



2020
ANNUAL
REPORT

GOOD NEWS TRIBUNE

YOU MAKE
NEWS THAT'S
FIT TO PRINT

FREEDOM PREVAILS DESPITE PANDEMIC!



ONE YEAR CLOSER TO A DAY WITHOUT SLAVERY

Across the United States and around the world, 2020 was anything but business as usual. The ever-present COVID-19 pandemic affected the sex trafficking industry around the world. It caused vulnerability to rise like never before. But Rescue:Freedom's global impact was also on the rise. During these unprecedented times, abolitionists helped rescue more victims, prevent more sex trafficking, restore more lives, and empower more survivors.

"In one of the harshest times in human history, human trafficking could have flourished, but freedom and generosity prevailed," said a Team Freedom member in Los Angeles, California.

THE RUNDOWN ON RESCUE:FREEDOM'S GLOBAL IMPACT IN 2020:

769 women and children were set free.

1,961 people received life-changing holistic care.

1,590 women and children were empowered through vocational training and education.

182,325 survivors, victims, and at-risk individuals were impacted through restoration, prevention, outreach, and intervention programs.

Local Partners launched 19 new projects to meet crucial needs during the global pandemic.

Team Freedom saw the largest jump ever—from 265 to 434 members.

Freedom Fighters broke records with over 250 individuals raising \$475,000.

Rescue:Freedom virtually hosted its 9th annual Freedom Dinner and together we raised \$529,415.23 to set people free.

LETTER FROM RESCUE:FREEDOM CEO AND PRESIDENT, JEREMY VALLERAND

What a year. 2020. Just writing that number makes me feel like I need to pause for a deep breath. Breathe in. And exhale. There are so many words that come to mind when I think about 2020. But perhaps the most all-encompassing word is "unprecedented." It seemed that every month of 2020 brought something else that was "unprecedented." Dictionary.com defines unprecedented as "without previous instance; never before known or experienced." That sounds about right.

As I look back on the year, I can't help but feel a sense of gratitude and pride for the way our team and our community navigated a season of incredible adversity and opportunity. As you may recall, when the world first realized how serious COVID-19 was, almost everything shut down overnight. Travel stopped, borders were closed, and strict quarantines were enforced around the world. Red-light districts came to a screeching halt. Sex tourism stopped. We saw an unprecedented opportunity to intervene. At the time it felt like a massive fork in the road. The stock market had experienced its biggest single-day drop since the Great

Depression. Nobody knew what was going to happen next. I heard world-leading experts telling nonprofits to slash their budgets and scale back programs. And yet, we felt compelled to act. We took diligent action to trim expenses where we could, but instead of cutting programs, we decided to accelerate. We asked our community to join us in taking action, and the response and impact were incredible. In the first 14 weeks of COVID, we funded 19 programs in 15 countries.

As you read this report and celebrate the impact, the growth, and the lives changed in 2020, remember that this was all possible because of our generous community. In the face of adversity, when we had every excuse to scale back and hunker down, you leaned in. Together, we made 2020 our biggest year ever. I've prayed a lot of prayers of gratitude this past year, and when I thank God for his provision, I see many of your faces. You were the answer to those prayers.

Thank you for fighting with us. Thank you for risking when you could have played it safe. Thank you for fighting for others in the midst of fighting for your own families, businesses, health,

and well-being. Thank you for letting hope triumph over fear. Thank you for continuing to dream with us about a world without slavery. And hopefully a world without pandemics too.

Onward,

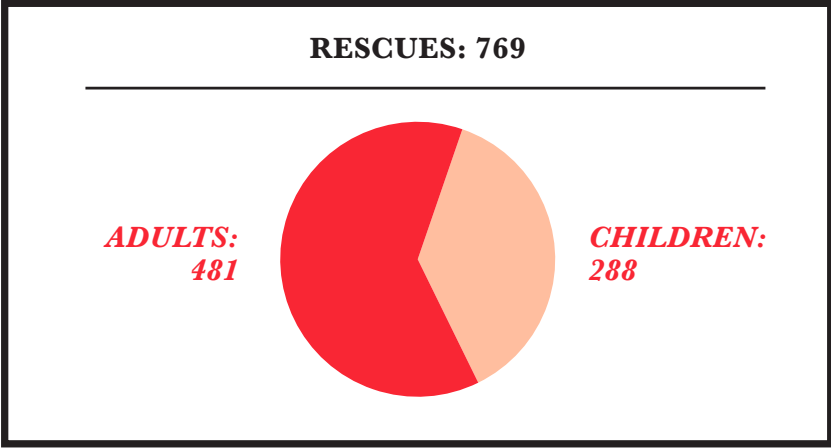
Jeremy Vallerand, CEO & President



RESCUE AND AFTERCARE

769 PEOPLE FREE!

RESCUE: When a person escapes or exits commercial sexual exploitation and joins restorative services after being identified as a trafficking victim who has experienced sexual abuse or exploitation, or is a child of a woman who is brought into a restoration home.



SURVIVOR TESTIFIES AGAINST TRAFFICKER, STUDIES LAW TO EMPOWER OTHERS

In Nepal, a young survivor-now-abolitionist is studying law and empowering other survivors to testify against their traffickers in court.

Binsa* spent most of her childhood in and out of brothels.

She spent such a significant amount of time in exploitation that on the day of her rescue—on the way to the safe house—she asked, "Which brothel are you taking us to now?"

She was only a child sold for profit.

When she returned to her hometown in Nepal, one of the security men on the flight accompanying her rescue told our Local Partner to "pay attention to Binsa, she has the potential to be someone important."

We noticed she was a fighter, a great student, and a person of integrity.

At our Local Partner's safe house, we gifted her a teddy bear and learned that during her trafficking process, she had lost a teddy bear she loved. She took the gift as a symbol of restoration. Her life was becoming hers again.

She decided to protect others and started to learn about the most effective ways to help young women like her. She began calling other girls in India, encouraging them to leave exploitation and sharing that they would find a house, family, and a future at the safe house.

She began bravely rescuing other girls who had been trafficked like her.

