

2019 | Impact Report

LEAVE A LIGHT ON FOR HER



Wings of Refuge

we are:

A CHRIST-CENTERED
ORGANIZATION PROVIDING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SURVIVORS
OF SEX TRAFFICKING.

our mission:

SO EXPLOITATION ENDS
FOR ONE MORE GIRL.

our vision:

THAT EVERY SURVIVOR
WILL KNOW SHE IS VALUED,
HAS HOPE, AND IS
LOVED BY JESUS.

There are over 27 million slaves in this world being
bought and sold for someone else's profit.

Wings of Refuge exists to provide sex trafficking
survivors a safe place to live and a path to independence.

Together, we stand up for justice.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER:

Can you remember the excitement of a time when you got something new and you wanted to share it with someone? I'll never forget the moment I met "Kayla". She was a new survivor at Wings of Refuge and had just returned from shopping for new clothes. She

proudly showed me each article of clothing and said, "These clothes make me feel like a lady and not a prostitute."

It's been over a year since Kayla's excitement about her new clothes. She has reunited with family after years of separation, lived sober after decades of addiction, and experienced freedom as no one buys or sells her body for sex anymore. Recently, Kayla read about the life of Joseph who also experienced slavery and freedom. After reading Joseph's words "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good," she exclaimed, "That's like the guy who took me and dumped me in Iowa. Because of him I have been safe and sober for over a year."

Wings of Refuge supports survivors of sex-trafficking as God pens stories of restoration in their lives. I carry many stories like Kayla's and because of your partnership, you carry them too. You give the stories a place to unfold. Each day the safe home is open, young women like Kayla learn that they are valued, have hope, and are loved by Jesus.

May you see the impact you make to survivors coming out of sex trafficking through each page of this report. 2019 was a year of tremendous growth: statewide awareness events were held, the organization moved and a larger home was opened, a social enterprise plan was made, and a Wings of Refuge graduate joined our staff. Our faith was stretched. Your partnership helped us persevere. Thank you! We need you in the fight praying and giving now more than ever as a second Wings home opens this year. It is an honor to build the Kingdom together as exploitation ends and hope begins for one more girl.

With Love and Gratitude,

Joy Fopma

2019 Impact Stories...you made happen

Rachel's Life was Saved

Even though Wings of Refuge is focused on restoration and aftercare, spreading awareness about the issue of human trafficking is also important. It can be hard to know if speaking events make a difference and then we met Rachel at RiseFest. She shared with us her story of being sexually assaulted while on spring break. It changed her to the point where she planned to take her own life. She heard the message of restoration at a Wings event and it gave her the courage she needed to tell someone. She found her voice and allowed Jesus to restore her soul!



Joy and Rachel at RiseFest

“ You saved my life! – Rachel

A Graduate Became a Leader



Survivor Leader Making Bracelets

Wings of Refuge hired our first survivor leader in 2019! As a graduate of Wings of Refuge who has experienced new life and freedom, she is passionate about helping other survivors discover their God-given talents and commit to their own restoration. She has provided invaluable perspective and input in programming and was the catalyst for launching the ONE MORE social enterprise.

“ Three years ago if anyone would have told me I would be working for Wings, I would have laughed. I was scared, lonely and broken. I had no hope or belief in myself. I am now free - free to live, free to have hope, free to believe in myself.

– Wings of Refuge Survivor Leader

2019 Impact Stories... *you made happen*

A House Became a Home

In March, Wings of Refuge moved to a permanent home in Ames! Thanks to your generosity in giving and volunteering, our new house was transformed into a beautiful restoration home that serves five women. Many survivors have stated that they feel a sense of family and safety within just a few days (or hours!) after being welcomed into the home.



Bedroom in the Wings House

“ **My Gratitude List -**
A giant soft bed with the softest pillows ever! x2
A home where I will never be hit ever in! ♥
A place to express myself

- Wings of Refuge Survivor

A Survivor Found New Life

This past year has been full of new life for one survivor in particular. After about a month of being at Wings of Refuge, she gave her life to Christ and got baptized! From there she was reunited with family for the first time in 20 years, began building relationships with safe people, has maintained sobriety milestones, and works at a job she loves. One of her greatest truths relates to Joseph in Genesis 50:20. She will tell you that her trafficker intended to harm her but God used it for good.



A Survivor Got Baptized

“ **That's like the guy who took me and dumped me in Iowa.**
Because of him I have been safe and sober for over a year.

- Wings of Refuge Survivor

REACH.



Through education, people like you join us in the fight to end sex trafficking.

- ▶ **44 speaking events** held across the state
- ▶ **2,120 attendees** educated about sex trafficking
- ▶ **10,000+ people** reached and mobilized since 2016
- ▶ **102 monthly givers** committed to regular giving
- ▶ **19 churches partnered** for ongoing financial support

RECOVER.



Through networking, many organizations have joined together to recover survivors of sex trafficking.

