

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



**LED BY SURVIVORS.
SUPPORTED BY ALLIES.**
Standing **United** Against Trafficking & Exploitation



FOUNDING STORY



Michigan passed a bulk of human trafficking laws in late 2014 defining trafficking more clearly, providing safe harbor provisions, and more. Funding was limited and awareness was necessary. As a result, nonprofits started to form to fill these needs.

A daughter of Vietnamese refugees and survivor of childhood sexual abuse, Anita Hoepner saw a need to raise awareness in her community. She channeled her past experiences and heart for humanitarian work to create an organization with a mission to raise awareness about the realities of human trafficking. Hoepner founded Sparrow Freedom Project (SFP) in 2017 and incorporated in 2018.

The organization's name came easily to Hoepner as birds have always held a special meaning to her as they symbolize hope, protection, and freedom.

Hoepners states, "Sparrows are small birds, but they find their strength and power in numbers. We need to work together in order to make a difference."

She referenced the passage from the Gospel of Matthew in which Jesus promises that not even a small bird, like a sparrow, would fall to the ground on God's watch.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from their Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." – Matthew 10:29-31

Hoepner relates that to human trafficking and abuse survivors, who must not be allowed to fall through the cracks of society and the system. The passage serves as a reminder that we are ALL worthy of love and are valuable in His sight

Recognizing the need for specialized support services for the trafficked and exploited, SFP evolved into a victim/survivor focused agency, providing emergency relief for exploited and trafficked individuals. Hoepner worked alongside David Manville, a full-time lecturer at

Eastern Michigan University's School of Social Work, who at the time taught the only class on the topic of human trafficking in the state of Michigan. With a dedicated core team of volunteers, SFP hosted, presented, and participated in over 55 events and trainings within the year, educating and empowering communities to take action.



Since mid-2018, in collaboration with local agencies and street outreach efforts, SFP has touched the lives of hundreds of men, women, and children impacted by human trafficking and exploitation. The need for these services are huge and SFP grew quickly to meet them. In 2021, SFP restructured and officially implemented the vision of a survivor led and ally supported organization. SFP purchased a building in Detroit and expanded its services to include Emergency Services (emergency beds), Day Programming, and Residential Programming. Hoepner took on the role of Director of Special Projects and sits on the board in an advisory capacity.

In addition to ensuring survivor needs are met, SFP remains steadfast in it's effort in educating professionals and communities about the realities of human trafficking on a state and national level through local awareness events and structured classroom training.

After years of dedicating her time and energy to building SFP from the ground up, Hoepner is now devoting her time to her family and health. With a new leadership team in place and survivors at the table, she is excited to see what the future holds for the organization.



ONWARD & UPWARD

A NOTE FROM SFP CHAIRPERSON, CRISSY HEMPHILL



Dear Friends,

We made it through 2021!!!! I think we all need to give ourselves a pat on the back for that. All joking aside, it was a rough year for most people, but especially for our sisters and brothers who are

trying to survive either out on the streets or just navigating their new lives. While this past year was filled with a lot of fear and struggle, we have way more to be thankful for than we have to complain about. I have to say that I am immensely proud of my fellow board members, advisory board members, staff, volunteers, donors, and clients. I watched everyone go through their struggles, but they also never failed to encourage others and get creative in figuring out ways to continue to serve our community.

With your support, Sparrow Freedom Project has grown and has been able to stay at the forefront of the response to the increasing needs of survivors. In the beginning of the year, we re-structured the board of directors and implemented a new expansion project. We collectively decided that the voices of survivors were not being used to create and run already existing programs making this a detriment to our community. So, we are proud to announce that we are now survivor led and supported by allies. Fifty percent of our board is comprised of survivor leaders, and our chairperson (yes that would be me) will always be a survivor. Survivor leaders are also filling the positions of staff members who will be running the programs and helping our new friends as they come in.

Along with this amazing transition, our expansion also included a new mission and set of goals, hiring an executive director, AND purchasing a building!!! Our Executive Director, Tracey Cooley, has worked so

diligently and passionately on finding a place that will fit our needs to assist more survivors. With a 230% increase in requests for help this past year, this is very important. We are working hard on renovating the building so that we can provide emergency shelter, day programs, and a 2-year residential program. This building will become a loving and caring home, free of judgment, and culturally inclusive to so many.

I can't put into words how much it means to my sisters and me to finally be heard and recognized as experts in this field. We are so thankful to have our voices back and to be able to contribute to those who still need us. As a survivor, this is personal to me and it's amazing to watch others get involved, understand the issue, and become just as passionate. Everyone here at Sparrow is committed to ensuring this project changes the way victims are treated. No more discrimination, no more flaunting victims around like a side show, no more retraumatizing, no more making us feel like we can't do this, and that we aren't good enough. We are good enough, every single one of us, and with the support of our amazing allies, our reach will continue to grow.

