



2023

Impact Report

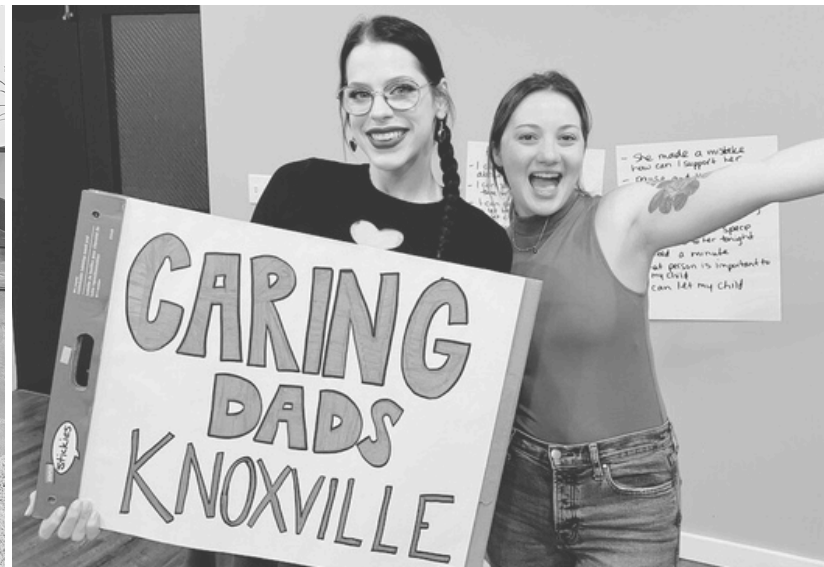
CCAHT

COMMUNITY COALITION
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

POWERING

grow
FREE
TENNESSEE

To all the donors, supporters, and volunteers who helped make 2023
our best year yet



A heartfelt *Thank you* from the CCAHT team.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL STORYTELLING

At the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking, survivor-centered care is a core value we practice every day. To foster change and empower survivors, we prioritize their voices and experiences in all aspects of our work.

This report features real stories from survivors who have granted us permission to share their journeys, hoping to inspire and help others. We approach the storytelling process with the utmost care and respect, ensuring that these narratives are shared ethically and thoughtfully. Personal information and names have been altered to maintain privacy and safety.

We recognize that some content may be challenging to read, particularly for those who have experienced trauma related to sexual assault, physical abuse, addiction, or mental health issues. Please prioritize your well-being as you engage with these stories.



two thousand and twenty-three

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A Message from Our **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

At the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking, our guiding principle and the heart of everything we do is summed up by the phrase "love grows here." We believe that love is the most powerful force for change. It grows from a place of acceptance, where every individual is embraced just as they are. In a world where loneliness and social isolation can fuel the darkness of human trafficking, we strive to be a shining light—a place where everyone is welcomed openly and given a sense of belonging.

Love grows in spaces where relationships are fostered and nurtured. It is in these spaces that healing begins, trust is rebuilt, and hope is restored. By creating an environment where love is full and unconditional, we lay the foundation for a future free from trafficking and exploitation. Our programs, partnerships, and community outreach initiatives are all rooted in this fundamental belief—that love can transform lives and create lasting change.

Looking back on the incredible journey of 2023, I am deeply grateful for all the amazing supporters, donors, volunteers, cheerleaders, and friends who have stood by us, hoped with us, and loved alongside us. Because of you, the CCAHT has served more survivors than ever before, providing them with the support and resources they need to rebuild their lives. Our achievements reflect not only our hard work, but also the collective effort of a community united by love and a shared commitment to ending exploitation.

As we look ahead, we remain determined in our mission to provide a safe haven for survivors and to build a world where love triumphs over fear and exploitation. Together, we can continue to cultivate a community where love grows, relationships flourish, and every individual is valued and cherished.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Your support, generosity, and belief in our mission inspire us to make a difference every day. Let's carry the spirit of "love grows here" into 2024 and beyond, knowing that together, with love, we can achieve a world where everyone is free and empowered.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Kate Trudell
Executive Director



WHO *We Are*

Founded in 2010, the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking (CCAHT) serves all 33 counties of East Tennessee to end human trafficking through prevention and intervention as well as trauma-informed, comprehensive aftercare services to survivors. Through our direct services program, Grow Free TN, we offer a variety of care to those impacted by human trafficking. All of our services are free, individualized, and all-inclusive.

