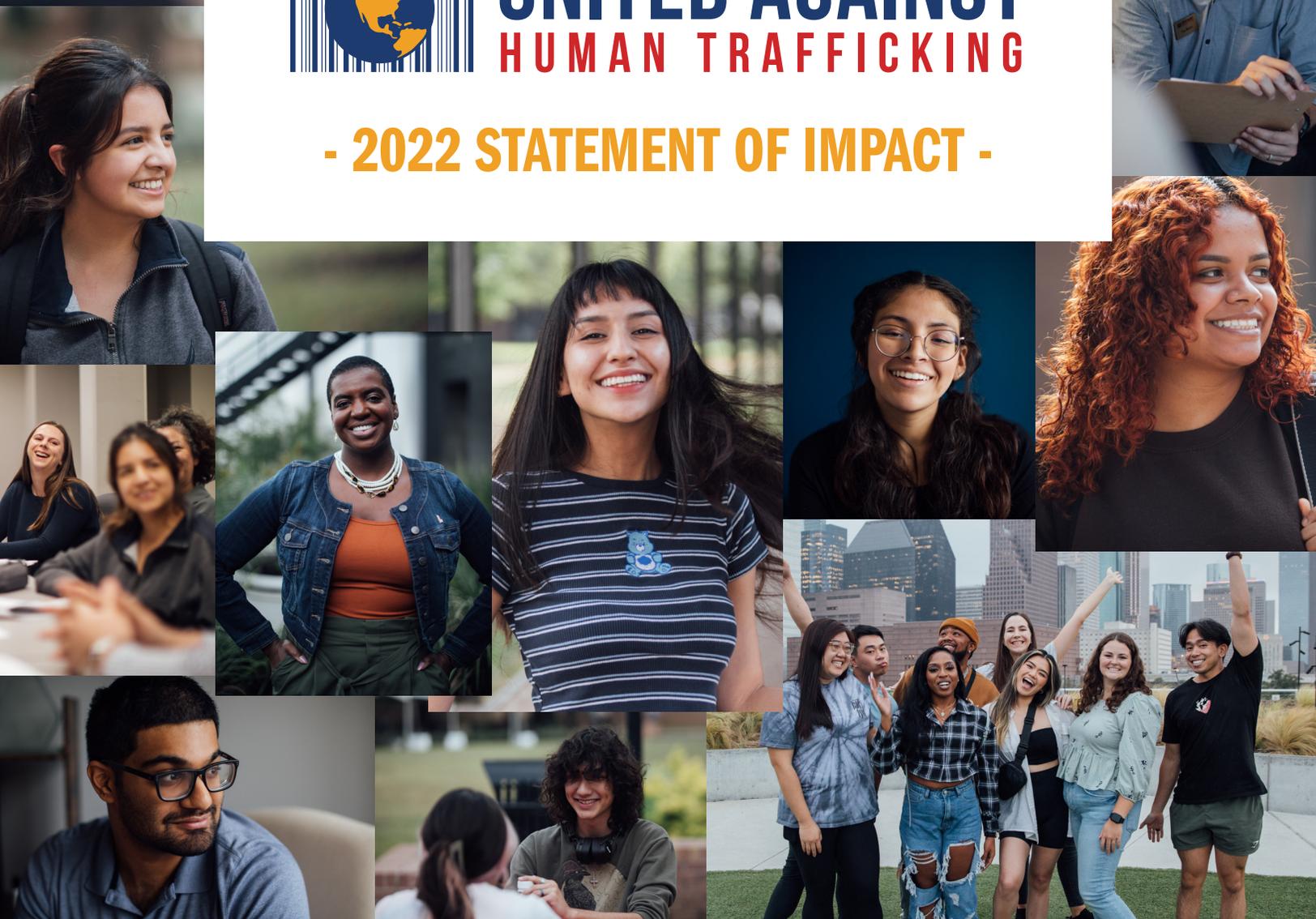




# UNITED AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- 2022 STATEMENT OF IMPACT -



# A LOOK AT OUR TRIUMPHS

Dear Friend,

If I had to summarize 2022 in one word, it would be **DYNAMIC**. We experienced many changes and breakthroughs as an organization. The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was felt at UAHT and throughout the entire anti-trafficking movement. **Still, with you propelling us, we made great leaps forward:** over 60 adult trafficking survivors received wraparound care and took steps to reclaim their lives and freedom. With a focus on empowerment, clients learned critical life skills in a new financial planning course. Thanks to supporters like you, our bilingual English-Spanish demand reduction support groups served 58. To deliver frontline training to more professionals than ever before, 20 bold volunteers pioneered a UAHT Speakers' Bureau. When you read through this Impact Report, please know that **every accomplishment contained within its pages was hard-fought for and lovingly celebrated.**

