

EMPOWERHER NETWORK

IMPACT REPORT 2018



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.

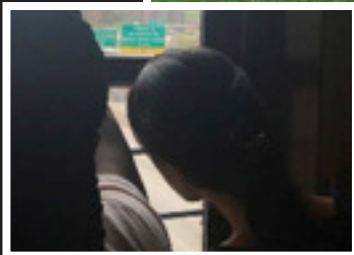
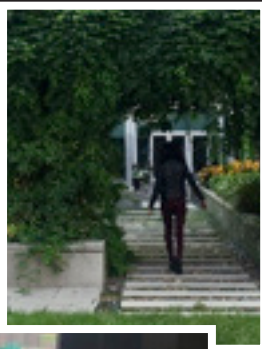


Empower Her Network collaborates with ready survivors of human trafficking who find themselves in the same vulnerable circumstance that led to their initial exploitation by removing housing barriers, financing education, and uncovering employment opportunities. Destination: Her choice.

EMPOWER HER NETWORK BELIEVES:

- ① Circumstance is all that separates us from those enslaved
- ① Circumstances can be changed
- ① Fiscal independence is key to breaking the cycle of exploitation
- ① Readiness matters: a will for independence is essential

One more undergrad semester before law school!



A view from her first apartment pointing to her full time job.

In 2018, the network exploded as donors continued to believe in and support survivors' ability and power to rewrite their narrative on their terms.

With our first full year complete, we're jazzed to share this impact report outlining program growth, funding information, measurement tool statistics, and stories of the transformative journeys taken by survivors in the network. You will be astounded by the triumphs possible during each 12-18 month Empowerment Plan.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING, HERE?

Yep. Like all criminal industries, the numbers are allusive, but there's no doubt it's in all fifty states and on the rise. The U.S. Justice Department estimates that 35,500–170,500 people are trafficked into the country annually, and runaways/foster care children remain common American-born targets. In 2010, Forbes estimated human trafficking in the United States brings in \$28 billion dollars a year.



EHN Advocate hugging survivor in our program.

Get ready to feel ill:

for traffickers, the draw to this illicit business is the high margins. Unlike drugs and arms where you have a product, sell it, and it's gone, with human trafficking, the victim can be sold over and over. People are being used as products.

The situation is unacceptable.

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, homelessness, and resorting to sex work. They need assistance to break exploitation and poverty cycles to remain forever free.

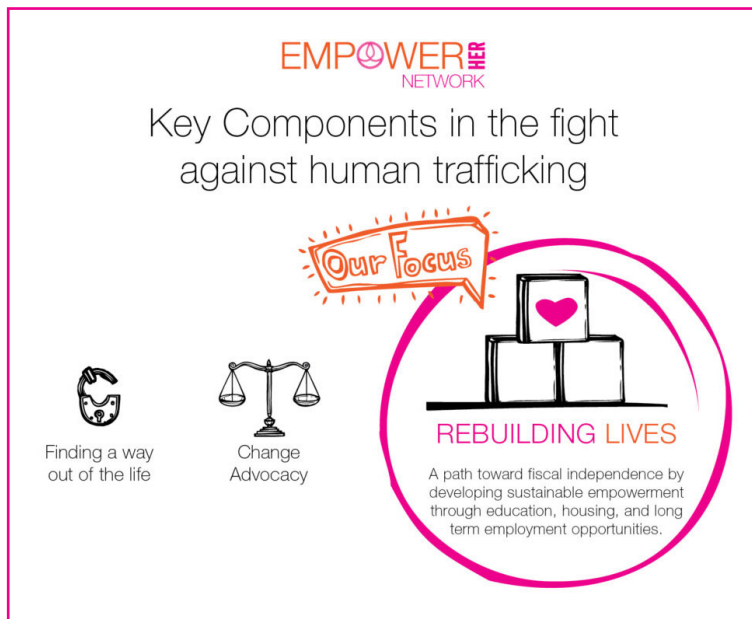
EMPOWER WHO? EMPOWER HOW?

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.

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

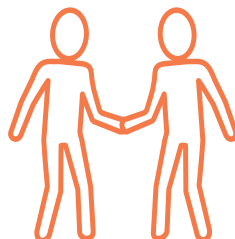


IMPACT

In September 2017, we launched a pilot program with one partner and four survivors in New York.

