

THE VASHTI INITIATIVE ANNUAL REPORT



FEBRUARY
2021
-
JUNE 2021

FIRST EDITION

HOW IT STARTED...

THE VASHTI INITIATIVE WAS FOUNDED BY A GROUP OF SURVIVORS OF RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL ABUSE WHO SAW A TREMENDOUS NEED AMONG THEIR FELLOWS. WE DECIDED TO CREATE AN AGENCY THAT COULD PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES TO VICTIMS WHILE ALSO EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON THE MANY HARMFUL AFFECTS OF RELIGIOUS TRAUMA. IN JULY OF 2020 WE BEGAN TO DEVELOP OUR PLAN AND RECENTLY CELEBRATED ONE YEAR OF INTERNAL OPERATIONS.

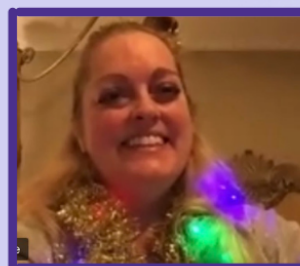
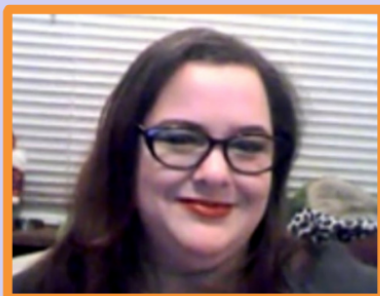
DONATE TO VASHTI!



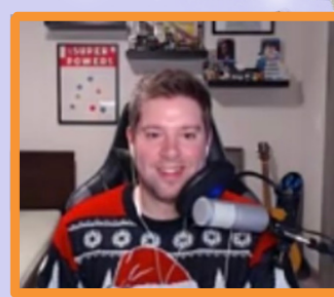
OUR MISSION

To empower and assist those fleeing and transitioning out of religious and spiritual abuse.

THE VASHTI BOARD AT OUR HOLIDAY PARTY



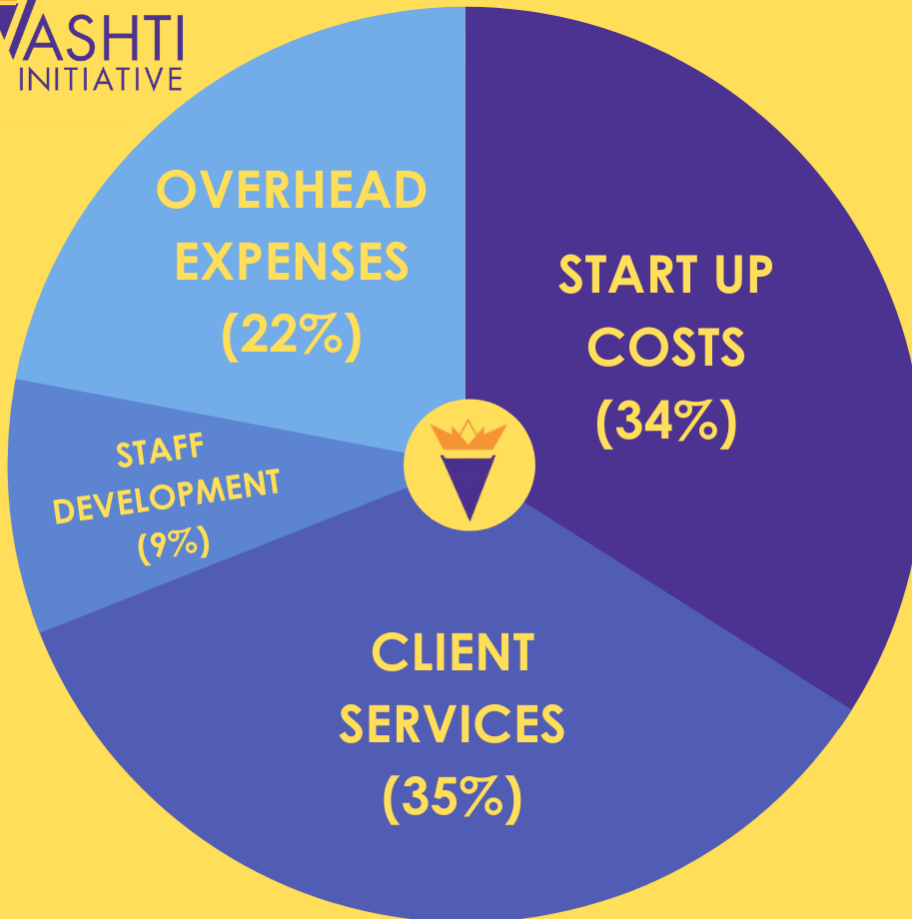
THE VASHTI INITIATIVE



LAUNCH DATE

AFTER SIX MONTHS OF DILIGENT WORK, THE VASHTI INITIATIVE LAUNCHED TO THE PUBLIC ON FEBRUARY 1, 2021. OVER THE NEXT 5 MONTHS WE ROLLED OUT OUR NATIONAL HOTLINE, SUNDAY SUPPORT GROUP, AND BEGAN PROVIDING RESOURCE NAVIGATION TO THOSE IN NEED. WE HAVE ALSO PROVIDED TRAINING AND EDUCATION TO THE PUBLIC AROUND SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS ABUSE, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING ON THIS PLATFORM OVER THE NEXT YEAR.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN



