



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SAFE CENTER
FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS
MPOWERING THE STATE

SUPPORT, ADVOCACY, FREEDOM, AND EMPOWERMENT CENTER

**2018
ANNUAL
REPORT**

WHO WE ARE

An initiative of the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State, the University of Maryland Support, Advocacy, Freedom, and Empowerment (SAFE) Center for Human Trafficking Survivors is a comprehensive, university-based direct services, research, and advocacy center on human trafficking. Our mission is to provide survivor-centered and trauma-informed services that empower trafficking survivors to heal and reclaim their lives, and to prevent trafficking and better serve survivors through research and policy advocacy. We provide services to women, men, and children from the U.S. and other countries who have been trafficked for commercial sex and forced labor.

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LETTER TO OUR COLLEAGUES AND SUPPORTERS

As the University of Maryland SAFE Center for Human Trafficking Survivors marks its second year of operations, we are pleased to report that the SAFE Center has expanded our services, our leadership in the community, and our campus and broader community involvement. Since its launch in May 2016, the SAFE Center has:

- Provided direct services to more than 80 victims of sex and labor trafficking and many of their family members referred from legal organizations, hospitals, social services at schools, and law enforcement.
- Served in leadership positions on Prince George's and Montgomery counties' human trafficking task forces to form collaborative partnerships among community organizations, law enforcement, and government agencies serving survivors of trafficking.
- Leveraged the research and program expertise of nine schools in the University of Maryland including the Schools of Social Work, Public Policy, Law, Nursing, Public Health, and Business, as well as the Colleges of Education, Arts and Humanities, and Behavioral and Social Sciences.
- Delivered more than 40 presentations and trainings to increase awareness of human trafficking in Prince George's and Montgomery counties and the metropolitan D.C. area.
- Created an evidence-based tool to assess adult survivors of human trafficking by adapting the Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment to screen adult survivors of human trafficking.
- Accepted an invitation to become a member of Freedom Network USA, a highly regarded group of service providers from across the country that advocates for human trafficking survivors.

We thank the leadership of the University of Maryland, and our University and community partners, supporters, and donors. Your commitment, support, and generosity make our work possible.

With gratitude,

Susan Esserman
UMD SAFE Center Founder and Director

EXPANDED SERVICES

Over the past year, the SAFE Center has expanded the capacity of our bilingual case management and legal services and incorporated new programs such as after-hours and weekend crisis intervention, English language education, and economic empowerment-related services. **The SAFE Center's services now include:**



After-Hours Crisis Intervention

The SAFE Center now provides after-hours and weekend crisis intervention services to assist survivors with emergency needs for shelter, food, clothing, and safety planning.



Legal Services

The SAFE Center is expanding our legal team by adding additional bilingual immigration and crime victims' rights legal services. We are also developing a network of low bono attorneys to provide our clients with comprehensive legal services in areas such as family law, employment law, and landlord tenant disputes.



Case Management

The SAFE Center has expanded our case management team, which provides services in English, Korean, and Spanish. Services include but are not limited to safety planning, strengths and needs assessments, connection to our primary medical care partner, and accompaniment to court appearances, public benefits appointments, financial assistance programs, and employment services.



Drop-In Center

In the past year, the SAFE Center has physically expanded to include an onsite day center for SAFE Center clients. Equipped with computers, a food pantry, and an eating and lounge area, the day center provides a safe place for our clients to rest, eat a meal, receive tutoring or job search assistance, and participate in group programs.



Mental Health Therapy

The SAFE Center provides onsite bilingual (English/Spanish) clinical mental health counseling, including cognitive behavioral therapy and healthy coping skills identification.



English for Speakers of Other Languages

In response to our clients' unique employment barriers, the SAFE Center collaborated on a graduate assistantship with the College of Education to create an in-house English language program tailored to the needs of our clients. This is the first phase in the strategic plan for the SAFE Center's new Economic Empowerment Program.



Volunteers from faith-based organizations and University of Maryland student groups cleaned and organized donated clothing, shoes, and toiletries for the SAFE Center's clothing closet.

CASE DEMOGRAPHICS

Since opening in May 2016, we have supported more than **80 trafficking survivors** referred from law enforcement, other service providers, and the national human trafficking hotline.

We have served a diverse population of clients from the **United States, the Philippines, Honduras, Mexico, El Salvador, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Nigeria,** and other countries.

Of the human trafficking survivors supported by the SAFE Center, **91% are female** and **9% are male**.