Recently, she became passionate about studying law. She is now a law student and accompanies survivors to their court hearings to speak out against traffickers in the community.

From our Local Partner:

"We know by her fierceness that the traffickers are already in trouble as she is coming hard against them. She is a fierce person, full of kindness too, caring, and genuinely loves people. We celebrate as we see her fate overturned and instead of being a victim, she became a protector."

**Name has been changed to protect survivor.*

HOPE AND HEALING, THOUSANDS RECEIVE CARE

AFTERCARE:

These programs provide services that promote healing and transformation for those who are no longer involved in commercial sexual exploitation or have been removed from vulnerable and high-risk situations.

AFTERCARE INCLUDES:

- Housing
- Counseling
- Medical care
- Legal services (VISAs, passports, advisement, etc.)
- Recovery programs
- Case management
- Education
- Emotional and spiritual care
- Vocational training

TOTAL SERVED IN NON-RESIDENTIAL AFTERCARE: 1,086

Adults: 813
Children: 273

TOTAL SERVED IN RESIDENTIAL AFTERCARE: 875

Adults: 344
Children: 531

IN 2020, WE HAD 49 OPERATING SAFE HOMES IN OUR NETWORK

SICK AND TIRED OF INJUSTICE?

Us too!

There's a team for people like you.

Open your smartphone camera and hover over:

This fights slavery.

Wear clothes that make you feel as good on the inside as they look on the outside.

RESCUEFREEDOM.ORG/SHOP

OUTREACH AND INTERVENTION

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE JOINS THE FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY!

OUTREACH: A coordinated effort to connect with those who are actively being exploited to build rapport, offer resources, education, support, and a pathway to a new life of freedom. Outreach not only connects with those in the sex trade to provide services but is also a way for Local Partners to better understand what causes sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in their communities.

Despite COVID-19, outreach efforts continued, some in person and a lot through new technology. In Myanmar, our Local Partner utilized an artificial intelligence chatbot to increase trafficking reporting and victim identification. They partnered with Myanmar's leading tech company in the development of online content and communication tools to create an integrated set of technologies to disrupt the purchase and sale of trafficked women and girls. The mobile messaging program consists of three pillars:

Victim Outreach: Finding potential victims online and building relationships through a texting platform.

Virtual Neighborhood Watch: Provides up-to-date trafficking awareness to communities, push notification alerting of known traffickers operating in the area, amber alerts for missing children, and a platform for reporting suspicious activity.

Reporting: The chatbot will report illicit and trafficking activities directly to Local Partner frontline staff who investigate and report to the police.

Across our network, in-person outreach took place through food and PPE deliveries.

OUTREACH NUMBERS

2020:

26,547
people
impacted
through
outreach

124% increase from 2019

MYANMAR USES SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SOCIAL GOOD

Our chatbot project continues to become more impactful as more at-risk individuals in Myanmar use it. One function of the chatbot allows trafficked women and girls to reach out to our team members for rescue and assistance. They are able to reach this feature through targeted ads on Facebook. Three months ago, a woman used the chatbot's self-reporting feature to write to our team about her circumstances. She had been trafficked to Southeast Asia six months before and had been sold as a bride to a violent and mentally unstable man. Our team was able to advise her on trafficking laws in Southeast Asia and lead her to escape from her threatening and dangerous husband to a

local police station. Inside she told the officers her story and requested repatriation back to Myanmar. The police first consulted the husband, but after witnessing his poor mental health they decided to grant her request. She is currently in a temporary holding facility, awaiting a return to Myanmar.

The chatbot's neighborhood watch feature has led our Outreach team to two new brothels that had remained completely hidden from us until this time. A few users had told us the exact address after seeing suspicious activities and trafficking acts occurring inside. Our Outreach team has since visited these trafficking hubs and has reached many more women and girls who would otherwise be completely hidden and left without any comfort, care, or hope, if not for our new chatbot and the brave witnesses who submitted a neighborhood watch report.

INTERVENTION: Structured or consistent programs, initiatives, or services designed to address the physical, social, emotional, or spiritual needs of those still involved in the sex trade. These people demonstrate an interest (or express the goal) in escaping their trafficking situation and have become more regularly involved with services. The purpose of intervention programs is to offer avenues and opportunities to take steps towards exiting the sex trade and eventually receive services.

Total involved in intervention programs: 1,236

In 2020, intervention services shifted to virtual with things like therapy via phone, classes through Facebook Live, or offering socially distanced outdoor vocational training.

IN SCHOOL AND OUT OF THE BROTHEL

In India, a five-year-old girl is now in school and far away from the vulnerabilities of the red-light district thanks to our Local Partner's intervention.

Anya's* mother was a victim of human trafficking as a result of familial trafficking through her uncle who sold her at a young age.

She was transferred from one brothel to another until she found herself near the safe home of our Local Partner.

When she became pregnant with Anya, she was frightened that she would be unable to keep her safe.

Once Anya was born, our Local Partner kept in close contact with her and her mother and eventually secured a spot for Anya in the daycare center.

Although she was safe during the day, that didn't solve the problem. At the end of each day, she would return home to the brothel to be with her mother, surrounded by the vulnerabilities that come with living in a brothel.

The situation became increasingly dangerous for young Anya, and our Local Partner recognized that without

intervention, she would soon likely become a victim herself.

After building a trusting relationship with Anya's mother over several years, she agreed to let Anya take up permanent residency at our girls' home, where she could not only be kept safe but start attending school for the first time.

When Anya first arrived, the trauma she had endured living at a brothel caused her to be distant and angry, and it was rare to see her smile.

A year later, she is now a little girl that laughs openly, interacts with others, and is thriving in her education!

**Name has been changed to protect survivor.*



ASK AN EXPERT:

Q & A with Rescue:Freedom Program Manager, Meg Ammons



Tell us a bit about yourself.

