

The Fight Against Human Trafficking in Alaska



A little bit about our Trafficking Director:

Staci Yates is a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation. She was recruited at the age of 17 in North Carolina, and is survivor of 7 years of sexual assault inside a Christian cult in South Carolina.

“I have a deep passion to help those who fall into the category I did, a youth needing to do whatever needs to be done to survive.”

Yates currently works at MY House as Director of Human Trafficking Recovery Services, is the Chair of ASHTA (Alaska Stop Human Trafficking Alliance) and serves on the Governor’s Council of Human and Sex Trafficking.



When I Started MY House in 2009...

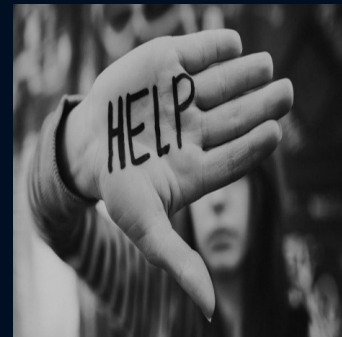
- I had no idea about trafficking among homeless youth
- I knew that Alaska has the highest rates of domestic violence, addiction, behavioral health challenges, suicide attempts and sexual assault.
- I learned that many youth in this demographic were trafficked by family first, and the practice was masked by violence and assault.
- I listened to their stories and found that they are consistently abused by adults who claim to be “helping” them, which might include selling them or teaching them to sell themselves. This is a continuation of abuse.



2022 MY House Trafficking Data



- Total Clients Served: 906
- 456 Current Clients (unduplicated number)
- 43 Clients Reported being Trafficked - *(Do we have a problem? Yes!!!)*
- Of these clients, 42 have reported being Sex trafficked and 1 reported being labor trafficked
- MY House Sex Trafficking Definition: It is the crime of using force, fraud, and/or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or to induce another individual to sell sex.
- MY House Labor Trafficking Definition: It is the crime of using force, fraud, and/or coercion to induce another individual to provide services.
- Intake Process: There are questions about trafficking on our intake forms, if clients respond with affirmative, we have an additional questionnaire that helps provide the trafficking survivor with needed services and support.



2022 MY House Trafficking Data (cont.)

In the last 27 months, the number of clients who have reported being trafficked has almost doubled, compared to the first seven years of us tracking trafficking data.



How does this happen, and who does this happen to?

- Recent intake with a 22-year-old who reported that at the age of four her mother traded her then boyfriend, “bedroom time” with her for drugs.
- Another individual was sexually molested by her grandfather as a preschooler and was punished by her father for telling him about it.
- This is not uncommon and lays the groundwork for these children to be trafficked. This is not a choice, they are victims.
- Both of these individuals were later trafficked as teens.

2022 My House Stats on Human Trafficking Clients

- The average age at intake for trafficking victims at My House was 19 years old
- 76% of trafficked clients reported having experienced domestic violence
- Average Adverse Childhood Experiences Score (ACES), used for measuring childhood trauma for trafficking victims was a 7 on a scale of 1-10.
- Mental Health:
 - a. 82% of trafficked clients report mental health conditions
 - a. 50% of Trafficked clients reported having attempted suicide with an average of 2.4 attempts per client.
 - b. 47% of Trafficked clients reported having self harmed



My House Provides Wrap Around Services to Survivors

- On-Site Case Management
- Safe House – Transitional Supported Housing
- Substance Abuse Treatment through community partners True North Recovery and Set Free Alaska
- Mental Health Services through community partners Mat-Su Behavioral Health and others for trauma therapy
- SART on-site
- High School and GED completion on-site
- Paid Job Training through community partner Nine Star
- Peer Support Specialists on-site
- Navigators (rides to all their appointments and job training)

ASHTA TOP FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS

1. **Education for Kids:** Train all school staff, K-12 age appropriate curriculum (SPEAK UP curriculum, national pilot program by Yale University.)
2. **State/National Law:**
 - A. Support of People's First Initiatives HB 67 and 68 and SB 65 and 66 in an effort to protect victims, particularly children and young adults, from sex crimes
 - B. ASHTA is partnering with Rotary in asking our local internet service providers in offering an "Opt-Out" of pornography coming with our internet subscription.
 - C. ASHTA endorses Senator Murkowski's bill "Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention Training Act 2021." (mandating nation wide Human Trafficking Education K-12)
 - D. ASHTA works with the National Center on Sexual Exploitation in D.C. supporting EARN IT Act. (holds Big Tech Companies accountable for CSAM on their platforms)
3. **Education for Law Enforcement, Prosecutors and Service Providers:** ASHTA will be working on bringing expert speaker up from lower 48.
4. **Public Awareness:** ASHTA has partnered with APOA – Mat-Su Chapter in Human Trafficking Awareness Posters all over the Valley and State Fair. Sticker Campaign for convenient stores, cabs, bus stops, etc. with Human Trafficking Hotline Numbers.




ASHTA Flyer Distributed at the Alaska State Fair

BREAK THE SILENCE. BREAK THE CHAINS.


HELP STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Victims of slavery and human trafficking are protected under United States and Alaska Law



If you or someone you know is being forced to engage in an activity and cannot leave whether it is trading sex for money, drugs or a place to stay. If it's housework, farm work, retail work, restaurant work or any other activity where you are threatened if you leave, then call the National Human Trafficking Hotline

CALL 1-866-347-2423 TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
IF YOU ARE A VICTIM TEXT: HELP TO 233733
CALL 911 IF IN IMMEDIATE DANGER

 **APDA**
ALASKA PROSECUTOR ASSOCIATION
MAT-SU CHAPTER

For more information on local services or a local tip line please contact MY House 907-631-2522

 **MY House**

Why is it so important to pass HB 68 from a survivor's stand point?


HB 68 will provide greater legal protection to victims of sex trafficking by...

1. **Expunging Records**: Being able to expunge the criminal records of victims while they were controlled by their trafficker, will help them to get good jobs, stable housing, and allow them reunite with their communities again. Helping them to heal and get their lives back is our passion as service providers.
2. **Increasing penalties for the buyers of sex**: The crime "Patron of Victim of Sex Trafficking" would be a class B sex felony if the victim is under 18 years old, and a class C sex felony if the person is over 18 years old. Individuals convicted under the new law will be required to enroll with the state's sex offender registry.
3. Victim's rights bills should take priority in this legislation session. We, the service providers, need this piece of legislation passed quickly, the longer we wait, the more victims fall through the cracks. We implore the 33rd Legislature to make this bill a priority!
4. As Governor Dunleavy well said, "Sex trafficking is evil. Traffickers steal their victim's freedom and deprive them of dignity. While the government cannot cure all of society's problems, it is a moral imperative that we do everything in our power to prevent sex trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute those that violate laws protecting a persons most fundamental human rights"

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE - LET'S SET ASIDE POLITICS AND PUT ALASKANS FIRST

An Alaskan's Survival Story
<https://youtu.be/5hRMRuYMYeQ>





Our lives begin
to end the day
we become silent
about the things
that matter.

Martin Luther King Jr.

For more information on local services call MY House.

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QR Code to our
Podcast Network



REDEMPTION
LOVED AND THRIVING
With Staci and Juliah