**Your unwavering support ensures UAHT's ability to adapt and flourish** – and it's why colleagues, partners, and friends trust us as a leader in the anti-trafficking movement. I am deeply honored by the trust that communities place in UAHT's work. They know they can rely on us and allies like you to fill gaps and thrive in that role.

**While UAHT is looked to as a trusted leader in the anti-trafficking movement, we look to people with lived experience of human trafficking as the true leaders.** They are the core of UAHT. They lead from the frontlines and guide the rest of us in the movement. UAHT walks behind these survivors, these thrivers, these overcomers. In 2022, **your support equipped us to center more individuals with lived experience** in events and programs, implementing a comprehensive engagement plan. Perhaps our greatest tribute to overcomers this year was the **Radiate Hope Luncheon:** an event that lifted and centered survivors through an engaging, empowering panel of five overcomers detailing their triumphs, their hopes, and their dreams. The astounding success of Radiate Hope and the outpouring of positive feedback from attendees and panelists prompted UAHT to make the event an annual celebration of survivor leadership.

**We continue to push for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – not just in words, but in deeds. We see our DEI efforts as an intentional way of **BEING**. In 2022, we established a movement standard for DEI with other anti-trafficking nonprofits. In no unclear terms, **we affirmed our unconditional support for all communities,** honoring the dignity and worth of every human being.

Our internal DEI Committee has become an integral part of all aspects of our agency, from our hiring practices to staff training and much, much more. In June, our entire staff traveled to Galveston to celebrate **Juneteenth:** the day Union troops arrived in the historic city to bring news of the Emancipation Proclamation. The unforgettable trip reminded us why we fight: **SO THAT ALL MAY LIVE FREE.** I continue to work alongside other anti-trafficking leaders and boards, encouraging them to center DEI in all their efforts to end human trafficking. **I feel hopeful knowing that the movement has begun to take vital steps to implement the necessary changes for best serving and honoring survivors.**

**Thanks to you and supporters like you, UAHT is expanding beyond Houston.** We are speaking and collaborating with other communities – places like Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, and the Rio Grande Valley. I'm so excited to share that we have established a branch of our Coalition in Lake Charles, LA and The Pathway Referral Network has expanded into South Florida! **The future of UAHT is national. But I want each of you to know that we're still here.** Even when I travel to other areas to continue conversations on how UAHT can serve the rest of the country, **I take Houston with me wherever I go.** We will never stop appreciating where we started. The lessons we've learned here, the love and unity we've cultivated, won't fade. Houston will always be home.

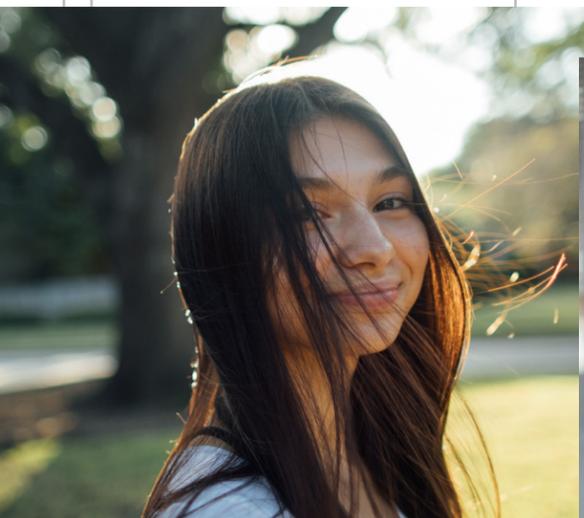
I know UAHT is ready for anything, thanks to the vibrant community that supports us, and —vitality— **I know you will continue standing with us.** You will continue to honor and celebrate survivors as they empower themselves, you will continue to fight for equity, and you will never forget the community that brought UAHT to where it is today. **With all my heart, thank you.**

With so much love and gratitude!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timeka Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Timeka Walker  
Chief Executive Officer



# WHY WE FIGHT



**Mission**  
Ending human trafficking through preventing exploitation, educating the community, and empowering survivors.