Hello! My name is Meg and I am the Programs Manager for Rescue:Freedom International. I've been with Rescue:Freedom for about two and a half years and I have the pleasure of working with our Local Partner network to measure their impact, advocate for their projects and growth, and share their stories with donors and stakeholders around the world. One of my favorite things to do in the field with our Local Partners is ride on the local transportation (motorcycles, tuk-tuks, metros, and donkeys—I don't discriminate!) and share a meal. In my most recent trip to visit Local Partners in Asia, I was privileged enough to shadow social workers in Cambodia, learn sewing tips from a woman in India, bake cookies with young survivors in a baking kitchen in Thailand, and share oranges and stories with women in a brothel in East Asia. Every moment I've spent with our Local Partners has taught me,

inspired me, and reminded me of why it's so important to support this work and build a community of abolitionists around the world.

How was fighting human trafficking different in 2020?

Fighting human trafficking around the world has always been a dynamic and ever-evolving mission. I think what made 2020 different is that, for the first time in modern history, we were all collectively impacted by the same thing—a pandemic that affected our safety and security, our understanding of the world, and our ability to operate in the world as we had before. Though travel was restricted, globally we've seen more people come together from across countries and cultures to connect and collaborate. We've also seen frontline service providers doing more, often with fewer resources, highlighting the resourcefulness of those in this movement. We've also seen immense interest from the general public to better understand this issue and get involved.

I've heard COVID-19 caused a rise in vulnerability to sex trafficking, but I've also heard it created new opportunities for intervention. What does that mean exactly?

It's true that the effects of COVID-19 have exacerbated nearly every factor that makes a person vulnerable to sex trafficking, such as job loss and economic instability, school closures and interrupted education, food insecurity, the impact of isolation on mental health, etc. Seeing that the pandemic affected so many elements of anti-trafficking work, our Local Partners around the world took the opportunity to build relation-

ships and serve more people than ever. While we are far from understanding the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, COVID-19 specific funding and projects aimed to alleviate crisis inevitably intersected with at-risk and trafficked people, connecting many who were previously hard to connect with to new avenues for services.

What stands out to you about Rescue:Freedom's work in 2020?

More than ever, we invested in Local Partner care, support, and dreams. As we brought on four Regional Coordinators focused solely on Local Partner care and coaching in early 2020, we were hit with the reality of how vital it was to be present for our friends and Partners around the world. In turn, we were blown away by the resiliency and resourcefulness of our Local Partners. They dug deep, innovated, stepped up, and served more people than ever. Above all, we saw the vital importance of a community that worked hard to ensure that no one felt like they were walking alone and that it was essential to continue dreaming for a brighter future.

What did outreach look like in 2020? How was it different than previous years?

Outreach is all about building relationships, often with the goal of offering opportunities for services or support. Typically, outreach for people involved in the sex trade means meeting people where they are—on the streets, in brothels, in clubs and bars, etc. With lockdowns and social distancing, our Local Partners had to get creative when it came to building relationships. Many moved to online outreach through social media and text messages. Others masked

up and hit the streets in different ways, providing essential items like food, masks, soap, and education on ways to stay safe. We even had a Local Partner develop a hotline for vulnerable and abused girls to call in and receive targeted support. The difference here across all approaches is the dedication, commitment, and innovation of outreach across our network that resulted in a 124% increase of outreach contacts in 2020, despite the challenges faced.

Are there any particular stories from the field you feel most excited by when it comes to progress?

Some of my favorite stories from 2020 have been moments where our Local Partners have been able to step up and provide support for people they have had long-term relationships with because of outreach. Sometimes, when doing outreach, there are people you get to know and you have no idea when they will be ready to make changes in their life or receive help. The important thing is that we keep showing up for them without judgment and are ready for the day they may be interested in receiving support. While 2020 has been traumatic in many ways, one thing that has brought me hope and affirms the value of outreach is that we've seen women, men, and children know exactly who to reach out to during this crisis. While this may not be widespread progress for the movement itself, we see individual progress and the deep value of relationships, patience, and kindness that comes with a high-quality outreach program. I'm so excited to see how our Local Partners will be able to walk alongside the survivors who are new to their aftercare programs.

Where is Rescue:Freedom headed in 2021?

We have so many dreams for 2021 here at Rescue:Freedom! We've increased our network by 41%, vastly expanded our support in the United States, and invested in research, infrastructure, innovation, and grassroots efforts. We've expanded into new regions, empowered peer-to-peer coaching and support, and have created more resources than ever before. 2021 will be a year of momentum, of linking arms and holding each other as we move forward into a new era—one where we have collectively survived and endured something together and come out stronger and more connected than ever.

Why is Team Freedom an effective way to fight slavery?

Consistency and stability are two vital elements for an organization to not only survive, but thrive and dream. Here at Rescue:Freedom, our Team Freedom members commit to investing in our Local Partners every month which in turn creates trust, stability, and room to grow and dream within the network. As a Team Freedom member, you are part of a special group who consistently supports over 150 different programs tackling the diverse and complex needs of preventing and responding to human trafficking. We know in this day and age that there are many important causes that people can contribute to, but as a Team Freedom member, you can be sure that your monthly commitment means we can tackle the issue in more countries and in more ways to make the greatest impact.

SURVIVOR EMPOWERMENT

FREEDOM CHANGES EVERYTHING, SURVIVORS THRIVE

SURVIVOR EMPOWERMENT:

Vocational training focuses on the development of skills and knowledge that assist survivors in succeeding within a particular industry or trade. This gives them the ability to support themselves financially without exploitation, making freedom sustainable.

*Total who received
vocational training:*

895

*Total who gained employment
due to vocational training: 509*

Vocational & Job Skills Training
Examples in 2020:

Jewelry making

Marketing & photography

Sewing

Baking/cooking

Entrepreneurship

How to create a résumé



I AM A PROFESSIONAL. I AM A PHOTOGRAPHER.

Chunhua* and Lian* are survivors who have been trained in photography, Photoshop, and videography. During this year, they have grown tremendously in their skills, output, and confidence as creatives. This past quarter, Lian was responsible for shooting a majority of the photography content for an important campaign. She also directed, shot, and edited the video for a holiday promotion. Chunhua shared recently that in the past she would be nervous about making a mistake or not doing a good job when taking photos or creating content for the Local Partner's marketing. However, this year she had several moments where she thought to herself, "I am a professional. I am a photographer. I take beautiful photos. I am good at this." It has been incredible and inspiring to see the way that Chunhua and Lian have taken on new skills they have learned with confidence, creativity, and passion.



