

EMPOWERHER NETWORK

IMPACT REPORT 2019



Diya is the Sanskrit word for lamp. This symbol represents the victory of light over darkness, celebrates knowledge over ignorance, and focuses on hope over despair.



A SURVIVOR'S VIEW ON THE NETWORK

"A few years ago, I did the hard work to restart my life by fleeing traffickers and going through treatment to get off the drugs that kept me stuck. I relocated, got a job, ate three meals a day, and said my prayers every night. I was ready for a second chance! But life went from rough to rougher. Without an education, and with blemishes on my legal record, I couldn't make more than minimum wage. I had overcome the worst, the hardest, the darkest moments... I was ready to live, to thrive, to find happiness... but I was stuck.



The truth is, with unstable housing and without a living wage, I wasn't free from danger. I started going to a support group for survivors in my local town where I met others experiencing similar hardships. I dreamed of being reunited with my son, of building a healthy family for him,

but even after years of being clean, I could not manage life on my own financially. That was a major roadblock—it robbed me of hope and dignity.

When I was nominated to Empower Her Network, I realized I was still in the journey of survivorship. I found a

place where I could seek help for my positive dreams, not just a refuge from my worst nightmares. My advocate and I built a vision for my life that was grounded in reality and specific to my needs. I was given the opportunity to own my own vehicle. With reliable transportation, job prospects opened up. I was able to sign my name to a lease for the first time in my life.

This December, my parents came to visit with my son. It was a miracle. I have begun to show my son that his Mommy is making a safe space for him. And it's more than that. I have created a safe space for myself. I breathe easy knowing I have control over my home environment. My advocate and I are looking into education options so I can start a career! My Advocate helped me find a piece of myself that has been long hidden. I remember now all the dreams I had as a child, all the hopes that still live tucked away inside my heart.

I am home now."

THE NEED

Most survivors leave shelter living without a realistic long-term economic alternative. A minimum wage job is not a livable wage job. These women present at extreme risk for re-trafficking, exploitation, and homelessness. They need assistance to break exploitation and poverty cycles to remain forever free.



EMPOWER WHO? EMPOWER HOW?

She's extraordinary, having already shown the will to overcome adversity. Her fierce determination and ambitious goals prompt a caseworker with one of the organizations we partner with to nominate her to the network. From there, a local Empower Her Network advocate collaborates with the survivor to understand her unique challenges and goals. Once a pathway to independence is identified, an Empowerment Plan spanning 12-18 months is launched and the hard work begins.

EHN's innovative approach leans into existing services to eliminate overlapping resources while putting each survivor in the driver's seat, often for the first time. It is true empowerment, with clinical support and guidance.



Empower Her Network stands by survivors side, providing the healing and empowering advocacy enabling survivors to live safe and fulfilling lives.

- Jaycie Hu, Nyc Empowerment Advocate

Having been stripped of basic human rights for years and sometimes decades, the women of Empower Her Network face different combinations of intimidating but not insurmountable obstacles:

- 🚫 Being caught in the minimum wage poverty spiral
- 🚫 Having terrible or no credit
- 🚫 Unable to cover the upfront costs of securing permanent housing
- 🚫 Can't afford the delta between financial aid and tuition
- 🚫 Interested in a vocational program that doesn't offer financial aid



Alumni Ann Marie smiling and happy at the completion of her Empowerment Plan.

When we call our employment partners to thank them, they always say some variation of, "There's no need to thank me. The women from your program are the best workers on staff."



Baltimore Advocate Shamere McKenzie with Executive Director Kristy Norbert before a presentation in Baltimore.

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Empower Her Network removes barriers that would be impossible or take years for a survivor to do without support. Our Advocates walk alongside survivors to ignite hope, establish focus, curate confidence, and fund tangible needs.

Empower Her Network ended 2019 with:

