

THE WELLHOUSE RESTORATION REPORT

2023: A Year in Review



PART I: PRAYER

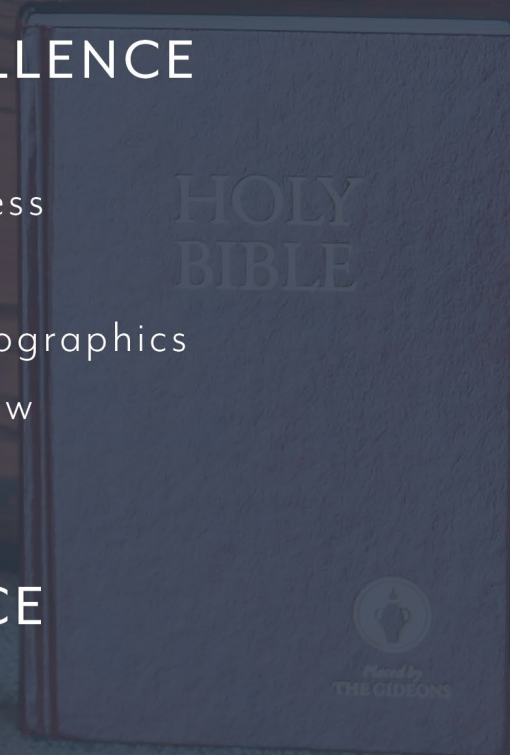
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what we're believing God for



and who is standing with us

A Letter From the CEO



In the world of anti-human trafficking efforts, change and growth are ongoing. In 2023, The WellHouse embraced opportunities to continue the growth which began many years ago. God's ongoing provision and protection were a joy to experience, and there were many days when we felt an army of angels surrounding us. As we endeavored to remain true to the mission of honoring God while serving survivors of human sex trafficking, we were blessed to walk alongside over 60 survivors from ages 11 and up!

We continued to grow our ability to serve through partnerships, both in our state and nationally. Through the certification process with Safe House Project, we were able to review our internal systems and we were awarded the Gold level of certification. Rescue America provided an opportunity to interact with more of our counterparts around the nation through their faith focused Central Support Community. The Institute for Shelter Care continued to provide amazing training opportunities, as well as meaningful surveys. We were especially encouraged by the survey of 150 survivors who had participated in various faith based residential living programs. The survey showed us that survivors do indeed value the provision of services in a faith setting. We also joined the Institute in the effort to factually show our effectiveness by revising our data system.

In Alabama, we were happy to accept the invitation to join the Attorney General's Alliance on Human Trafficking as their Service Provider partner. We are continuing to lead the Service Provider Committee for the State Human Trafficking Task Force. In this capacity, we were able to provide training at the State's Summit through our WellHouse Way model.

As each of these partners, and many more, referred survivors to The WellHouse, we were prepared to serve their needs. I am humbled to share some great data: From April 2021 through November 2023, there were 31 survivors who completed The WellHouse program. Of these 31, 81% have not returned to the life of human sex trafficking, 61% have not relapsed on drugs or alcohol, and 58% have maintained contact with their mentors.

ShopWell, our social enterprise that employs our residents, grew beyond what we had projected! We broke ground on a building we affectionately refer to as "the barn" to provide ShopWell with its own space, as well as to provide the therapists with new offices and add options for exercise. We are excited to be able to see survivors become overcomers and obtain sustainable employment due to these increased efforts on our campus.

We even enjoyed a bit of fun as our Junior Board went above and beyond when they hosted their annual Grace Gala. It was a super success, and we applaud this caring group for their dedication to The WellHouse.

Thank you to our supporters (volunteers, donors, partners, the faith community)! You helped make 2023 a splendid triumph with much to celebrate!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Potter".

CAROLYN POTTER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

A Letter From the Board

It has been such a pleasure to serve as both a volunteer and on the Board of Directors of The WellHouse for the past ten years. My work here has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. Being able to watch God's hand at work in this ministry has increased my own faith and my desire to serve.