CCAHT serves as the single point-of-contact for all human trafficking reports in the East Tennessee. As a partner of the Tennessee Counter-Trafficking Alliance (TCTA), we are dedicated to providing holistic, wrap-around care to both adult and youth survivors. Learn more about Tennessee's state-wide efforts to respond to trafficking and support survivors at tncountertraffickingalliance.org.

OUR *Mission*

The Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking unites and equips our community to end human trafficking by raising awareness, facilitating specialized training, fostering collaborative efforts, and ensuring a clear, restorative path for survivors.

OUR *Programs*

ADULT SERVICES

YOUTH SERVICES

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION



Highlights FROM 2023

ADULT SERVICES

7,349 unique services provided to adult survivors


2,153 total nights of safety between Emergency Receiving Center and Phoenix House

93 individuals served through the As You Are program - a collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Corrections

YOUTH SERVICES

2,667 unique services provided to youth survivors

300+ youth engaged in prevention activities using evidence-based psychoeducation curricula hosted in partnership with other youth-serving organizations

 Grow Free TN is the first counter-trafficking agency (globally!) to have staff trained in the “Caring Dads” curriculum - an evidence-based program that works with fathers/father figures to promote the safety and well-being of children and their mothers to prevent violence and the risk of human trafficking.


SPECIALIZED TRAINING

2,706 individuals trained **76** total training events

Audiences engaged:

DCS staff, foster parents, college students, nurses, correctional officers, police academies, health departments, church leaders, mental health centers, salons, legal professionals, truck driving schools, Bristol Motor Speedway, National Park Service, health conferences, education summits, and more.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

 Launched a new strategic collaboration with a local animal shelter. Individuals fleeing trafficking situations now have a safe place for their pets while they are receiving care.

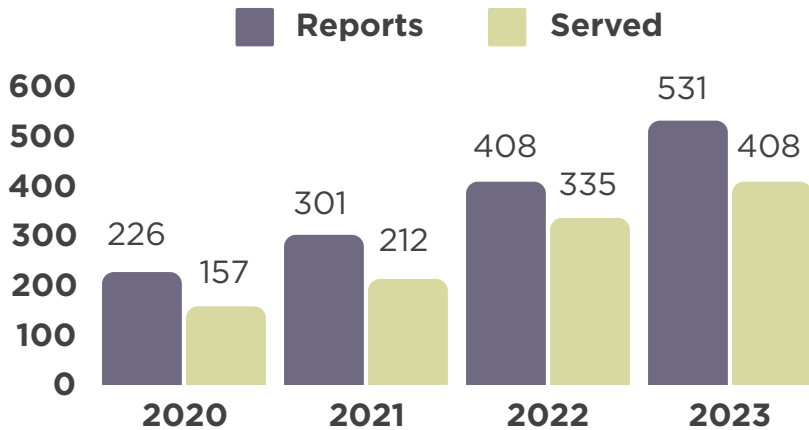
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Partnered with the International Center for Missing & Exploited Children to participate as part of pilot project for screening trafficking of children under the age of 13. Currently, there is no other standardized, age-appropriate means for screening children this young.

2023 Overview

531 REPORTS | 408 SERVED*

**Reports and served are tracked separately. Not all reports to GFTN receive services due to factors like survivor preference or screening/eligibility.*



