



Annual Report 2024

JULY 1, 2023 — JUNE 30, 2024

PREVENT • RESTORE • BRING JUSTICE

Letter from the President



This year, we are celebrating 25 years in the fight against sex trafficking. What you may not know is that Shared Hope's story began long before our official founding in 1998. In 1994, an unexpected turn in a congressional race launched a grassroots write-in campaign on my behalf without my knowledge or initial consent. Moved by the conviction of those who believed in me and called by God to step forward, I embraced the challenge and was elected to Congress through Washington's first successful write-in vote.

While in Congress, I learned about child sex trafficking overseas. I couldn't sleep. Days later, I was on a plane to India. There I witnessed the horrific realities of the sex industry, and my life was forever changed. I immediately jumped into action and started Shared Hope International to bring hope and restoration to these women and children with the help of my supporters and friends back home.

As I look back on a quarter of a century in this fight, I am grateful for the incredible impact we have had together, both internationally and here in the United States, and for the people who were brave enough to look straight in the face of this horrible crime and fight it. Together we have done so many incredible things...

- **Pioneered federal legislation** that named and defined Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, unifying the movement and ensuring those affected were recognized and treated as victims, not criminals.
- **Built a legal foundation in all 50 states & DC**, providing a roadmap to protect survivors, hold exploiters accountable, and continually push for justice.
- **Led the first research on demand** with a groundbreaking 2007 report that exposed how buyers, traffickers, and facilitators fuel the sex trafficking industry.

- **Shaped critical legislation** in the fight against trafficking, including Safe Harbor laws (protecting child victims from criminalization), End Demand policies (punishing buyers), Vacatur laws (clearing survivor records), and Affirmative Defense laws (using victimization as defense).
- **Created impactful prevention tools** like *Chosen*, a documentary and curriculum that empowers youth and adults to recognize the warning signs of trafficking.
- **Trained thousands nationwide** through conferences, webinars, eLearning, and awareness campaigns.
- **Established survivor-centered restoration programs** in the U.S., India, Nepal, and Jamaica, offering shelter, counseling, education, and job training.
- **Launched powerful public awareness campaigns**, including the award-winning "Children Aren't Playthings" doll box exhibit, to shift public perception and inspire action.

Together, we have made remarkable strides: changing laws, shifting culture, and reshaping how the world responds to trafficking. Together, we've transformed the landscape and built a movement grounded in justice, restoration, and hope. But the work is not finished.

As long as children are being exploited, our mission continues. And with your partnership, we'll keep pressing forward until every victim is protected and every survivor is free. Thank you for your support and thank you for standing with us in the fight against trafficking.

Linda Smith
Founder and President

In February 2024, I had the honor of being recognized on the Senate floor in Olympia, where the Washington State Legislature passed a resolution acknowledging 25 years of work to end child sex trafficking. While the resolution bore my name, it was truly a recognition of our shared impact. What began with a small group of passionate supporters has grown into a global movement through Shared Hope International. Thank you for standing with us in the fight for freedom and justice.



Our Mission and Vision

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 community committed to 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 trafficking survivors 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.

2024 NUMBERS



1,059 people downloaded our new eLearning courses.



92,375 followers across social media platforms.



6,852 advocates advancing justice through policy change.



877 professionals were trained at the JuST Training Conference!



1,388 trained Ambassadors of Hope across the nation are spreading awareness in their communities.



1,133 professionals were trained by Shared Hope's training team.

Brianna

BRIANNA'S STORY



At Shared Hope, we believe that every child is worth fighting for. If our efforts change the course of just one life, it's all worth it. Because one child's safety, one survivor's restoration, must always be enough to keep us going.

But thankfully, our impact has reached far beyond just one life. We've helped restore lives around the world, secured justice for victims across the nation, and protected countless vulnerable youth from exploitation through prevention efforts.

Still, you never know when *you* might be the one to make that life-changing difference. That's why education, training, and awareness matter—for everyone. Because any one of us could be the person a child like Brianna needs most.

Many of you know Brianna's story. She came from a loving home, excelled in school and sports, and dreamed of becoming a nurse. On the outside, she seemed safe from harm—but traffickers don't always prey on vulnerability; they exploit opportunity. Brianna was carefully targeted and groomed. Her traffickers planned to take her away to Arizona to what would be a world of pain, suffering, and exploitation.

But what changed her story was community awareness.