We are counting on your support to continue this massive and greatly needed expansion. The expansion of this program is for those we have sadly lost to the streets, they didn't die in vain, we see the need. Thank you for standing by Sparrow Freedom Project now and always; we greatly appreciate your generosity, your partnership, and your friendship.

With Love,

Crissy Hemphill

Board Chair



2021 FINANCIALS & STATS

JANUARY 1, 2021 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

INCOME	CONTRIBUTIONS Individuals, AmazonSmile, PayPal Giving Fund, Facebook Fundraisers	\$88,262.08
	NON-GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$153,496.13
	REVENUE Event Ticket Sales	\$3,050.00
	FIXED ASSETS Detroit Property (Programming)	\$49,415.00

EXPENSES	PROGRAMMING Wraparound Support Services Program Continuing Education & Training Program	\$130,823.23
	OPERATIONAL	\$44,123.88
	FUNDRAISING	\$38,198.00

155+

SURVIVORS ASSISTED

269+

SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FULFILLED

164

ADULT SURVIVORS AND CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

WRAPAROUND SUPPORT // TOP 3 REQUESTS IN 2021



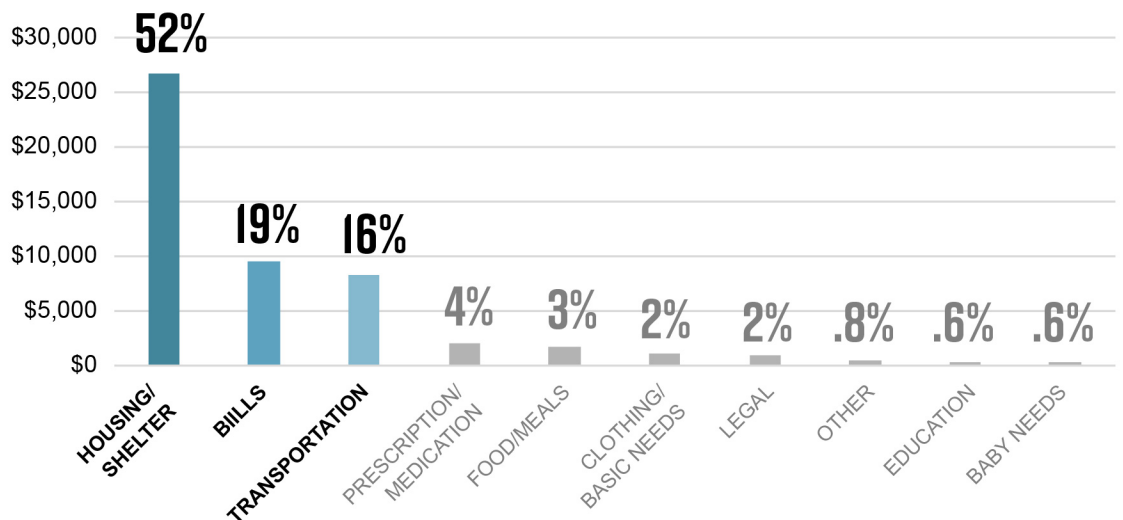
Rent, Security Deposits, Hotels, Relocation



Utilities, Phone, Internet



Airfare, Bus, Uber/Lyft, Train, Car Repairs, Gas/Fuel



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHRISSY HEMPHILL - CHAIRPERSON

"I'm so honored to be the Chairperson of this amazing nonprofit. Giving survivors the chance to be heard and lead this movement will always be of the utmost importance to us. Thank you to everyone who has supported us with time, financial donations, and most importantly, prayer!"



SHIELA JONES - VICE-CHAIRPERSON

"It is my personal mission to help build others up no matter who they are. I want to be the cheerleader! Some people just need a little more support and if we can take those extra minutes to give a little more so that someone else can have that I am all for it."



D'LYNN WESTBROOK - SECRETARY

"My life experiences drives me to help other survivors who have been trafficked and/or exploited. SFP has been a light in the darkness for many survivors and my hope is to continue to be a shining light for those who need it most."



CHRIS (CJ) KOGUT - TREASURER

"Since my time with SFP, I've been very inspired by the strength of the survivors and the ability of the human spirit to persevere. I wanted to join the SFP team because human trafficking is a growing problem in the Detroit area and these types of services are sorely needed."



AMY SOMERS - BOARD MEMBER

"I joined Sparrow Freedom Project to be a voice for those who have been silenced because freedom is a basic human right, not a privilege."



VEE VIRGIL - BOARD MEMBER

"Compassion for others spreads a pure and abundant love throughout our shared worlds."



