

PEOPLE ARE NOT FOR SALE.

Thanks to your help, we've accomplished so much.

HOPE FOUND

OF NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

2023 IMPACT REPORT

JULY 2022 - JULY 2023



I am pleased to share the past year's highlights at Hope Found NEA with you. As we reflect on the challenges and achievements of our 2022-2023 year, we are grateful for what the Lord has provided us with and for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission. This year was remarkable for us, marked by growth, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to positively impacting our community. We hired our 2nd staff member, Ky Taylor, to be our first Survivor Advocate. We also moved to a bigger location to accommodate our growing team and provide an enhanced workspace, fostering greater collaboration and efficiency. Through our growth, we've been able to extend our services and serve more people than ever before. We've also significantly increased our awareness by empowering more individuals throughout NEA with the knowledge of how to protect themselves or loved ones from exploitation including human trafficking. We could not do this work without the prayers, financial support, donations, and help our supporters like you have given us. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey. Here's to a year of hope, progress, and lives being restored.

Megan Brown

Executive Director

Mailing Address: 361 Southwest Drive #184 Jonesboro, AR 72401

Help Line: 877-688-HOPE (4673)

Website: hopefoundnea.org

HOPE IN ACTION

Adapted from Original Story by Doug Segrest

Our gratitude for supporters of our mission: Shelly Gist and Regions Bank



***Car for client provided by a generous donor.
Client not pictured.**

It took her years to escape a personal nightmare. A nightmare that began with an act of charity.

We'll call her Emma. Six years ago, she reluctantly agreed to help another single parent out, providing a place for him and his young child to stay – for just a fleeting time until better arrangements could be found. But what Emma didn't realize was that she was being groomed. It began on social media, creating a facade of warmth and understanding. They connected in real life, and he moved in.

In just a matter of weeks, the man's demeanor changed. He became demanding, from how food was cooked to how he was to be pampered to even trying to abuse her children. When she said she had enough and stood up to him, he turned violent – punching her in front of the children, then dragging her into the bedroom and violating her. She became his property – personally and sexually – and was forced to comply with his every demand. That soon included his friends and acquaintances. The torture continued for ten months until Emma garnered the strength to escape. She found a temporary refuge for her and her now-teenage children. But there was no permanence. How can there be, looking over your shoulder every few minutes, wondering when the person you fear most will find you again?

"Human trafficking is a crime that's hidden in plain sight," Megan Brown explains. "These victims often are sleeping in their own bed at night, going to school or work, and no one knows what they go through." Human traffickers take advantage of the most vulnerable people in society: children, people experiencing homelessness, and those struggling to make ends meet. They know when to show interest, how to gain trust, and how to exploit. "Unfortunately, it's in every community," Brown added. "In Arkansas, we often see it in familial trafficking, where a family member forces a child to engage in sex acts to pay for bills."

For five years, Emma had found temporary solutions. But on Dec. 10, 2022, she and her children found themselves homeless, living in an old car in the parking lot of the Conway Christian Center in Central Arkansas. There, she was told to reach out to Hope Found.

"I cannot tell you how low and hopeless we were," Emma said. "But immediately, Megan called around and found open jobs and sent them to me. She found apartment openings, helped me get approved for assistance, and then a house for me and my children. We had nothing to furnish the house with, so Hope Found supplied everything – our living room furniture, dressers, TVs, a refrigerator, a stove, bedding, and cleaning and hygiene supplies."

For the first time in a half-dozen years, Emma and her children felt safe and secure. For Hope Found, though, it was just one of many missions. Thanks to Hope Found, Emma is in a much different place. Her eldest just graduated from high school, the first in her family to do so. Her daughter is in the choir. She's looking ahead, not over her shoulder. Emma found work cleaning houses – now a full-fledged business – using flyers and business cards Hope Found created and printed for her. When her old car died, Hope Found delivered a donated automobile. She goes to therapy weekly to help her deal with the PTSD from her trauma.

"I still can't believe it all, sometimes," Emma said. "Every time we hit the bottom of the barrel, God sent us help through Hope Found. And the most amazing thing about Megan and Hope Found is that they are genuine in how much they care and want to help victims of trafficking take their life back."

IMPACT IN PREVENTION



64

presentations given



35

events participated in



3

podcasts featured on



19

media interviews



10

youth completed our exploitation prevention curriculum



2,495

youth educated with our human trafficking presentation



4,429

community members educated with our human trafficking presentation

IMPACT IN RESTORATION



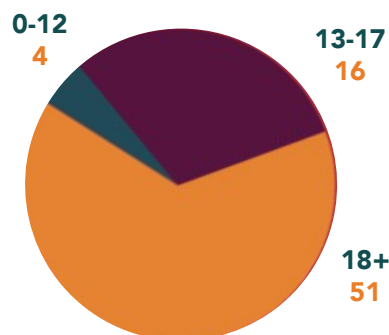
71

victims of trafficking or exploitation served through advocacy and holistic care coordination

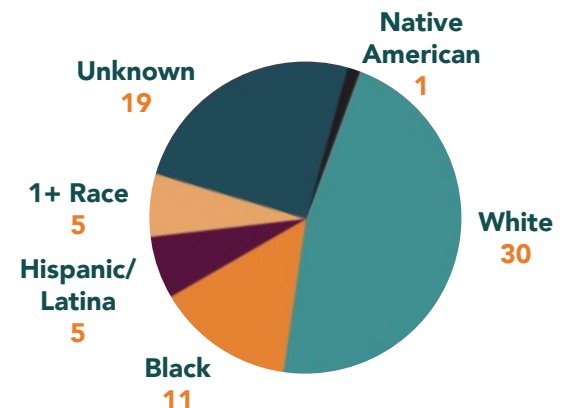
GENDER BREAKDOWN



AGE BREAKDOWN



RACE BREAKDOWN





TOGETHER

we can fight human trafficking.

WAYS TO GIVE AND VOLUNTEER



101 Presentations

We offer education to the community on understanding human trafficking. Presentations are offered to minors and adults.



Volunteer

We are in need of Hope Found volunteers to serve us by helping with fundraising, events, awareness or helping us with our survivor services program. Contact us for more info!



Give

Needs

We always need gift cards - these are an immediate and direct way to help survivors. Types of gift cards used: grocery stores, fast food restaurants, dollar stores, gas cards, Visa and Mastercard.

We are also collecting some items for our Bags of HOPE. These bags will be an emergency response bag for victims of human trafficking. Visit our website to view items we currently need today!

Donate

Online:

hopefoundnea.org

Mail:

361 Southwest DR #184
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Other:

PayPal: hopefoundarkansas@gmail.com
Venmo: HopeFoundNEA
Cash App: \$HopeFoundNEA

Sponsor



February 16, 2024

Date Night with a Purpose



June 1, 2024

Ride Against Human Trafficking



November 2024

Brewing Hope Coffee Festival