A close friend had learned the signs of trafficking from his father who had been educated through Shared

Hope training. When that friend saw the red flags in Brianna's situation, he spoke up. His parents took action, contacting local law enforcement and Shared Hope. Because someone in her circle had the knowledge and courage to respond, Brianna's life was saved before she was fully trapped in the horrors of trafficking.

"I didn't know about sex trafficking until I was in the middle of it," Brianna later shared. "I thought it happened to other people; I didn't think it could happen to me. You might be thinking the same thing—but it can. I made a choice that night, but later I found out *they had chosen me.*"

Today, Brianna is a nurse, a wife, and a mother. Her story could have ended in tragedy but instead, it's one of freedom and healing. And it was made possible because someone was informed, alert, and willing to act.

Her story is a powerful reminder that it only takes one informed person to make a life-saving difference. That's why Shared Hope is committed to making sure every community has the tools to recognize and respond to trafficking. And this year, we made meaningful progress toward that goal—reaching thousands through targeted awareness, education, and training efforts across the country.



Training La Center HS

In April 2024, Shared Hope's Senior Training and Promotions Manager, Mikayla Simeral, spent time in the La Center School District training high school students, along with staff and parents in the very town Brianna grew up in. Now, with this education in place, the whole community is better equipped to listen, recognize, and respond. This training ensures that more eyes are open, more voices are ready to speak up, and no warning sign is ignored.



White Van PSA

Today, kids don't need to leave home to be at risk—many of the greatest threats are just a click away. That's why Shared Hope is stepping up to make sure parents, caregivers, and young people have the tools they need to stay safe in today's digital world.

In June 2024, during National Internet Safety Month, we launched our newest tool in the fight against online exploitation: the *White Van PSA and Toolkit*. This eye-opening resource helps bust common myths about what trafficking really looks like and points to where the danger often is today—online. It also includes practical tips and tools that anyone can use to help prevent online exploitation and keep kids safe.



The White Van PSA has already captured the attention of over 20,000 viewers across social media

and it's just getting started. The accompanying resources are sparking important conversations, empowering communities, and driving real, actionable change in the fight to protect kids from online exploitation.



TIFFANY'S STORY



Tiffany's life began like that of so many others—full of possibility but marked early by hardship. Her childhood was scarred by instability: an alcoholic mother and a father sent to prison when she was just six. School felt overwhelming and isolating, and by fifteen, feeling hopelessly alone, Tiffany made the desperate decision to run away.

In her vulnerability, Tiffany was targeted by a man seventeen years her senior, who disguised cruelty as care. He manipulated her, pulling her into the unrelenting darkness of sex trafficking. At sixteen, Tiffany became pregnant by her trafficker yet was still forced into daily exploitation—used as a commodity for his profit.

When her trafficker used her phone to lure her 13-year-old friend, pretending to be Tiffany, it set off a chain of events that would lead to Tiffany's arrest and conviction as a co-conspirator. In that heart-wrenching moment, she faced years in prison and was forced to leave behind her three-month-old son.

But hope was never completely lost. During her eleven years behind bars, Shared Hope was working relentlessly to correct the injustices faced by survivors just like her. Through our state report cards, we pushed for stronger protections and demanded accountability for laws that failed victims. Fortunately, Tiffany's state rose to meet that challenge, passing legislation that helped

pave the way for her freedom.

Tiffany found a fierce ally in her attorney and a dedicated team of advocates who saw her not as a criminal, but as a survivor who deserved justice. They believed her story, pursued every legal avenue, and refused to give up, ultimately securing her release right before Thanksgiving. For the first time in over a decade, she experienced the season not behind bars but in freedom, with care, dignity, and the promise of a new beginning.

Tiffany's story is a powerful reminder that survivors of trafficking need to be seen for who they truly are—victims, not criminals. She never should have spent years behind bars.

But for those like Tiffany who have been unjustly criminalized, we must do more. True justice means more than freedom, it means restoration. It means holding buyers and facilitators accountable. It means making care for the vulnerable not just a moral responsibility, but the law. That's why our policy team was hard at work this year, partnering with states and lawmakers to push for the changes survivors need and deserve.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

This year, our policy team...