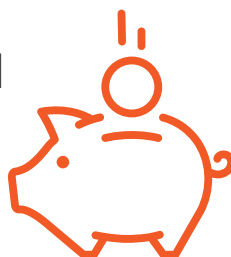
EMPOWER HER NETWORK ENDED 2018 WITH:

15 national partner organizations






32 survivors of human trafficking on active Empowerment Plans



2 alumni who achieved fiscal independence



11 nominations on the wait list

SERVICES OFFERED IN:

-  New York City
-  Atlanta
-  Tampa

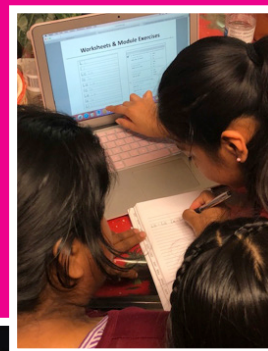
-  Southern California
-  Throughout Connecticut

Empower Her Network

funds 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.

Our model removes barriers that would be impossible or take years for a survivor to do without support.

Trafficked from another country, the need for literacy is a priority. Above, a survivor in the network and her children, work on a literacy training program.



EHN temporarily supported housing while this survivor graduated her vocational training, becoming a professional in the Medical Records field

OUTCOMES

Our most quantitative measurement is based on if/when each survivor is able to achieve fiscal independence. To date, two women have completed their full plan and we are thrilled to report they are fiscally independent. The survivors still active in the network are presently on track to successfully achieve their self-sufficiency goals as well. To track progress towards success during the 12-18 month plan, we ask survivors the same six questions every three months. Answers are scaled, weighted, and graphed to map progress.

- 🕒 When you hear the word **EMPOWERMENT**, what does that mean to you?
- 🕒 What barriers are currently in your way to achieving your next steps?
- 🕒 What are your current interests?
- 🕒 Who do you trust?
- 🕒 What did you last laugh about?
- 🕒 Where do you see yourself in 1 year, 5 years?

At inception, weighted responses average 38. At the half mark, this elevates to 68. The two completed plans averaged 82.

A survivor who was trafficked to the US stated, *“Now I can achieve some of the goals in my life. One day when I’m in a different and better place I can help others and give the opportunity to do better in life like you are giving me.”*

Another survivor, at the end of her Empowerment Plan stated, *“I have everything that I need to be comfortable. I have met great people who have helped and supported me. I am finally independent and am happy.”*

On day one of meeting her, the survivor was asked, “Who do you trust?” and she responded with, “No one.”

Three months later, after EHN bridged a gap with her education and housing that has her living independently for the first time while balancing school and full-time employment, we asked again, “Who do you trust?” and she responded, “Myself. I am strong and smart and knew I could do this.”



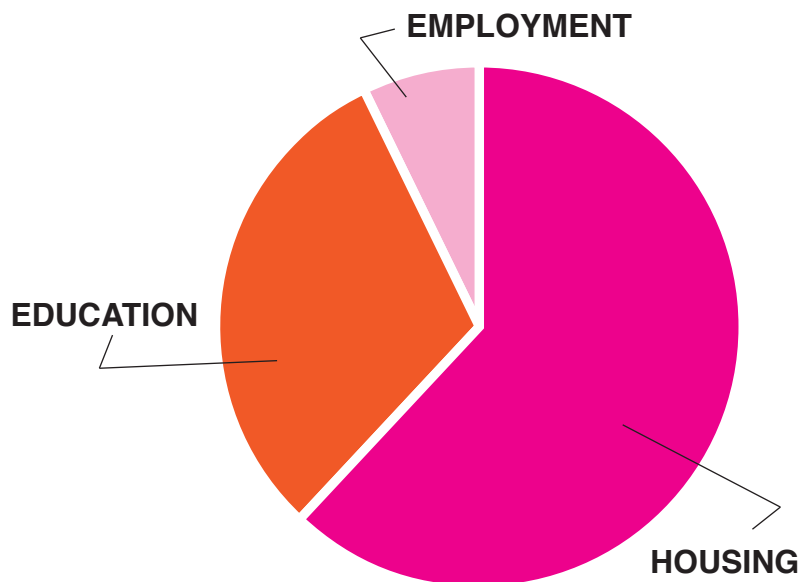
FUNDING

Empower Her Network received 501(c)(3) status in October 2017.

