

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue and purple patterned tank top and white sneakers, stands on a rustic wooden bridge in a lush forest. Her arms are outstretched horizontally. The bridge is made of dark, weathered wooden planks and is surrounded by moss and various plants. The background is a dense forest with many green leaves. The text "BRIDGE TO POSSIBILITY" is written in a red, serif font, arched over the woman and the bridge.

BRIDGE TO POSSIBILITY

Impact Report | 2025

*Empowered*Network.

Built BY A COMMUNITY

EN is powered by survivors' determination and sustained by a community that believes in long-term possibility.

Hello Empowered Network Community!

Amidst the noise and shifts of the time, one thing remains unwavering: **human potential**.

It is a lifelong constant. Everyone has it. But potential alone is not enough—it requires a community to see it and a pathway to reach it.

Empowered Network provides a **Bridge to Possibility**, connecting each survivor's individual spark with the right support to achieve the financial resilience required for independence. Program graduates reclaim their futures as nursing assistants, cosmetologists, tech support staff, and anti-trafficking leaders. Thanks to your continued support in 2025, **we served more survivors than ever before**, celebrating 107 program graduates and supporting a rolling caseload of 150.

The outcomes are quantifiable and the impact of achieving economic mobility is multidimensional:

- **Individual:** Survivors attain credentials, embark on a promising career path, secure stable housing, and adopt a strength-based approach to life rooted in actionable plans.
- **Generational:** With financial resilience, survivors are positioned to provide for their children. In this way, EN functions as a primary prevention program for at-risk youth.
- **Community:** When a survivor achieves independence, it disrupts an expensive system-service loop. By freeing up resources downstream, EN creates an exponential return on investment for communities.

As donors and volunteers, you sustain and strengthen the bridge to possibility. Thank you for believing in the constant of human potential and for helping us turn possibility into reality.

With gratitude and resolve,

Kristy + Abby

Kristy + Abby



Empowered Network's Engaged Staff!



Board of Directors Inspired to Action!



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Bridging THE GAPS

Closing the distance between crisis response and lasting independence.

CHALLENGE ADDRESSED



EN's Katherine Williams (left) and board member/past alumna Felicia Rosario (right) with a member gaining vocational credentials in sewing school.

"Of all the programs I've experienced, EN's support—especially from my Advocate—went above and beyond. It shaped my growth, lifted me in ways words can't capture, and made a lasting impact on me and my children."



An EN alumna recently reached out with an exciting update: Her eldest daughter secured a full scholarship to Harvard! Consider it: With community, it only took 1 generation to fully disrupt the exploitation cycle and create a multi-generational legacy of academic and professional excellence.

Services for human trafficking survivors often end before a pathway to financial independence is established, resulting in estimated **revictimization rates of 80+%**.

This leaves most survivors perpetually cycling through systems and services, costing communities **millions per individual**.

Ending services too soon is **the most expensive way not to solve the problem** and an **injustice to survivors and their children in need of enduring solutions**.

PROGRAM

EN's survivor-centered approach pairs survivors ("members") and advocates with deep anti-trafficking expertise. Together, they develop a **personalized 12-month Empowerment Plan** with the goal of increasing financial independence in the domains of employment, education, and/or housing.

Within these focus areas, members partner with their advocate to set measurable goals, identify key barriers, and create a plan with clear action steps. To help achieve these goals, EN provides:

- **One-on-one Empowerment Sessions** to discuss progress, work through challenges, build confidence, and foster accountability (2-4x per month).
- **Targeted financial assistance** of \$3-6k paid directly to third-party providers (academic institution, landlord, etc.) to address temporary but critical obstacles.
- **Job placement services**
- **Service navigation referrals** to trusted resources (e.g. mental health, legal).

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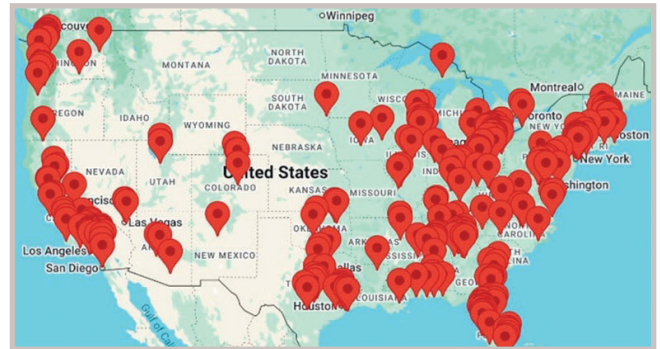
Who WE WALK WITH

Every number reflects a survivor building toward something more stable, safe, and self-defined.

