



# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## PREPARED BY

The Leadership Team  
and the Board of Directors

## PRESENTED TO

Key Funders & Donors

## FISCAL YEAR

Sept 2022-Aug 2023

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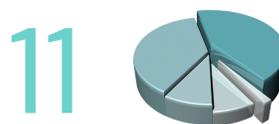
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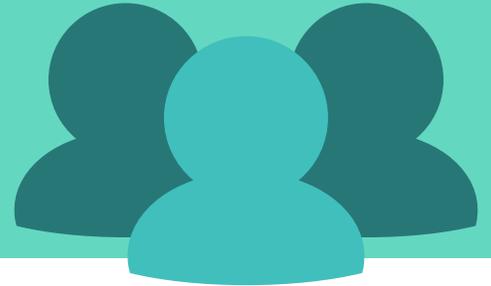


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# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Praise the Lord that Fight4Freedom has sustained another year of mission. The organization has faced a high turnover staff rate due to the challenge of raising support in the midst of economic uncertainties and the rise of living expenses. In addition, there are numerous board members who have resigned due to personal life changes. As a result, fundraising events have not reached the projected targets. The leadership has been strategically working together to restructure some ministry programs and fundraising events. For example, in this year's Walk4Freedom, the teams combined the cities' walk into the regional walk to maximize the limited resources at hand.

Despite the challenges mentioned above, the organization has seen an increase in volunteers in the 2nd half of 2023 since the pandemic. The outreach department is looking forward to slowly re-starting more outreach teams. Also, Fight4freedom is moving forward to outreach to sex buyers, a project that has been prepared for about a year. This is a unique ministry initiative within the realm of anti-sex trafficking outreach work in the Greater Toronto Area. With these exciting developments, the Board is prayerfully seeking suitable people to join the Board.

We trust that God will continue to provide leadership and resources for Fight4Freedom as our team continues to offer hope and freedom to this uncertain world.

Sincerely,

**jesus**  
CHAIR

**jen**  
SECRETARY

**vivian**  
TREASURER

**andrea**  
BOARD MEMBER

**jake**  
BOARD MEMBER

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Our annual report provides us with the opportunity to reflect on all that God has accomplished in the past year through Fight4Freedom.

This past year, we were able to complete a research project on the impact of COVID-19 on the services and support we offer to survivors of sex trafficking. It has highlighted the need for housing strategies for survivors. In light of this, we are excited to announce that we have a 3-year plan to implement a safe house in the GTA to offer housing support for survivors, especially in light of the recent increase in the cost of living and increase in housing rental fees.

It is an honour and a blessing to be part of such a passionate and proactive team of staff and volunteers to assist our constituents. We hope this annual report gives insight into many of the successes and unique challenges we experienced in the last year.

**mike**  
INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**gladys**  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

**janelle**  
PHILIPPINES DIRECTOR



# MESSAGE FROM THE PHILIPPINES DIRECTOR

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Fight4Freedom in the Philippines this year focused a lot on raising awareness among various communities and population groups. We had speaking engagements with various churches in Metro Manila, where we talked about topics like sex trafficking, survivor care, and the work we do. We also created an online safety presentation for parents, which highlighted the importance of having conversations with their children about how to use the internet safely. This was especially needed as the Philippines continues to be a hotspot for Online Sexual Exploitation of Children. We hope that this will start to create better conversations in the family and protect children against being groomed to trafficking online. We were also invited by a church to host a booth for two Sundays during their mission month. This strengthened our ties to the local churches, and we hope that this will pave the way for us to partner with them more for outreaches.

We also held three workshops: Enneagram, Coffee Brewing 101, and Painting workshops, which allowed us to talk about our work to different groups of people. We partnered with different professionals and businesses to host these workshops. We invited people outside our normal audience and networks, which resulted in new connections with people who had never heard of sex trafficking before. Through the workshops and speaking engagements, we met and shared with over 150 people, raised over PHP34,000, and increased awareness and education surrounding the issue of sex trafficking. We are so grateful for the amazing partners who have helped make this possible. We pray that everyone we met in those events will continue their own learnings about sex trafficking, share it with others, and together, we can increase the prevention of sex trafficking in the Philippines.

