



# THE WELLHOUSE RESTORATION REPORT

2022 - A Year in Review



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Confidentiality Notice: Images in this report are representative of the women we serve.

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



GARRY ARD
BOARD MEMBER

### WELCOME TO THE TEAM

The WellHouse Women's Committee was established in 2022 to raise awareness and funding that directly contributes to the health and wellness of the women and girls at The WellHouse.

Throughout the year, they held the first charcuterie board fundraiser, greatly improved the organization and look of Elizabeth's Closet, conducted etiquette class and luncheon, provided facials, raised money for dental work and other health & wellness needs for our residents.

Their members founded the committee with 2 Corinthians 5:17 as their core verse. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

I would like to begin by thanking all of you for your partnership with The WellHouse in 2022. Whether it was a financial partnership or an investment of your time and talents, each is needed and greatly appreciated!

This past year was significant in many areas but primarily because we saw the WellHouse Child house filled up, which enabled us to begin the restoration process for these young girls who have endured so much.

All of our residents continued their journey in 2022 building back their lives so they can be restored to their family and friends. It is so encouraging to see their hard work and enthusiasm.

It has been a privilege to serve on the board alongside a staff that is completely dedicated to serving the population of women who reside at The WellHouse. Every day they come to work with one thing in mind; helping each child or young woman move toward restoration by finding their identity in Christ!

As we navigate the challenges of 2023 we ask for your prayers and continued involvement!

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### **JOIN THE FIGHT!**

Check out page 21 of the Restoration Report to learn about all the ways you can get involved with The WellHouse!



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Since its founding, The WellHouse has been among those leading in the cry against the horrific crime of human trafficking! In recent years, it seems that the cry is not as intense as it once was, but The WellHouse has been purposeful in keeping the injustice before the public and in seeking all avenues for receiving and offering restoration opportunities to survivors of this egregious activity.

In 2022, we were especially encouraged that we were able to utilize our newly published WellHouse Way Manual to assist other organizations in establishing their work of offering restoration to survivors of human trafficking. Memorandums of Understanding were executed between The WellHouse and at least six of these organizations. We provided The WellHouse Way as well as formalized agreements with the intent of receiving referrals of survivors as well as making referrals. Those in receipt of The WellHouse Way manual can use our model thus allowing the influence of what we have learned over the years. This means that many more survivors' lives will be touched, and the reach of The WellHouse has been increased!

The effectiveness of our already effective therapy was enhanced when The WellHouse received a much appreciated donation to allow our therapists to obtain training and certification as well as purchase equipment to offer MicroCurrent Neurofeedback. This proven therapeutic tool, offered voluntarily, has already provided much relief to our residents allowing them to experience decreased anxiety and better, much needed sleep after suffering for so long.

We spent the early months of 2022 restructuring our staffing model for our WellHouse Child program. After hiring sufficient staff, offering increased training to include crisis intervention, and establishing meaningful community partnerships (board of education, medical, therapeutic, equine therapy) we were able to begin receiving youth again. At first, there was one 13 year old who believed that her 36 year old trafficker was her boyfriend who loved her. Then, there was another beautiful child, then two more, then three more and by the end of 2022, nine of our ten beds were full!

To say that it was an incredible year is an understatement! Alongside challenges and obstacles were unforgettable victories and restoration that assured us of how much this work means to the God we seek to honor.



CAROLYN POTTER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We will forever be grateful to our supporters from those who volunteered graciously to those who gave generously. To God be the glory! He has indeed allowed us to celebrate great things!

Carola Sotter



Scan the QR Code above and follow the link to watch our brand new WellHouse Video!

# ESTHER'S SURVIVOR STORY

It was just me and mom growing up. She was a taxi driver in Miami. Thankfully, she had a lot of help from her sister who lived nearby us, because my mom did a lot of hardcore drugs throughout my childhood. Oftentimes, I felt like the mother in the relationship. I didn't become rooted, because we moved a lot.

I remember that my mom started entering into sobriety programs and sticking with it, but at that point, I had already started drinking. When she finally changed her ways, it was hard for me to accept that she was the one to make decisions now.