- ▶ **8 survivors** chose restoration at Wings
- ▶ **113 other inquiries** received from sex trafficking survivors in need of placement
- ▶ **Wings of Refuge** joined the National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance organization

RESTORE.



Through the safe home, your gifts provide programming opportunities for survivors of sex trafficking.

- ▶ **500 volunteer hours** devoted to sex trafficking survivors
- ▶ **109 volunteers** gave their time or talents to serve the Wings mission
- ▶ **104 recovery groups** provided to survivors
- ▶ **390 therapy sessions** attended by survivors
- ▶ **85% of survivors** reported a deeper relationship with God
- ▶ **100% of survivors** connected with a church community

RISE.



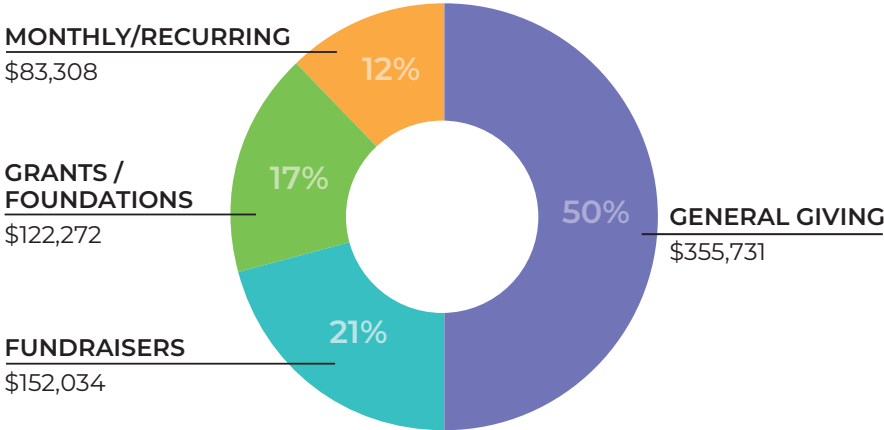
Opportunities are provided for survivors to rebuild their lives and rise into a life filled with hope & possibilities.

- ▶ **1 graduate** was hired as a survivor leader
- ▶ **5 survivors** obtained employment
- ▶ **2 survivors** proclaimed their faith in Christ through baptism

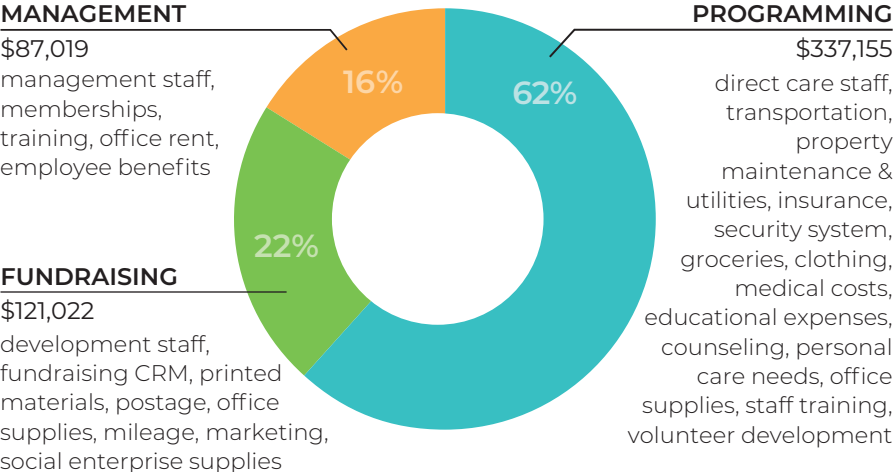
COME AND SEE *what God has done*

Your gifts have changed survivor's lives!
We thank God for the blessings he continues to pour out.

2019 INCOME \$713,345



2019 EXPENSES \$545,196



FUTURE GOALS



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

A social enterprise called ONE MORE is launching that provides a trauma-informed work environment, work readiness skills, and income for participants.



TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER

We invite you to join us this year through prayer, giving, and volunteering as a second home is renovated and opened. This home will offer independent living to survivors who have graduated from the safe home.



CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

If you are part of a church that aligns with our mission please connect with us! We need your partnership so exploitation ends and restoration is possible.

THANK YOU

It's difficult to put into words what your support in 2019 has meant to us, especially in the midst of the current pandemic. Unprecedented times evoke fear. Instead, we choose trust - not in our humanity, but in a God who never changes.

God showed up through the hands, feet and hearts of all of you in 2019. You changed the trajectory of Wings of Refuge in ways we could not comprehend. Your support brought her home. Your prayers healed her wounds. You now carry her story. THANK YOU!

Will you continue to carry her through 2020? In these uncertain times, I love that God's hands are never limited by what we have in ours. Our job is to be obedient. God's job is everything else. We will continue to serve the one in front of us. She is our mission. He is the prize. Thank you in advance for continuing to fight for her.



For His Glory,

Bev Shipley

Executive Director