

**FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM**

**FOR MANY AND FOR**

*the one*

/// IMPACT REPORT ///

2022

**Destiny**  **Rescue**<sup>®</sup>  
RESCUING CHILDREN

**COVER IMAGE:**

*Rescue in progress. A child in Uganda, sitting and talking with a rescue agent moments before she accepted our offer of freedom and joined our Community Care program.*



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**This report presents Destiny Rescue data from events that occurred by way of our programming and rescue efforts in 2022.**

from OUR FOUNDER

# TONY KIRWAN



**Hello Family,**

I am thrilled to share with you the impact we made in 2022. We rescued a staggering 3,144 exploitation and trafficking victims. I am incredibly proud of each person who played a role in making this possible.

Our ability to adapt our rescue and freedom models helped generate growth and success. We launched rescue projects in new African nations, expanding our reach and impact to new communities in need. We strengthened relationships with partners, government and law enforcement agencies that opened new doors and opportunities.

These are huge achievements and it's all because of the hard work and dedication of our staff and supporters. To those who financially support this work, I say thank you. Your generosity has enabled us to continue our vital work of rescuing and restoring lives; I am eternally grateful for that.

As we celebrate, our commitment to the work grows stronger. There are still countless children out there who are trapped in the nightmare of trafficking. Together, we can find them and help them take their first steps on the path of freedom.

*Tony Kirwan*

This year, we helped more individuals than ever before move toward freedom.

# 2022

## RECORD BREAKING YEAR

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In addition to rescuing more people than ever before, we expanded our operations into four more countries.