My mom got really sick with MRSA so my aunt stepped up to the plate even more for me. She had a nurse come over to care for my mom and assist with medications. Around that time, I began to experiment with drugs.

I met a lady next door named Stephanie and we would smoke weed when we hung out. One night she asked me to leave, but I just wanted to keep smoking. So she said: "Okay. But I need you to keep quiet when you see what happens here." Her boyfriend comes over and gives her some dope. I tried it and was immediately hooked. I wanted more, but in order for me to get more, I had to perform sexual acts.

I didn't even know what was going on. All I knew was that I trusted my neighbor, Stephanie. I believed everything she said because she was cool. She got pills, like oxy. She had me selling them at school. For every pill I sold at school, I could have one for myself. By that time, I had already given myself away sexually. I lacked meaningful friendships in my life and I began skipping school a lot, which eventually led to me dropping out at sixteen. My dad passed away one year later, which pushed me even further into a lifestyle of partying and addiction.

When I was 18, I was arrested for the battery of a law enforcement officer at a party. I was released on my own recognizance and then was on probation living with my mom again. Then I met Braden. He didn't become my trafficker until after he found out that I had already been trafficked. But after a few months, he went to jail.

One day I was riding on the bus crying. This girl sees that I am upset and begins to talk to me. She learned about my financial woes and had a solution for me to get money. So at 19 years old, she took me to a hotel where I met my pimp, named Honest.

The lifestyle was glorified with purses, cars, and nice things, but it was a raw deal. Honest was known as a gorilla pimp, which meant that he violently forced work and quotas. If there was any money missing at the end of the night or if quotas weren't met, then you got a whooping. He knew where we were at all times. I was terrified to leave and lead them to my family's house.

After finally escaping from Honest, I met these two guys and they wanted to pay me in heroin. I loved heroin at the time. They took me to a guy named Marcelino. He put me in a house and supplied me with drugs as payment.

I didn't realize that he was one of the biggest kingpins in Miami until later on. He had over 20 girls and ran the West side of Miami. Little did I know, he was the center of an ongoing human trafficking ivestigation. When I was arrested during a sting operation, I was the first arrest that law enforcement made during the whole two-year long case. They got more girls and more charges, and they started pouring into the jail.

In jail I cried and slept a lot. They would let us out for an hour a day. I read a lot of books. It was such a big case that they kept putting off the court date, and I was held in county jail for a year.

I didn't agree to testify until nine months in because I was too scared to talk. Finally, my lawyer talked me into testifying with the state and taking a plea deal.

I ended up testifying against Marcelino and Papa Murphy, two of the biggest kingpins in Miami, spending hours on the stand each day. My traffickers both got 25 years apiece. After my testimony, my sentence was reduced and I was able to come to The WellHouse.

I was really happy to be at The Wellhouse and I felt like God had shown me so much grace. I changed my ways and chose to submit to those in authority. I was given a mentor named Mrs. Sydney. She listened to me as I told her what I had been through. It was the best feeling in the world to have someone so close when my family was so far away.

My heart opened up to God, and my restoration and healing began. For so long I felt like I was never going to be anything other than a drug addict or a prostitute. But my view changed when I experienced God's grace and love for me.

My whole journey at The WellHouse was full of little nudges that got me to the next stage of healing. During my time there, I gained self-confidence, strength, and inner peace.

When I look back at how far I have come, it encourages me to keep going. And because God brought me to this place, I know it will be okay.

In Memory of Melissa

YOU, LORD, I HAVE TAKEN REFUGE; LET ME NEVER BE PUT TO SHAME. IN YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, RESCUE ME AND DELIVER ME; TURN YOUR EAR TO ME AND SAVE ME. BE MY ROCK OF REFUGE. TO WHICH CAN ALWAYS GO: GIVE COMMAND TO SAVE AND MY FORTRESS.

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# THE RESTORATION PROCESS

# THE RESTORATION PROCESS



### PHASE ONE

### THE STABILIZATION CENTER

Length of Stay: 1-2 Weeks Number of Beds: 4



When a new survivor arrives, she usually comes with just the clothes on her back. At the Stabilization Center she is greeted by a trauma therapist, home coordinator, and a warm, safe home. All things our new resident has likely never experienced wrapped in love.