After the whirlwind of all the speaking engagements, partnership activities, and events of the past two years, we are sensing that God wants us to scale back a bit and focus on three key areas: partnership with churches for outreaches, continuing to raise awareness through social media and speaking engagements; and lastly to build a counseling ministry for survivor care. We hope to reach out to various Filipino foundations, organizations, and individuals to help fund and develop these key areas. Please continue to pray with us – that God will lead us to those He has prepared to partner with us and that we will be able to find the resources to work on those three key areas.

**janelle**

PHILIPPINES DIRECTOR

# OUTREACH ENDEAVOURS



Our in-person outreach continues to resume closer to pre-pandemic numbers. For prison outreach, we gained new opportunities to do weekly programming, which allows our program to be made more widely known for the individuals in the prison we visit. As we resume more of our in-person outreach, we learned that some areas have shifted. Therefore, based on what we observe in frontline outreach, we also direct a part of our outreach efforts in researching potential new areas of outreach. Once there are opportunities and resources, these outreach research and development areas will develop into new outreach efforts.

The men's outreach ministry is a recent example. From researching how to do outreach online to forming a partnership with Freedom Signal for outreaching to impacted individuals for our online outreach. It provides a platform for us to also outreach to non-female individuals. As our online male outreach team builds relationships with these individuals and learns more of their experiences, it reminds us of the importance of addressing the demand side as an essential part of fighting against sex trafficking. Through partner connection, we began a partnership with Buyer Resist, which allows us to engage buyers in conversations online and create a path to recovery for those affected by sex trafficking and by addressing the demand side of the sex trafficking industry.

As our vision of outreach continues to respond to the development of the sex trafficking industry, we are being challenged to engage the impacted individuals from both sides, the impacted individuals and survivors side as well as the demand side. As we engage in outreach with this holistic approach, we hope our efforts will bring cultural changes that promote equity and anti-oppressive thinking patterns as well as freedom and restoration for all who have been impacted by trafficking.

**gladys**

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

114

OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

13

CITIES REACHED

30

IN-PERSON OUTREACH TEAMS

15

BUYERS REACHED THROUGH ONLINE OUTREACH

120

INDIVIDUALS REACHED THROUGH ONLINE OUTREACH

# SURVIVOR CARE SUPPORT



The survivor care team continues to walk alongside and support survivors. This year, a number of survivors were in various housing situations and our team tirelessly advocated and searched alongside them to secure safe and stable housing. One survivor and advocates called over a thousand housing ads and after eight months of persistent search and with our housing subsidy program, the Lighthouse Fund, the survivor was able to find a place that suits their needs. This success can only happen with the care and generosity of our donors, local churches, partner organizations, and team members.

As we become more mature in our survivor care support model, we recognize the need for a more centralized information storage system. Therefore, a major undertaking for this year was to search for an effective and compatible platform and to transition our records to this new platform. With this new platform, case managers can follow up with survivors' needs more efficiently. This also opened up the capacity for volunteers to be a part of our case managers team, thus increasing the number of individuals the survivor care team can walk alongside and support.

Oftentimes, we face challenges as every survivor's needs are unique. We find ourselves stretched for resources; however, we also see these challenges as opportunities to build community and engage in wider partnerships. The debt challenges that survivors face facilitated the partnership with Project Recover which advocates on survivors' behalf with creditors. The housing challenges propelled us to set up a Housing Bursary and Lighthouse fund with donors' and churches' partnerships. The survivor care team continues to walk through the highs and lows of life with each survivor as we anticipate more creative partnerships with various communities and groups to forge new paths of hope, love and freedom.