Engaging with so many of the survivors has been a privilege, and sharing in their journey to healing - both in the good times and the difficult times - has been humbling and inspiring. I am keenly aware of my blessings and that of my family, as I know that were it not for God's grace, our family could have also been touched by this horrible crime. I hold my daughters more closely, and thank God that, instead, we are able to serve others.

Along the way, I have met many WellHouse supporters like you who have faithfully opened your hearts by volunteering, sharing your talents and skills, and generously donating monetarily. I assure you that each opportunity you have taken to make a difference in the lives of survivors, and to further the mission of The WellHouse, has made a tremendous impact. I am certain that the survivors of human trafficking who have been brought to safety and thrived through their experience at The WellHouse would echo my feelings.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, and those we serve at The WellHouse, I sincerely thank you and hope that you enjoy this exceptional Annual Report highlighting the blessings of 2023.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karan Bailey".

KARAN BAILEY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allan Worthington
Chairman of the Board

Kyle Hewlett
Vice Chairman of the Board

Scott Simpson
Treasurer

Jim Stroud
Secretary

Garry Ard

Karan Bailey

Marilyn Dixon

Christy Strong

Ken Valentine

Susan Vawter

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.

CORE VALUES

Prayer
Excellence
Grace

Anna's Survivor Story



My life before coming to The WellHouse was a constant tornado spinning out of control. I was buried alive in brokenness and loneliness. I had lost all hope and was living in complete darkness. I was living on the hood of an abandoned car in the middle of my hometown. I was running from an abuser, a trafficker, and honestly, I was running from myself.

My childhood holds some of my most precious memories. I was raised by two amazing Christian parents and we were very active in our church. I was spoiled rotten and that was a major part of my problem. My high school days were spent on youth trips and lock ins. My life was all rainbows and butterflies, or so I thought.

I would have never imagined my life going in the direction that it did. Looking back on it now, I cannot believe that I allowed myself to become the person that I did. I wasted fifteen years of my life always chasing something or someone to fill the empty void in my heart.

Addiction to any substance I could get my hands on became my new normal. I lost lifelong friends and no longer had custody of my children. I was even involved in a car wreck that almost took my life, but none of that was enough to stop the path of destruction that I was going down. If anything, it only added more fuel to the fire.

It got to a point where my sadness turned to bitterness, and I had so much hate in my heart, I couldn't see the good in anything or in anyone. Drugs and self-will had controlled my life for so long, and I moved from one toxic relationship to the next. I stayed in abusive relationships that I knew would one day kill me. I believed the ones who claimed to love me, really did love me. One bad decision followed by another bad decision. I finally came to the end of myself, and reached out to my Mom for help. I knew I had to do something immediately or I would end up dead.

I cried out to God for help and The WellHouse was the answer to that prayer. The very moment I pulled onto the property, I knew this was where my new life would begin. I was completely willing and completely ready for God to transform my life. There wasn't a single detail of the journey that I wanted to miss out on. I surrendered my way of thinking to Him (Romans 2:12), and I could see evidence of God's abundant grace and mercy all over my life.

"DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD'S WILL IS—HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL." ROMANS 2:12

I trusted the process and took advantage of all the resources offered to me. I found total freedom in Christ and found complete healing from the ultimate Healer. I learned how to love myself again, once I found myself again. I have been able to allow others to love me and learned how to fully trust again. I have experienced complete restoration in my family and seen severed lifelong friendships come back together again. Most importantly, I have a personal relationship with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My life today is one of restoration and redemption. I am a full-time employee of The WellHouse. God placed me to work in the very ministry that He used to save my life. I will forever be grateful and overwhelmed at just how much my heavenly Father loves me and cares for me. I am forever grateful to The WellHouse and all of the staff members who believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. They always encouraged me to keep pushing on days that I felt like giving up. The emptiness in my heart has been filled with the love of Jesus and I yearn to know Him more every day.

