



PROGRAM INFORMATION



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.



EMPOWER HOW?

Empower Her Network collaborates with ready survivors of human trafficking who find themselves in the same vulnerable circumstance that led to their initial exploitation by removing housing barriers, financing education, and uncovering employment opportunities.

Destination: Her choice.

WHO WE SERVE

She's extraordinary, having already shown the will to overcome adversity. She wants more for herself than the history from which she comes. She has goals and hopes and dreams. Once a pathway is identified to achieve them, Empower Her Network helps her breakdown roadblocks along the way. The women we serve are positive, willful, self-determined, hardworking American born and immigrant survivors of domestic human trafficking who identify as female and are 18+ years old with legal immigration and work status in the United States.

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: trapped in the minimum wage poverty spiral, facing housing barriers with bad credit or no credit, unable to afford vocational or education opportunities.

Empower Her Network funds those tangible needs while curating confidence, igniting hope, and establishing focus. These life skills are purposefully held back from trafficked persons and need to be relearned.

We believe circumstance is all that separates us and circumstances can be changed.

To learn more about the Empower Her Network advocates and board members please visit:
<https://www.empowerhernetwork.org/team/>

The Challenge

Empower Her Network exists to address an issue identified by immediate aftercare providers: **Domestic survivors of human trafficking often exhaust available services after 3-24 months without a realistic long-term economic alternative.**

These women present at high risk for retrafficking, homelessness, and resorting to sex work. They need assistance tackling societal barriers surrounding housing, education, and employment to break exploitation and poverty cycles and remain forever free.

For the ones who are ready, EHN clears the path to a future they design.

OUR APPROACH

This is not a Band-Aid charity or a handout. 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. Our unique approach puts each survivor at the center of service, determining her own success.

The key to EHN's early and ongoing success is the determined and hardworking survivors in the program. Not everyone can rise above extreme trauma and chart their own course to a new, empowered future. But some can. Our process is rooted in its strong partnerships with residential shelters and aftercare programs that nominate ready survivors. Empower Her Network's local, trauma-informed Advocates collaborate with nominees on a self-determined Empowerment Plan that spans 12 to 18 months and focuses on housing solutions, financing education, and establishing steady wage employment. In line with best practices working with domestic violence survivors and homeless persons, EHN supports a permanent housing model and employment paths that focus on the individual's unique needs and plans.

EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS ADDRESSED

- ⌚ Survivor has a job and can afford rent, but not the upfront last month/security deposit required.
- ⌚ Employed and mentally/physically ready survivor in a position to go back to school, who cannot afford the delta between financial aid and tuition
- ⌚ Survivor with a specialty skillset from her home country that requires a certificate or license to practice in the United States
- ⌚ There is a promising vocational path, but no financial aid offered to get the certificate
- ⌚ Survivor has a skillset that requires equipment to leverage (i.e., seamstress)

She was trafficked for years and never graduated high school. She stood out to her case worker in our partner program because she's motivated to finish her education and start a career. She takes advantage of the opportunities given to her by the program she's in, and has a tremendous amount of motivation and ambition. She also has to move out of her temporary living situation. She can afford rent, but has terrible credit because a trafficker used her identity. How can she find permanent housing? If she can't, how will she keep her job without an address? She's worked so hard and doesn't want to be trapped in the system forever. Her case manager knew she'd be a perfect fit for Empower Her Network, could picture her getting her GED, maybe even going to college. She has the charisma and tenacity it takes to start this next chapter, she just needs help removing obstacles that seem impossible to overcome. Empower Her Network collaborated with her on an 18-month Empowerment Plan that will remove the obstacles in her way and clear the path for independence. Because we were established to address a gap in services, demand is high and there are waiting lists in every local area we serve.

MEET THE SURVIVORS

The best way to understand the program is through individual survivors' stories. All of the details below are rooted in real cases. We've pulled pieces from several survivors' realities to create composite sketches, avoiding re-exploitation and ensuring Empower Her Network protects the privacy and safety of the women.

MEET HANNAH

"I will never forget the first night I was forced to sleep with a man. I cried all night, and that was only the beginning." For Hannah, abuse started in the foster care system. Looking for a way out, she latched onto a boyfriend who said he loved her and who, at first, treated her well. After high school she moved in with him, and soon after he wouldn't let her leave and began pimping her out for money. Heroin was injected as means of coercion. Hannah escaped to a plaza parking lot, and now lives in a rented room with her young daughter. She has taken admirable steps toward independence, remaining sober for two years and retaining a job at a coffee shop. With financial and emotional support from Empower Her Network, Hannah is determined to receive her bachelor's degree from a local community college and rise above the minimum wage poverty spiral. In a year and a half, Hannah will graduate. With elevated wages, she plans first to secure an apartment for her and her daughter.