63.2% OF THOSE RESCUED WERE CHILDREN



- children 63.2%
- young adults 25.8%
- adults 11%

# 3,144

**SURVIVORS RESCUED**

from human trafficking and sexual exploitation

across 12 countries

# 1,299

**SURVIVORS ENROLLED**

in reintegration programs

1,156 entered our Community Care programs and 143 joined our Residential Homes

# 131

**RAIDS**

# 168

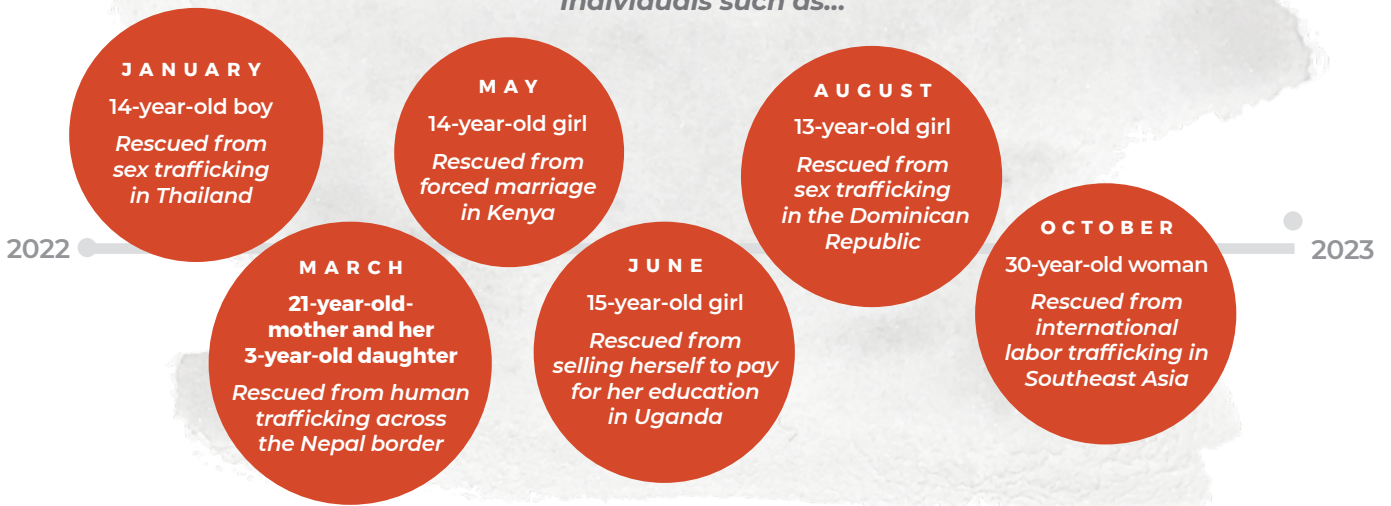
**ARRESTS**



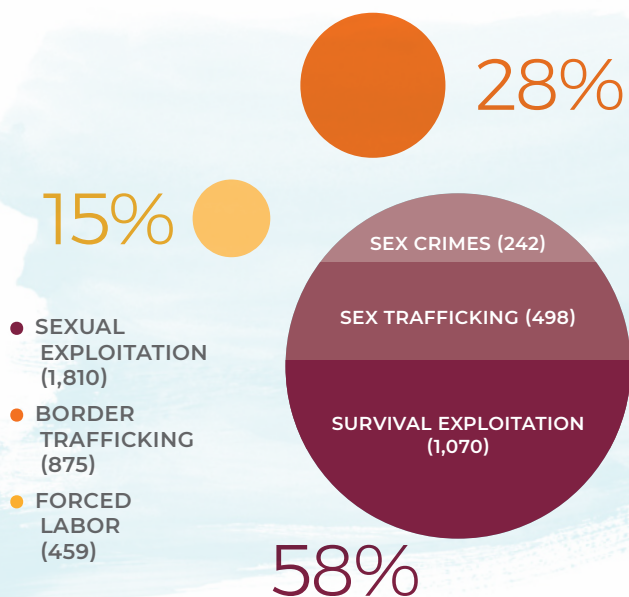
3,144

INDIVIDUALS RESCUED *from* TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

Individuals such as...



Rescue Snapshot



**Sexual Exploitation** included both children and adult victims of trafficking within the commercial sex industry, children forced into sexual exploitation to simply survive, as well as victims of sex crimes such as rape or child marriage.

**Forced Labor** included both children and adult victims of labor trafficking or debt bondage in various industry sectors as well as street begging.

**Border Trafficking** included both children and adults rescued while in transit to a final destination of exploitation. Most were intercepted and rescued at the border of Nepal. While all were confirmed victims of trafficking, the exact nature of the intended exploitation cannot be confirmed.

### Challenges

#### LONG-TERM LOCKDOWN EFFECTS

Last year, our teams continued to deal with the widespread, unintended effects of government shutdowns due to COVID-19.

In Uganda, it was estimated that around 5 million children would not be returning to school. In Thailand, up to 70% of households suffered reduced income.

Increased poverty created the desperate conditions that drive child exploitation, while less time in school gave predators greater access to kids, often via social media.

Our vocational training programs helped children and their families gain a stable source of income, breaking the cycle of exploitation and enabling many younger children to return to school.

#### ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS IN STRUGGLING ECONOMIES

One of the most important steps of our mission is helping survivors stay free. That means we must continually develop innovative solutions to help these courageous individuals maintain a life of freedom.

Unfortunately, the same circumstances that lead to exploitation can also act as roadblocks to reintegration. Underdeveloped economies often have only a few niches of job opportunities to fill, so we must be creative and flexible in how we create economic empowerment plans for those we rescue.

### Growth

#### MORE COUNTRIES, MORE RESCUE

2022 was a year of exciting growth for Destiny Rescue!

We expanded our operations into no fewer than four new countries!

Our rescue and reintegration programs in partnership with local organisations started and flourished in Kenya and Zimbabwe.

During 2022, our agents, caseworkers and logistical experts worked hard to establish solid partnerships and form a unique plan for each country to best address their specific rescue needs.

We also started working with law enforcement agencies in two new countries in Latin America. We worked side by side with police and detectives to carry out raids and aid investigations that rescued children and put their traffickers behind bars.

#### EXPANDING COLLABORATION

In addition to establishing new relationships with law enforcement agencies around the world, we also strengthened bonds with governmental partners as we continued to establish Destiny Rescue as a trusted partner in the fight against child trafficking and sexual exploitation.

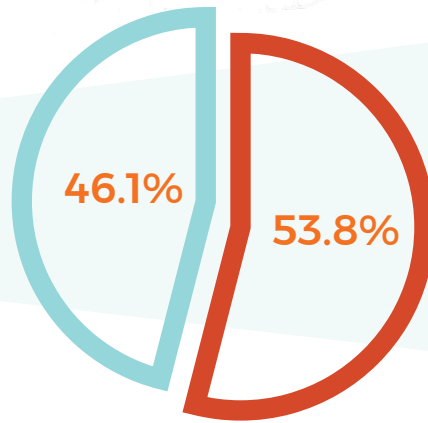
Our collaboration with four new law enforcement agencies resulted in several successful raids.