**Vision**  
We fight so that all may live free.



# A LOOK AT 2022



Thanks to you, 2022 was a year of breakthroughs. As a single organization, we realize our reach is limited—that's why with your partnership this year, we focused on building out systems of change that ensure vital resources are within reach of trafficking survivors:

1. To strategize a city-wide response and ensure trafficking survivors are identified to receive services in Louisiana, **the United Against Human Trafficking Coalition launched a branch in Calcasieu Parish.**
2. To provide quick access to resources for trafficking survivors, **The Pathway expanded to Florida.**
3. To empower community members to lead anti-trafficking work and equip key frontline professionals to identify trafficking victims, **Speaker's Bureau was formed.**

## We accomplish our mission in 3 Ways:

### Stopping exploitation before it happens.



Keeping teens and adults safe through peer support groups at

- Schools
- Juvenile justice centers
- Child welfare centers
- Alcohol and drug treatment centers

Curbing the demand through

- Stopping Sexual Exploitation: A Program for Men

### Caring for survivors as they heal.



Providing services to clients through

- Wraparound case management
- Life skills classes
- Peer support groups

61 clients served through case management

53 coalition members

### Connecting key players to fight human trafficking together.



Collaborating with individuals and agencies through

- The Pathway
- United Against Human Trafficking Coalition
- Frontline Professional Training

58 sex buyers participated in Stopping Sexual Exploitation

80 survivors referred through The Pathway

3,467 frontline professionals trained

2,428 potential victims served through prevention programs

# WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST

## Misinformation is rampant, but survivors root us in facts.

We hear it all the time. Well-meaning, passionate community members and anti-trafficking advocates call themselves, “a voice for the voiceless.” In doing so, they unintentionally diminish the very people they want to help.

We are not a voice for the voiceless – because trafficking survivors are NOT voiceless.

By not listening to Lived Experience Experts, we miss out on understanding how racism and poverty intersect with human trafficking and that housing and job readiness programs are priorities.

We invite Lived Experience Experts to the table to share their dreams for their lives, ideas for businesses and events, and suggestions for programs and legislation. They lead. We follow.



## In a world divided, we must stay united.

A fractured movement leaves trafficking survivors in the hands of their abusers. If we allow disagreement and personal biases to stand in the way of serving potential trafficking victims and trafficking survivors, we hold them back from safety and freedom.

**We are committed to creating a safe space for all people.**

We humbly acknowledge that in its adolescence, the anti-trafficking movement has neglected People of Color and members of the LGBTQIA+ communities. They have been left out of educational materials, critical services, and leadership positions.

But the facts are undeniable: Black, Indigenous, Asian, and Latinx individuals are disproportionately exploited in human trafficking because of systemic racism. 40% of sex trafficking victims in the U.S. are Black women. 40% of homeless youth are queer, with the lack of community acceptance and stable housing making them targets for traffickers.

These are challenging realities that force us to confront our ideas of who a trafficking victim or survivor is, our roles in ending human trafficking, and how to provide the best care possible.

Despite disagreements, we unite dozens of Overcomers, non-profits, government agencies, and businesses around one common mission we can all agree on: an end to human trafficking.



## Human trafficking is growing, and so must our response.

The first comprehensive federal law to address human trafficking in the U.S. passed only 22 years ago. Communities began scratching the surface of what human trafficking is, where it happens, and who is harmed. As a new movement, the most vital tool at the time was education - which is exactly why UAHT launched in 2005 with programs to teach the community about human trafficking and how to spot it.

But education was only the beginning. The more we learned, the more we realized how dark the horrors of sex and labor trafficking are, and how deeply it infiltrates cities globally.

And human trafficking is only growing. In a new 2022 report, the International Labour Organization revealed that 27.6 million people's freedoms are being stripped away by the crime of human trafficking at any given time. That's 2.7 million more people than were trafficked just 5 years ago.

Education established a foundation upon which we now strategize. With your support, we've learned, we've grown, and we've established specialized programs to stop potential victims from ever being trafficked, empower survivors to find freedom, and build systemic solutions that can keep up with this growing crime.