"At the Stabilization Center I was able to rest, get settled in, and I began to feel very comfortable. I was immediately able to talk with the therapist about how I was feeling at the moment. The home coordinator even cooked me three meals a day! I really enjoyed being there and felt all the love and healing The WellHouse had to offer."

-WellHouse Resident



### PHASE TWO

### THE IMMEDIATE SHELTER

Length of Stay: 3 months Number of Beds: 12



At The Immediate Shelter (TIS), survivors have become aware of what has happened to them and begin our WellHouse Restoration Programming. In this phase, the resident begins to have hope well up in her as she starts to dream of what her life can be with newfound friends and support from her case manager, counselor, staff, and volunteers.

"In TIS, I felt safe for the first time in a long time, freedom to be myself, challenged to heal, and comforted by other girls who had experienced the same thing that I did. It was the best thing learning how to walk through a tough time with girls who all understood each other."

-WellHouse Resident



### PHASE THREE

### **NEXT STEPS TO FREEDOM**

Length of Stay: 9-12 Months Number of Beds: 12



At Next Steps to Freedom (NSF), the survivor is able to take practical steps towards her lifelong goals such as enrolling in college courses, obtaining work experience, learning new life skills, and discovering a new passion. She is encouraged and seen with the help of her mentor and all other supporting parties as she stays on the path of healing towards graduation.

"Moving to Next Steps to Freedom is one of the most exciting and scary moments in the WellHouse Program. Once you move to the NSF house, not only do you have more freedom, but also more responsibility. This is where you get an outside job, a car, and you are able to take overnight passes. With that responsibility comes the opportunities to make your own choices. I endured a lot of challenges here, but I was shown so much grace and love during the hard times."

-WellHouse Resident



### PHASE FOUR

### NEXT STEPS TO INDEPENDENCE

Length of Stay: 2+ Years Number of Beds: 12-16

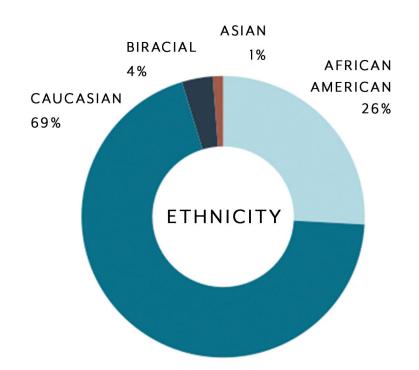


After a joyous graduation ceremony and celebrating all the healing and growth that has taken place, she is now able to live on campus where she is supported and encouraged while living independently. Transformation has taken place spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically and she is now ready to reclaim her life and trust God every step of the way.

"I have all the support I need in the transitional period between graduation and acclimating back into society. All my needs are met while living here in Next Steps to Independence (NSI). I have been in nine different treatment centers prior to The WellHouse and none of them offered transitional living. I know this is the key to my future success and am forever grateful for NSI!"