76%
increase in **reports**
since 2022

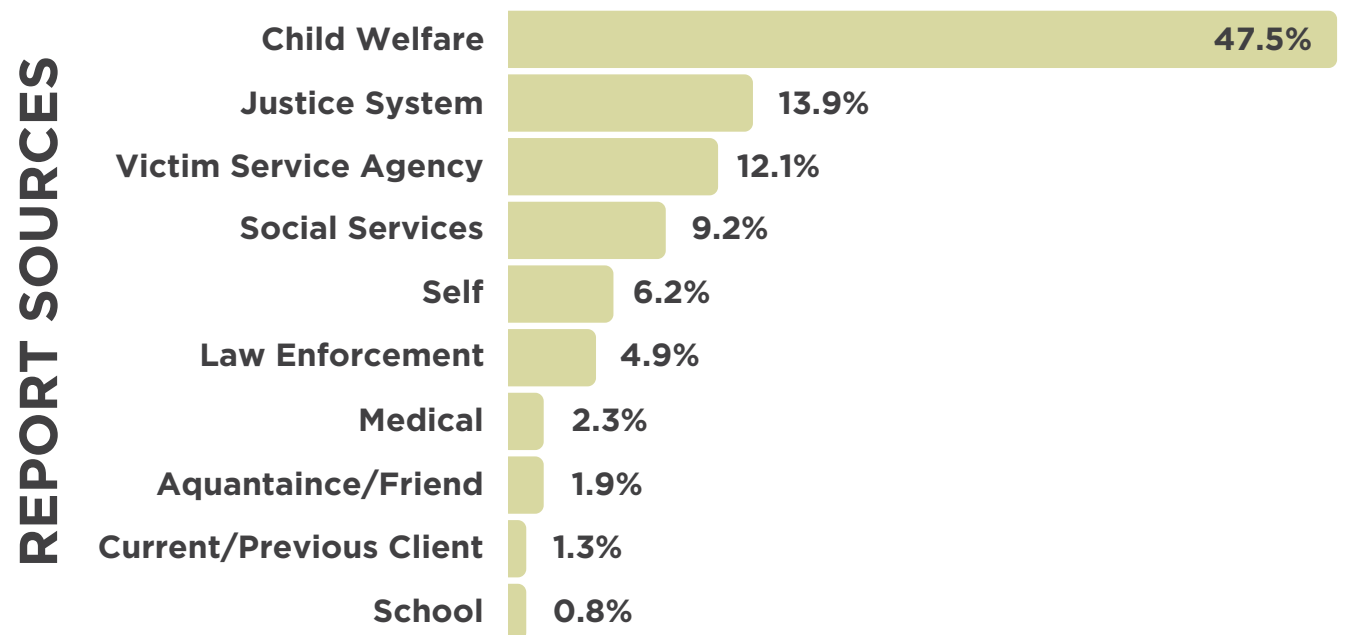
82%
increase in individuals
served since 2022

SERVICE PROVISION: *Breakdown of services provided based on the type of victimization identified.*

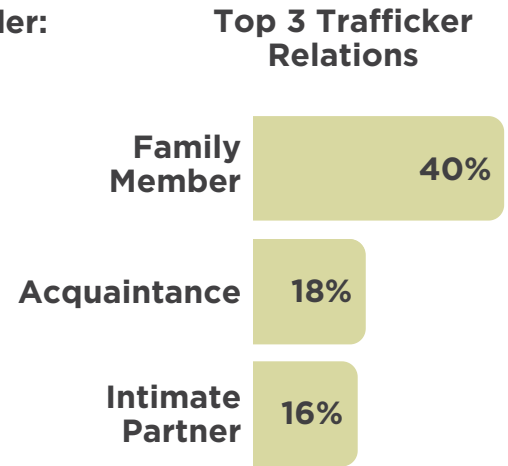
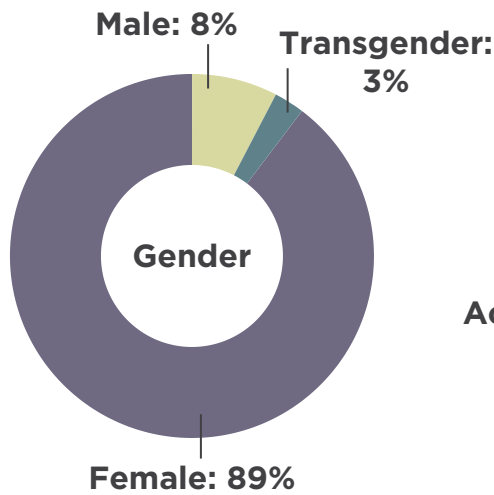
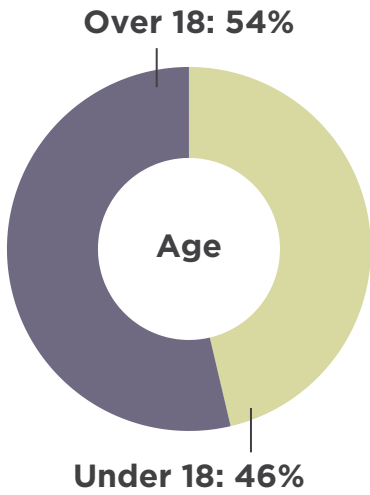