**gladys**  
INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATE  
DIRECTOR



FEMALE  
SURVIVORS IN  
CASE  
MANAGEMENT



MALE  
SURVIVORS IN  
CASE  
MANAGEMENT



FEMALE  
SURVIVORS  
RECEIVING  
SUPPORT



MALE  
SURVIVORS  
RECEIVING  
SUPPORT

# COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

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Fight4Freedom Counselling Department has continued to offer individual trauma counseling to survivors. In 2023, we worked directly with 17 survivors. Here is short summary from two survivors who explain their experiences with individual therapy:

“This program, as I have experienced first hand, saves lives. I truly believe that God’s hands are behind this program, and the work has truly transformed the way I look at myself and live my life. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this program, and I am privileged to have had access to it. Please continue funding this program so other young women who have been through so much may find healing for a healthy life”

“I can’t express how beneficial this program is for individuals such as myself. It gives us the opportunity to build a foundation that we can use when we reintegrate into societal functions. For me, I am now a graduated social service worker and due to this program it has allowed me to break myself down and build me back up to what I wanted to be. I was given a voice because of the support of my counselor and F4F.”

Groups:

The Counselling Department has also continued running Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) -informed psychotherapy groups this past year. This group is divided into 4 different modules of emotional regulation, mindfulness, distress tolerance, and interpersonal effectiveness. We thought you’d like to hear from the survivors how they viewed this program:

“This program is extremely helpful for me. I’ve learned so much and have been able to take these skills to real-life situations and has helped my relationships a lot. I feel I am able to approach conflicts/situations in a much more calm way.”

“This program is a lifesaver; it helps me maintain control of my thoughts, emotions and behaviours making life a lot easier to navigate. Emily is knowledgeable, compassionate, and engaging; an excellent facilitator who has proven to make a substantial positive change in my life!”

Internship:

In 2022, we successfully completed our third official intern cycle with a student from Yorkville University.

**emily**  
COUNSELLING DIRECTOR

# PASTORAL CARE DEPARTMENT



For 2023, the Pastoral Care Department had a focus to engage the survivors, volunteers, and staff of Fight4Freedom.

The Pastoral Care Department has had the privilege of serving the spiritual needs of survivors by providing Biblical guidance and encouragement through both individual and group meeting which included workshops on “Gratitude”, and “Watercolour & the Word”.

We hosted monthly volunteer prayer meetings with the hope of creating more of a community throughout the volunteer teams. We create devotions for the staff that are focused on how to engage in different aspects of life.

**lara**

PASTORAL CARE DEPARTMENT



INDIVIDUAL PASTORAL CARE WITH SURVIVORS



INDIVIDUAL PASTORAL CARE WITH VOLUNTEERS



SURVIVOR WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE



SURVIVOR WHO HAVE ACCESSED LIFE COACHING



VOLUNTEERS ATTENDING PRAYER MEETINGS



TRAUMA INFORMED WORKSHOPS

# EVENT UPDATES

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People from all throughout Canada and the Philippines participated in FabFeb in February, where they wore ribbons, bow ties, or striking lipstick to raise awareness and combat sex trafficking. Nearly \$8K was raised at the event.

Walk4Freedom was participated by more than 60 people this October and helped raise more than \$6K for our efforts to fight sex trafficking.

As a staff charity drive of Maple Leaf Foods and through your support, the Christmas Wishlist Program successfully brought not just gifts but also hope and love to the 14 survivors across the country.

2

ANNUAL  
EVENTS

100

EVENT  
ATTENDEES

38K

RAISED

# HUMAN RESOURCES

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This year, we implemented a new HR system, which made some processes much easier and substantially lightened the mediocre tasks of HR.

We welcomed some new staff, which reintroduced some departments that were closed for a while, including the Creative Department and Communications department.

This year, we were able to organize a staff retreat, and we hope to have a Christmas gathering for the staff, as the face-to-face gatherings are a highlight for many on the team.