MEET VICTORIA

Trafficked from Guatemala, Victoria was convinced to come to the states by a man promising to pay for her cosmetology school in exchange for a little work on the side. When Victoria arrived, she learned she'd been tricked. Her documents were taken, she had no means to communicate with her family or the outside world, and she was forced to clean a factory seven days a week. After two years being held captive, the FBI raided the factory and Victoria was sent to receive services. She is sharp and motivated. She now works at a front desk and is applying to cosmetology schools.

MEET DESTINEE



Destinee was exploited and trafficked in multiple states.

After getting away, she worked with a partner organization for three years. When we met Destinee in her apartment we learned that, although she was working two full time jobs at minimum wage, she only had a blow-up mattress for furniture and was barely able to meet monthly expenses. An unexpected expense or requiring sick days would have quickly unraveled everything she'd accomplished. EHN and Destinee developed an Empowerment Plan to get her stabilized. EHN bought her household essentials and subsidized rent for two months as she built up some savings and pursued a single, higher paying job. Destinee has since secured a steady-wage position as a Quality Control Worker at a security agency, and is applying to administrative and business certification programs. We will support the gap between financial aid and tuition, with the goal of obtaining high-wage employment that forever secures her financial independence. Destinee reports that "EHN has alleviated some struggles, and empowered me to value my worth."

FUNDING PHILOSOPHY

We won't be the perfect fit for all funders; we are a perfect fit for those who understand that life transformations happen one person at a time and have exponential impact by breaking generational exploitation and poverty cycles.

— Abby Fabiaschi, Founder

Empower Her Network will never be yet another unmet promise for the survivors with whom we collaborate. To this end, we secure funding for the full value of the 12-18 month Empowerment Plan before committing services, along with a reserve that ensures our ability to execute against programs from an operating perspective. We do this by accounting for rollover costs of active Empowerment Plans into every budget cycle and monitoring our hard data to understand averages with accuracy for robust forecasting. Information on all three of our constituents — survivors, partner NGOs, and donors — are maintained in Salesforce.com providing automated, transparent reporting. We are grateful to share that all of our marketing collateral design, website development, social media output, CRM software, technology support, financial reconciliations, and tax work are provided by subject matter experts pro bono. EHN is 100% privately funded, and every donation matters. Monthly donations help us sustain and prepare for commitments with survivors.

FOUNDATION GRANTS



Julian A. and
Lois G. Brodsky
Foundation

Lilah Hilliard
Fisher
Foundation

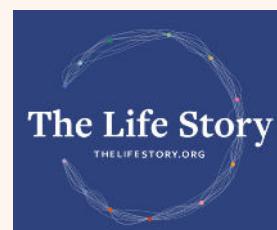
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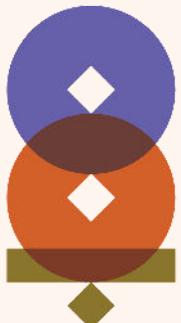
Julie Zuraw Group



Salesforce.com Administrator



NoVo Foundation
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NEDA NOBARI
FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL IMPACT



\$6,000

Support an Empowerment Plan for one survivor, forever transforming a life with fiscal independence



\$2,500

Cost of two industrial sewing machines to kick start survivor's own business



\$3,000

One-year vocational program yielding steady-wage employment



\$1,500

Housing deposit for a survivor who makes enough to pay rent but is held back by the upfront expenses which act as a barrier for minimum wage earners



\$1,000

Household essentials for survivor in her first apartment



\$800

Refurbished MacBook pro required for a certificate program



\$500

Help toward housing costs while survivor is in a vocational training program. Also, cost of used educational books for survivor enrolled in full time school with a scholarship for two semesters.



\$250

Cost of a tutor each month for a survivor who is illiterate in her native language and in English. Also, cost for survivor who is a seamstress and recently needed to buy fabric to make her first round of items to sell. With her profits, she now buys her own!