■ Sex Trafficking ■ Prevention (Youth Services only) ■ Labor Trafficking

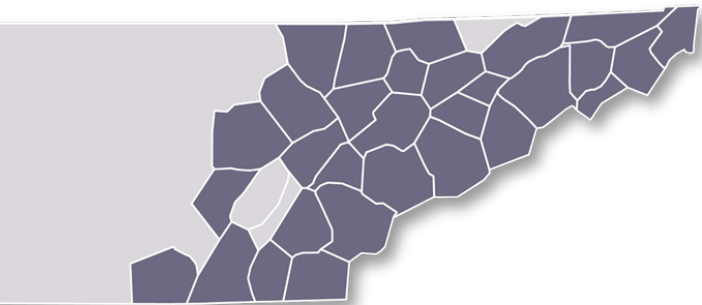
Data reflects high risk factors such as frequent runaway, unsafe online behaviors, older intimate partners, etc.



DEMOGRAPHICS



“Human trafficking happens in *every* county.”



In 2023, we received reports in **30** out of the **33** counties in east Tennessee. Higher reports of human trafficking reflect the awareness and availability of services for survivors, which then disrupts the crime of human trafficking from going unseen.

Anderson	10	Greene	11	Monroe	7
Bledsoe	56	Hamblen	5	Morgan	2
Blount	29	Hamilton	41	Polk	2
Bradley	10	Hawkins	5	Roane	7
Campbell	2	Jefferson	5	Scott	1
Carter	5	Johnson	4	Sevier	26
Claiborne	1	Knox	182	Sullivan	21
Cocke	6	Loudon	3	Unicoi	1
Cumberland	12	Marion	2	Union	5
Grainger	2	McMinn	2	Washington	15

Outside of east TN 50 | Not Reported 1

REMINDERS OF *Hope*

Justine* is a 36 year old female that was referred to Grow Free TN (GFTN) by a local medical provider. Justine had been trafficked for over 5 years by her partner, who took advantage of her vulnerabilities. Justine had a lifelong physical disability and struggled with addiction. She was estranged from her family and any type of support system. After promising to take care of her, her partner instead forced her to engage in sexual acts with others in order to fuel his addiction and provide for their basic needs.

Justine enrolled in CCAHT's Phoenix House transitional housing program, where she prioritized health and healing from both her trafficking trauma and her physical health needs. Justine spent several months at Phoenix House, where she received shelter, intensive case management, and therapy before she experienced relapse and decided to exit the program. Seven months later, Justine reached out to the GFTN hotline and reported she was ready to try again. Justine was welcomed back to the GFTN Emergency Receiving Center and again began working with her Care Coordinator to determine her preferred recovery path. Due to the close proximity of her trafficker, Justine ultimately determined that Knoxville was not a safe place for her to have the fresh start that she needed. Justine worked with her GFTN support team to secure a placement with a partner agency where she would have the opportunity to access crucial supports and a path toward healing.

Justine keeps in touch with her GFTN family and reports that she is thriving. Over the past year, she has begun repairing relationships with her family. She has taken critical steps toward improving her physical health and learning to manage her disability. She is 9 months sober and working toward her certification as a peer recovery specialist—the first step in achieving her dream of helping others experiencing addiction and being a healthy resource for other survivors of human trafficking. Justine credits the relentless support and unconditional love she received from her GFTN team, alongside access to resources and advocacy, as the foundation of this next phase of her life.

