



# 2023 Annual Report

— Prevent, Restore, Bring Justice—



“ **What if one caring adult had been equipped to recognize the signs of trafficking and empowered to ask: Who is hurting this child?** ”

— Linda Smith

Somehow they looked past her bruises, her cuts, the track marks on her arm — and called her the criminal.

They noticed her swollen belly — that this child of just 14, still a baby herself, was soon to become a mother — and they **jailed her** on prostitution and drug charges.

Angelina\* was first trafficked before she was even 10 years old. Her childhood consisted of being moved back and forth across the San Diego-Tijuana border to be used in the tourist districts of both cities.

She was “rescued” by a pimp at the age of 11 from the organized crime syndicate that routinely exploited her. **She felt tremendously indebted to her new abuser for taking her in ...** and took the blame for his drug charges in order to show her loyalty.

Angelina was guilty of nothing. She was used and abused as a commodity. She did exactly what her trafficker told her to do ... she was often part of “the deal” made in exchange for drugs. *And by her 14th birthday, she was pregnant with her trafficker’s baby.*

So let me ask you a simple question: How might the world be different if America cared for its sex-trafficked children instead of incarcerating them?

What if one caring adult, in at least one of the institutions that came into contact with Angelina — the medical community, law enforcement, social workers, Child Protective Services — was equipped to recognize the signs of trafficking and empowered

to ask: *Who is hurting this child?*

Angelina was a victim, not a criminal. She’s a survivor of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). And with your support, Shared Hope is righting the wrongs committed against youth like her. Your support has powered an unprecedented multi-faceted campaign against child sex trafficking ... standing together on behalf of the victims of this horrific crime — providing safety, restoration, and justice.

And **in 2023, we celebrated 25 years of our amazing victories together**, fighting for justice, changing laws, spreading the word, and helping children and adults like Angelina, targeted by the behemoth global sex trafficking industry.

Because of you, we’re making significant inroads in the battle to end sex trafficking.

With so much important work already accomplished, we continue to fight relentlessly for vulnerable youth, educating and empowering the professionals who can make a difference ... and restoring survivors’ lives through our fantastic partner agencies, safe houses, the WIN program, legislative efforts, international advocacy, and so much more.

***None of this would be possible without your valued and generous support.***

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being a major player in this critically important work. God bless you for making a difference, one life at a time!

—Linda Smith  
Founder and President

\* Name changed to protect her identity

## Our Mission

Shared Hope International exists to prevent sex trafficking, restore its victims, and bring justice to adults and children affected by this devastating crime. We envision a world passionately opposed to sex trafficking and a committed community restoring survivors to lives of purpose, value, and choice — one life at a time. We strive to 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.

## Our Values

As Christian abolitionists, we believe survivors of sex trafficking deserve the opportunity to be restored to dignity and purpose, regardless of their faith or system of belief. As Christian stewards, we prayerfully seek to use wisdom and biblical guidance for every dollar we spend. As Christian leaders, we seek to inspire change by informing and empowering activists, providing strategic guidance to local shelter and service partners, and influencing policy-makers and first responders.

## Our Impact

Here's a snapshot of *what you helped accomplish* in 2023:



**1,339**

trained Ambassadors of Hope were active in their communities, preventing trafficking through education



**877**

professionals and advocates trained through JuST Training Conference 2023



**11,940**

connections made with legislators via emails and tweets on 21 Shared Hope campaigns supporting state and federal bills



**1,846**

advocates took action, signed campaigns, and sent messages to legislators



**1,000**

engaged followers as Shared Hope's social media reached new audiences online through our new activism Instagram presence

### PLUS, we ...

- Created a campaign aimed at Governors, urging them to prioritize **Safe Harbor Legislation**. Some 295 advocates took action, making 398 connections with Governors across the nation.
- Developed and expanded our internet safety initiatives.
- Launched live Web training focused on prevention education and internet safety.
- Offered even more training resources for professionals.
- And more!