Survivors of exploitation are the most underserved and underestimated marginalized population in the United States. EN serves labor and sex trafficking survivors who are 18+ years old and face significant barriers to safe and stable employment and housing.

2025 Statistics

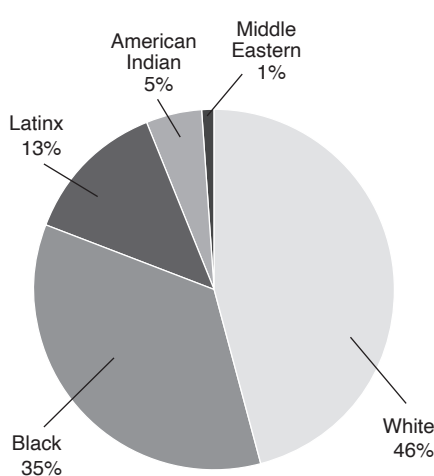
- **67%** are single mothers
- **99%** live below national Low to Moderate Income (LMI) levels with bad credit or no credit
- On average, participants have **1 to 2 children** who are sub-beneficiaries.



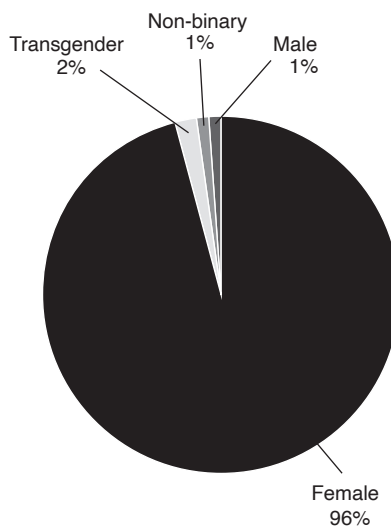
Locations of Active Program Participants

Community Demographics in 2025

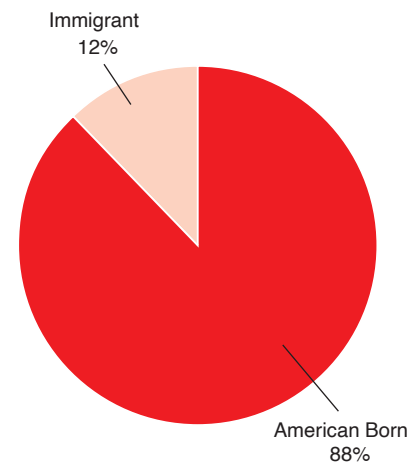
The average wage upon entering the program is \$25,024. For reference, the 2026 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for households of three is \$27,320 annually.