**Names of survivors are changed for their confidentiality and safety.*



2023 *Events*

Golf Tournament

April 24, 2023

We hosted our first ever Golf Tournament in April 2023. Thanks to the efforts of community members, our Board of Directors, and Cherokee Country Club, our inaugural Golf Tournament was a huge success! We engaged with over **75** supporters and **12** businesses who all share a passion for creating change in our community. We are thrilled to share that we will continue to host this fundraiser each spring!



Unmasked *presented by Pilot Company*

October 24, 2023

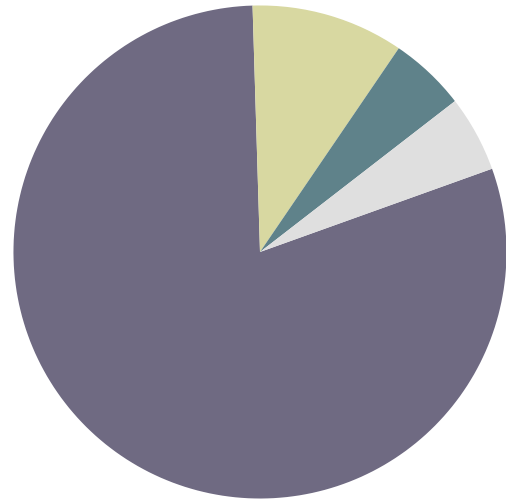
Our 3rd annual Unmasked fundraiser was a night to remember! With over **200** supporters, **9** sponsors, and **6** outstanding costume contestants, we raised just over **\$95,000** to support restoration and healing for survivors of human trafficking. Unmasked is a night of awareness, connection, and, ultimately, a celebration of how we can all unite to empower survivors and foster change.

Costume Contestants: Todd Cramer & Ernie Hoskins, Tonya Stoutt-Brown, Veronica Ogbe, Shelley Clemons, Jared Akridge, Brittany & Patrick Thompson

2023 *financials*

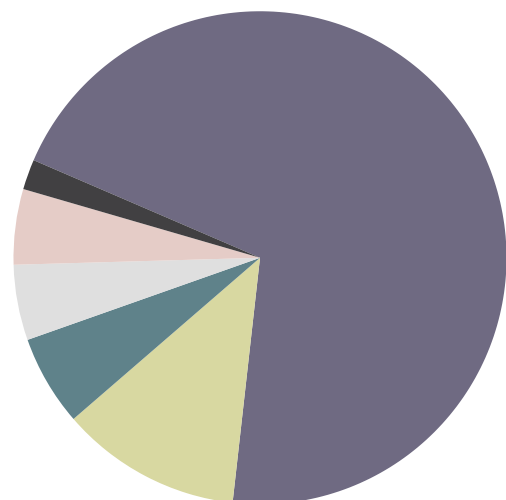
REVENUE \$1,989,000

- GOVERNMENT GRANTS 80%
- FOUNDATION GRANTS 10%
- CORPORATE GIVING 5%
- INDIVIDUAL GIVING 5%



EXPENSES \$1,921,000

- DIRECT SERVICES 72%
- COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS 6%
- COMMUNITY AWARENESS 5%
- SPECIALIZED TRAINING 5%
- FUNDRAISING 2%
- MANAGEMENT/GENERAL 10%



PARTNERS FOR *Change*

FUNDING AMBASSADORS

Alan & Dianna Brizzolara

Bill and Crissy Haslam Foundation

Cherokee Distributing Company

The Daniel Foundation

East Tennessee Foundation

First Horizon Foundation

Karen & Michael Rodgers

Knoxville Utilities Board

Knoxville Wholesale Furniture

Lawson Family Foundation

Office for Victims of Crime

Pilot Company

State of Tennessee

TN Office of Criminal Justice Programs

Tennessee Valley Authority

United Way of Greater Knoxville

FUNDING PARTNERS

Abacus Hive

Armstrong Resource Management Corp.