-WellHouse Resident

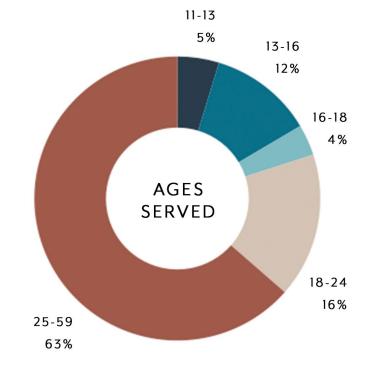
# 2022 SURVIVOR DATA



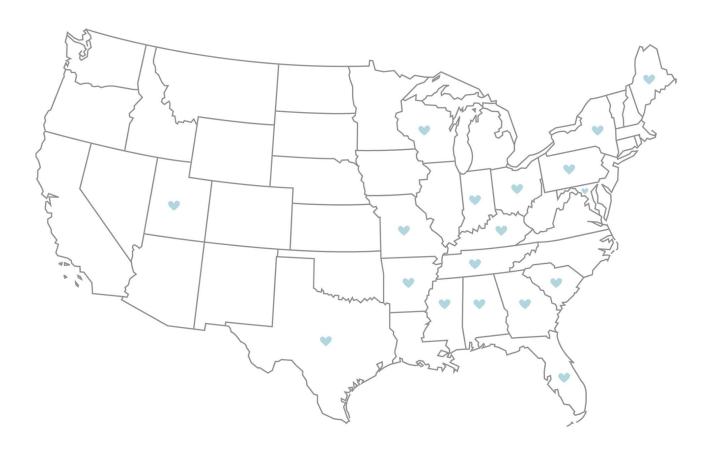
### NOT JUST A NUMBER

Within these ethnicities are individuals of whom 99% have a mental health diagnosis resulting from past trauma according to our on-site doctor. Trauma has no race or color and affects each of our residents differently.

Within these ages, 61 residents reported childhood sexual abuse, 34 reported childhood emotional absue, and 17 reported childhood physical abuse. These numbers are brave survivors who are reclaiming their lives and are nothing short of walking miracles.



# WELLHOUSE INTAKES



Alabama: 27, Georgia: 10, Texas: 5, Florida: 3, Indiana: 2, Arkansas: 2, South Carolina: 2, Tennessee: 2, Kentucky: 1, Maine: 1, Pennsylvania: 1, Wisconsin: 1, Maryland: 1, Utah: 1, Ohio: 1, New York: 1, Mississippi: 1, Missouri: 1

46 Entered WellHouse Woman Program17 Entered WellHouse Child Program22 Ongoing Residents From Previous Year

85 TOTAL RESIDENTS SERVED

"The Wellhouse has been a "secret place" for me. I have been hidden away from the many demands of the world, its dangers, and all of the confusion. My time here has been the opportunity of a lifetime, as I have had a safe place to be broken and then heal. Acknowledge my shortcomings then grow. Take an honest look at my life's journey thus far and be encouraged to believe for more. I have fought many battles emotionally and spiritually while living here, seeing victory and success with Jesus as my Lord and the help and love of staff, my mentor, and sponsor.

I am ever aware of the goodness of God that engulfs me daily on this beautiful property. God's favor in my life is represented by being chosen to be here for such a time as this. I appreciate with all my heart each staff member who makes my new life here at NSI possible. Thank you for giving of your time and talents to help me be safe, sane, and sober while daily being sanctfied. I love you all."

- WellHouse Graduate



# OUR IMPACT

- 4 Worked on College Course Work
- 4 Ready-To-Work Classes
- 4 Worked Towards GED
- 6 Moved to Transitional Living
- 6 Purchased an Automobile
- 8 Lived in On-Campus Apartments
- 10 Found Employment
- 10 Baptisms
- 10 Resident-Led Serve Days
- 12 Total Residents Graduated
- 17 Children Entered Program
- 26 Equine Therapy Participants
- 26 Cooking Classes
- 26 On-Site AA Meetings
- 26 Exercise Classes

- 40 Attended Workfaith
- 46 Received Trauma Center Services
- 46 Survivors Entered Program
- 48 Art Therapy Classes
- 68 Women Served
- 70 Awareness Speaking Events
- 104 Trauma Group Therapy Classes
- 118 ShopWell Work Shifts
- 120 Average Days of Stay
- 200 Bible Study Classes
- 208 Life Skills Classes Attended
- 427 On-Site Medical Clinic Visits
- 728 Crisis Calls
- 960 Counseling Sessions
- 10320 Nights of Safety





Scan the QR Code above with your camera and follow the link to browse our store and subscribe to our Bracelet & Earring of the Month Club!

2022 brought big changes and great advancement for our ShopWell work therapy program. We grew from 5 wholesale partners to over 30, expanded and changed our line to attract a younger audience, and saw a 95% increase in sales in comparison to 2021. The greatest accomplishment, however, was ShopWell's provision of over 20 part-time jobs to the residents of The WellHouse.

In 2022, ShopWell grew online sales and wholesale exponentially, bringing in a total of over \$110,000 which included over \$35,000 in grants and donations. Over 40% of our sales came from wholesale partnerships.

ShopWell is now sold in 12 states around the country, in stores and church book shops that focus on gifts that give back and are Christian-based. ShopWell was also approached in 2022 about being a featured seller on Handmade Alabama, a website that promotes and sells handmade items in our state.