## Care as *unique* as they are.

**2,411**  
CHILDREN  
received care through our  
reintegration programs



- 85.9% in Community Care
- 14.1% in Residential Homes



- CONTINUED CARE FROM 2021
- NEW ENROLLMENTS IN 2022

*Each child received care customised to their unique situation.*

**Community Care** empowered children to live within their community while receiving our services and attending counseling and classes. Most children in Community Care received food packs to help offset the financial stressors that drove them into exploitation.

**Residential Homes** featured full accommodation in a shelter run by our staff. This was the best option when a child did not have access to a safe place immediately after rescue. Some survivors entered residential care for a short time while a safe living situation was arranged and later transitioned into Community Care.

*Data reflects the initial care option chosen after rescue or enrollment at the start of the calendar year.*



# LATIN AMERICA

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND OTHER COUNTRIES

RESCUE TOTAL

203

MAIN RESCUE TYPE:

Sex trafficking raids in collaboration with law enforcement

Raid operations in collaboration with law enforcement rescued 203 individuals from human trafficking and exploitation throughout four countries in Latin America including the Dominican Republic. While most were victims of sex trafficking, seven individuals were being exploited for labor.

Although we have established operations in three Latin American countries, our agents collaborated on a raid in a fourth country that successfully rescued 13 women from sex trafficking. Destiny Rescue does not currently plan to expand rescue efforts further into this country.

Agents in the Dominican Republic assisted 66 victims of sex crimes. Our agents provided assistance in victim interviews, surveillance and logistical support, enabling the arrest of dangerous perpetrators.

Government social workers determined the next steps for survivors after rescue.

"One thing I noticed first was the depression and tension on the girls' faces. They had been consumed by the exploitation and were hopeless.... Some were scared, but most seemed happy when they realised they were being saved."

Rescue Agent  
Dominican Republic

*(Reflections on their largest raid to date)*







A *story* FROM LATIN AMERICA

### A Daring Escape Aids a Massive Raid

Two young women walked into a law enforcement office and reported they'd escaped being trafficked. In an interview, one of the women outlined her harrowing story.

She accepted what turned out to be a fake job posting, but after landing in the Dominican Republic, she was brought directly to an apartment and told she'd incurred an enormous debt due to the traffickers' "services" and was now in the "escort" business. The traffickers handcuffed her and set a gun on the table, posing a clear threat: obey or be killed.

She and other victims were then drugged and taken to hotels where they were forced into sex work and made to take five or six "clients" a day. Escape seemed impossible.

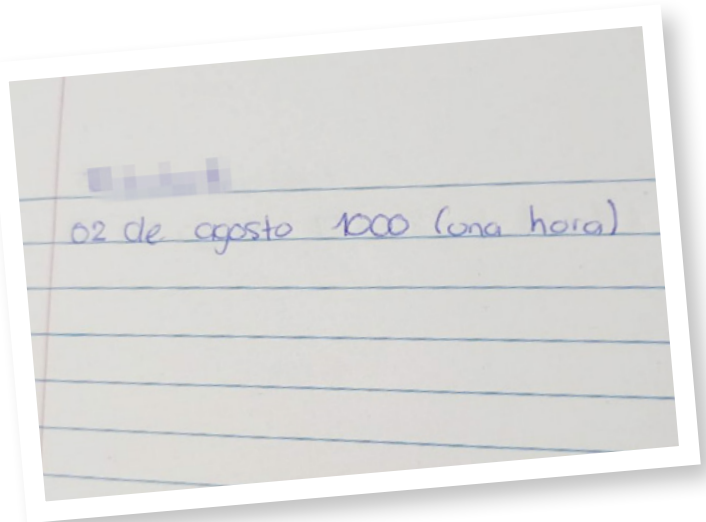
One day, the young woman decided to act. Our agent reported that "instead of taking her drugs, [she] hid them and later put them in the drink of one of the guards." The guard passed out, and this brave girl escaped, bringing along another captive.

The intel she gave helped our agents expand a case they were already working. A few months later, our teams and federal police raided 11 locations across half of the country. That single raid rescued over 70 young women and girls, while also leading to the arrest of more than a dozen human traffickers.