NEVER TOO LATE FOR A NEW START

When the COVID-19 lockdown occurred in March 2020, this included places where women in the sex trade worked like bars, massage parlors, pubs, and bathhouses. As a result, thousands of women lost their jobs. While these women were being exploited, it was the only means they had to support themselves and their families. Auntie Lynn* was one of these women. At 60 years old, she had worked in the sex industry for close to 30 years. She decided that she would not go back, even when bars reopened. However, she didn't know what to do instead. Our Local Partner had begun offering free baking classes to women in need during this time. They met Auntie Lynn and heard her story. She was able to participate in the course, learn recipes, and develop a relationship with our Local Partner. Now, she is working on a business plan to sell fried baked goods at a nearby market. Our Local Partner is excited to help provide resources for her on this new journey when COVID lockdown is lifted!

**Names have been changed to protect survivors.*

EDUCATION

In 2020, brick-and-mortar schools shut down for various periods of time for the safety of children and the community as we began to understand COVID-19. Local Partners supported students' education as they were able to. Some Local Partners were able to facilitate homeschooling with adaptations like online classes or additional laptops, while others had interrupted schooling for extended periods of time. As schools slowly reopen around the world, investment in education is more critical than ever.

*Total receiving
academic support:*

695



29 LOCAL PARTNERS MAKE GLOBAL PROGRESS AMIDST PANDEMIC

2020 disrupted life as we know it causing Rescue:Freedom, alongside our 29 Local Partners, to innovate and adapt to move freedom forward. Across 21 countries, the global fight to end slavery evolved to meet new vulnerabilities as well as new opportunities to end trafficking.

Business as usual was disrupted for abusers and traffickers around the world. Women employed

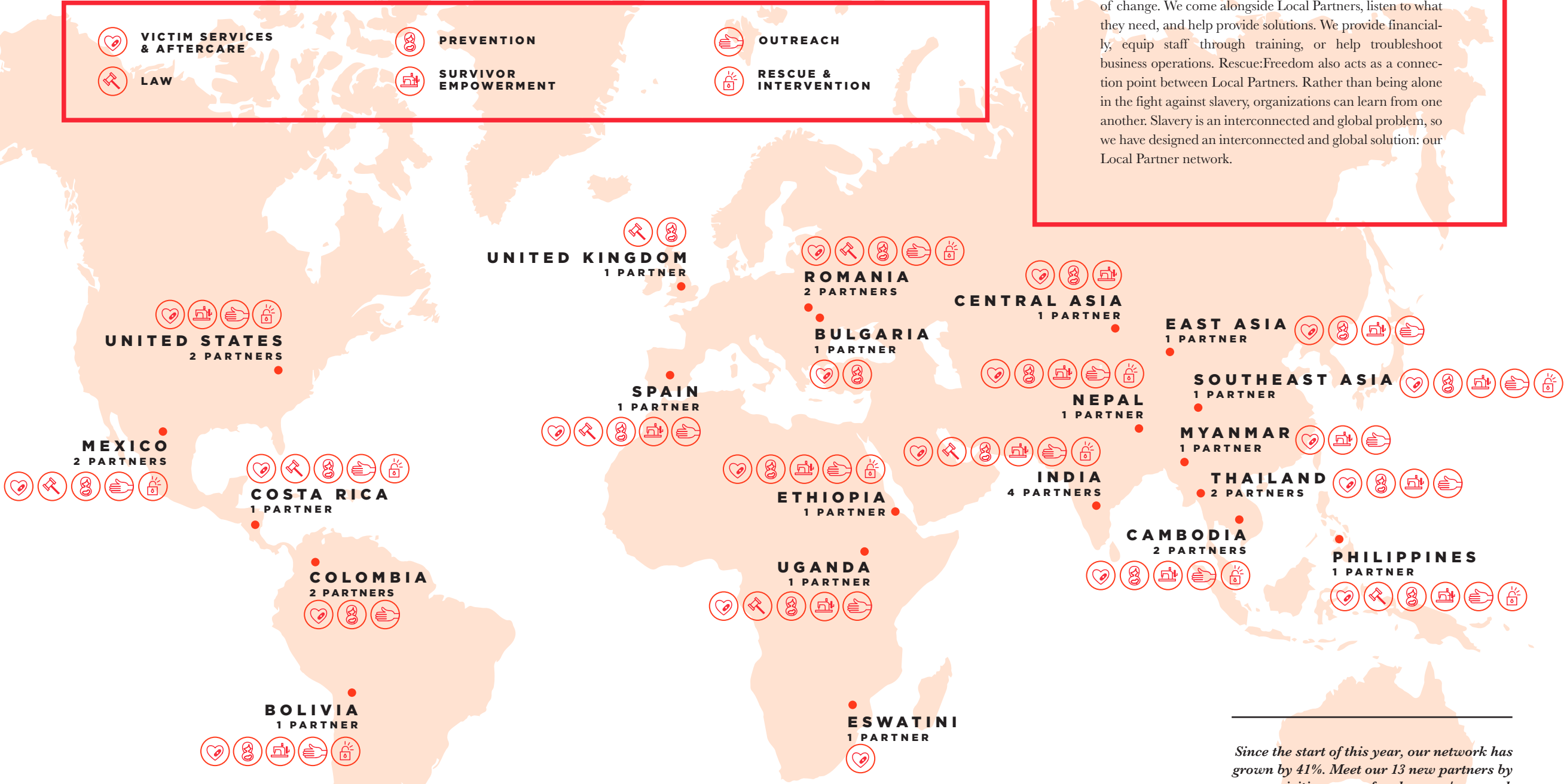
through the sex trade found themselves unable to work as bars and brothels shut down, and their means of survival cut off. Our Local Partners worked tirelessly to meet the needs of these women and their families, as well as the people previously in their care. We worked to provide food, PPE, emotional support, safe living spaces, and educational and vocational support to vulnerable people.

In a year that uprooted so many of our lives, 2020 proved that this community of global abolitionists is firmly planted and moving forward to a day without slavery.