THE VASHTI INITIATIVE
2021 FISCAL YEAR EXPENSES

100%
FUNDED BY
INDIVIDUAL
DONORS



ACCESS FULL
REPORT

A LOOK AT OUR SERVICES

HOTLINE 1-833-4VASHTI

The Vashti Initiative runs one of the few spiritual abuse hotlines in the world. We offer emotional support, resource navigation, and more to those in need. This next year we hope to launch our texting line as well so stay tuned!





SUPPORT GROUPS

WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO IVY IVERSON FOR STEPPING IN TO COORDINATE OUR SUPPORT GROUP. RIGHT NOW VAHSTI RUNS A MONTHLY GROUP FOR SURVIVORS BUT OUR HOPE IS TO EXPAND TO MORE GROUPS AND MORE FREQUENCY THROUGHOUT 2022.

*TO REQUEST TO JOIN - EMAIL
VASHTIGROUPS@GMAIL.COM*



THE VASHTI BLOG

DUE TO THE HARD WORK OF OUR ADMIN ASSISTANT LYDIA JOY LAUNDERVILLE, THE VASHTI BLOG WILL NOW PUT OUT REGULAR CONTENT FOR SURVIVORS AND SUPPORTERS AGAINST RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL ABUSE. YOU CAN CHECK OUT THE BLOG BI-MONTHLY FOR UPDATED STORIES FROM GUEST CONTRIBUTORS (INCLUDING LYDIA HERSLEF!).

*IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE JUST
SEND AN EMAIL TO [thegashtiinitiative@gmail](mailto:thegashtiinitiative@gmail.com)*

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR SUPPORTER,

IT IS MY HONOR TO SERVE WITH THIS DEDICATED TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS WHO WORKED TIRELESSLY LAST YEAR TO LAUNCH THE VASHTI INITIATIVE. WE ARE A UNIQUE ORGANIZATION AND ONE OF ONLY A HANDFUL SERVING VICTIMS OF RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL ABUSE.

OFTEN THERE IS A MISCONCEPTION OR LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AROUND THE GRAVE AND HARMFUL EFFECTS OF RELIGIOUS TRAUMA. IN OUR WORK WE SEE A WIDE VARIETY OF ABUSES, INCLUDING; PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, LABOR TRAFFICKING, AND MORE. BUT ALL OF OUR SURVIVORS HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON AND LINK THEIR ABUSE BACK TO RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS OR SPIRITUAL LEADERS. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT ALL RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL SETTINGS ARE HARMFUL. ON THE CONTRARY, MANY OF OUR OWN TEAM MEMBERS STILL HOLD STRONG RELIGIOUS TIES. WE ARE NOT OUT TO ATTACK RELIGION, BUT WE ARE OUT TO HOLD ACCOUNTABLE THOSE WHO MANIPULATE AND VIOLATE THEIR FOLLOWERS.

OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES THE INFORMATION AROUND RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL ABUSE HAS GROWN EXPONENTIALLY WHILE THE DIRECT SERVICES THAT ARE NEEDED STILL REMAIN NEARLY NON-EXISTENT. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT LOCAL LEADERS, POLITICIANS, AND FUNDERS UNDERSTAND THE MANY BARRIERS AND OBSTACLES SURVIVORS FACE AFTER LEAVING AN ADVERSE RELIGIOUS ENVIRONMENT.

I AM VERY PROUD TO SAY THAT EVEN IN SPITE OF OUR START UP COSTS WE WERE ABLE TO DEVOTE A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF OUR BUDGET TO PROVIDING SERVICES TO VICTIMS. HOWEVER, THE NEED IS GREAT AND RESOURCES ARE SLIM. I ASK YOU TO CONSIDER GIVING TO THE VASHTI INITIATIVE THIS YEAR AS WE CONTINUE TO GROW AND FIND WAYS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THOSE IN NEED.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE TEAM STANDING BESIDE ME AND HOPEFUL FOR THE GREAT THINGS TO COME.

EVAN JONES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GET INVOLVED!

JOIN US ONLINE



STAY CONNECTED!

Follow Us Online
@vashtiinitiative or email
thevashtiinitiative@gmail.com

WEBSITE >>    