Justin & Sherry Barrett

Lisa & Mason Bolton

Joe & Emily Butler

Annie & David Colquitt

Richard & Linda Cramer

M. Todd Cramer & Ernie Hoskins

Cynthia M. Deitle, J.D.

Erv & Holli Doane

Enterprise Holdings Foundation

Cindy & George Ewart

Farragut Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Church Knoxville

First Baptist Church Maynardville -

Woman's Missionary Union

Pegah and Kristoph Gustovich

Harper Auto Square

Heather Haynes

Rob Heller

Hotworx Knoxville

Johnstone Supply

JPL Flex

Junior League of Knoxville

Dan Keesling

Bill Kistner

Robert & Jen Lebus

Joseph Mathew

Mortgage Investors Group

Point B Knoxville

RT Lodge

Kevin & Cindy Sanford

Alicia & Tim Silfies

The Point Knoxville

Nicole Threadgill

Kate & Ethan Trudell

Randy & Louise Trudell

Lindsay Wynne

REMINDERS OF *Hope*

By the time she met her trafficker at age 16, Abby's* childhood was already marked by repeated trauma and household instability. Abby began using drugs and often ran away from home in an attempt to cope with the effects of her childhood experiences. While on the run, she was befriended by the man who would become her trafficker, using her addiction to force her to engage in commercial sex acts for his gain. He even went as far as branding her with a tattoo that marked her as "his".

Abby was referred to Grow Free TN (GFTN) in June 2023 by the Department of Children's Services in order to continue working on the effects of her trauma as she transitioned from a residential treatment facility. Abby was enrolled in therapy and care coordination with the GFTN support team, stating that she hoped to improve communication skills and boost her self-confidence. Abby worked diligently toward her goals. She obtained a full-time job while earning her GED. Despite her hard work and progress, Abby's self-confidence was compromised by the tattoo that served as a constant reminder of what she had been through, even making her anxious to be in public where she might be recognized for this marking. In December 2023, GFTN was able to coordinate with a local tattoo artist for a complete tattoo cover-up, replacing the visual reminder of her trafficking experience with a symbol of her resiliency and healing.

Abby states that her work with GFTN has given her the self-confidence to feel comfortable going out in public and living her life again. She reports she feels more stable in her support system and healthy relationships. She was excited to earn her driver's license and was even able to save up and buy herself a car.

**Names of survivors are changed for their confidentiality and safety.*



LOOKING *Ahead*

2023 was a record-breaking year for the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking. The CCAHT staff worked tirelessly, covering thousands of miles across East Tennessee and beyond, to ensure that survivors of human trafficking receive the healing they need. We are proud to say that all of this work was made possible by the generous support from our community. Whether it's donating furniture for a client's new apartment, bringing home-cooked meals to those staying in our emergency safe house, or volunteering time to pressure wash our fence, the power of a strong community is the key ingredient to hope.

As we look ahead to what is possible for survivors and the CCAHT, we are inspired and determined, and we hope you will continue this journey alongside us. Through collaboration, connection, and friendship, together, we can pave a way forward for our organization and the survivors we serve.

GOALS FOR 2024 AND *beyond*



Open Survivor Care Center - A comprehensive hub for survivor care, offering a welcoming, therapeutic space where survivors can find a sense of belonging, community, and collective identity.



Expand Residential Services - Strengthen CCAHT's existing residential programming and increase access to affordable housing, ensuring more survivors have a safe place to heal and rebuild their lives.



Enhance Justice Response - Broaden our trauma-responsive services for justice-involved survivors, and strengthen collaboration with law enforcement and the justice system to foster greater accountability for perpetrators.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



MAKE A GIFT

Support survivor healing by making a gift of any amount, online or by mail.



SUPPORT FAMILY TABLE

Provide a warm meal to survivors staying in our emergency safe house.



REQUEST A FREE TRAINING

Learn about how you can make a difference and be a resource to survivors.



VOLUNTEER

Offer your time and talents to help us continue our mission.

VISIT [GROWFREETN.ORG/GETINVOLVED](https://growfreetn.org/getinvolved) TO LEARN MORE