## FREEDOM CHURCH ALLIANCE

# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

## President Note

Dear Friends,

We live in a world where greed and lust are so pervasive and corruption runs so deep that the weight of evil and injustice can often feel unbearable. The devastating darkness of human trafficking is expanding due to technology and the epidemic of online sexual exploitation of children. Human trafficking is a global crisis that demands the attention and action of Christ's Church.

As followers of Jesus, we do not face this darkness alone. We lean on the Lord's strength and find rest in His presence. But we also rely on the support of other believers. What a joy it is to work with so many churches and individuals united in mission—working together, giving together, and standing alongside trusted anti-trafficking partners. This unity and collaboration is powerful; it shines Christ's light into the darkest corners of our city and beyond.

The weight of this evil feels unbearably heavy, but the light of Christ is immensely powerful. His light penetrates the darkness, restores hope, and draws His people together—with wisdom, ideas, and courage—to be His hands and feet in this fight for freedom. So, as we fight, we hold tightly to the promise in John 1:5: "That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it."

Thank you for standing with us, for refusing to look away, and for allowing God to work through you to bring hope to places of despair. Together, as the body of Christ, we are witnessing His transformative power and pressing on to overcome evil with good.

With gratitude and hope,

Leigh Kohler

Leigh Kohler Cofounder and President

## **Executive Director Note**

Dear Friends,

We are deeply grateful for the incredible work we've achieved together in the fight against human trafficking. Your support, prayers, and commitment are making a lasting impact. This letter celebrates what God has done and highlights the difference your partnership makes.

We have continued to focus on uniting the church to combat trafficking by raising awareness, supporting Christ-centered anti-trafficking organizations, distributing GoBags for survivors to frontline organizations and law enforcement, and meeting survivors' needs through our Survivor Advocacy Budget.

Key highlights from 2024:

- Education & Awareness: Through <u>The Fight for Freedom book</u>, we equipped over 500 individuals to engage in the fight against human trafficking.
- Supporting Frontline Efforts: We filled and distributed 1,225 GoBags with supplies to help survivors. Each bag included ministry cards with rescue and crisis pregnancy hotline numbers and a letter offering hope in Christ.
- Empowering Survivors: We provided over \$13,000 in survivor advocacy funds to assist with expenses for emergency housing, counseling, legal, and medical needs.
- Strengthening Partnerships: We deepened collaborations with twelve anti-trafficking organizations, three law enforcement agencies, and six ministries, providing \$130,000 in grants to our Trusted Partners working on the frontlines.

Looking ahead, we are encouraged by our unified efforts, yet we know much work remains. With your continued prayers and support, we look forward to seeing more survivors being served and set free. Thank you for being a vital part of this mission.

With gratitude and hope,

Christa Freyhof

Christa Freyhof Executive Director of Freedom Church Alliance

## Our Team



### LEIGH KOHLER

### Cofounder & President

Leigh Kohler is Cofounder and President of the Freedom Church Alliance. She carries the vision of the Freedom Church Alliance and leads the Board of Directors. Leigh@freedomchurchalliance.org



### LINDSAY MARKS Outreach Coordinator

Lindsay Marks is the Outreach Coordinator for Freedom Church Alliance. She is responsible for connecting with and maintaining relationships with our anti-trafficking partners and for organizing our GoBag Project. Lindsay@freedomchurchalliance.org



CHRISTA FREYHOF

#### **Executive Director**

Christa Freyhof is the Executive Director. She is responsible for executing and implementing all of the Alliance projects and initiatives and overseeing the daily operations of the organization. Christa@freedomchurchalliance.org



### LAUREN WALLS

### **Communications Manager**

Lauren Walls is the Communications Manager at the Alliance. She is responsible for spreading the message of the Freedom Church Alliance to Houston and beyond. Lauren@freedomchurchalliance.org

## Vision and Mission

### MISSION



We are engaging the Church as a unified, collaborative body to make a greater impact in the anti-human trafficking movement. We are here to see the oppressed and exploited rescued, redeemed, and healed by the grace and power of God. Simply put: We hope to unite the Church to fight human trafficking in Jesus's name.