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REFLECTING ON 2021

FROM THE DESK OF SFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRACEY COOLEY



We have accomplished much over the past year as we focused on restructuring as a survivor led organization and an entity for change for exploited and trafficked individuals as we continued to serve men, women, families, and those in the LGBTQ+ community during the process. I have been humbled watching those who support our mission work tirelessly to ensure Sparrow Freedom Project is moving in the right direction. We have been blessed with loving and caring people who provide much needed time, money, and devotion to our cause. I have been humbled watching survivors share their struggles with other survivors to walk with them as they learn how to trust and accept genuine love during their long journey to recovery.

We cannot do what we do without people. Over the next twelve months, we will be praying and relying on people to donate their time, money, and most importantly their love and patience as we rehab the newly purchased building in Detroit. This building needs much work. In order to open our building by the end of 2022, we will need to accomplish an entire rehab: demo the two units; replace the roof, windows, furnace, plumbing, and electrical; and finish the basement and attic. I know we will be able to do this despite it being a challenge with the waning economy, supply shortages and lasting pandemic because of the compassionate nature of our past, current, and future supporters. Because we all know that no matter how tough life gets, human trafficking is in existence in every single zip code in Michigan. It is modern day slavery and our vulnerable needs protection.

As we work towards accomplishing our mission, it is imperative that the people we serve see a community come together without any strings attached, sacrificing their time and money to build a temporary home for survivors so they can recover in peace without the fear of being retraumatized. If you are called to be a part of this community, please do not hesitate to reach out and help in any way possible. There is no such thing as a too small donation. Each minute adds to hours and each penny adds to dollars.

2022 will be a year of continued growth as we rehab our building; expand our services to include onsite wraparound services & programming; increase our volunteer base; hire staff; and develop our CEU and non-CEU trainings all with the intention to build a survivor-led community supporting and empowering exploited and trafficked individuals on their journey to achieving independence.

I am very excited to be part of this team at Sparrow Freedom Project. I take my position very seriously and pray that through God's grace, we will be able to successfully meet our goals in 2022.

Thank you and God Bless!

Tracey Cooley

Executive Director

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Sparrow Freedom Project is expanding our Wraparound Services Program to include Residential Programming located at our new Detroit location.

In response to urgent requests from our partners, Sparrow Freedom Project is currently in the process of rehabbing a safe house in Detroit, to be used for beds and on-site wraparound support for those who have survived human trafficking and exploitation.

Once complete, Sparrow Freedom Project will continue to expand its services to include long-term residential programming, which will allow survivors to live for up to 24 months.



SET TO OPEN FALL 2022



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PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Wraparound Services: Connects trafficked individuals to supportive services and resources in a trauma informed care environment. In collaboration with community partners, those we serve will find access (or apply for financial assistance) to the following, but not limited to: relocation, emergency shelter, meals/groceries, clothing/shoes, hygiene needs, home furnishings, transportation (ride shares, bus passes, gas/fuel), car repairs, utility/phone bills, medical/dental bills and legal services.

We will also provide 24/7 on-site wraparound support/beds to trafficked and exploited individuals who require a safe place for up to 10 days. During this period, our team will assess and determine immediate next steps. This permits time to find availability for appropriate longer-term care such as medical facility, rehab facility, residential program, etc.

Day Program: Some trafficked and exploited individuals may not be able to commit to a residential program. This program is designed to give survivors the extra help they need to work on their recovery and achieve independence. The day program offers classes in job readiness, life impact skills, enrichment opportunities and therapy.

Residential Program: This program provides comprehensive care for up to two years, which includes multiple therapies for complex PTSD, job readiness, life impact skills, enrichment opportunities, recovery programs, etc., in a safe and trauma informed environment. All living expenses are covered.



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CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM

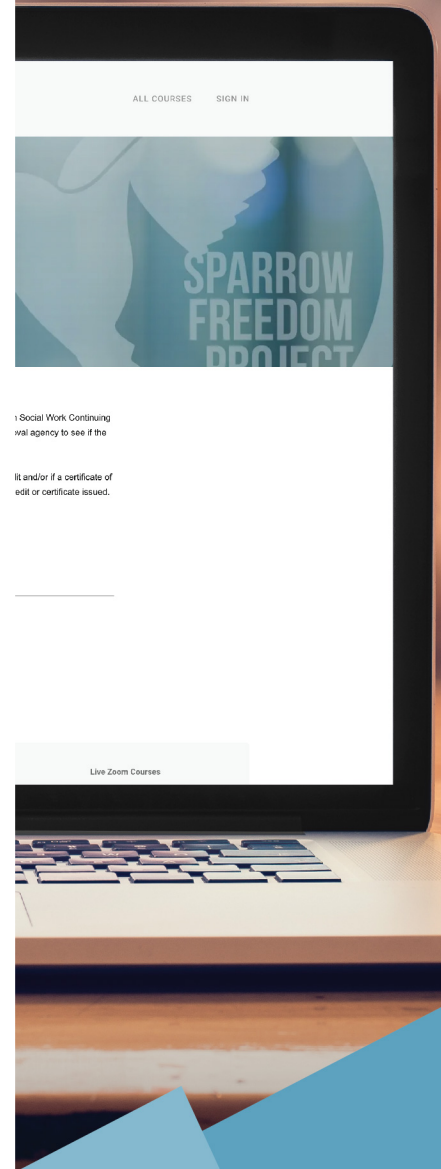
Sparrow Freedom Project is proud to announce the launching of our specialized live online educational courses on human trafficking, taught by subject matter expert David Manville, BSW, MSW, LMSW, ACSW.