34

National Partner Organizations

67

Survivors of Human Trafficking on Active Empowerment Plans

14

Alumni Who Achieved Fiscal Independence*

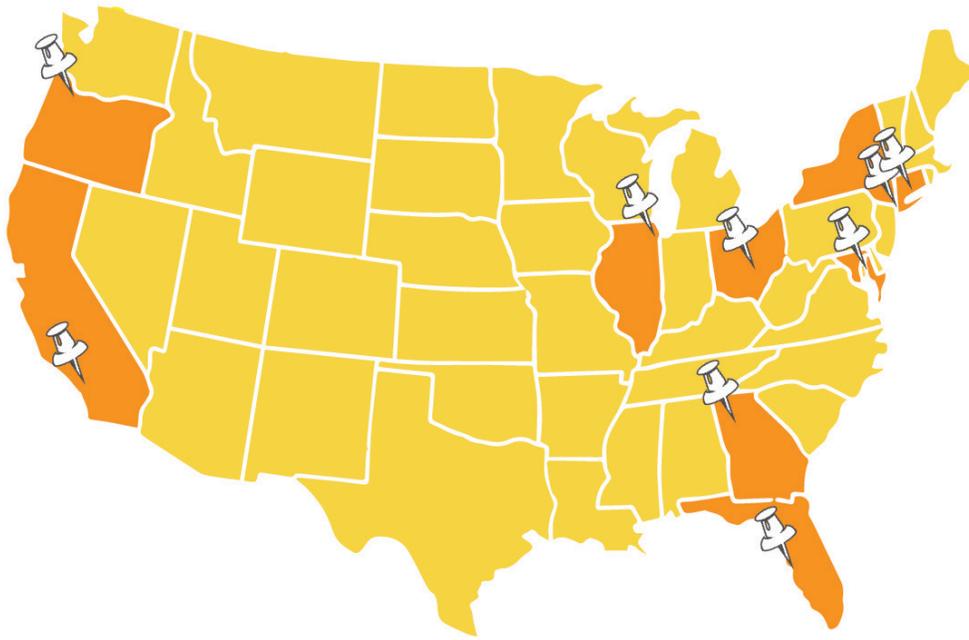
15

Nominations on the Wait List

*To date, all program alumni have successfully secured permanent housing and experienced an average salary increase of \$9607 annually (from \$21,423 to \$31,030 in only 18 months)

WE ARE EMPOWER HER NETWORK

Empower Her Network addresses a national gap in services. We welcome the day we operate in all 50 states. If your community is ready to be a part of the solution, contact Kristy Norbert – knorbert@empowerhernetwork.org.



Atlanta Advocate Melba Robinson with Tampa Advocate Ileana Abreu

DEMOGRAPHICS
41% LatinX
39% African American
11% Asian
8% White
1% Native American
45% Immigrants, 55% American Born



A member working on her Empowerment Plan draft

FUNDING

In 2019, Empower Her Network was honored to become a NoVo Foundation Life Stories Grantee. For three years, we will receive \$150,000 that will underwrite ALL operating expenses, as well as fund empowerment plans in locations under-supported by the local community.

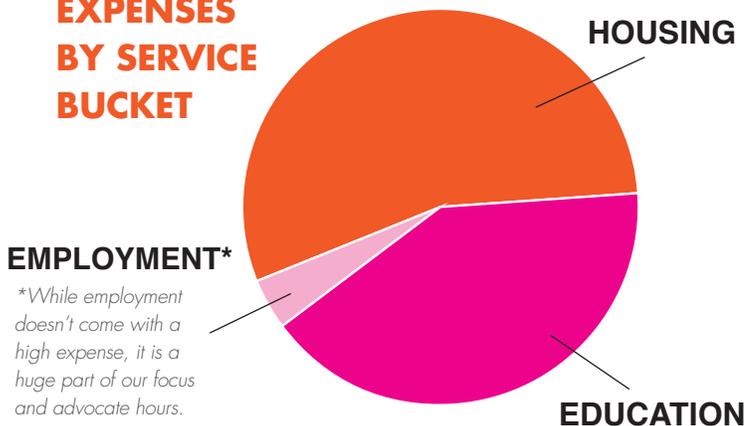
THIS MEANS EVERY ADDITIONAL DOLLAR DONATED GOES DIRECTLY TO SURVIVOR PROGRAM SUPPORT!

INCOME	
Foundations	391,727
Individual Donations	35,685
Corporate Donations	20,174
Bracelet Sales	1,412
Board Donations	32,320
Total	481,318

EXPENSES	
Program Expenses	219,332
Operating Expenses	32,343
Earmarked Expenses*	192,000
Total	443,675

*EHN will never be another unmet promise to the survivors we collaborate with. We secure funding for the full value of the 12-18 month Empowerment Plan before committing services. "Earmarked Expenses" represent funds tied to active empowerment plans.

EXPENSES BY SERVICE BUCKET



The Better Business Bureau's standards require **65%** of donations to go towards program to be considered a charity. Charity Navigator suggests organizations direct at least **75%** of funds to program. Excellence is considered **85%**.

In 2019, 90% of funds donated to the network went to survivor programing.

A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD

Circumstance is all that separates us from the survivor community, and circumstances can be changed. As we embark on 2020, we look back at the last three years with extreme gratitude and love. We exist because of the bravery of survivors and the fortitude of their supporters—you.

This is a national need. If you are interested in engaging, please reach out. There are so many ways to be part of the solution:

- 🕒 leaning into difficult conversations about the reality of trafficking in this country
- 🕒 donating
- 🕒 writing letters of encouragement to survivors in the program
- 🕒 engaging on social media to build awareness
- 🕒 connecting us with mission-aligned corporate contacts and family foundations
- 🕒 hosting a house party for advocacy and fundraising
- 🕒 volunteering your skillset
- 🕒 becoming a steady-wage employment partner

Celebrate the mentors who supported your journey by creating mentorship opportunities for survivors. We cannot conceive of a gift greater than the gift of independence.

**Thank you for showing up for survivors.
We are stronger together!**

- From Board of Empower Her Network



"Empower Her Network has helped me be a better parent to my daughter. She will not have to go through what I did because of the work I am doing now."

THANK YOU

Empower Her Network extends our thanks to the bracelet-buyers, individual donors, corporate friends, and family foundations who have already gotten involved.



**Ed and Muffy
Liebert**

**Elizabeth Carse
Foundation**

**Empower Her
Network Board**



**Julian A. and
Lois G. Brodsky
Foundation**

**Lilah Hilliard
Fisher
Foundation**



**Tom and Pam
O'Neil**

**Tampa Women
I Team**

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