# OUR HEART THAT RADIATES

Misinformation is rampant, but survivors root us in facts.



## Radiate Hope

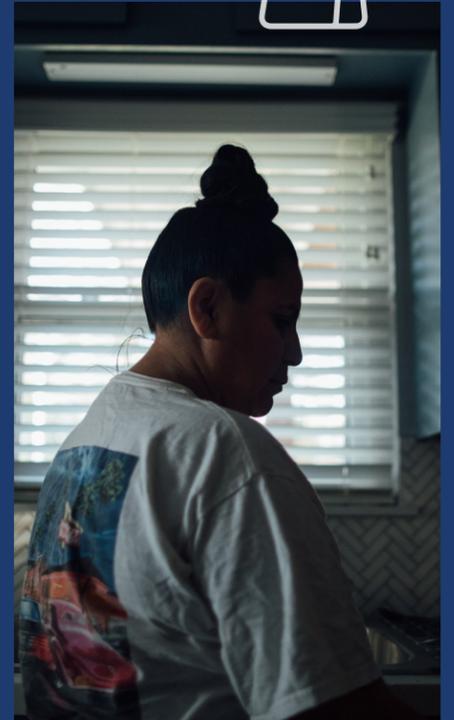
Five Lived Experience Experts shared their stories and vision for the future at our first annual luncheon, Radiate Hope. Rachel Fischer, Karen Ortiz, Heather Smith, Nakia Vestal, and Dr. Gregory Williams each experienced horrific exploitation in their lifetimes, but have worked to heal, complete education programs, launch successful businesses, and advocate for other survivors. They are beacons of hope and leaders lighting the path toward freedom for everyone – living proof that a thriving life after human trafficking is possible. Your support made this powerful event a reality and provided a platform for survivors. Dr. Gregory now leads the UAHT Coalition Steering Committee!

People who experienced human trafficking firsthand are the true experts and heartbeat of the anti-trafficking movement. Your support made it possible for more Lived Experience Experts to guide our educational training programs, community awareness events, and case management. Their hopes and ideas not only improve programs, but they radiate outward and inspire thousands to act, triggering a ripple effect that will end human trafficking.

## Highlights !

- ★ **61** case management clients began to rebuild their lives ★
- ★ **8** survivor panelists shared their stories and hopes for the future ★
- ★ **3** survivor-consulted programs were implemented: ★

Training for social service providers,  
Training for healthcare providers,  
and The Pathway



## Kinaya

### Case Management

Kinaya's fiancé promised her a life of freedom in the United States. But when they arrived, Kinaya was locked in her home - except to clean other people's houses. Even after long days of scrubbing floors and toilets, her fiancé pocketed her hard-earned paycheck. Finally, she spotted an opportunity to escape. "I'll never forget the look on his face as I ran away," she told our Case Manager. Together, Kinaya and our Case Manager found a safe apartment and a reliable car. As she navigates the path to U.S. citizenship with the help of an attorney and continues trauma therapy, Kinaya works remotely in her home country and can live independently. Thanks to your partnership and her unflinching courage, Kinaya is free.

# RADIATE INCLUSIVITY

In a world divided,  
we must stay united.



Arguing, infighting, or outright ignoring people with whom we disagree would be an easy path to take. Instead, we choose the road of hard work finding common values, boldly diving into vulnerable conversations, and working together to ensure no potential victim or trafficking survivor gets left behind. Your support made it possible for our team, our partners, and our clients to feel like their stories, beliefs, and voices matter in our collective fight against exploitation.

Together, we delve into the deeply rooted issues of racism and gender discrimination that overlap with human trafficking – so we can end it.

## The Justice Series

In 2022, we partnered with The Landing, Twelve11 Partners, and Faith Collaborative to continue The Justice Series. The event series highlights the overlap of racial inequity and human trafficking. In February, Dr. Michon Benson's words hit hard, "you can't fight human trafficking for all without understanding Black history." We were honored to co-host with A 2nd Cup an exclusive screening of Truffle Sauce, which told the story of a Black girl from Houston trying to put her life back together after being trafficked.