### VISION

We envision the Church rising up as a connected body: awake, ready, and compassionately engaged in the fight against human trafficking.

# **GoBag Outreach**



### 1,215 GoBags Filled

#### **GoBags** Filled

Over the past year, 1,215 GoBags have been thoughtfully filled with essential and restorative items, serving as a tangible expression of care and support for survivors of human trafficking.



### 1,225 GoBags Deployed

1,225 GoBags directly provided to survivors:

- 300 at the border and in shelters for unaccompanied minors
- 795 to Trusted Partners, law enforcement, and organizations fighting human trafficking
- 40 to The Source, a crisis care pregnancy center



### **65 Volunteers**

Over the past year, 65 volunteers played a critical role by conducting quality checks on GoBags. These volunteers ensure that each bag is thoughtfully prepared,

meeting the needs of survivors with care and dignity.



## **18 Alliance Churches**

18 Alliance churches participated in GoBag packing events, mobilizing their communities for action.

"Last fall, our Life Bible Study class, consisting of older adults and empty nesters, raised money to purchase items for 50 GoBags. We met one evening to assemble them, and Leigh Kohler shared about Freedom Church Alliance. It was a very impactful evening that opened everyone's eyes to the problem of sex trafficking and how they could help. Since then, our class has regularly volunteered, sorting GoBags and supporting this mission. The partnership has been meaningful, and our group looks forward to serving each month." —Thao Edwards, Houston's First Baptist Church

## **Outreach Story**

"I am working with a survivor who entered the life after aging out of foster care at 18. Her story began at 14, when her mother gave her up to CPS after she disclosed that her stepfather was sexually abusing her. Instead of supporting her, her mother chose to support the stepfather.

After aging out of foster care with nowhere to go, the survivor met a man who promised her a better life. For the first six months, he kept his promises, but then he began making her sleep with his friends to help cover their expenses. This escalated to her being forced to sleep with others to ensure a steady income. She endured this for over ten years before realizing she needed to escape.

With the help of an agency in Houston, she finally found a way out and was referred to us for medical services. She has moved between different shelters and transitional programs while waiting for stable housing. The personal hygiene bags you provide have been a tremendous help, ensuring she has toiletries and clean clothes wherever she goes. She shared how much she loves the leggings, saying, "They make me feel normal."

This is just one of many stories. I have distributed over 60 of your bags, and each woman is incredibly appreciative of the items inside. One survivor shared that she hadn't owned a hairbrush in months and had been using her fingers to comb through her hair. Please know that your bags are answers to prayers for these women who often have nothing to call their own."







# **Educational Reach**

The GoBox was created as a discipleship toolkit to educate, equip, and empower individuals and church leaders in their journey to understand and engage in the fight against human trafficking. Initially focused on the work being done in Houston, it became an essential resource for those learning about anti-trafficking efforts. As we received feedback, it became clear that there was a need for a broader resource that could be applied nationwide and even globally.

In response to this, we developed <u>The Fight for Freedom</u> book—a comprehensive resource designed to educate and inspire action against human trafficking. The book features six chapters, or "Experiences," which address the key issues and solutions related to human trafficking, including demand, protecting the vulnerable, and taking meaningful action.

The transition from the GoBox to <u>The Fight for Freedom</u> book has significantly expanded our reach. To date, the book has reached 26 states and two countries, including Thailand and Uganda, where over 120 ministry leaders have been trained to combat the growing threat of human trafficking in their regions.





# 2024 Highlights



- The Church at Jersey Village
- His Father's Heart Ministry
- Christ The King Huntsville
- Houston Northwest Church
- IPC Hebron



We are the body of Christ, actively fighting back against the darkness in Houston. The Church must rise up as a unified, connected body. Fragmented efforts are not enough.

## **Million** given out since 2013

Since the launch of Freedom Church Alliance, the generosity of our Alliance Church Members has steadily grown, and in 2024, we reached an incredible milestone—surpassing \$1 million in total giving. We have distributed over \$1 million to our Trusted Partners, strengthening their frontline efforts in the fight against human trafficking.