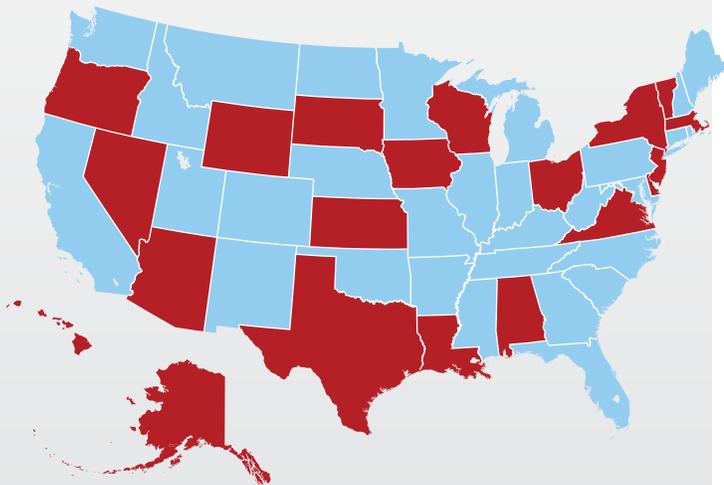
- Engaged stakeholders, coalitions, and task forces in **19 states**
- Presented on policy issues in **7 states**
- Helped policy makers write laws or created advocacy campaigns in **27 states**

And you helped make sure that lawmakers were listening!

- **This year, advocates made their voices count—6,852 times**
From every corner of the country, passionate individuals reached out to their lawmakers to say one thing loud and clear: *child sex trafficking must end*. Each message sent was a bold stand for justice, protection, and change

Here were some of the key, life-changing bills that passed thanks to Shared Hope’s advocacy efforts.

- Idaho passed House Bill 494 (2024) as our newest non-criminalization state **protecting child and youth sex trafficking victims** from being arrested for prostitution
- Colorado passed a HT-specific **vacatur law with** House Bill 24-1345 (2024)
- Pennsylvania **removed third party control requirements** under the core human trafficking law with Senate Bill 44 (2024)



Progress made, but more work to do:

- **31 states (plus D.C.)** now protect child sex trafficking victims from prosecution for prostitution, but...
- **20 states** still allow prosecution



Governors Campaign

Since we began grading states in 2011 on how well their laws protect trafficking survivors, many have stepped up, raising the bar through legislation that prioritizes compassion over criminalization for victims. But for some, like Tiffany, those changes came too late. They remain behind bars, waiting for justice that never reached them. That’s why this year, Shared Hope launched the Governor’s Campaign, a precursor to the broader survivor led Just Like Me movement, calling on governors to examine their state’s prisons for trafficking survivors who never should have been incarcerated. Since its launch, we’ve seen advocates in **47 states** take action, urging their governors to right these wrongs and give survivors the justice they deserve.



Yvonne

YVONNE'S STORY



Yvonne recalls being sold in the basement at age 5 to a stepfather who exploited her terribly. By 7, she ran from home, finding the dangerous streets safer than her own family. At 11, drugs became her escape from the nightmares, but when police found her, her pleas to avoid going home were ignored.

Kidnapped back to that basement at 13, she endured abuse and gave birth at 14, her son taken by authorities. Years on the streets led her to a trafficker who traded food, clothes, and shelter for her silence and obedience. Safety, even then, was a fragile illusion.

A violent encounter with an elderly buyer forced Yvonne to defend herself. “He tried to throw me around and punch me,” she said. The man died two weeks later from a heart attack. But instead of protection, she was prosecuted and, at 16, sentenced to adult prison for manslaughter. Nine years behind bars followed, a period during which she confronted her grief and began to heal.

Upon release, Yvonne fought for stability and discovered new hope through Shared Hope’s Women’s

Investment Network where she found mentorship, job training, and, at last, a supportive community that believed in her. Through our help, she rebuilt her life—finding a renewed sense of safety, self-worth, and purpose.

Today, Yvonne’s story is one of powerful restoration. She is an overcomer, a mother, and a beacon of hope for others still trapped in the darkness she once knew.

Now leading our national Just Like Me initiative which launched this year, Yvonne is using her voice to advocate for survivors and shine a light on the injustice of criminalizing those who have been trafficked. Under her leadership, survivors across the country are sharing their stories, turning pain into purpose, and showing the world why the work we do at Shared Hope matters. Because behind every missed sign, every child misjudged, there is a name, a face, a life we failed to protect. We cannot let this continue, and thanks to your support, we are making sure it won’t.

Yvonne on Health Uncensored with Dr. Drew

In January of 2024, Yvonne’s story and voice had national ripples featured on the first episode of Dr. Drew’s new show, Health Uncensored. In the episode, she boldly shared her story and called for national support in ending the unjust incarceration of victims, just like her, who have been criminalized for surviving in the brutal world of trafficking.