■ Labor Trafficking
■ Sex Trafficking

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GRANT

In late 2017, the SAFE Center and the Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) received a joint, three-year grant totaling more than \$1.3 million from the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime and Bureau of Justice Assistance to coordinate work to fight human trafficking in Prince George's County. Granted to only two counties in the U.S., this federal funding was created to enhance coordination between service providers and law enforcement within human trafficking task forces. This award is evidence of the SAFE Center's resolve to combat human trafficking in Prince George's County, as well as the significant work of the Prince George's County Human Trafficking Task Force (PGCHTTF). It will amplify the task force's multidisciplinary collaboration and coordinated approach to identify victims of all forms of trafficking; address the individualized needs of victims; and investigate and prosecute sex and labor trafficking cases at the local, state, and federal levels.

ANSA-HT: A New Assessment Tool

The SAFE Center social services team, in conjunction with a clinical advisor from the University of Maryland School of Social Work's Institute for Innovation and Implementation, adapted the Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA) to screen adult survivors of human trafficking. The adaptation resulted in a new evidence-based tool called the ANSA for Survivors of Human Trafficking (ANSA-HT), representing the first time the ANSA has been adapted for adult human trafficking assessments. The ANSA-HT has been approved through the Praed Foundation and will ultimately allow the SAFE Center to incorporate feedback into clients' individual service plans, track outcomes for program evaluation, and identify the life domains where clients need additional resources.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Director Susan Esserman receives a congressional medal from Congressman Sarbanes at the St. Andrew's Human Rights and Religious Freedom Reception.

● **Committee Leadership on Local Task Forces**

The SAFE Center serves on the steering committee for the Maryland state-wide human trafficking task force, and co-chairs committees on both Montgomery and Prince George's counties' human trafficking task forces. As co-chair of the counties' victim services committees, the SAFE Center is facilitating county-wide collaboration between service providers and law enforcement, creating an assessment-based response protocol for trafficking survivors, and developing a screening tool for county organizations and agencies providing crisis intervention services to victims of trafficking. The SAFE Center is also building and chairing a new labor trafficking subcommittee for Prince George's county, which will convene necessary stakeholders to identify and implement the unique investigative methods needed to fight local labor trafficking.

● **Trainings and Outreach**

Since beginning operations, the SAFE Center has provided over 40 trainings, presentations, and outreach programs in Maryland and the metropolitan D.C. area. Our staff has delivered trainings on trauma, mental health therapy techniques, and labor trafficking and presented on panels to raise awareness about trafficking among social workers, lawyers, medical professionals, faith communities, school counselors, and foreign embassy officials. The SAFE Center has also hosted international anti-trafficking delegations from Canada, Egypt, Jamaica, and Lebanon through the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

● **Congressional Keynote Address**

At the invitation of Congressman John Sarbanes, SAFE Center Founder and Director Ambassador Susan Esserman delivered the keynote address at the St. Andrew's Human Rights and Religious Freedom Reception on Capitol Hill in November, 2017. Hosted by members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Hellenic Caucus, the Helsinki Commission, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and the International Religious Freedom Caucus, the annual congressional reception advocates for religious freedom and the restoration of human rights on a global scale. Ambassador Esserman's keynote address, "Raising the Curtain on Human Trafficking in America," highlighted the prevalence of human trafficking along the Baltimore Washington corridor and stressed the importance of federal, state, and local level collaboration in the fight to end trafficking and support survivors.



The SAFE Center’s Director of Social Services, Heidi Alvarez, testifies before the Montgomery County Council on the issue of trafficking in the county.



University of Maryland Women’s Lacrosse Team held food donation drives for the SAFE Center during the campus-wide “Shut Out Trafficking Campaign.”



SAFE Center staff presented at the University of Maryland Students Ending Slavery’s annual “5k for Freedom” on the College Park campus.

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

The SAFE Center has collaborated with nine schools and colleges at the University of Maryland, Baltimore and the University of Maryland, College Park – including our home schools: the School of Public Policy at UMCP and the School of Social Work at UMB. We also continue to learn from the expertise of our faculty and student partners at the School of Business, the School of Law, the School of Nursing, the School of Public Health, the College of Arts and Humanities, the College of Behavioral Sciences, and the College of Education.

Student Interns: We have hosted 45 student interns and graduate assistants since we began operations. Working under the supervision of our staff, these undergraduate, Masters, and Ph.D. students help us provide client services, develop programs and curricula, and conduct outreach and research.

Campus Life: In April 2018, Students Ending Slavery held their annual “5k for Freedom” to raise awareness on the College Park campus about the reality of human trafficking in Maryland. After raising over \$1000 during the event, the student organization donated their portion of the proceeds to the SAFE Center in support of comprehensive services for local survivors of human trafficking. Also in April, the University of Maryland Women’s Lacrosse team hosted a campus-wide “Shut Out Trafficking” campaign in partnership with UNICEF USA to raise awareness about modern-day slavery. The team promoted the SAFE Center’s services throughout the campaign and collected donations for the Center’s food pantry at University sporting events.