These courses cover various aspects of human trafficking, including the scope and what is (and what is not) being done and how professionals and concerned citizens can provide much needed support and services. The courses we offer for CE hours have already been approved for the social work industry, but **all** are welcome to register, including but not limited to: professionals*, parents, caregivers, teachers, or members of the community looking to educate themselves about the realities of trafficking.

Any person may register to take these courses.

For more information about upcoming online courses, registration, and more, visit:

<https://bit.ly/SFPEducationCEU>



*All other professionals outside of social work have the responsibility to check with their respective approval agency, to see if the certificate issued will be accepted for CE credit, for their respective license.



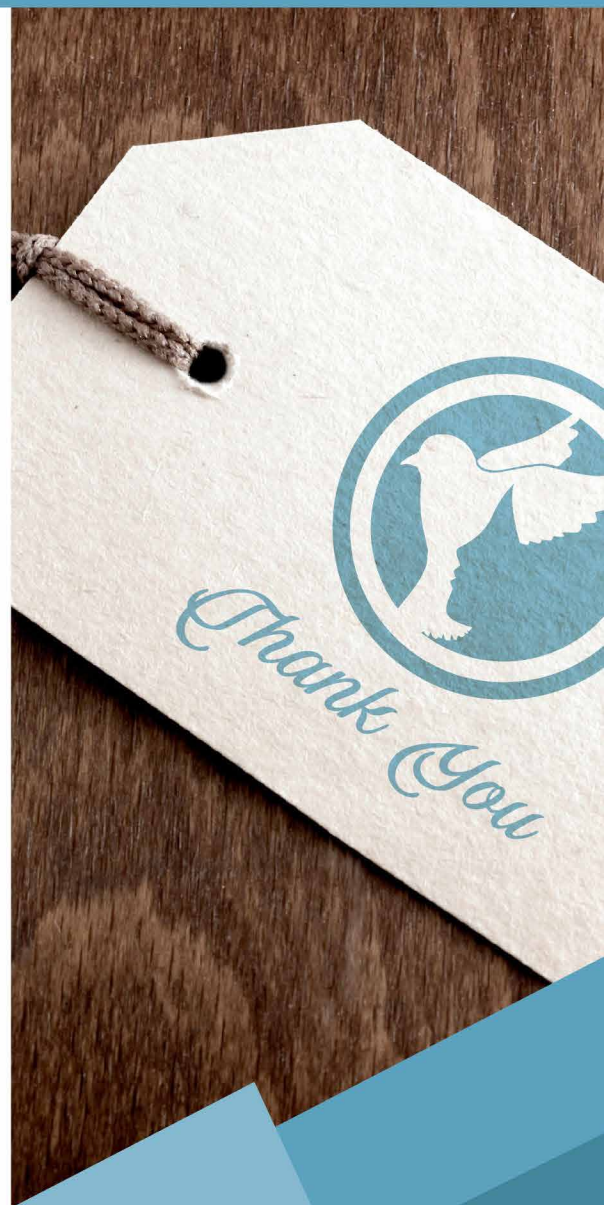
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A WORD OF *Thanks*

WE WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF OUR AMAZING DONORS AND SUPPORTERS IN 2021 FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH THEIR COMPASSION AND GENEROSITY:

Zatkoff Family Legacy Fund
Contract Professionals, Inc.
DFCU Financial
Verizon
DTE Foundation
Soroptimist International of Trenton & Downriver Area
Community Financial Credit Union
Pearls of Great Price
Roz Lullove Cooperman
Epic Races
Crowned Free
Kensington Valley Chamber of Commerce
Mile City Church
First United Methodist Church - Plymouth
First United Methodist Church - South Lyon
Salem Lutheran Church - Ann Arbor
Thrivent Financial
VENUE South Lyon
The Lemon Tree South Lyon
SHARE Detroit

...and to all those who helped support our programs and survivors with their time, talents, and gifts.



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