### NEW IN 2024: *Girls Like Me* Campaign Launched

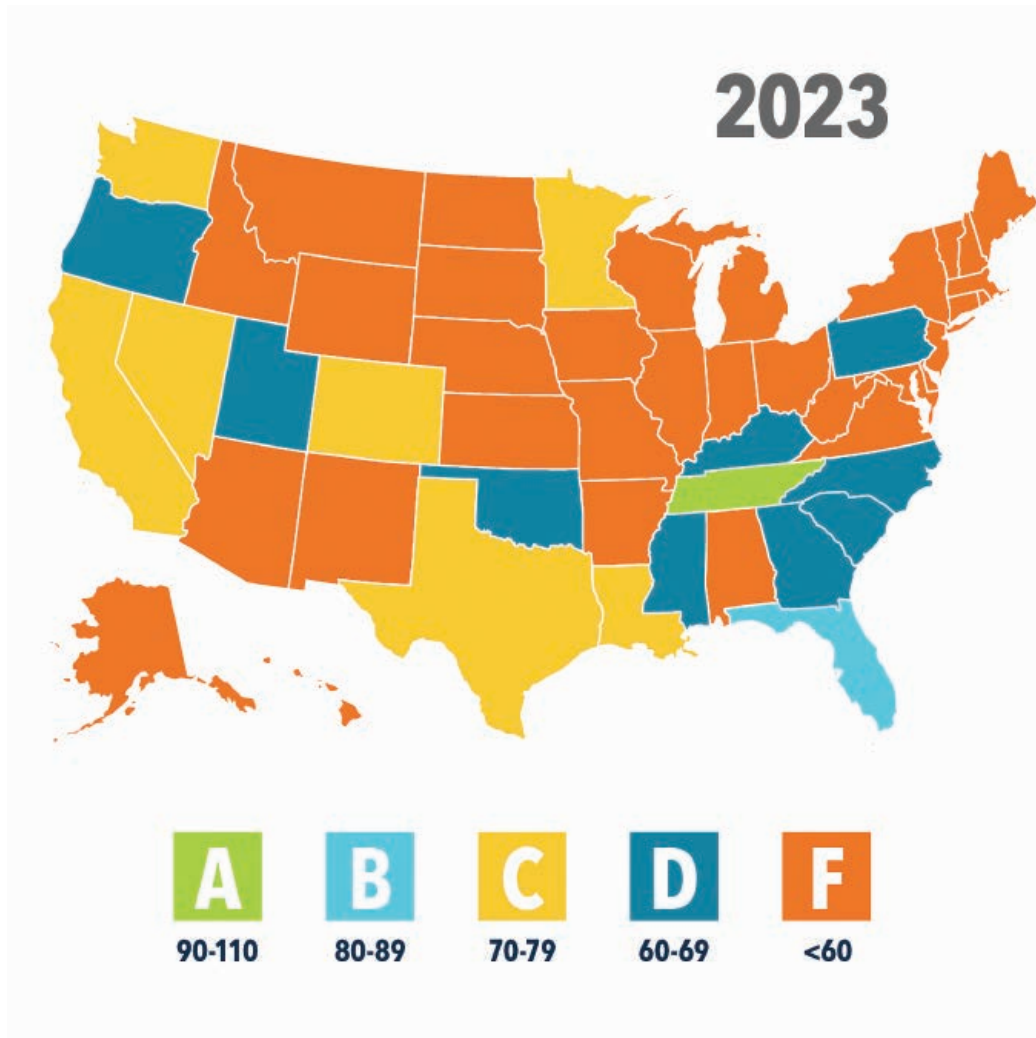
- Our “Girls Like Me” project focuses on *justice for girls imprisoned for crimes committed against them*.
- We're urging Governors nationwide to assess and address unjust criminalization and incarceration of trafficking survivors — to take action to right this wrong in their state prisons and to connect survivors with restorative services after their release!
- We also launched a constituent outreach component so that concerned citizens like you can join us in this vital initiative!

**Thank You** for standing with Shared Hope in 2023 to restore, prevent, and bring justice. *As you can see, your support is making a powerful impact!*

# Report Cards

▶ **917** connections made with legislators in 2023

▶ **350** constituents connected with their legislators directly sending them their state's Report Card through our online campaign!