Racial Demographics



Gender Demographics



Origin

Age

- Range: 18-66
- Average: 36

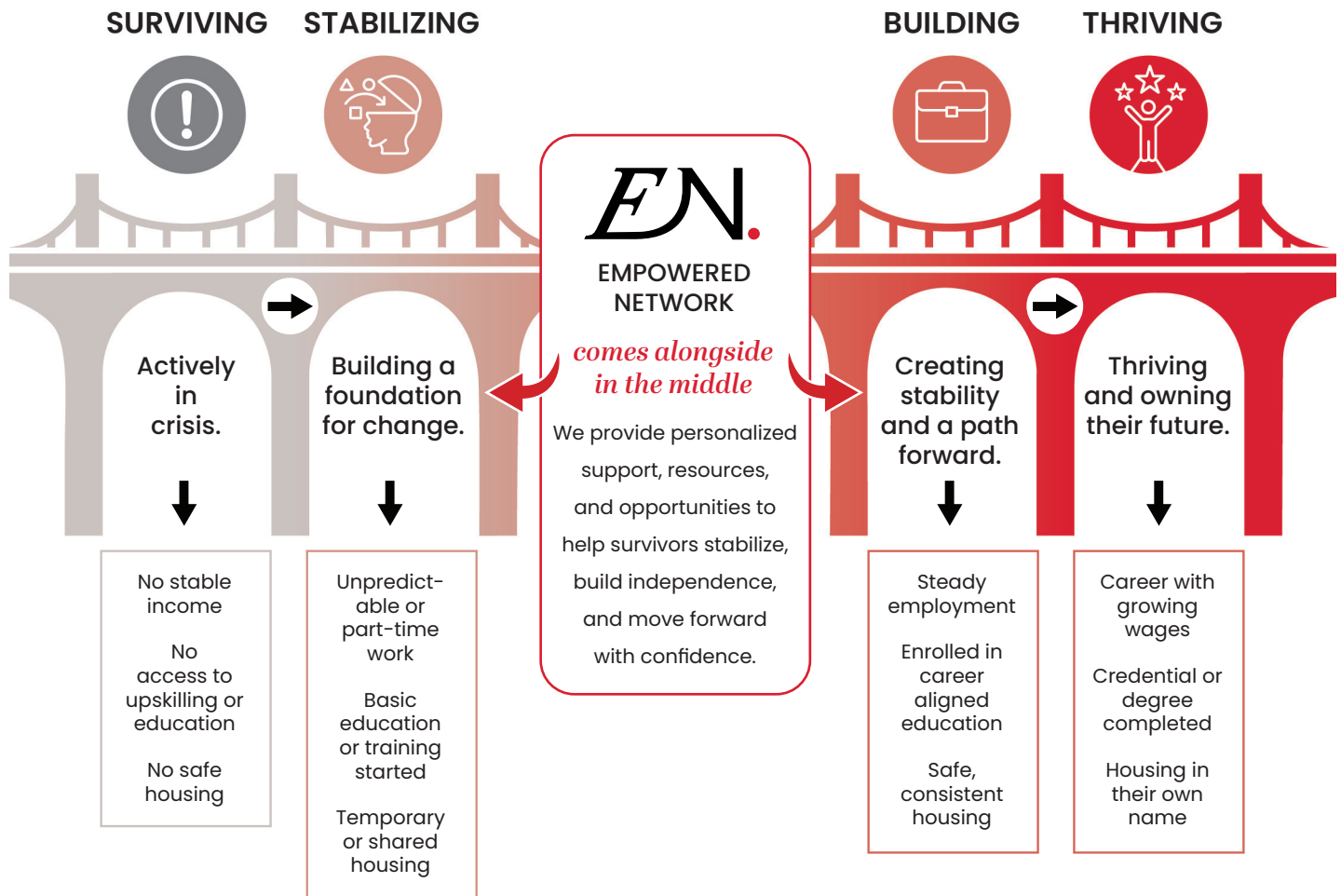
Trafficked Status

- Sex: 87%
- Labor: 7%
- Both: 6%

Measuring THE JOURNEY

Tracking both forward movement and stability along the way.

A Journey From Surviving to Thriving



2025 Outcomes



84%

of referrals **completed** a 12-month Empowerment Plan.



87%

of those who completed an Empowerment Plan, **meaningfully improved** their employment, education, and/or housing status while maintaining stability in other areas.



49%

is the average annual **wage increase** in 2025 (from \$25,024 to \$37,308)

That's \$12,284 in 12 months!

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The Bridge TO POSSIBILITY

A conversation about what's on the other side.

EN's co-founder spoke with Brenda Gorosito, an Empowered Network alumna whose journey embodies the theme of our report.



Brenda, speaking on a panel at the 2026 New York State Safe Housing Summit

Abby: We talk a lot about the bridge— that journey between stability and independence—can you share insights into what you needed to make it happen?

Brenda: EN funds access to education and employment, and that is important for clearing a path. But for me, the real “bridge” wasn’t the money. It was how meaningful and thoughtful my advocate was in getting to know me and my personal values. She saw a leader in me before I could see it in myself. That’s why I like how we always say “no one can do it alone.” That’s so true. Sometimes you need someone else to spot your strengths so you can start believing in them, too.

Abby: She was right— you are an amazing leader, who not only crossed the bridge, but now helps others do the same. How did you forge a path to work within the survivor community?

Brenda: I always knew I wanted to do something that really helped people. A lot of survivors feel that pull. I was already doing it informally, helping survivors over Instagram, but I never knew I could make a career out of it. That’s what’s so unique about EN- you get to explore options. My advocate made connections to resources that I didn’t even know existed— I honestly count that as part of my education because I learned how to research and network. When Survivor Alliance offered me a paid internship, I knew I wanted to do it at Empowered Network.

Abby: Lucky us! You’ve been instrumental in shaping the way we work with members on their relationship with money. Can you share a little bit about that?

Brenda: As an intern, I spoke with advocates to find shared challenges, and the one that everyone struggled with was the “no” conversations—when a funding request didn’t align with EN’s program goal of financial independence. Because of my lived experience, I understand that money can be very triggering for survivors, especially if it feels like something is being withheld. I used my background in teaching to build a curriculum that helps untangle those emotions before we ever discuss a specific instance. It’s a trauma-informed way to help members see that EN is here to invest in things no one can ever take away— like your education or your work experience. We aren’t just giving money; we’re giving you something you carry forever.

