

# Human Trafficking Aftercare

Lynn Sanchez, MA, LPCC  
Michael DeBernardi, PsyD

The Life Link

October 3, 2013

“All slavery is but the arbitrary will of  
one person over another.”

Martin Delaney  
Civil Rights activist, philosopher

"Human trafficking is next to death. It's like you're dead, nothing belongs to you. You have no control over your body, your sexuality, not even your life."

Male HT Victim

## UN Human Trafficking Protocol

- The United Nations Protocol against transnational organized crime was ratified by 117 nations in December, 2003 in Palermo, Italy.
- Objective is to PREVENT Human Trafficking, PROSECUTE perpetrators and to PROTECT and assist victims of trafficking in persons with full respect for their human rights.



## UN HT Protocol – Article 6



Each State Party shall consider implementing measures to provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking in persons...in particular, the provision of:

- a) Medical, psychological, and material assistance

## Physical, Social & Psychological Recovery

- ▣ Safe Shelter
- ▣ Medical attention
- ▣ Material assistance
- ▣ Counseling

## Needs of HT Victims

- ❑ Crisis Housing
- ❑ Transitional/Permanent Housing
- ❑ Advocacy
- ❑ Legal Assistance
- ❑ Medical Care
- ❑ Financial Assistance
- ❑ Education
- ❑ Job training/employment
- ❑ Child Care
- ❑ Transportation
- ❑ Translation
- ❑ Mental Health Counseling
- ❑ Substance Abuse Treatment
- ❑ Rebuilding Identities

## Goals of Services

- ❑ Establishing a sense of safety for self and others
- ❑ Building trust with service providers and law enforcement
- ❑ Developing healthy coping strategies to help deal with stress
- ❑ Working through trauma
- ❑ Building self-esteem and self-worth
- ❑ Obtaining/maintaining permanent housing
- ❑ Obtaining/maintaining employment
- ❑ Community connection and sense of belonging
- ❑ Obtaining lawful permanent resident status
- ❑ Becoming self-sufficient
- ❑ Becoming an advocate for self and others
- ❑ Mending relationships
- ❑ Community Integration

## Mental Health Needs

- ❑ Anxiety Disorders (panic attacks, OCD, GAD)
- ❑ Major Depression
- ❑ Somatic Disorders
- ❑ Dissociative Disorders
- ❑ Substance use disorders
- ❑ Complex Trauma/PTSD
- ❑ Psychosis

## The Life Link

- ❑ Founded in Santa Fe 25-years ago by Executive Director, Carol Luna-Anderson
- ❑ Not-for-Profit Licensed Community Mental Health Center and designated Core Service Agency
- ❑ Recipient of numerous national awards for clinical research, innovative service, and utilization of evidence-based practice.
- ❑ Provides full range of mental health, substance abuse, and trauma services to homeless, indigent and marginalized residents of Santa Fe.

## The Life Link

- ❑ Since 2008 has provided comprehensive services to HT victims, including 505-GET-FREE text/hotline
- ❑ Has provided training statewide to law enforcement and providers regarding HT issues
- ❑ Advocacy at the local and state level for HT victim rights
- ❑ Partnership with Office of the Attorney General and Cities of Albuquerque and Santa Fe to improve awareness and identification of Human Trafficking victims and perpetrators.

The Life Link is only program in the State of New Mexico providing comprehensive clinical and aftercare services to victims of Human Trafficking



"The aftercare Life Link provides is crucial to the security and stabilization of those persons who have been rescued from an HT situation. This extraordinary care has enabled survivors to have the courage and support to endure the rigors of the criminal justice process."

Maria Sanchez-Gagne  
Assistant Attorney General  
Director, Border Violence Division  
New Mexico Attorney General

## HT in New Mexico

- ❑ Office of the Attorney General began a campaign in 2008, training law enforcement, identifying victims, prosecuting traffickers, and working with Life Link to train providers around the state.
- ❑ Faith-based and other organizations are doing awareness, outreach and social support programs
- ❑ Initiatives in Albuquerque and Santa Fe around raising awareness and outreach involving city government
- ❑ What started as a trickle, the number of identified victims is increasingly dramatically each year.