\$100

One month of transportation for a survivor to commute between work and school

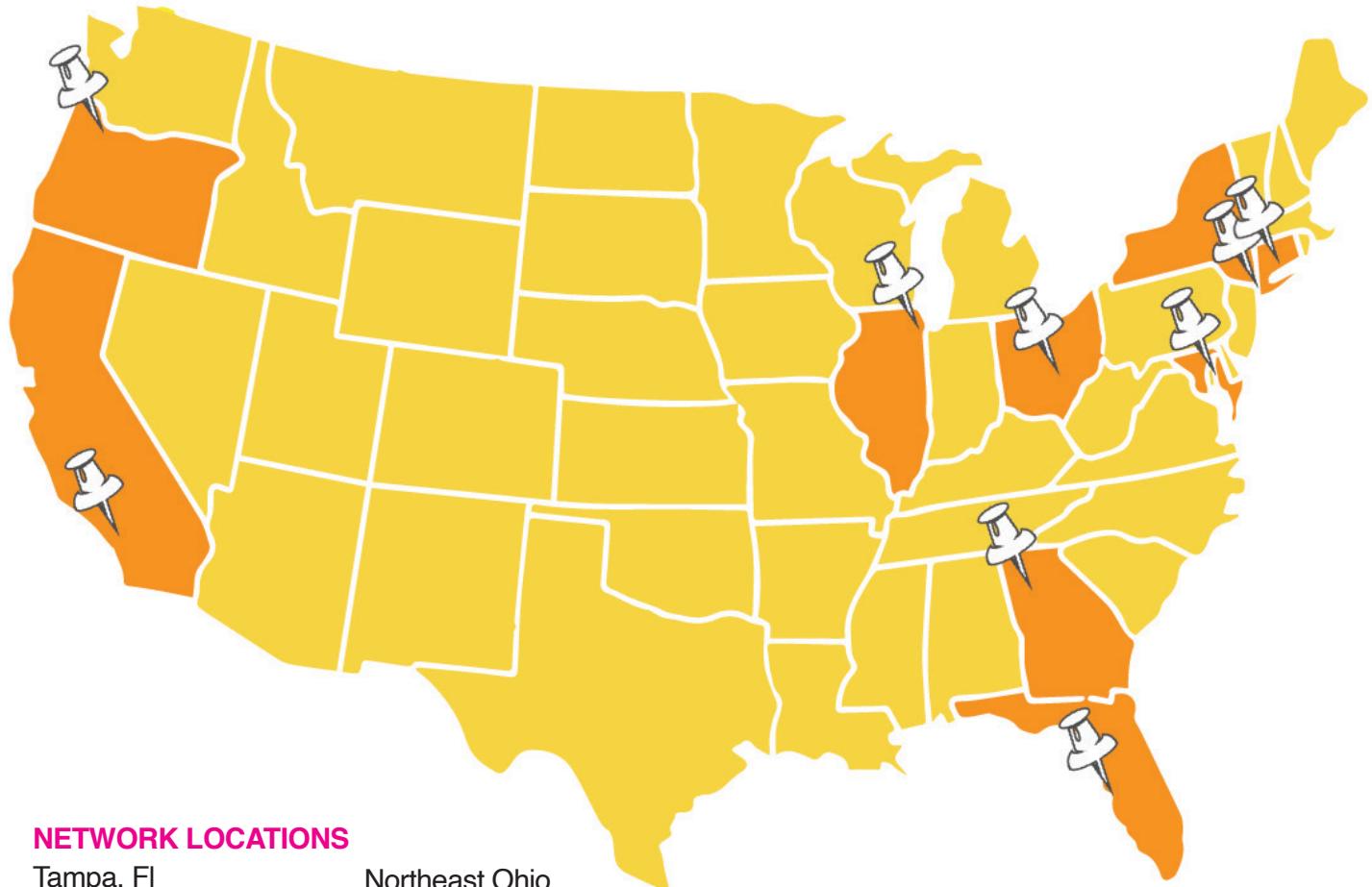


\$50

Application fees for educational/vocational training programs that cannot be waived

2019 AND BEYOND...

This is a national need that requires a national solution.



NETWORK LOCATIONS

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Tampa, FL | Northeast Ohio |
| Atlanta, GA | Chicago, IL |
| Baltimore, MD | Portland, OR |
| Throughout Connecticut | Southern California |
| New York City, NY | |

"There is no force equal to a woman determined to rise."

- W.E.B Dubois

Contact EHN

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We are thrilled to have you get involved with our amazing group of supporters. To find out more about or to make a donation, please visit:

www.empowerhernetwork.org/donate.