As much as we celebrate the progress of 2020, we can't wait to celebrate the day where slavery is abolished. We're closer than ever thanks to you and our Local Partners.

WHAT IS A LOCAL PARTNER?

Local Partners are organizations that are fighting sexual slavery in their local communities. We choose to partner with organizations that can demonstrate programmatic effectiveness, financial accountability, and expert level understanding of slavery. By working together, Local Partners and Rescue:Freedom become more effective agents of change. We come alongside Local Partners, listen to what they need, and help provide solutions. We provide financial-ly, equip staff through training, or help troubleshoot business operations. Rescue:Freedom also acts as a connection point between Local Partners. Rather than being alone in the fight against slavery, organizations can learn from one another. Slavery is an interconnected and global problem, so we have designed an interconnected and global solution: our Local Partner network.



Since the start of this year, our network has grown by 41%. Meet our 13 new partners by visiting rescuefreedom.org/our-work

CORONAVIRUS CAUSES VULNERABILITY TO RISE, LOCAL PARTNERS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Not even COVID-19 could stand in the way of progress. Learn more about how our Local Partners brought freedom and hope despite the odds.

COLOMBIA

In Colombia, we opened a new safe home to help survivors impacted by COVID-19. Many women in Colombia are Venezuelan citizens, making them ineligible for any kind of government assistance, so we stepped up to help them. This home supports survivors and their children by providing a safe space to quarantine and also receive medical care, food, and educational support for their children.

MEXICO

Because of COVID-19, courts have been closed and trials have been delayed causing those awaiting the trial of their trafficker to be additionally vulnerable. Our Partner in Mexico provides food security, housing, a case manager, and employment training for these women during this challenging season. This is being done in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General of Mexico.

In Mexico, our Local Partner makes online learning more accessible by providing laptops to children in our care. Originally, students would have to rotate throughout the day which meant some were falling behind in their studies. An increased number of laptops empowers students to continue their education and pursue a better future despite conditions caused by COVID. Additionally, we provided five scholarships for vulnerable teens to continue their education.

PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, our Local Partner provided emergency food and assistance to vulnerable families. In just a few weeks, they were able to distribute over 1,166 food packages. Providing people with essentials helps keep them from turning to exploitation to survive.

UGANDA

Your donations allowed 167 trafficking

survivors and their 61 children to safely shelter in place. Our Local Partner stockpiled a 90-day supply of food, water, supplies, and medicine for each of their shelters. Adult survivors who chose to shelter-in-place at their families' homes were able to receive virtual support. Their counseling and meetings with case managers took place via mobile phones and video chat applications. Our Local Partner received a special pass from the government to transport individuals to and from medical facilities to receive critical care and resources needed.

ROMANIA

Our Local Partner mobilized to develop and share prevention and resiliency resources online. These resources help to reduce vulnerability to sexual exploitation for the people who participate in the courses. Our Local Partners specifically made them easy to translate in order to share with our network of Local Partners. These online learning tools continue the fight to prevent exploitation—something that is very much needed as many are even more vulnerable to exploitation than before.

THAILAND

In Thailand, COVID-19 has created a unique moment in the fight against human trafficking. For the first time in decades, brothels and bars shut down completely. This left many trafficked women and their children homeless and vulnerable. We were able to reach these women, and provide them with food, hygiene items, and information on what a life outside of trafficking could look like.

NEPAL

In Nepal, our Local Partner provided emergency food assistance to vulnerable families. They also worked on providing sustainable food sources by building two chicken coops (that can hold 1,200 chickens) and a greenhouse to grow fruits and vegetables.

ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, our Local Partner has 56 women in their care who have lost job security because of the lockdowns. There are government centers that are still operating and need food for essential personnel, so our Local Partner has been able to secure catering jobs for all the women in their care. This keeps an income for current beneficiaries and their families, as well as develops a positive relationship with the government for future partnerships.

CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, our Local Partner introduced a new crisis hotline called "The Freedom Line" for women and girls who are vulnerable to exploitation due to conditions caused by COVID-19. Hotlines are often one of the safest and most efficient tools for callers to access emergency assistance, connect to services, and learn about available resources. They also often serve as the first point of contact for the public on human trafficking concerns. Cambodia's hotline is staffed by certified social workers who field incoming calls, perform crisis assessments, and provide appropriate intervention to keep girls safe while building a database that will contribute to the community's resistance to trafficking long-term.

In the first 12 weeks of its operation, there were over 2,000 follow-up calls and/or visits made by social workers. This allowed us to provide emergency food and hygiene packages for 993 strategically identified individuals who were highly vulnerable and in need of emergency support.

MYANMAR

In Myanmar, our Local Partner utilized an artificial intelligence chatbot to increase trafficking reporting and victim identification. They partnered with Myanmar's leading tech company in the development of online content and communication tools to create an integrated set

of technologies to disrupt the purchase and sale of trafficked women and girls.

EAST ASIA

East Asia was one of the first parts of the world hit by COVID-19. Their communities were under a very strict lockdown and businesses were closed, including the brothels and stores that, from the outside, look like massage businesses but are actually fronts for sexual exploitation. With so many restrictions, our Local Partner knew that they had an especially unique opportunity to provide for emergency needs and offer enrollment in their program to escape sexual exploitation and poverty. Over a period of 6 weeks, they introduced and trained 31 new outreach team members, made 39 significant contacts (3 which resulted in women leaving the brothels to receive support and enroll in the program), and gave 600 gifts (outreach bags with essential items, information, snacks, and some "fun" items) to girls and women in brothels and illicit massage businesses. Overall, this project strengthened their relationship with the community which is a very important development, as many people in the community are wary of engaging in anti-trafficking work.

SPAIN

This Local Partner has worked hard to connect survivors who graduate their aftercare programs with safe jobs that offer a living wage. When COVID hit Spain especially hard, the country went into lockdown, and just like in the United States, many people lost their jobs, especially those in the service industry and entry-level positions (which is often the way survivors enter the workforce shortly after they graduate). This Local Partner knows that economic hardship is one of the leading factors for women to reenter the sex trade. They stepped in to support the graduates to make sure they were not revictimized.