"Every time we moved forward, we kept getting more information [about] more girls being trafficked and more perpetrators involved in this case, so we had to keep investigating until we were able to close it."

Rescue Agent  
Dominican Republic



*This confiscated ledger shows a different victim's earnings toward paying her debt. An hour of abuse earned her about USD\$18.*



# AFRICA

INCLUDES THREE COUNTRIES | KENYA | UGANDA | ZIMBABWE

RESCUE TOTAL

806

MAIN RESCUE TYPE: **Survival**

We are pleased to announce that our rescue and reintegration efforts have expanded into Zimbabwe and Kenya!

**Destiny Rescue found and rescued 806 children from sexual exploitation throughout three countries in Africa.\***

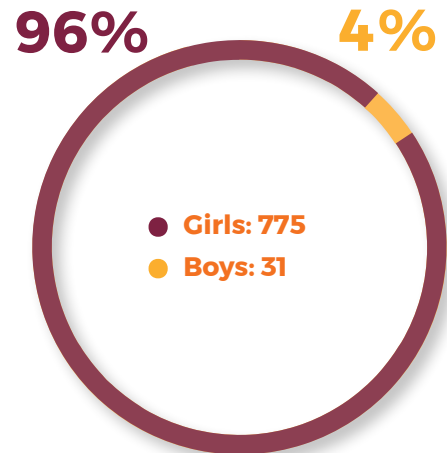
Most had no way of affording basic needs such as food, clothing, hygiene products or school fees. To survive, they sold themselves, enduring unthinkable abuse.

Our teams throughout the regions also assisted children who were victims of incest or other sex crimes.

**All 806 survivors enrolled in our programs after rescue.**

We provided survivors with trauma-informed counseling, food packs and access to education or vocational training to empower them toward sustainability. Among those rescued were 31 boys who received services through our Community Care programs.

*\*This number includes five 18-year-old girls*



Ratio of rescued girls to boys in Africa.



# AFRICA

CONTINUED



**Our reintegration programs provided services to 1,196 survivors**

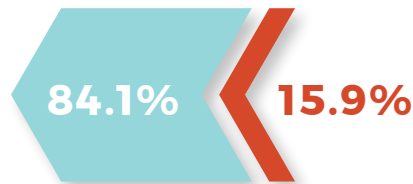
### FREEDOM PLANS

In both Community Care and Residential Homes, each survivor entered a Freedom Plan™ carefully tailored to their situation. Starting with our groundbreaking **Empower** trauma counseling, survivors take a journey of healing that culminates with vocational or educational training to help the child (or their guardian) become financially independent, often allowing the survivor to return to school.

### NEXT STEPS

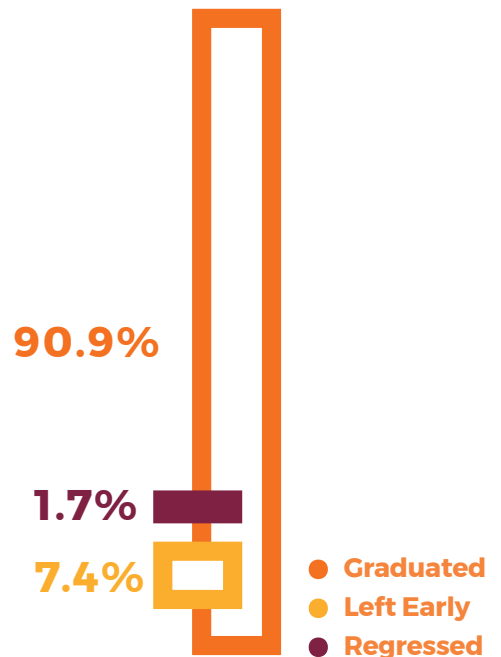
492 children completed and graduated our program, which lasts six to 12 months. They completed all of their classes and training commitments and are now independent and financially stable. Nine children regressed, which means they discontinued our program and returned to their former life of exploitation. 40 children left our program early, but did not return to exploitation; some reasons for leaving early included moving to a new region, getting married or no longer wishing to communicate with our staff due to the negative memories it evoked.