Making A Difference Around the World



Nepal: Asha Nepal

In the quiet hills outside Kathmandu, Asha Nepal—meaning “hope”—has served as a place of healing and new beginnings since 2005. For young women trafficked into the brothels, rescue is only the first step. If they return home, they are often met not with welcome, but with rejection. Stigma, shame, and silence linger, making reintegration nearly impossible.

But Asha Nepal offers a different path.

With your support, this safe haven provides holistic, trauma-informed care. Here, survivors receive counseling, healthcare, education, vocational training, and spiritual mentoring. It is a place where dignity is restored and hope becomes tangible.

Many of these women and their children arrive after being rescued by our partners in India. At Asha Nepal, they find not just safety, but a deep sense of belonging. Through hands-on learning in business, creative trades, marketing, and financial literacy, they gain the skills and confidence to rebuild their lives and to provide a future for their children.

The partnership between our teams in India and Nepal creates a seamless path from rescue to restoration. Together, we are not only saving lives; we are building

strong, resilient futures filled with purpose and possibility for women like Kali.



Kali, a 75-year-old woman, was rescued from Mumbai and brought to Asha Nepal in March 2024. Decades earlier, at just 30, Kali and her young son were trafficked to Kamathipura’s red-light district by her own husband, driven by financial desperation. Forced to work in the brothel for years, Kali eventually became a madam. Her son, raised in that environment, fell into dangerous circles and later died from HIV—a loss that left Kali devastated, alone, and struggling to survive.

With no savings and declining health, she found herself living on the streets, cared for only by neighbors who feared she wouldn’t survive. When Asha Nepal located her, she was frail, emotionally broken, and barely eating, asking only for cigarettes instead of food.

Now, after some time in Asha Nepal’s care, Kali is beginning to heal. With full-time support and medical treatment, she’s slowly regaining strength and stability. “I’ve never been in a place like this before,” she shares.

Jamaica: The Hebron House

In Jamaica, cultural realities of abuse and exploitation often force little girls, still children themselves, into motherhood far too soon. Each year, our trusted partner, The Hebron House, welcomes new young mothers who arrive carrying not only their babies, but also the weight of trauma and responsibility no child should ever have to bear.

Within this Home of Hope, they find something many of them have never known before: safety, care, and the promise of a brighter future. Here, each girl is met with individualized academic support, trauma-informed care, parenting classes, and life skills training in areas like nutrition, sewing, and home management. Every part of

the program is designed to help her care for herself and her child, offering the tools to break generational cycles of exploitation and poverty.

Since 2002, Shared Hope has been a steadfast partner to The Hebron House, ensuring this vital work continues through ongoing financial support and strategic guidance. At Hebron House, little girls who were once forced to grow up too soon are given back their childhoods, and their children are given hope for a different tomorrow where they can grow and thrive.





India: Sparsh & Ashagram

In India, the road to safety is often marked by hardship. For the women and children who come to our partners, life before rescue was full of fear, exploitation, and impossible choices. Women and children treated as if their lives held no value. Mothers, desperate to shield their little ones from the same pain they had endured, tucked them beneath what could scarcely be called a bed, hoping to keep them safe. True safety was rare. Survival often demanded sacrifice, and childhood innocence was constantly at risk.

Your generosity is rewriting those stories. It is turning pain into possibility and survival into joy. Today, in Pune, children who were once hidden away or forced to survive on the streets are waking up to mornings filled with safety and hope. They rise to the smell of a warm breakfast, slip into clean uniforms, and head off to school, where they're not just learning, but thriving.

When they come home, there's a snack waiting. Then it's time to play, on open fields, under the sun, the



way children are meant to. The way they need to. At Sparsh, they are safe. They are seen. They are loved.

This permanent home, nestled on three acres of farmland, is more than a refuge. It's a place where laughter echoes, routines bring comfort, and futures are being built with care and intention. Here, children of trafficked women are growing up in a secure, nurturing environment. And their mothers? They're learning practical skills in business, craftsmanship, and financial development. These are tools to build independent lives rooted in dignity and hope.



This sustainable model is one we have worked to create with all of our international partners, starting all the way back to Shared Hope's earliest efforts with Ashagram.