- ✓ In 2023, 4,064 bills were reviewed (3,858 state, 206 federal) by the Policy team. Of those, 992 bills were enacted and 166 were incorporated into the state's Report Card score.
- ✓ In 2023, we saw the first "A" state: Tennessee.
- ✓ The average score rose 6.8% (from 51.2% to 58%).
- ✓ 10 states improved their grade.

- ✓ We included feedback to our Report Cards through the new "Insights from the Field" section in state reports.
- ✓ We also included a brand-new Safe Harbor scorecard to highlight the importance of laws aimed at protecting victims.
- ✓ And within our advanced legislative framework, we included a focus on access to community-based services for trauma victims and vulnerable youth.

# JuST Conference Training 2023



- ▶ **877 attendees!**
- ▶ **Sold out – and *inspiring!***

The 10th annual JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Training Conference was sold out – and with good reason.

This inspiring November 2023 event in Washington, D.C., featured today's most pressing issues in the anti-trafficking field. Presentations and workshops focused on skill-building, survivor experiences, cross-discipline collaboration, task force development, case studies, and lessons learned.

## **Workshops and presentations included:**

- A Deep Dive into Imagery, Trends, Language, Online Indicators, and the Evolving Use of Technology by Traffickers
- High-Risk Missing and Exploited Youth: A Multidisciplinary Team Response
- Repairing & Protecting the Survivor
- Bridges to the Future: A Survivor-Led Approach to Life After Trafficking for Youth in Residential Programs
- And many more

Thanks to everyone who gave and served to make this unforgettable event a reality!

“

**This annual conference is an ideal way for people nationwide, across all sectors, to find their place in the movement against sex trafficking.**

”

- Shared Hope founder,  
Linda Smith



# Fantastic New Training Resources

Brought to you by Shared Hope's Training Team!

Our talented Training Team developed a vital new resource for school audiences in 2023, the *Chosen: Stop Predators* School Package.

There are three versions available – for public schools, home-schools, and parochial/Christian schools. This powerful resource focuses on educating the adults in the lives of young people regarding:

- **Knowing the red flags surrounding human sex trafficking of minors**
- **How to avoid being exposed to predators online**
- **Educating children so they are aware of the signs of recruitment**

It is available for download at no cost and includes several printable materials and an animated video presentation.

At the same time, we updated and restructured our free iCare and DMST (Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking) eLearning courses for healthcare professionals/first responders and the general public.

We re-titled iCare to “Respond.” *Respond* provides informed guidance on how service providers and first responders can play a role in identifying and responding to victims and survivors and aid in prevention. The course is designed for any healthcare provider, social worker, counselor, or other service provider who may interact directly with survivors.

In addition, the DMST training has been updated and is now titled “Exploited.” This training resource offers a comprehensive understanding of domestic minor sex trafficking and includes information about victims, traffickers, common tactics, and online exploitation, as well as appropriate responses.

With your support, Shared Hope Training will keep identifying training information and developing resources for first responders, educators, and parents as well as resources for Ambassadors to continue to provide awareness and prevention education in their communities.



***The Difference You're Making ...***

# **You and Shared Hope: Protecting America's Children ONLINE**

**A**t a time when sexualization of children and predatory online behavior are spinning out of control, Shared Hope took an enormous step forward in internet safety in 2023.

We developed and piloted an extensive new middle school and high school outreach program — ground zero for the protection of children — to provide invaluable materials on internet safety, including how to build healthy friendships online and signs of exploitative behavior.

Sandy\* will tell you it's crucial.

She's a Washington-based mother who was caught blindsided by the realization that a cyber-stalking predator had been grooming her 12-year-old daughter for a year. *She was horrified.*

After grappling with the shock, she immediately contacted Shared Hope, which not only set in motion a police investigation, but it also remains ongoing.

Today, her daughter is safe from the predators. But Sandy isn't sitting around waiting for justice. She's compelled by love to continue to speak out — *on behalf of others.* "I just want to do everything in my power to ensure that it doesn't happen to any other family."

Through Shared Hope's network, she is actively linking up with other mothers who have experienced similar horrors. Together, they are determined to keep America's kids safe by petitioning local schools to feature Shared Hope's indispensable presentations on internet safety — all with the goal of stopping online predators from harming unsuspecting children.

