

about human trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery.

Women, children, and men are held by force, unable to walk away, doing things they don't want to do.

It happens here in the United States. Both foreign nationals and US citizens are exploited or enslaved in industries such as:











trade service

retail + forestry restaurants

manufacturing

Risk factors may include poverty, racism, abuse, runaways, domestic violence, unemployment and other lack of opportunities.

In other words, human trafficking is the result of brokenness in individuals, communities, and systems.





In the fall of 2012, a group of people gathered around a dining room table in a small town in Illinois. Each of us was passionate about ending slavery, but none of us knew what that looked like.

Our group became one of the first community-based teams of the Set Free Movement, an international non-profit organization addressing human trafficking. We started by researching the forms of modern slavery at the local level and learn about what else was being done.

We found out
there were only 8
beds for survivors of
human trafficking in the
entire state of Illinois at
that time. We decided to
add to that number
by 50%.

But we wanted to provide more than shelter. We knew we wanted to offer restoration and a journey to stability. We wanted to give a second chance at a new life.

In September 2015, we opened up a home called Eden's Glory to support female survivors of human trafficking for up to two years. Since then, we have invited seven women to heal from their former life and eventually thrive in our safe, nurturing, family environment.

who we are

We are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization that seeks to restore survivors, create new futures, and end modern slavery. We are members of the broader Set Free Movement family.

our mission

We provide a place where survivors of human trafficking are restored to thrive for the praise and glory of God.

our values

- Pursuing the glory of God in all work.
- Strength-based, trauma-informed care.
- Christ-centered approach to healing and restoration.
- Ongoing development of community partnerships.
- Ongoing efforts to train and equip members of society.

our vision

We want all the women we work with to be able to establish a better understanding of themselves and their past, develop a healthy coping plan and learn to manage their triggers, pursue sustainable employment, find long-term and safe housing, build healthy relationship skills, create a support system and explore their faith in God.





Survivors often lose their sense of self and pride through the lies, manipulation, abuse, coercion, and trauma of human trafficking. Many give up on dreams they once had.

We're here to help change that course so that survivors can heal and thrive for the glory of God. Eden's Glory is two-year residential treatment program for female survivors of human trafficking ages 18-30. Our program is designed to treat each aspect of a survivor's health—physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and relational—to fully support her on her journey to holistic recovery.

Using a strengths-based, traumainformed approach, we work with each resident to create and implement an individualized life plan.

In addition to providing 24-hour care in a Jesus-centered family environment, some key aspects of our programming includes:



Trauma therapy + mental health classes



Daily exercise + nutritious meals



Medication + off-site health care



Daily devotions + spiritual support



Education, life skills, + job training



Mentorship + community service learning



Art therapy, creative activities + fun outings

stories of transformation ___



When we asked our residents what made them dedicate themselves to their healing so wholeheartedly, they spoke of the compassion and time we invest in them, the tools and resources they receive to deal with trauma, and the genuine support of the community. Referring to Eden's Glory, one of the women smiled and said: "It feels like home." Here are a few of their stories:



freedom

A resident drew the artwork above to depict her transition to living at Eden's Glory. Her art speaks of "the game" of sex trafficking in the US, the cruel reality she once knew, and how she eventually broke free from her bondage. The barcode beneath her is crumbling. What once was commodified is no longer for sale.



restoration

One of our residents came to us with several tattoos referencing drugs and demons. We were able to have two of her tattoos covered professionally. During the process, the resident wept and told us she could literally see the old life passing away-that the blood of Christ truly covers over wounds and removes the past.



healing

After a few months, one of our residents made a powerful comment: "Eden's Glory is not a program with a checklist, it's a new way of life." That is our goal: to help them face their past, shed the shame, and seek the truth-and then we can help them create a new life plan with realistic goals to get to where they want to end up.



hope

Our program is not only about healing, but enjoying life. For several of the women, their lost childhood is restored through activities like horse therapy, crafts, and riding bikes, giving them a deep hope. One of the ladies once prayed, "God, Here's my heart. I am sorry it is full of holes and bruised. I am trusting you will stitch it up."



our work in the community (_____

We were birthed out of the Set Free Movement, which coaches and equips community-based teams in the US and around the world to address exploitation in their own neighborhoods.

Since 2012, we have actively engaged Bond county—and eventually the state of Illinois—in three main ways:



education

We have trained thousands of key influencers, youth, and people at-risk of trafficking across the country.



prevention

We address the root causes of human trafficking in our area, especially through our emphasis on youth engagement.



mobilization

We raise up leaders, partner with other agencies, and mobilize churches and colleges to address exploitation.



Our work has been widely recognized for its effectiveness and its success in meeting a desperate need. These are some of our key achievements:



State of Illinois Senate Recognition

We received this award in 2015 for our "invaluable front line efforts to identify and eradicate the most egregious crimes" through our work with Eden's Glory and our Set Free Movement chapter.



Soroptimist International of Vandalia's Award

We received this award In 2016, for "Advancing the Status of Women".



Illinois Statewide Task Force

We were invited to a legislative hearing in the Fall of 2017 by the Illinois Statewide Task Force, a project of the Illinois Senate, to inform policy legislation as it pertains to victims, emphasizing prevention in childhood.