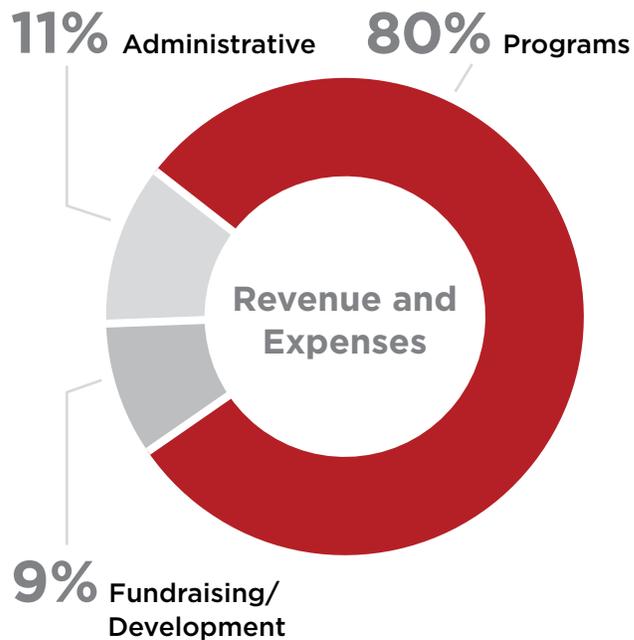


Since 1998, Shared Hope has supported Ashagram, just outside Mumbai. It is a 72-acre sanctuary where women rescued from commercial sexual exploitation began their journey to restoration. Today, Ashagram stands on its own, a self-sustaining community and a testament to what long-term, intentional support can achieve. The legacy you helped build there is firm and lasting, and it continues to inspire every new effort we undertake.

Because of you, children in India are no longer just surviving. They're growing, playing, learning, and dreaming. They're just being kids. And that changes everything.



Financials



International Programs:	\$323,483
Domestic Programs:	\$3,682,158

Total Program Expenses: (80%) \$4,005,641

Fundraising/Development:	(9%) \$451,686
Administrative:	(11%) \$529,481

Total Supporting Activities Expenses: \$981,167

Total Expenses: \$4,986,808

Total Support and Revenue: \$5,167,370

Shared Hope International pledges good stewardship of every donation. 80% 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

Just a glimpse of what's ahead—thanks to you, the work carries on every day.

Restoration and Support for Survivors

In the year ahead, Shared Hope will continue to fund and strengthen services for children, women, and survivors across the United States and around the world.



Through trusted partners we will expand safety planning, emergency aid, safe housing, trauma-informed care, legal advocacy, and pathways to education and stability. Our aim is steady and clear: protect kids, equip survivors, and help communities build lasting safety and hope.

JuST 2024

The JuST Training Conference remains the nation's premier training event on juvenile sex trafficking. As we take the Conference to Phoenix this year, we will continue uniting survivors, advocates, lawmakers, legal professionals, law enforcement, and experts to address urgent issues, deliver advanced training, and strengthen a collaborative

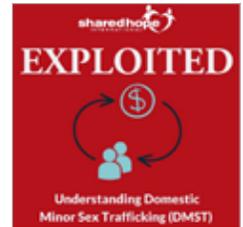


response to end commercial sexual exploitation. Everyone has a role to play in the fight against trafficking and together we will ensure everyone is equipped to do their part.

Prevention and Training

Trafficking is evolving, and so are we. Exploiters are finding new ways to reach vulnerable children, especially online, but our mission remains the same: to keep kids safe. This year, we will expand internet safety tools and grow the reach of our White Van PSA to help families recognize and prevent online exploitation. We will also train more

frontline professionals through free eLearning courses and partnerships, equipping communities to respond earlier and protect children more effectively. With your continued support, we will stay ahead of traffickers and build a future where every child can grow up free from exploitation.



Just Like Me Movement



Just Like Me will grow as a survivor-led campaign that shifts the national conversation. We will push to amplify survivor voices in every state, press for policies that prevent unjust criminalization, ensure access to vital services, and hold offenders accountable. We will also call on governors in every state to review adult prisons, identify survivors prosecuted as minors for crimes tied to their exploitation, and pursue relief. Through advocacy and education, this movement will call communities to see, to act, and to protect.

Invading the Darkness Season 3 Launch

Season 3 of Shared Hope's podcast will feature survivors speaking to survivors. These honest conversations will guide prevention and improve support for those who have been exploited. Through Just Like Me, stories will move listeners from awareness to action. "These stories aren't just to be heard; they are meant to change us. When we listen, we transform lives. When we act, we transform the world." Survivors are speaking. It is time to truly hear them.