Volunteers: Over 90 student volunteers have expressed interest in supporting the SAFE Center, and multiple student organizations have hosted fundraisers and presentations for the SAFE Center. These groups include the University of Maryland Athletic Department, Students Ending Slavery, Graduate Women in Public Policy, the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life, and campus faith organizations. University of Maryland alumni, retired faculty, houses of worship, and local businesses have generously contacted the SAFE Center to volunteer, provide support and in-kind donations, or learn more about human trafficking. Because of the generosity demonstrated by all of these groups, the SAFE Center is able to provide our vulnerable clients with food and clothing, crisis bags, gifts during the holidays, and other tangible items that let survivors of human trafficking know that the community supports them.

OUR SUPPORTERS

PUBLIC FUNDERS

University of Maryland, Baltimore
 University of Maryland, College Park
 University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State
 U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
 Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
 Prince George's County

PRIVATE FUNDERS

\$100,000 +

The David and June Trone
 Family Foundation

\$50,000 - 99,999

CCMA AmeriCorps VISTA
 Equal Justice Works
 Susan Esserman and Andrew Marks

\$10,000 - 49,999

Brokell Foundation
 Clark Foundation
 Esserman Family Foundation Inc.
 The Morris and Gwendolyn
 Cafritz Foundation
 Steptoe & Johnson Foundation

\$1,000 - 9,999

David and Deborah Astrove
 Charlene Barshefsky and
 Edward B. Cohen
 Brigida Benitez
 Lisa Esserman
 Ann Marie Etergino
 Vince and Kris Falcone
 Elizabeth A. Jacovino
 Eleanor Roberts Lewis
 Al and Susan Minite
 Gwendolyn P. Renigar
 Charles and Helen Wilkes
 American Detail Cleaning
 Corporation HITT Construction
 Kelley Drye and Warren LLP
 The Law Firm Vendor's
 Association Siena LLC
 University Christian Church
 Washington Express LLC

\$500 - 999

Joseph Ardito
 Megan and Theodore Blanchard
 Sarah Buffone
 Lisa Davis
 Stephen Fennell and Barbara Smith
 Lynn and John Sachs
 Raphael Sagaylan
 Scott Sinder
 Marilyn T. Smith
 Linda Stein
 Philip West and Barbara Yellen
 J. K. Moving Services
 Seasons Culinary
 Students Ending Slavery

UP TO \$499

Joni Androiff
 T. C. Anthony
 Kara Towers Atkinson
 Nancy Hendry and William Baer
 Sherry and David Berz
 Ketki Bhagwati
 Sonya E. Bowen
 Laura and Adam Briskin-Limehouse
 Steven H. Brose
 Russell Chittum
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 Eric Emerson
 Jane Flior
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 Seth A. Goldberg
 Vicki Jackson and Robert Taylor
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 Mary Woodson
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 Ampal Pizza LLC
 Experient INC.
 Lutheran Campus Ministry
 Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition
 Providence Fort Washington UMC
 Washington Hebrew Congregation
 Women's Club of Kensington

OUR SUPPORTERS

IN-KIND DONORS

We thank the many individuals and organizations who have contributed their professional services; organized donation drives; and donated much needed food, clothing, and toiletries for the SAFE Center's clients.

Antonia Bookbinder
Maddie Clouser
Stacia Cutler
Barbara Dunn
Ryan Garfinkel
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Neydyn Gomez
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Theadora Kwas
Mel Lewis

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William Moorehead
C. Evan Park
Jennifer Park
Rev. Raymond Ranker
Patricia Reyes
Geoffrey and Heidi Smith
Eva Vilarrubi
Anfisa Wilson
Bonnie Zager
Aletheia College Park
Creek Community Church

The Hotel at UMD
Howard County AGAST
Impresa Solutions
Maryland Women's Lacrosse
Optimal Solutions Group, LLC
Students Ending Slavery
Turner Memorial AME Church
UMD Department of Athletics
UMD Catholic Student Center
UMD Department of Communications
University Christian Church,
Disciples Women

We are especially grateful for the immense support we have received from **Steptoe & Johnson, LLP**. The firm has provided critical early funding, pro bono legal assistance, operational support, and furniture for our Center.

We also thank **Susan Vallon** for donating her interior design services and creating a warm and inviting space within our Center where human trafficking survivors can find security and healing.

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