ShopWell

2023 was an incredible year for ShopWell. We were able to provide 102 work shifts to ShopWell Apprentices, equaling a total of 612 hours of employment for over 20 survivors of human trafficking. In addition to all of the empowering hours of employment, ShopWell had our biggest year ever in sales. We increased our partnerships with retailers to 67 stores that carry our survivor made products in more than 20 states across the United States.

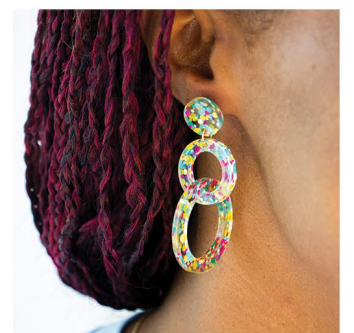
In 2023, we started ShopWell Home Parties which were an enormous success. We were delighted to host half a dozen Home Parties in the fall where ShopWell products were sold, and where the mission of The WellHouse was shared with women all over the state of Alabama who are joining the fight against human trafficking.

Our Corporate Gifting Line also went live in 2023, bringing in partnerships with several businesses in the state who chose gifts that give back for their corporate and client gifting needs. We were able to introduce new leather and wooden goods with custom logos to fit the needs of each business that chose to do their gifting with us.

2023 was an amazing year of growth for ShopWell, and we are excited to see how the Lord continues to empower our residents through dignified and equipping employment in 2024.

ShopWell, The WellHouse's social enterprise and resident-staffed store, provides practical job training in a safe environment, and features hand-crafted products made by empowered survivors.

Shop online at:
shopwell-wellhouse.org



“Trauma healing can be explained by looking at the crucifixion, descension, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Revisiting past traumas often feels like a crucifixion, which can lead to the experiencing of worsening symptoms, flashbacks, depression, hopelessness, fatigue, and much more. We often tell our residents that things are likely to get worse before they get better. A disheartening statement, but one that echoes that sense of hope that things can get better!”

-Rachel Crabtree, Director of Trauma Therapy

areas of exceptional service



for our deserving residents

PHASE ONE: STABILIZATION CENTER

- We utilize a proven intake tool to receive survivors from referral partners into the Stabilization Center where they are welcomed by a compassionate Home Coordinator.
- All immediate needs are met - including a visit to our campus Medical Clinic and assessments by our Trauma Therapist.
- After a time of rest, programming is introduced including daily therapy.

PHASE TWO: THE IMMEDIATE SHELTER

- Shelter in a comfortable homelike setting is provided as programming begins to include spiritual care, therapy, case management, equine and art therapy.
- She is able to regain her identity, often for the first time in years, including important documents such as birth certificates, social security cards, etc.
- During this time, treatment plans are developed with person-centered goals.
- The opportunity to be onsite for employment in Shopwell is offered.

THE RESTORATION PROCESS

PHASE THREE: NEXT STEPS TO FREEDOM

- We continue to provide services but in a different home as programming and Shopwell employment continues. Preparation for sustainable employment continues including GED, college goals, certificate programs, and employment training.
- The resident is able to continue her therapeutic relationship with her therapist and all therapy opportunities such as Equine, Art, and Micro Current Neurofeedback.
- As we continue to surround her with a supportive community, a special blessing is being paired with a trained mentor who becomes a lifelong friend.
- Being able to access the opportunity to obtain a vehicle while at NSF is very exciting!

PHASE FOUR: NEXT STEPS TO INDEPENDENCE

- Upon completion of NSF and a special graduation, residents have the opportunity to live in the onsite transitional living apartments where case management, therapy, and the relationship with her mentor continues.
- This is a time of great accomplishment that includes a vehicle, job and/or continuation of education in preparation for employment after the final exit from The WellHouse.
- Empower Her Network offers ongoing assistance with goals and all involved with the resident work together for a final exit plan that includes stable housing and employment.