492  
*Graduates*



- Community Care
- Residential Home

*Ratio of survivors enrolled in our programs after rescue.*



*Program completion rates among survivors.*



A *story* FROM AFRICA



"I thank the Lord God. I thank you all for bringing this project (to my area).

*Thank you very much!"*

Survivor, age 16  
Uganda

**From Hopeless to Victorious**

By age 13, Namazzi was entrapped in a brothel, addicted to opiates and pregnant. With no support system, she was forced to give birth alone – without medical care – twice. Her first baby tragically died in childbirth; the father took her second baby away. Barely into her teens, Namazzi had already lost two children.

A few years later, as she was in the act of taking drugs, one of our rescue agents stopped on the street to speak with her. She resisted at first: "No one had [ever] helped me," said Namazzi. "I had lost hope."

Gripped by hopelessness, she argued that nothing could be done for her. "I thought God was not there," she said.

But our rescue agent didn't give up. Drawn by the offer of food, Namazzi finally took the first step toward freedom by enrolling in our residential program.

During her first month, Namazzi suffered terrible withdrawal symptoms. Overwhelmed with self-loathing, she attempted to end her life by jumping into a deep well.

But her story didn't end there. She survived the fall and was discovered by one of the other girls in the home. The counselors tenderly guided her to view herself as God sees her: a cherished child worthy of His love.

**One night, Namazzi had a startling dream. In it, she heard a voice tell her to change her name. In her language, her new name means Victory.**

That name change is indicative of what has happened in Victory's life. Now, she praises God in the church choir and even counsels other girls with similar stories. She has plans to open her own boutique. Her songs are full of joy, and her heart is full of gratitude:

"I thank the Lord God. I thank you all for bringing this project (to my area). Thank you very much!"



Survivors in Uganda gather for Empower, our group trauma rehabilitation program.



## 2022 REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



# ASIA

INCLUDES SIX COUNTRIES | CAMBODIA | NEPAL | THAILAND | THE PHILIPPINES | OTHER LOCATIONS

RESCUE TOTAL

2,135

41.0% Border Trafficking (875)

21.1% Forced Labor (450)

3.7% Sex Crimes (80)

16.6% Survival Exploitation (355)

17.6% Sex Trafficking (375)

Our diverse rescue efforts throughout Asia brought freedom to over 2,000 individuals. Just over half of them were children.

**493 SURVIVORS** entered our reintegration programs after rescue

108 sex trafficking survivors accepted freedom in Cambodia. Each survivor entered our Community Care reintegration program and received individualised support from a caseworker and a unique Freedom Plan™. 68 survivors started safe new jobs in Cambodia this year!

405 people were rescued from an international call center labor trafficking ring. 76 of those rescued were children, some as young as 14 years old. All had been lured out of their home countries by false job offers and were then forced to work in scamming call centers under brutal conditions. Survivors reported being held against their will and electrocuted or subjected to solitary confinement as discipline. Our rescue team in Thailand worked with law enforcement, other Destiny Rescue teams and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to bring about their rescue and repatriation.

The case is ongoing.

105 survivors of sex trafficking and other forms of exploitation were freed in two countries in Southeast Asia. After rescue, survivors were reunited with their families or referred to the care of local shelters.

55 operations alongside law enforcement throughout four countries in Asia brought freedom to 218 victims of sex trafficking and other sex crimes. These efforts also enabled the arrest of 76 perpetrators.



55 operations alongside law enforcement

218 rescued

76 ARRESTS





# ASIA

CONTINUED

RESCUE TOTAL  
**2,135**

**“I can help prevent the girls in my country from being trafficked or exploited.”**

Sna, Rescue Agent  
Cambodia

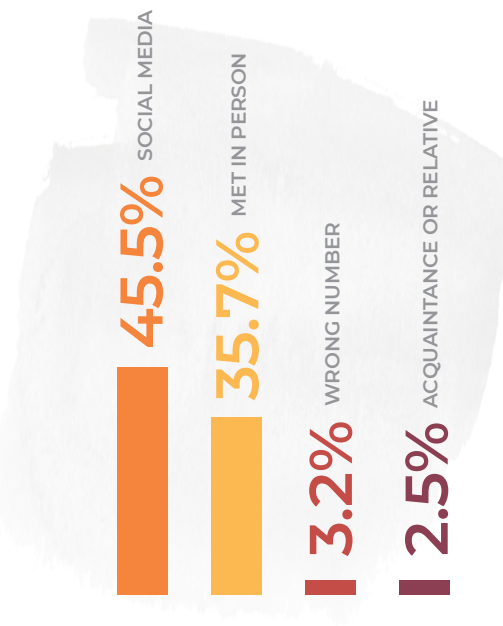
875 people were rescued at their country's border as traffickers attempted to lure them abroad. Two were rescued in Southeast Asia and the rest were intercepted at the border of Nepal. 35% were children, some as young as 12 years old. Seven new border stations opened this year; our agents are now actively patrolling 24 stations along Nepal's border.