We welcomed a new volunteer in the HR department who will run things while the HR Coordinator is on maternity leave for most of 2024.

We look forward to bringing more individuals to the staff team in the future, all working towards the common goal of freedom.

**rebecca**  
HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR



FULL-TIME  
STAFF



PART-TIME  
STAFF



NEW STAFF



STAFF IN THE  
PHILIPPINES

# FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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We sincerely appreciate individuals, churches, organizations, and businesses who support our mission and vision. Donations received, have made it possible for Fight4Freedom to keep fighting sex trafficking in different locations across Canada and the Philippines.

We are excited to begin raising significant funds for the development of a safe house in the GTA in the next little while. Thank you for those who have given already and to those who have pledged gifts towards this cause.

The finance department continues to operate with integrity and accountability. Based on this commitment, Fight4Freedom's financial record is annually examined by an independent auditor. If you would like a copy of this audit, please send an email to [finance@fight4freedom.ca](mailto:finance@fight4freedom.ca). We are pleased that we have upheld all required standards as a charity organization.

In the year ahead, F4F will continue to enable transformation with initiatives across its core efforts: Outreach and Survivor Care programming. We are counting on the continuous support of our donors to achieve this.

**esther**  
FINANCE MANAGER

170K

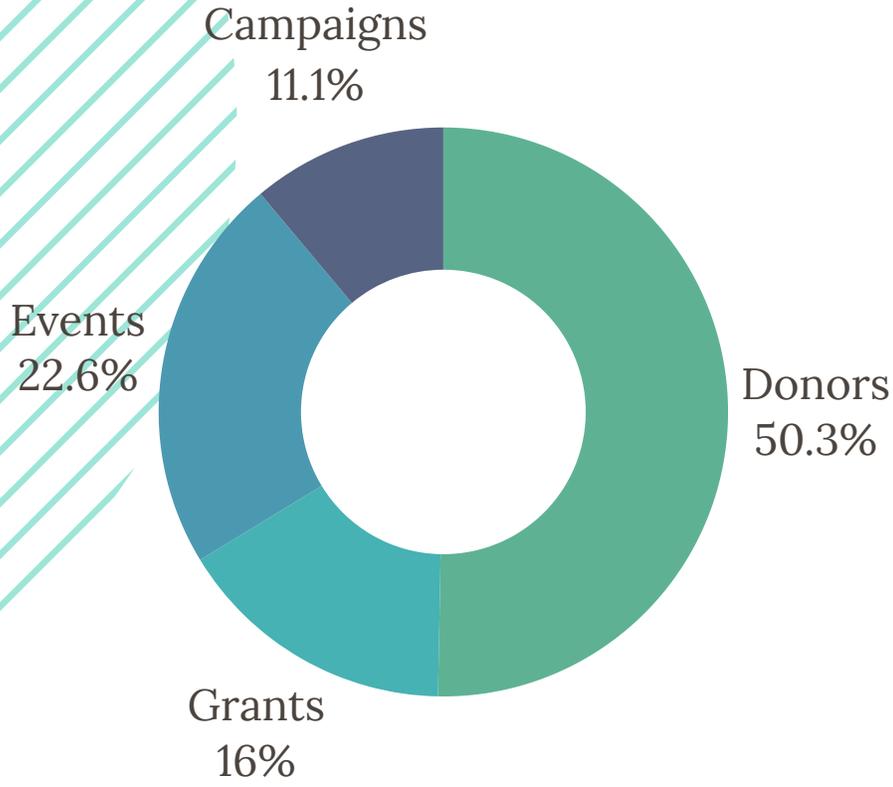
RAISED FOR  
THE GENERAL  
FUND

28K

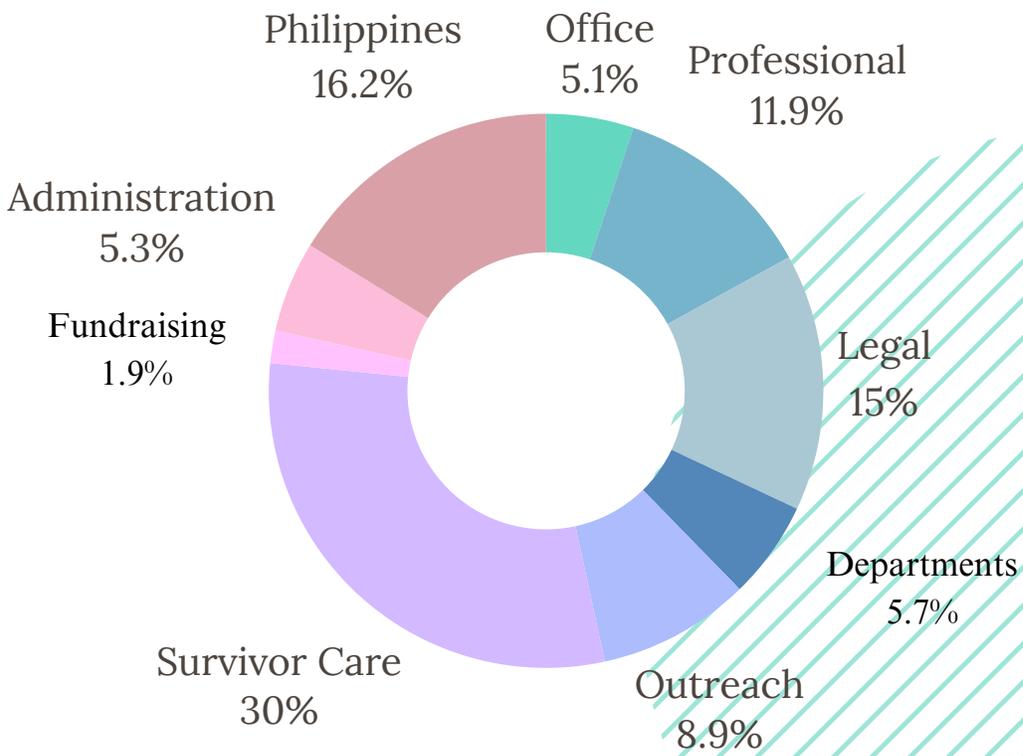
RAISED FROM  
GRANTS