## **Alliance Members**

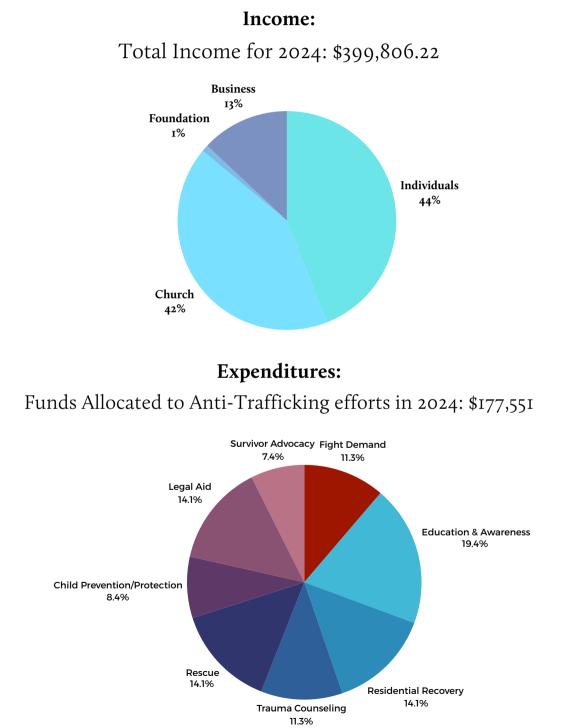
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The Alliance is a growing movement of churches united to fight human trafficking. A Church united and empowered by the Spirit and working alongside and strengthening anti-trafficking organizations can transform our city. Each church that becomes an official Alliance member has committed to a set of expectations, including praying, giving, and serving.



## **Financials In Review**

By joining funds through collective giving, our finances can have a much greater, more sustainable impact. Your dollars touch the full spectrum of anti-trafficking work: prevention, education, demand, intervention, aftercare, rehabilitation, and legal aid.



#### 01

"As a pastor focused "on missions, I highly recommend Freedom Church Alliance and their unwavering dedication to combating sex trafficking. <u>The Fight for Freedom</u> book has been a powerful resource, equipping our congregation with a deeper understanding of this pressing issue and inspiring many to take meaningful action. The strategic insight and biblical foundation provided by the book have amplified our church's ability to respond compassionately and effectively. Partnering with this ministry has been transformative, and I encourage you to consider their impactful work."

- Greg Despres, Missions Pastor, Fairfield Baptist

### 02

"The Church has both the calling and the capacity to confront injustice. That's why the Freedom Church Alliance is so vital to the anti-trafficking movement. It's a force multiplier, leveraging the collective strength of local faith communities to educate church members and equip those fighting on the front lines. In doing so, the Alliance reflects the heart of God, who stands squarely on the side of the oppressed, insisting that the commercial exploitation of others has no place among those made in His image."

— Nate Knapper, Founder + CEO, The Joseph Project

### 03

"We count it a blessing to be part of the Freedom Church Alliance and this movement to fight the evil of human trafficking. <u>The Fight</u> <u>for Freedom</u> book has been an incredible resource for us as we work to engage our congregation in this fight. The GoBags have given us the opportunity to build awareness with our women and youth and have opened the door to some amazing discussions."

— Kim Dolibois, Christ The King



## **Survivor Advocacy Impact**

Throughout the year, we have the privilege of partnering with anti-trafficking organizations and law enforcement to meet the urgent needs of survivors. In 2024, several law enforcement agencies worked together on one of the largest human trafficking stings in Texas, and we were honored to play a role in supporting the survivors.

Prior to the operation, one of the agencies reached out to Freedom Church Alliance, seeking our assistance in providing funding for emergency housing for any survivors who might be rescued during the sting. During the operation, several calls for help were made, and we provided funding to cover six months of housing for one survivor and her two children. In addition, we gave Christmas gifts and Bibles to the family, helping to support their emotional and spiritual healing.

This family is now on their journey to recovery, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to be a part of their story, supporting them in a small but meaningful way. This is just one of many ways that the Survivor Advocacy Budget has been utilized.

















"Provide justice for the needy and the fatherless; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and needy; save them from the power of the wicked."

Psalm 82:3-4



### Stay connected:



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