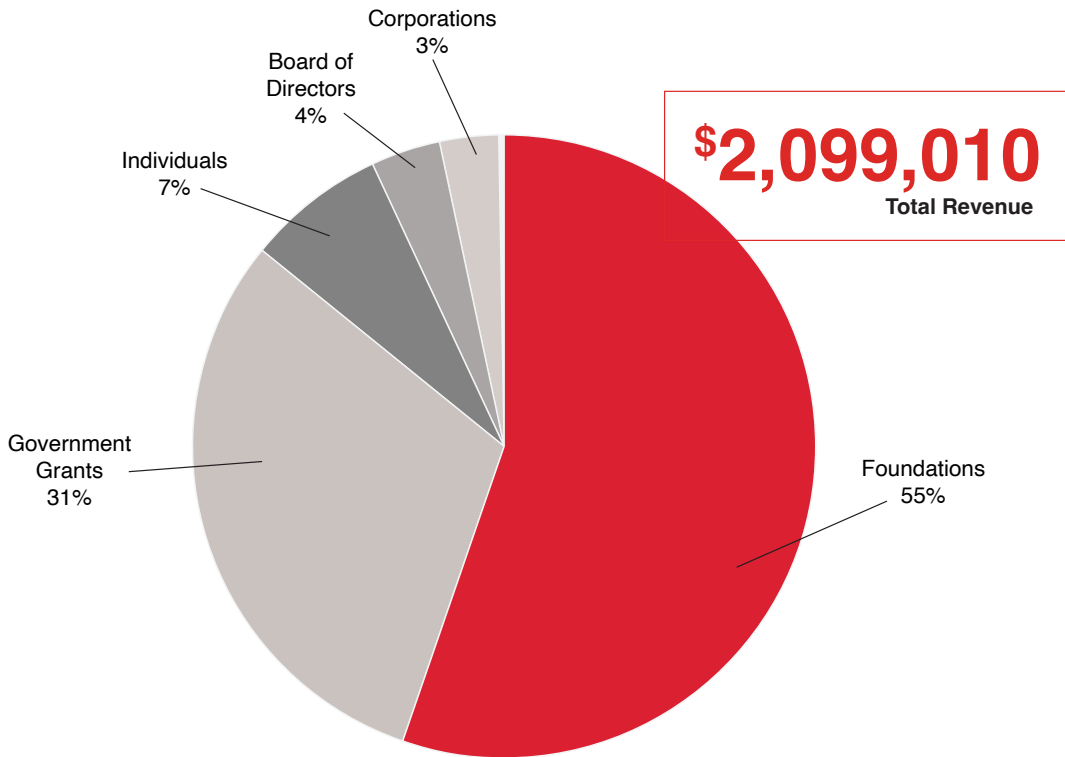
Abby: In a month you’ll be working full-time for EN, and we couldn’t be more excited! Final question: You’ve crossed the bridge. How would you describe the view from the other side?

Brenda: After my first presentation everyone rushed up to tell me I was a great speaker and I was like, “Really?” I didn’t see it in myself yet. But now I do. Now, I get to tell people what my advocate told me: I believe in you. And I know how much that support matters because it changed my life.

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Investing IN BRIDGES

Resources that Turn Possibility into Progress



89% of all expenses are spent on programming.*
*Compared to a national average of 76%

SHOP SURVIVOR BUSINESSES!

Thai-inspired massage and Korean facials in Midtown Manhattan

<https://www.earthandsoul.co/>

Plumbing in Middlesex & Essex County, MA

<https://www.jeneral-plumbing.com/>

Home Health Care Support in Wisconsin

<https://www.kindkeysolutions.com/>

Homemade Candles & Treasures in LA

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/VioletMoons>



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Gratitude TO OUR BRIDGEBUILDERS

Thank you for making this journey possible.

Lasting LEGACY

Wes Guckert

December 1, 1948 –
December 30, 2025

Wes Guckert believed in this work when it mattered most. Through the Traffic Group, a family-owned company he started 40 years ago, Wes supported survivors on all that's possible beyond survival. Though he passed in December, his impact lives on—in every life still moving forward.



Wes with his daughter, Renee Carter (left) and EN Co-founder, Kristy Norbert (right)

Be a Part OF THE MOVEMENT

Empowered Network is looking to establish more FUNdraising pods. Pull together a group of friends to plan an event big or small!

- Golf Event
- Coffee & Conversation
- Celebration Fundraiser
- Cocktail Party
- Chef's Dinner Party
*(Birthday/Anniversary/
Housewarming)*
- Fitness Fun
(Yoga / Soul Cycle)
- Wine Tasting
- Paint & Sip Night
- BUNCO

Empowered Network can provide signage, materials, special donation webpages, and speakers (optional).

*Interested? Email Angie Sewalson
asewalson@empowerednetwork.com

Thank you FOR EMPOWERING SURVIVORS



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