# BY THE #’S

## GENERAL FUND INCOME



## GENERAL FUND EXPENSES



# COVID-19 RESEARCH PROJECT



The COVID-19 pandemic was an unprecedented global event that led to restrictions across all parts of society in an effort to curtail the virus and reduce the impact on health care systems. The restrictions, which continued to evolve over the course of over two years, impacted movement and gatherings, as well as limited or totally stopped businesses and organizations from operating in-person. The pandemic and resulting restrictions, led to a striking increase in mental health related crises, and the limited access to services exacerbated its impact on all aspects of people's lives.

Vulnerable communities, including victims and survivors of sex trafficking, were put at an increased risk due to limitations in services to protect and support them during this time. This report seeks to share the experiences that survivors of sex trafficking had in accessing support during the pandemic, and the impact it had on their recovery. Through interviews with adult, female-identified survivors in Ontario, the report includes recommendations for how to move on from the pandemic in a supportive way, addressing the ongoing impacts the pandemic has had. It also includes recommendations in the event of another pandemic or other scenario resulting in similar closures, so that services can be better prepared and avoid potential pause or regression of many survivors in their recovery, or triggering them through a lack of, or inadequate, supports.

We might not have been able to include as many voices in the study if Fight4Freedom had not been able to cover for the expenses of compiling the report and assisting the research participants in lieu of the financial support provided by the Mariann Trust.

Link to the full report: <https://www.fight4freedom.ca/covid-19-research-project.html>

REPORT WRITTEN BY FIGHT4FREEDOM, 2023  
**ayesha**

FUNDED BY  
**mariann trust**



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