ShopWell expanded our commercial orders and partnered with more organizations and businesses to provide corporate gifts to their staff. We were also thrilled to set up and sell our products at many women's conferences in 2022 and be the featured gifts at several women's conferences around the southeast.

We are excited to see what the Lord has in store for the growth and continued success of ShopWell in 2023 as we move toward our own studio space, more wholesale and corporate partnerships, and more employment opportunities for the residents of The WellHouse.



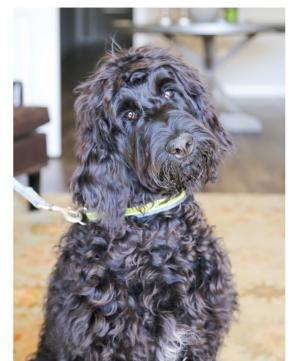


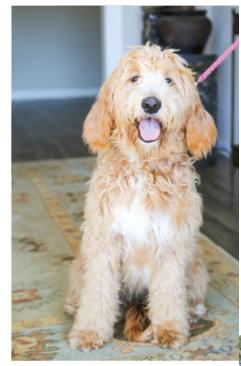






# SHE IS SAFE STORIES OF RESILIENCE AND HOPE FROM THE WELLHOUSE





# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

### WELLHOUSE CHILD

Because of the great generosity of many of you, we opened and began operating this new home for trafficked youth in late 2021. After a few months, we further realized the intensive care this population required, and worked hard to restructure our staffing and programming model to best meet their needs. By the end of 2022, we had 9 minors in WellHouse Child, nearly filling the home with the capacity for 10. There are not enough words to describe our gratitude to each contributor and new staff member who helped in successfully getting this program off the ground, and the home being filled with minor girls to serve!

### SHE IS SAFE

Twelve WellHouse graduates share their stories in the published volume of our first book. Because of our incredible readers like you, their stories are being cherished and shared among many.

### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

With grateful hearts, we were able to open The WellHouse Endowment Fund to ensure we can serve survivors for as long as is needed!

### THERAPY PROGRAM

With the help of some timely support, MicroCurrent Neurofeedback was funded and introduced to our adults with great success! Thanks to another supporter, we also added two therapy dogs to our WellHouse family who our residents completely love and adore.

### WELLHOUSE WAY MENTORSHIPS

The WellHouse formed six new relationships through MOUs to provide assistance to newly established programs, utilizing our WellHouse Way manual. We are honored to walk alongside others aiming to do this work in different locations, and reach more survivors across the country.

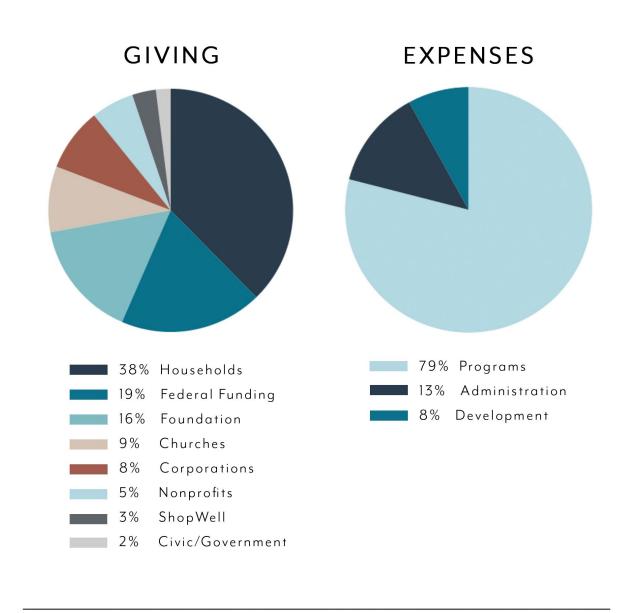
### GRACE GALA AND LUNCHEON

As always, we're thankful for the giving and support of Gala and Luncheon guests. The 2022 Junior Board Gala was a blast where we outgrew our venue, and keynote speaker Cyntoia Brown Long inspired us all at the Luncheon. Your support allows these events to continue to thrive!





