utilizing the new Advanced Legislative Framework. The majority of states and D.C. received a “D” (10) or “F” (40) grades. Florida received the highest grade, a “C”, and only 8 states fully protect trafficked children from arrest, detention, charging and prosecution for prostitution offenses

Impact

12,846

MESSAGES SENT TO LEGISLATORS

3,228

ADVOCATES TOOK ACTION

Justice for “Z”

SURVIVOR PETITION

Revenue and Expenses

	FY 2021
Total Support and Revenue	\$4,744,031
International Programs	\$208,874
Domestic Programs	\$2,464,973
Programs	\$2,673,847 (81.5%)
Fundraising/Development	\$262,278 (8%)
Administration	\$344,611 (10.5%)
Supporting Activities	\$606,889
Total Expenses	\$3,280,736 (100%)

Financial Accountability and Transparency

Shared Hope International pledges good stewardship of every donation. 81.5% of every dollar spent by Shared Hope directly supports our programs, giving hope to the vulnerable adults, girls, and boys that we serve. The gifts we receive enable us to lead a worldwide effort to eradicate sexual slavery... one life at a time. We specifically strive for

- Sound fiscal management
- Commitment to accountability and transparency

We are audited on an annual basis by an independent CPA firm and have received a clean opinion every year. In addition, we are members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability and have met their standards consistently.