INCOME SINCE INCEPTION	
Foundations	213,050.00
Individual Donations	72,717.27
Board Donations	45,980
Bracelet Sales	78,955.62
Total	410,797.89

EXPENSES SINCE INCEPTION	
Program Expenses	134,781.89
Operational Expenses	37,803.15
*2019 Earmarked	150,000
Bracelet COGS	18,236.45
Total	340,821.49

BREAKDOWN OF EMPOWERMENT PLANS



PHILOSOPHY*

Empower Her Network will never be yet another unmet promise to the survivors we collaborate with so we secure funding for the full value of the 12-18 month Empowerment Plan before committing services. When a survivor reaches independence they end generational poverty and exploitation cycles forever.

EXPERTS IN THE NETWORK

We are grateful to share that our CRM software, technology support, marketing, financial reconciliations, and tax work are provided by subject matter experts gratis!



DESTINATION: HER CHOICE!

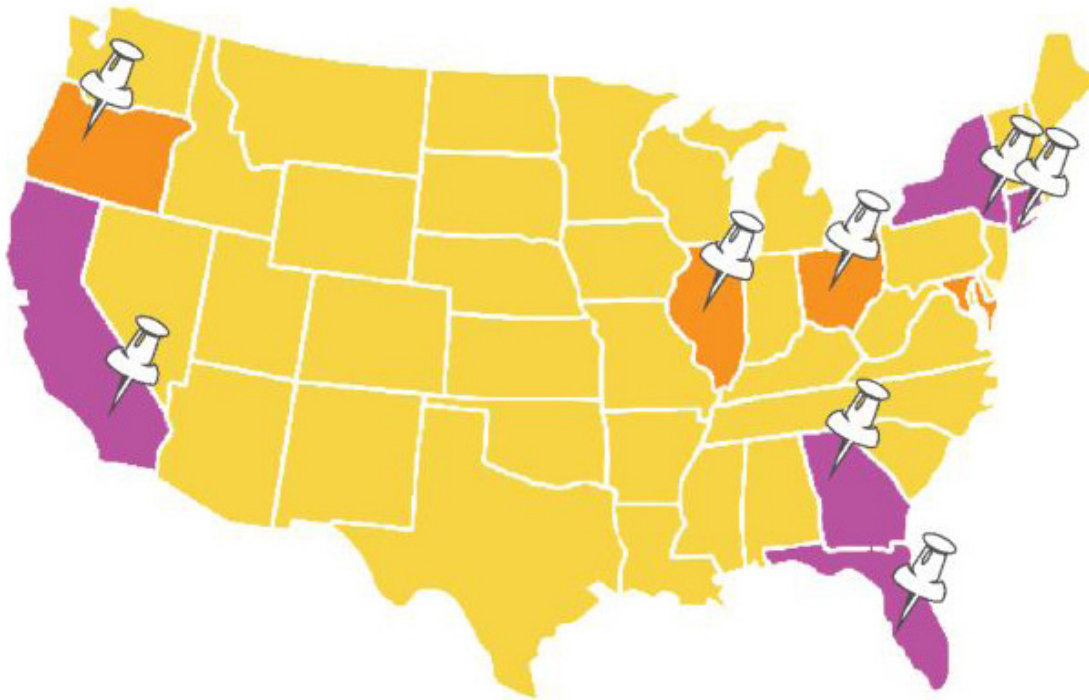
OUR PARTNERS

Empower Her Network's success is rooted in its strong partnerships with aftercare providers that nominate ready survivors so that we can assist in paving a path that leads to true fiscal independence.



2019 AND BEYOND...

This is a national need that requires a national solution.



Opening in 2019:

Chicago, IL
Baltimore, MD
Ohio
Portland, OR

Now Open:

New York, NY
Tampa, FL
Atlanta, GA
Southern California
Connecticut




2019 Goals

70 new survivors on a path to total independence in 2019

8 new national partnerships

4 new Advocates, including mandarin speaking to grow who we can serve

 Expanding survivors served, geographic reach, and our donor base

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

- W.E.B Dubois

Contact EHN

Kristy Norbert
knorbert@empowerhernetwork.org
410.456.9905

Empower Her Network
8 North Ridge Lane
New London, CT 06320