## HT in New Mexico

- ❑ Through partnerships with AG, FBI, State Police, APD, SFPD, BIA, Homeland Security, The Life Link has served 32 victims in the past five years.
- ❑ Victims have ranged in age between 13 and 46, male and female, gay, transgendered, pregnant, international.
- ❑ Life Link has also received referrals from States including Hawaii, Alaska, North Carolina, Kentucky, Colorado, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Arizona.
- ❑ The national hotline, based in Washington DC, The Polaris Project, is referring clients to The Life Link due to the full range of long-term services offered by the program

## 505 GET FREE

- ❑ In keeping with recommendations of State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, The Life Link initiated the textable 505 GET FREE in March 2013 in an effort to outreach victims without relying on law enforcement.
- ❑ Provides an easy-to-remember number for victims to access help, resources in as safe manner as possible.
- ❑ Cities of Albuquerque and Santa Fe have worked with The Life Link to create bus signage, billboards, and RailRunner advertisements
- ❑ Since inception, 505 GET FREE has received close to 300 texts and 70 calls from 52 unduplicated individuals.

**FORCED TO WORK OR SELL SEX  
AGAINST YOUR WILL?**  
¿FORZADO A TRABAJAR O VENDER  
SEXO CONTRA SU VOLUNTAD?

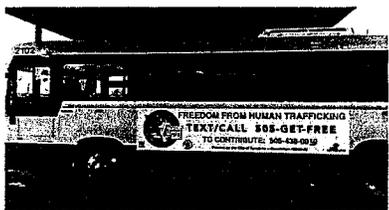
**In New Mexico CALL or TEXT**





Help • Information • Resources  
Ayuda • Información • Recursos







## Funding

- ❑ Providing comprehensive, long-term, rights-based aftercare is essential for stabilizing victims as well as aiding in successful prosecution of traffickers.
- ❑ The only state funding identified for Human Trafficking Victims at this time is through Crime Victims Reparation Committee, VAWA and VOCA, amounting to less than \$40,000 annually.
- ❑ Recovery and aftercare services for HT victims are unfunded in New Mexico and require extensive financial burdens on the providers offering the services

## Funding

- ❑ The Life Link is the only program in the State of New Mexico providing comprehensive aftercare for rescued HT victims.
- ❑ With increased awareness campaigns comes an increased need for services to support the influx of victims.
- ❑ Because current behavioral health funding streams do not address the myriad needs of HT victims, **ongoing allocated funding** is needed.

## Annual Funding Needs

- ❑ The bare essentials needed to run a successful HT aftercare program include **emergency assistance, long-term supported housing**, and committed and qualified professional **personnel**
- ❑ The annual cost of providing services to 25 victims of Human Trafficking is estimated to be the following:
 

❑ Emergency Assistance x 12 months @ \$4000/mo	<b>48,000</b>
❑ Housing – 25 units x 12 months @ \$850/mo	<b>255,000</b>
❑ Personnel (CSWs, counselors, administration)	<b>166,600</b>
❑ Total Annual Program Funding Need	<b>\$469,600</b>
- ❑ The Life Link is committed to our ongoing partnerships to ensure that HT victims are not only identified, but receive the critical aftercare needed to rebuild their lives

## Summary

- ❑ Human Trafficking is recognized internationally as a form of modern day slavery, and the State of New Mexico Office of the Attorney General has partnered with law enforcement to prioritize the identification and rescue of victims.
- ❑ These efforts have led to an ever-increasing number of rescued victims, but the social service infrastructure and funding resources are not available in New Mexico
- ❑ The Life Link has been a critical partner in providing the intensive and costly services to help victims restore and rebuild their lives.
- ❑ Our Goal is to secure \$470,000 dollars in funding for the fiscal year 2014 in order to provide comprehensive services to 25 rescued Human Trafficking victims.

"It's hard to explain all the ways housing and case management have helped and changed me. When I came to this program I had so much trauma, no self worth, no boundaries, horrible health, and financially could not take care of myself. I was, and felt, all alone. Today, I am living independently. Alone and without positive people, life spirals down. Without a safe place, and the simplest things to call one's own, how can one feel safe? Sometimes all we need is a true opportunity to succeed. When we are lost we need direction. Case Management and housing gives a chance to heal, learn healthier ways of living, contribute to the world, and gives hope, inspiration, and a chance to succeed."

HT Victim