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



At The WellHouse, we are committed to stewarding every dollar given to create restorative opportunities for human trafficking survivors. As we pursue God individually and as an organization, we are continually striving to be more like Him. One way we do this is by holding ourselves accountable to our Board of Directors, donors, and supporters. Your gifts bless us immeasurably and you deserve complete transparency of our financial position.

TOTAL SUPPORT **\$3,001,677** 





# WELLHOUSE CHILD

WellHouse Child has indeed been a humbling experience. Since re-opening our doors in May 2022, God has done incredible work in the lives of the most vulnerable residents and our staff. Adolescents who experience trauma before the age of seventeen have lifelong effects which manifest in different ways. We've witnessed this battle during our thirteen years of providing services to adult women and now have the blessing of walking alongside seventeen girls this year. Currently, WellHouse Child's 10-bed facility is full.

Many girls who enter the program have suffered the unimaginable at such a young age. The capacity to trust is often difficult for them. Building trust requires intentional time, the strength that only God can lend, and unconditional acceptance in a safe and reassuring environment. The goal is that every girl experiences the love of Christ and unconditional acceptance the moment she enters the door of WellHouse Child.

WellHouse Child residents look forward to youth ministry at church and several other services that enrich their time with us. These activities include music and art therapy, PE, playing at the park, dancing, yoga, earned field trips, group and individual trauma-informed counseling, family therapy, financial literacy, nutrition class, peer-to-peer support group, case management, equine therapy, school, earning a weekly allowance, morning devotion, and family visitation.

The WellHouse Child program gives girls the opportunity to encounter Christ, feel safe again, learn how to be a kid, and see what healthy love, stability, and support look like. As a staff, we are humbly grateful to witness God's miraculous love for his daughters. We have witnessed four baptisms and seen transformations from atheist to seeking, accepting, and following Christ.

WellHouse Child is a safe haven where girls can find and experience hope again!

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 17 WellHouse Child Minors Served
- 6-12 Average Months of Stay
- Reported Physical Abuse by Family Member or Friend
- 7 Reported Emotional Abuse by Family Member or Friend
- Reported Sexual Abuse by Family Member or Friend
- Resident Completed Individual Education Plan
- 1 Resident Identified as Runaway

LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.

GALATIANS 6:9

"WHILE TRAILBLAZING THIS NEW PROGRAM, WE'VE REALIZED THAT IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO CELEBRATE THE SMALL WINS!"

-MARLIE HYDE, CPO

# **VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS**

This year, we had approximately 165 volunteers give their time, resources, and hearts in serving survivors and helping with campus needs.

Our art therapy program bolstered its offerings as it was led by the wonderful Denie Girardeau, Nicki Linton, and Susan Harper. Residents loved making art that was healing and restful to them.

Flower School served as a new addition to our volunteer program where residents learned how to arrange bouquets and plant flowers with Abby Goolsby from Grace Fellowship church.

Churches such as Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church, Mountaintop Community Church, The Gathering Place, Church of the Cross, Redeemed Ministries, Crosspoint Church, Meadow Brook Baptist Church, and Mountain Top Community Church participated in days of service and ministered to our residents throughout 2022.

HopeU, an anti-trafficking initiative led by college students, led a painting class by the lake with residents while helping to restore our raised garden beds.

ONEeighty Church outdid themselves by cutting our grass and helping with landscaping needs weekly!

Our Bible study volunteers faithfully led Bible studies at different houses week after week.

Lastly, we want to thank all of our wonderful mentors. Your contribution to resident's lives is often unseen, but priceless. You are the backbone of the encouragement and healing that we can offer to residents. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!