God bless you for making these vital resources available through your support for Shared Hope. Together, we are confronting this rapidly growing tragedy of children being stalked — tricked — bought — and sold online for profit ... and equipping America's youth with the knowledge they need to never fall victim to this horrible crime.

\* Name changed to protect her identity



“

**I just want to do everything in my power to ensure that it doesn't happen to any other family.**

”

# Protecting Children W

**O**ur anti-trafficking efforts together know no bounds! Shared Hope is at work around the globe offering strategic guidance, hands-on support, and funding to help local organizations provide safe shelter and healing services to victims of sexual exploitation.

Together, we are helping women and children in communities around the world and here in the USA to achieve financial independence through education and job training programs, heal and develop healthy habits and relationships through therapeutic programs, and find safety and acceptance in secure, supportive homes.

## Jamaica: The Hebron House

This beautifully renovated, four-story home is nestled in the side of a mountain overlooking the ocean. Through funding from Shared Hope, Hebron House offers restorative care to young teens who have become pregnant as a result of sexual exploitation – or who are at risk of victimization.

Because of what Jamaicans call “making do,” some mothers rent their daughters out to adult men in order to raise enough to support the household. Because of this, 13- and 14-year-old moms with babies are common. Since 2010, this Jamaican Home of Hope has welcomed these young women and their babies to safety and offered non-resident services to some in transition.

Each young woman receives education and life skills development that includes information to help her prepare for her child’s future – everything from financial planning to managing a household and proper nutrition. Our vision is to keep young mothers and their babies together, while equipping the women to be healthy, self-sufficient parents.



She was sold into sexual slavery by her own adult cousin, to the “care” and exploitation of an older man. By the time she was just 15, Jaliece was pregnant with her second child. When she arrived at the hospital to deliver her baby girl, the authorities discovered her real age – and that she’d delivered another baby at that same hospital a few years earlier. **The young mother and her new child were immediately removed from the situation and placed in the care of Hebron House, where they are both growing and thriving, thanks to the compassion of supporters like you.**



# WORLDWIDE

## India: Sparsh

Sparsh, located in Pune, India, is a happy home — filled with women and children who now have hope for the future, thanks to friends like you.

You are helping provide for individuals coming out of the brothels, giving them safety and healing, food and clothing, and the good news of God's love. You are also giving them the future-altering gift of a strong education: tuition, books, computers, uniforms, transportation, and testing fees.

*Because of you*, our residents dream of the future and the choices they can now make. *Because of you*, we've recently graduated a nurse, a veterinarian, an accountant, a business owner, and others! And we continue to host many weddings and welcome new babies.

Thank you for standing with us to see lives restored!



**Friends like you have beautifully invested in the future for the women and children at Sparsh!** Shared Hope recently purchased farmland and animals to help this Home of Hope produce income and become self-sufficient. The results have been extraordinary. Cows, chickens, goats, and vegetables provide food for the village, while meat and milk are transported into the city for sale. Women and children are learning many occupations including planting, harvesting, tending the animals, learning animal husbandry, accounting, and much more. Thank you for making it possible!



# Nepal: Asha Nepal

Many Nepalese families are tricked into giving up their daughters for promised employment, but most children end up being trafficked to the hungry, horror-filled brothels of India.

If the women, when they're older, escape, there is little hope of returning home. Victims of the commercial sex industry face strong social stigmas in Nepal and are typically shunned by family and community. Without support, they're often forced back into a life of prostitution.

To combat this dismal reality, and to provide a safe refuge in their home country, Shared Hope International founded Asha Nepal in 2005 in the mountainous area outside of Kathmandu. Asha means "hope," which is exactly what this home offers to young trafficked women – an opportunity to rebuild their lives in a safe environment with their children.

For more than 20 years, Shared Hope and faithful partners like you have been the primary funder of the day-to-day costs of restoring lives at Asha Nepal. One of our main focuses is on education – so that the women and children here can not only rebuild their lives but have hope for the future.

Girls and boys brought from the brothels all those years ago are now self-sufficient as counselors or business owners, and many are married with children. Our partnerships with other local groups have created jobs for some of our women, and some are natural entrepreneurs, so Asha Nepal provides help with the children while they work, plus medical care and other emergency needs that come along.