We led a new working group of CEOs and top leaders of the local anti-trafficking movement. With A 2nd Cup, the City of Houston Mayor's Office, Demand Disruption, Street Grace, The Landing, and Unbound, we discuss how to implement diversity, equity, and inclusion practices to improve our workplaces and to better serve clients.

## Highlights !

- ★ In honor of Juneteenth, a historic milestone in the fight for equality and freedom, our team visited Galveston and followed the footsteps of Major General Gordon Granger and the soldiers who brought the news of the Emancipation Proclamation to Texas. ★
- ★ Coalition members learned how to Create Safe Affirming Spaces for LGBTQ+ overcomers in a training presented by Sam Hernandez. ★



## Renaldo

### Stopping Sexual Exploitation

Recognizing the problem of human trafficking means helping buyers untangle their trauma which led them to buy sex. Some of the hardest conversations to navigate are the ones we have with sex buyers. Each has perpetrated and harmed others. Simultaneously, each has their own story – most full of trauma – and the potential to change. Renaldo, a husband, father, and veteran was arrested for buying sex. During the Stopping Sexual Exploitation group, Renaldo shared that he had been sexually assaulted when he was just a teenager. As he reflected, tears welled, and he made a life-changing connection, "I had one experience over 20 years ago that brought tears to my eyes today. Imagine how people who are forced into prostitution feel. I didn't realize what I was doing was harmful and that I can change my behavior." Thanks to your support, Renaldo decided never to buy sex again.

# RADIATE TOGETHER

Human trafficking is growing, and so must our response.

## UAHT Coalition Expands to Calcasieu Parish

Health crises, rising inflation, and racial and gender discrimination brewed a perfect storm that traffickers harnessed for their profit. Over the past 5 years, human trafficking has grown to steal the freedom of over 27 million people worldwide. To confront vast and deeply rooted exploitation, we build system-changing forces that address human trafficking's underlying issues and mobilize communities to serve trafficking overcomers.

Houston's anti-human trafficking response has been a model for cities across the nation and the world. We've learned so much about how to empower vulnerable people to avoid ever being exploited, how to serve overcomers with integrity, and how to foster effective collaboration between government officials, non-profits, businesses, and more. We are pleased to expand our reach and share all that we've learned with our neighbors in Louisiana. The new UAHT Coalition in Calcasieu Parish is uniting our efforts to end human trafficking across the state border!

## Highlights !

★ Coalition in Calcasieu Parish launched with 6 powerhouse agencies

★ The Pathway pilot program launched in Florida with 5 partners

## Coalition Members

- 3 Strands Global
- A 2nd Cup
- Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse
- All Stars Project
- Ambassador for Christ Youth Ministries
- Angela Maskevich
- Bay Area Turning Point
- Boundless Mercy dba The Ark Bakery & Café
- Calcasieu Parish District Attorney's Office
- Calcasieu Parish Human Services
- Calcasieu Parish Police Jury
- Chapelwood United Methodist Church
- Children at Risk
- Coffee:30
- Covenant House
- Crime Stoppers of Houston
- David Aitkenhead
- Dominican Sisters of Houston
- EEOC - Houston District Office
- Elijah Rising
- Fe Y Justicia
- Girls Empowerment Network
- Gregory Williams
- Heather Smith
- Houston Area Women's Center
- Houston Legal Aid Center
- Juvenile and Children's Advocacy Project (JCAP)
- Knights of Peter Claver
- Living Word Christian Church
- Love146
- MasterWord Services, Inc.
- Melissa Rangel (TCFM)
- MiCreate
- Office of Public Health Louisiana
- Office of the Texas Attorney General
- Peta-gay Ledbetter
- Project Protect Our Children
- Redeemed Ministries
- Refuge for Women Texas Gulf Coast
- Refugee Services of Texas
- San Jose Clinic
- Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston
- Southern Touch Entertainment
- St. Luke's United Methodist Church
- State of Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice
- Street Grace
- Texas Advocacy Project
- Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission
- Texas Children's Hospital
- The Landing
- Unbound Houston
- United Way of Southwest Louisiana
- YMCA International Services



## Nevaeh

### The Pathway

It took 143 phone calls for 16-year-old Nevaeh to find shelter. She had already endured the horrors of sex trafficking and was pregnant with no place to stay. Her case manager helped search for a shelter that could accept her. Hours passed, then days, before FINALLY, Nevaeh was accepted by a local organization. What if Nevaeh could have found and applied for the right shelter in just 2 minutes? The perpetual phone tag and days spent in limbo are problems The Pathway solves. Case managers and clients can fill out 1 simple, online form in just 2 minutes. In just a few clicks, the appropriate shelter will immediately pop up and the application will be sent. This is the future of the anti-trafficking movement: a movement where every one of your donation dollars goes further because survivors get what they need FASTER.