Our team in Nepal also rescued 31 individuals from other situations, such as labor trafficking and child marriage. After rescue, most survivors were reunited with their families, while five were referred to the care of local shelters.

393 children were rescued from dire situations of sexual exploitation and abuse in South Asia. Most were facing extreme poverty and were forced to sell themselves to survive, but a few were victims of other sex crimes. 385 survivors entered our reintegration programs after rescue, including Community and Residential Care.

**“I am so thankful to Destiny Rescue for taking me out of the darkness and giving me a bright future. Today I can feed my family with pride.”**

Survivor  
South Asia



*How traffickers first made contact with their victims before luring them across the border.*



A *story* FROM ASIA



“The boys all looked uncomfortable and scared, that will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

Aiden, Burn Agent  
The Philippines

**Rescue from a Burn Agent's Perspective**

Aidan, a former detective, joined a raid in the Philippines to act as a burn agent.

His role lent vital credibility to the operation by posing as foreign businessmen looking to “party” while our local operatives handled negotiating with the pimps. When the time was right, they would signal the police to raid.

He and another burn agent, along with undercover police officers, met the pimps at a local resort. The pimps, both women, insisted that Aidan choose from among the girls they'd brought with them. Aidan hid his disgust and played his part, choosing a young, delicately-built girl in a gold t-shirt.

Her reaction was striking. “What broke my heart was seeing her obvious discomfort,” Aidan later recalled. “Every time I looked at her, she looked away. [She was] very shy, innocent, quiet, terrified.”

Aidan waited anxiously as the price of the victims was negotiated. Finally, the signal to raid was sent when an undercover officer passed marked bills to the trafficker.

Police outside made their move, storming the resort and rushing in from vehicles and adjacent rooms with their guns drawn. Once police secured the rooms, Aidan let his cover drop. It was a relief to stop pretending to be a child sex buyer.

Later, back at law enforcement headquarters, government and Destiny Rescue caseworkers interviewed the victims. The young girl in the gold t-shirt appeared to realise that things might be changing for the better.

**“I saw that the girl I had chosen went from scared about being in trouble to looking relieved,” Aidan remembered. “She gave me a bit of a smile.”**

She and the rest of the survivors began their rehabilitation the very next day. The two pimps were arrested and will likely spend the rest of their lives behind bars.



The girl in gold glanced up at our agent during the raid.

# Thank You!

## Reflecting on the work that was made possible in 2022 stirs up gratitude in our hearts.

It would be difficult to quantify the effort put forth for each of these rescues. Investigators and field agents on the ground work tirelessly, putting in thousands of hours to locate exploited children and make a plan of rescue. Undercover agents bravely adopt the persona of the enemy to rescue the innocent. Courageous border agents face the problem in the open, literally stopping traffickers in their tracks. Caseworkers and counselors exhibit unparalleled patience as they facilitate healing from some of the most harrowing, horrifying experiences imaginable. Liaisons foster relationships with law enforcement agencies and foreign governments to extend the reach of our work. Office staff resolutely tackle the difficult task of accounting, record keeping and communications. Fundraisers allow the entire process to continue and grow with their commitment to building relationships and connecting with donors.

Despite the nobility of their work, much of what they do goes unheralded. So, here, right now, we thank you. Thank you to every volunteer and employee who gives their all for the sake of exploited children around the world. You are making a difference.

None of these incredible people could do their essential work without our donors. Without their generosity, we couldn't complete any rescues, much less expand to four new locations! On behalf of every precious soul rescued, we say thank you.

Human traffickers are changing their tactics as the world around us shifts—and we are excited to implement some truly innovative new tools to combat their efforts.

**Join us as we continue to fight for freedom in 2023!**