Giving these women and children the best education available in private schools, local universities, and then international universities has and will continue to empower the success of our Asha Nepal family.



# Financials

## Revenue and Expenses

International Programs  
**\$243,867**

Domestic Programs  
**\$3,217,772**

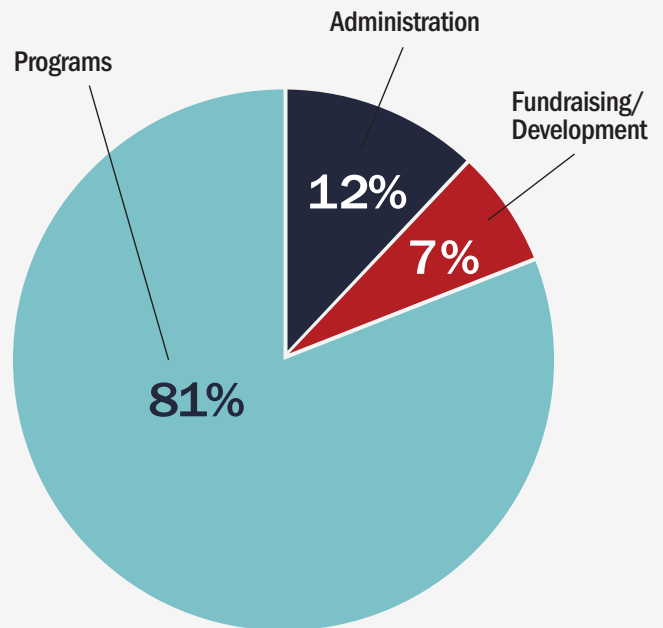
Total Programs Expenses  
(81%) **\$3,461,639**

Fundraising/Development  
(7%) **\$302,272**

Administration (12%)  
**\$521,763**

Total Supporting Activities  
Expenses **\$824,035**

**Total Expenses:**  
**\$4,285,674**



**Total Support and Revenue: \$3,795,014**

### *You can have confidence in your gift ...*

Shared Hope International pledges good stewardship of every donation. 81% of every dollar spent by Shared Hope directly supports our programs, giving hope to the vulnerable adults, girls, and boys we serve. The donations 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 and are committed 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.

## Moving Forward ... Together!

*Here's just a glimpse of the vitally important work you'll do in 2024:*

- Nationwide rollout of *Girls Like Me* Campaign
- More community trainings across the country
- Youth Online website
- Webinars for more parents
- More internet safety series and resources
- More people educated with our *Chosen: Stop Predators* package
- Expansion of printed and downloadable resources
- Ambassadors deployed to take internet safety presentations into additional communities
- Keep kids safe from traffickers and thriving in India, Jamaica, and Nepal
- And much more!

“Linda has greatly contributed to my healing as a survivor of sex trafficking. Before meeting Linda and Shared Hope, I had never talked to or been around others like me. I was sponsored to go to the JuST Conference, and for the first time I was surrounded by other survivors who understood me and allowed me to be myself. Linda Smith has done more for those of us who have survived sex trafficking than anyone else I know. She fights on the front lines to bring out of the industry those still stuck there, she fights to change legislation, and she is there for those of us who have come out of the life already and need to know someone cares ... and so more girls like me don't have to go through what I did. ”

—Amy

“I am very thankful for the work Shared Hope and Linda Smith do for survivors of minor domestic sex trafficking in the United States and [in other] nations. I am a survivor and reside in Hawaii and was feeling very alone in the things I dealt with day to day. But in 2015 that changed — when I attended a Shared Hope JuST Conference. I met survivors from all over the states and no longer feel alone in my journey. [I also want to commend] all the work Linda Smith does to change the culture and how people look at survivors. ”

—Tammy

“Linda Smith has been an advocate in fighting the commercial sexual exploitation of children [and] working to change laws that have direct impact on survivors. For years, she has worked alongside survivors to develop policies that advocate for victims of trafficking. Shared Hope created the Human Trafficking State Grading System to evaluate and challenge states to improve. She works on the front lines of this movement and continues to be a leader for all of us. ”

—Christine



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