## 2022 KEY VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES

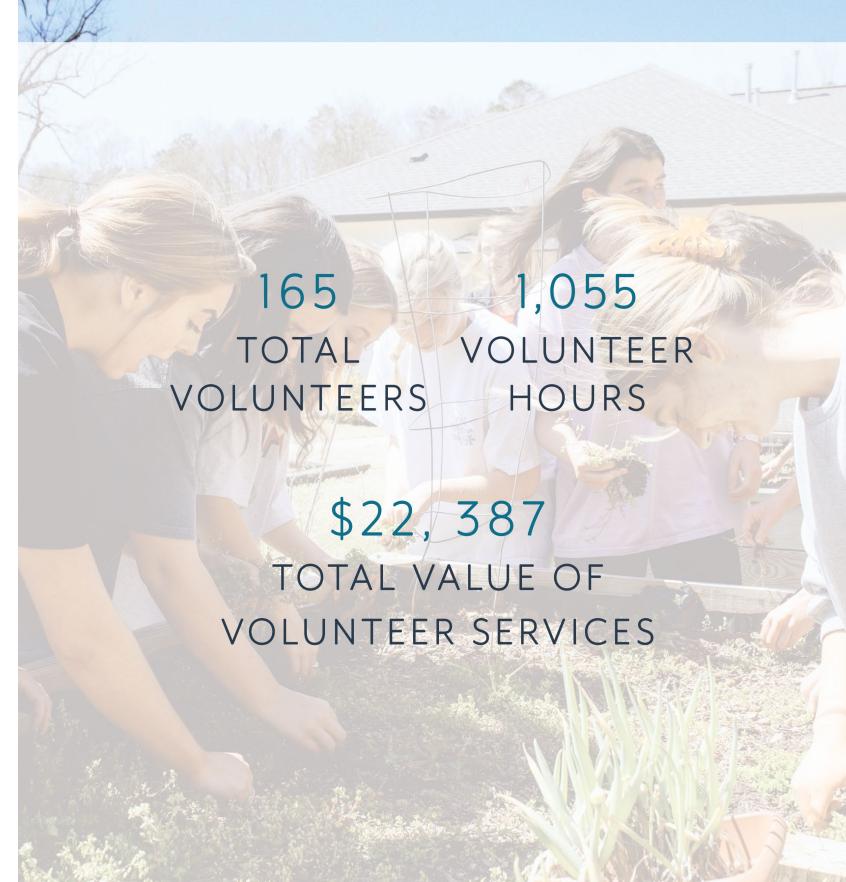
Art Therapy Bible Studies Cooking Classes Elizabeth's Closet Equine Therapy
Financial Literacy
Flower School
Job Readiness

Landscaping Meals & Parties Mentorship Quilting & Sewing



Apply Online Here





# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### ADVOCATE

Tell your friends about our mission at The WellHouse. Share our social media posts to spread the word!

### VOLUNTEER

Apply to volunteer at The WellHouse and be a part of our mission.

### TEXT US

Pray for our residents as they go through our programs and for our staff and volunteers. Sign up for rescue updates by texting FREED to (833) 881-8516.

### IFARN

Read new posts on our blog to learn more about the fight against human trafficking.

### CONNECT

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter for all recent WellHouse news and updates!

### SUBSCRIBE

PRAY

Read our quarterly email newsletters. Sign up on the homepage of our website.

### SHOP

Browse items in our online store made by empowered survivors.

### COMMIT

Consider becoming a Restoration Partner with a committed recurring aift.

### TEAM UP

Request a speaker for your upcoming event by filling out the request form on our website.

### **FULFILL**

Meet our ongoing needs for staff and residents. Visit our online Wish List to sign up for a donation.

### CONTRIBUTE

Contact us to learn how you can help provide gifts for our residents this Christmas season.

Support Our Mission, Donate Today!



AND WHATEVER YOU DO, WHETHER IN WORD OR DEED, DO IT ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM.

Colossians 3:17

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022 - 2023

Allan Worthington
Chairman of the Board

Kyle Hewlett

Vice Chairman of the Board

Scott Simpson Treasurer

> Jim Stroud Secretary

Garry Ard

Bruce Bailey

Karen Bailey

Marilyn Dixon

Missy Lawler

Paul Lawler

Derrick Mostella

Christy Strong

### Our Mission

We exist to honor God by rescuing and providing opportunities for restoration to female victims of human trafficking who have been sexually exploited.

### Our Purpose

We provide residential, therapeutic programs to female victims of human trafficking who have been sexually exploited, offering medical, spiritual, mental and emotional care. Regardless of race, age, color, creed, or religion, survivors in pain can be assured they will find love and acceptance at The WellHouse.

Our Core Values

PRAYER.
EXCELLENCE.
GRACE.







Support Our Mission! f 👩 🕥







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