They made phone calls to survivors and program graduates that resulted in 42 survivors receiving rent and utilities support.

COSTA RICA

They are consistently providing phone "top up" access for 40 teens who are in their prevention programs. They are also providing learning materials like notebooks and pens so they can keep up with their school work. All of the teens who are supported are in highly vulnerable situations (most are children of women involved in prostitution). Their prevention program covers various topics from domestic violence, healthy relationships, recognizing exploitation, etc. They use PowerPoint and YouTube as well as email correspondence to engage with their beneficiaries. This program is essential because it maintains a sense of community. Battling isolation and loneliness is a factor that can often make children/teens/people more vulnerable to exploitation. In addition to providing educational opportunities and continued community, they have consistently provided food relief for families in need during the crisis.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

This Local Partner already had a sewing program, but as the virus ramped up in the spring of 2020, many people in the low income areas did not have access to masks, especially women on the street who were being sexually exploited and trafficked. They knew they were able to expand their production capacity to make hundreds of masks and use them as tools for outreach—offering masks as a way to connect with women on the street, teach health safety, and provide information about their services.

15-25 women sewed 2,200 masks, all of which have been distributed.

PREVENTION ADVOCACY AWARENESS

YOU MAKE
NEWS THAT'S
FIT TO PRINT

INDUSTRY FEATURE: PORNHUB HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR CHILD EXPLOITATION, DELETES 75% OF CONTENT

In 2020, you signed a petition to shut down Pornhub and hold its executives accountable for aiding human trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

Last year, this potential pressure, coupled with the powerful *New York Times* article by opinion columnist Nicholas Kristof, created major momentum in the fight against trafficking.

On December 10, 2020, Mastercard and Visa announced they would block their customers from using their credit cards to make purchases on Pornhub following accusations that the pornographic website showed videos of rape and underage sex.

Then, Pornhub was forced to remove 75% of its content.

152,231 GIVEN THE FREEDOM TO LEARN

Prevention education focuses explicitly on human trafficking and topics directly related to sexual exploitation or vulnerabilities to equip vulnerable populations with knowledge before exploitation occurs. Topics may include how to recognize potential traffickers, identify victimization, violence against girls, navigating risky situations, identifying community support systems, etc.

TOTAL WHO RECEIVED PREVENTION EDUCATION: 152,231

SOCIAL JUSTICE SERVED

LAW/POLICY/ADVOCACY:

Any initiatives related to law and/or policy changes that address sex trafficking directly or through related issues such as domestic violence, child welfare, social services, etc.

Examples include:

Lobbying or meetings aimed to create, change, or abolish specific legislation and policy practices.

Public education directly related to legislation and policy. Active involvement in a group or coalition designed to address or change the laws that impact anti-trafficking work in your country or area. In 2020, 12 of our Local Partners were involved in policy work.

"As the Policy and Advocacy Director, my mission is to assess the policy arena globally and domestically to identify areas that offer the greatest opportunities and the greatest threats to the fight against sexual exploitation around the world, as well as to strategically find ways to involve our Partners in meaningful policy work, educating them in the nature of this work, and creating materials that train for greater effectiveness and impact."
—Rita Maria Hernandez

MILLIONS HELP SHIFT CULTURE, JOIN ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT

Culture + Awareness campaigns target broad audiences and offer an "entry-level" understanding of sex trafficking by raising awareness and presenting how it shows up and is perpetuated in society. These initiatives can also include ways to participate in the anti-trafficking movement.

TOTAL WHO RECEIVED AWARENESS EDUCATION: 145,039,828

SPOTTING THE SIGNS, ROMANIA INCREASES PREVENTION TACTICS

In Romania, a Rescue:Freedom Local Partner was invited to partner with local government agencies to fight human trafficking.

Right now, the government of Romania does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.

These efforts include identifying more trafficking victims, participating in twice as many international investigations, and conducting more awareness campaigns.

Together, the government and our Local Partner developed key indicators to better identify victims of exploitation and trained all 47 centers of their child protection agency.

They also advised the state secretary on developing protocols for prosecuting organized crime. This is a crucial step to preventing cases from being missed or overlooked.

They also provided updated statistics for future prevention campaigns.



7,815 EVERYDAY CITIZENS TURNED ABOLITIONISTS

When people are equipped with knowledge on how to identify and respond to victims of slavery, our network of abolitionists grows. Some people have specialized skills, like police officers or nurses. Other people are citizens who want to make a difference. Either way, we can all take action to stop the cycle of slavery.

Total professionals trained: 7,815

Pastors/priests/church leaders: 1,077

Law enforcement: 553

Teachers/school staff: 1,014

Shelter staff/NGO workers: 839

Medical professionals: 98

Lawyers: 133

Social workers: 950

Government leaders/legislators: 760

Other: 2,391

TRAINING TOOK PLACE IN 17 COUNTRIES IN 2020:

Ethiopia
India
Romania
East Asia*
Central Asia*
Uganda
Myanmar
Colombia
Mexico
Bolivia
Philippines
USA
Nepal
Spain
Costa Rica
Thailand

***European Freedom Network (Europe)*

**Specific location not identified to protect our Local Partner*

2,099 SUPPORTED, SAFE, AND FREE FROM SEX INDUSTRY

Prevention programs focus on breaking cycles and addressing the systemic and root issues that increase vulnerabilities to trafficking (specifically designed for youth, young adults, or families in vulnerable circumstances). These programs are for people who have not been trafficked but are at-risk or vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation due to environmental or social factors.

TOTAL IN PREVENTION PROGRAMS: 2,099

When COVID-19 closures hit the city of Pattaya, Emma* was reeling with what to do to support herself, along with her son, daughter-in-law, and two baby granddaughters. Both Emma and her young adult daughter-in-law became vulnerable to the surrounding sex industry, especially with family members in nightlife work. Our Local Partner was able to step in and help with food and basic essentials to reduce their vulnerability. As we began offering free baking classes, Emma was able to come to learn how to bake bread, cookies, and Thai desserts. Now, Emma and her daughter-in-law

are determined to find work outside of the sex industry. Because of COVID closures, they are currently relying on day wage factory work, but with our help, Emma has plans to sell fresh fruit in the market. It is our goal that this whole family of women and baby girls will be preventatively protected from the exploitation of the commercial sex industry!