# THANK YOU

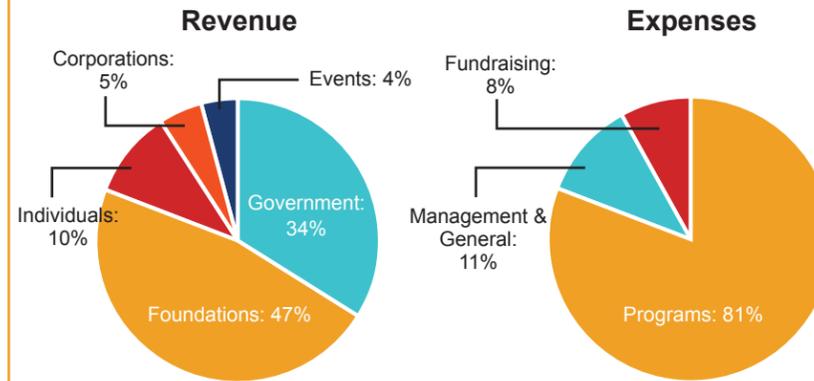
You are a life-giving force that makes it possible for vulnerable teens to stay safe from exploitation and for trafficking survivors to rebuild their lives. Without the generosity of donors and volunteers, our programs simply wouldn't exist. Every day, we are grateful for your generosity and the difference you make in the community. *Thank you.*



## Our Pledge

Your donations fuel our mission to end human trafficking by preventing exploitation, educating the community, and empowering survivors. We pledge excellent stewardship of every donation we receive according to best practices; we underwent a financial audit in 2022. We are transparent with our financial annual reports and Internal Revenue Service disclosure forms.

## When you give to UAHT, you fuel life-saving programs



## Highlights !

★ **115** active volunteers generously gave ★ **518** hours of service ★

## Thank You to Our Donors

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dominican Sisters of Houston | The George Foundation          |
| Houck Family Foundation      | The Hibbler Foundation         |
| Houston Methodist            | The Jelke Foundation           |
| James and Marie Bogues       | The Slaughter Foundation       |
| Ray C. Fish Foundation       | The Slave 2 Nothing Foundation |
| Southwest Airlines           | The Vaughn Foundation          |
| Stardust Fund                | The William Stamps Farish Fund |
| Strake Foundation            | United Way                     |
| The Brown Foundation         | Wells Fargo                    |
| The City of Houston          |                                |

# VOLUNTEERS



## Jaime

Volunteer Speaker's Bureau

Two years ago, Jaime attended a UAHT training for healthcare professionals. She immediately became passionate about ending human trafficking and offered to volunteer her public speaking skills. In 2022, our volunteer Speaker's Bureau launched, and Jaime jumped on the opportunity to equip other community members and professionals to act. She was the first Speaker's Bureau volunteer to complete the training program and presented a Human Trafficking 101 to over 100 community members!

# HOW TO TAKE ACTION



## Donate

Every dollar you give to UAHT keeps vulnerable people safe, empowers trafficking survivors to reclaim their lives, and equips community members to fight human trafficking together.

## Volunteer

Your interests and skills – public speaking, photography, art, legal aid, hospitality, or anything you do well! – can be applied to fight human trafficking.

## Make an Introduction

Do you know someone we should meet? Maybe it's someone passionate about our mission, has resources to share, or needs to receive our programs. Please, help us connect!

## Corporate Gift Match

Business owners can double, triple, or even quadruple the impact of their employees by offering a donation-matching program that changes lives.

## Sponsor an Event

Invest in our events that provide resources to vulnerable communities, promote fair labor practices, and provide a platform for trafficking survivors to share their stories.





# UNITED AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## STAY CONNECTED



6671 Southwest Freeway, Suite 220  
Houston TX 77074

**UAHT.ORG**