**Name has been changed to protect survivor.*





YOU CREATE THE FUTURE.

What headlines do you want to see in 2021? Make it a reality: join Team Freedom. Open your smartphone camera and hover over this:



RESCUE:FREEDOM CROSSWORD PUZZLE

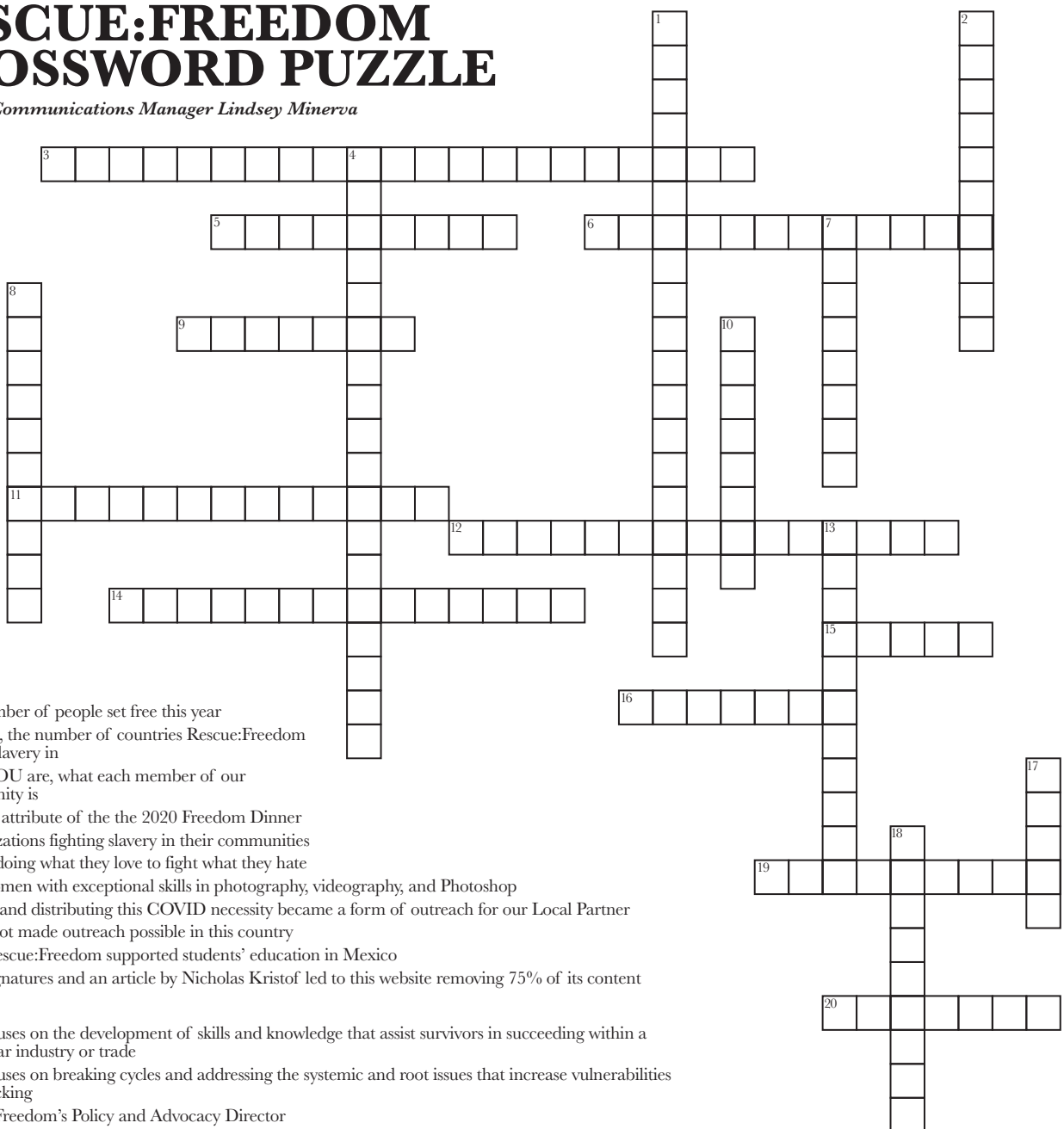
Edited by Communications Manager Lindsey Minerva

ACROSS

3. The number of people set free this year
5. In 2020, the number of countries Rescue:Freedom fought slavery in
6. Who YOU are, what each member of our community is
9. Unique attribute of the the 2020 Freedom Dinner
11. Organizations fighting slavery in their communities
12. People doing what they love to fight what they hate
14. Two women with exceptional skills in photography, videography, and Photoshop
15. Sewing and distributing this COVID necessity became a form of outreach for our Local Partner
16. A chatbot made outreach possible in this country
19. How Rescue:Freedom supported students' education in Mexico
20. Your signatures and an article by Nicholas Kristof led to this website removing 75% of its content

DOWN

1. This focuses on the development of skills and knowledge that assist survivors in succeeding within a particular industry or trade
2. This focuses on breaking cycles and addressing the systemic and root issues that increase vulnerabilities to trafficking
4. Rescue:Freedom's Policy and Advocacy Director
7. A coordinated effort to connect with those who are actively being exploited to build rapport and offer resources, education, support, and a pathway to a new life of freedom
8. This woman began a new chapter of freedom at 60 years old, in the midst of the COVID pandemic
10. The country where a new safe home was opened in 2020
13. Monthly subscription for world changers
17. This young survivor bravely testified against her trafficker in court and is now studying law
18. The Rescue:Freedom logo



BONUS

Complete the crossword puzzle, share to social, and tag @rescuefreedom for a 30% discount code to our shop!

GOOD NEWS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



434 MONTHLY GIVERS RESTORE HOPE DAILY

In 2020, Team Freedom grew more than ever before, going from 265 to 434 members. This team is ready to see slavery end in our lifetime. The generosity and loyal support of Team Freedom allowed us to respond in real time to crucial needs caused by the pandemic. The only question remains, will we make it to 500 members in 2021?

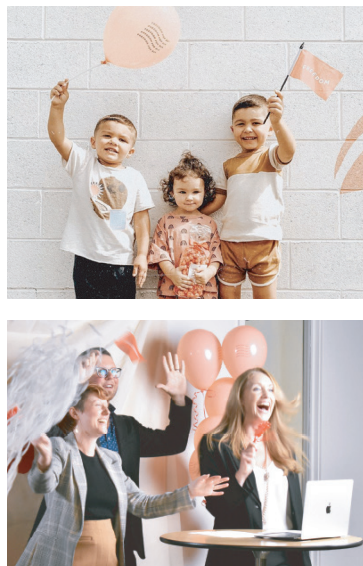
RESCUE:FREEDOM COMMUNITY OUTDOES ITSELF AGAIN

In one of the most difficult years in recent human history, your generosity and passion for freedom made good news a reality. Thank you for boldly believing that there is still good to be done, even in the darkest of times.

GOING VIRTUAL: ABOLITIONISTS GATHER FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The 9th annual Freedom Dinner was the celebration of hope that we needed in 2020. In lieu of our normal in-person gathering, the event was held virtually and allowed us to gather with even more abolitionists from around the globe. We celebrated freedom, shared stories, and raised funds for

freedom all in real-time, together. Rescue:Freedom supporters made this event their own by inviting friends and family into the cause and hosting events in small numbers or outdoors for safety. You passed our goal of \$500,000, and together we raised a total of \$529,415.23 to set people free.



FROM HIKING TO BAKING, YOU ARE ESSENTIAL

While 2020 threatened to put a stop to Freedom Fighters, this community of over 250 individuals stepped up to break records and raise over \$475,000 to set women and children free. 2021 promises to be their biggest year yet. "I have sat in the room with Rescue:Freedom International and listened to the stories

OUR BOARD

- Betsy Miller
Chairman of the Board
- Nancy Richardson
Founding Board Member
- Rebecca Hixon
- Lt General Mick Kicklighter (Ret)
- Derek Green
- Peter McGowan
- Jeremy Vallerand
CEO & President of Rescue:Freedom International

from survivors of human trafficking. I have heard the stories of those still trapped in this horrific enterprise. I have sat in the discomfort of these stories and I have also felt the hope and passion of my friends on the front lines. I know these stories are true, I know the fight is real, and I know that when you are unsure what to do, you do the next right thing. That is when I joined this community."

- Kara V, Rescue:Freedom Fundraiser

RESCUE:FREEDOM BY THE NUMBERS

"We have a mixture of deep gratitude and admiration for our community of abolitionists who give so generously. While many organizations in the charitable sector were required to shrink their programs, impact, and operations in 2020 due to falling revenue during the pandemic, Rescue:Freedom actually experienced the opposite. Revenue soared 60% beyond 2019 which allowed us to continue to grow our Partner network by 41% and at the same time, launch 19 innovative COVID relief programs for the vulnerable populations that we serve. We continue to raise our already high standards to fulfill our commitment to using every dollar to create justice and freedom for all."

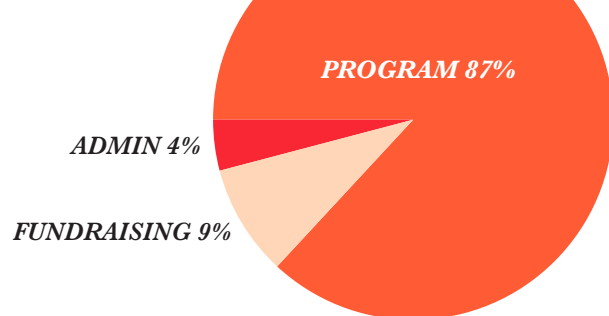
—Del Chittim, COO

See our finance page for more information.
www.rescuefreedom.org/finance

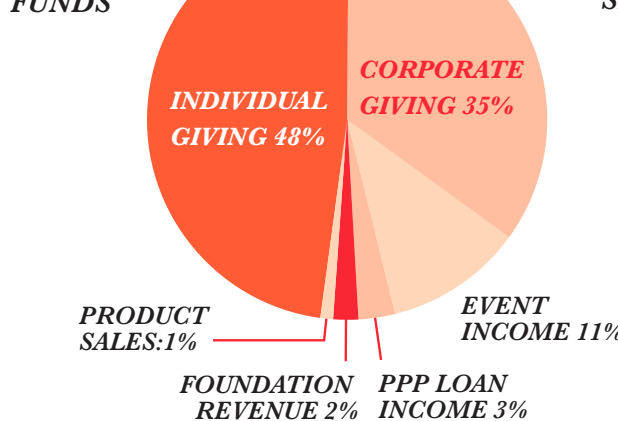
2020 FINANCE GRAPHS

January - December

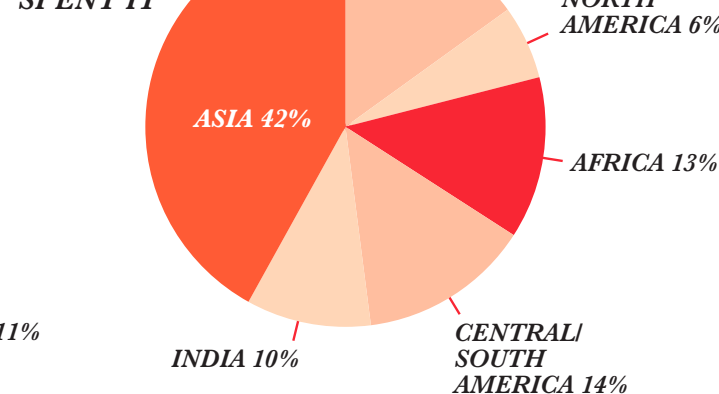
USE OF FUNDS



SOURCE OF FUNDS



WHERE WE SPENT IT



TOTAL INCOME:
\$5,332,743

TOTAL NET ASSETS:
\$3,511,585





*AND
TOMORROW
WILL BE
EVEN
BRIGHTER*



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