OUR IMPACT

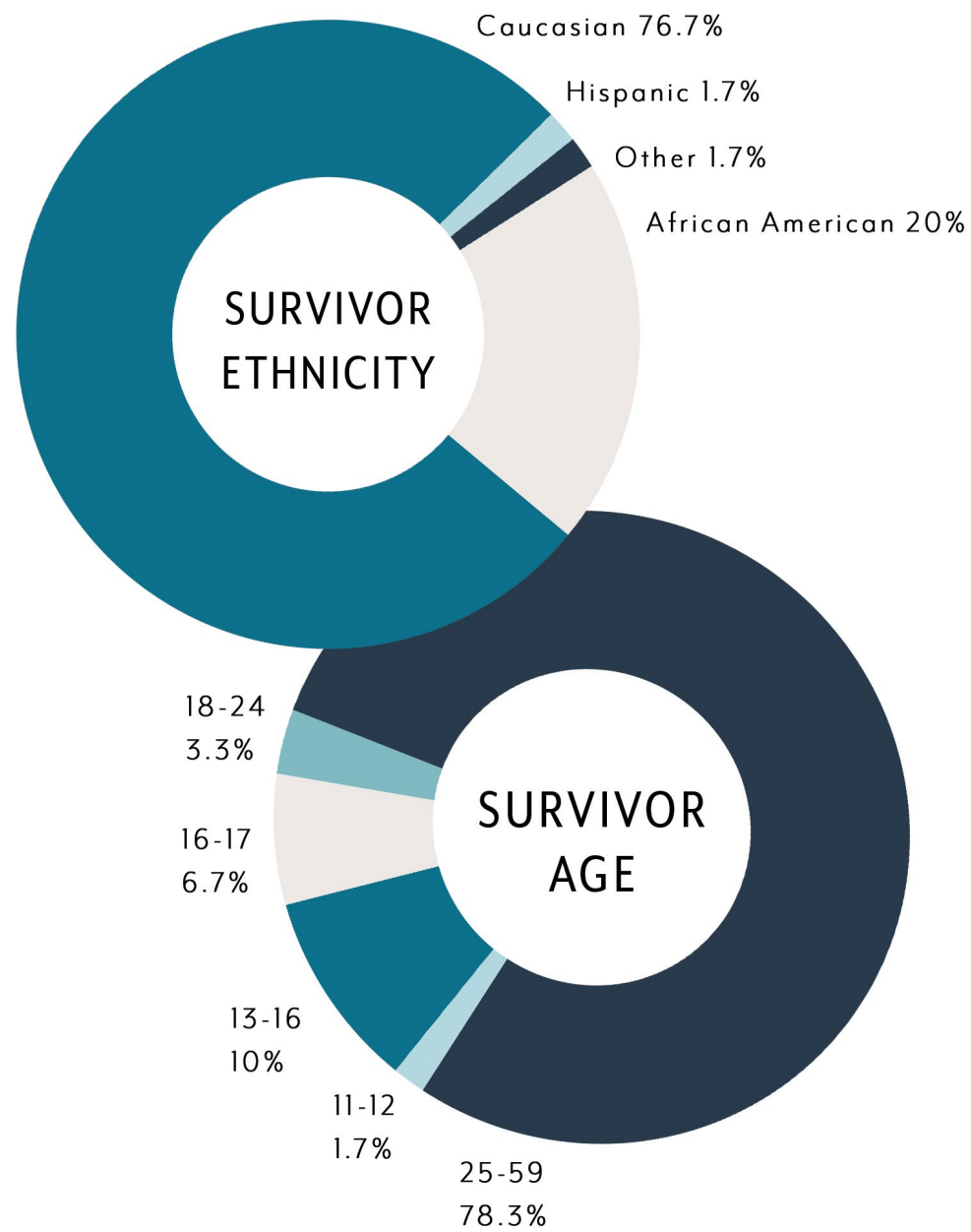
- 70 Total Residents Served
- 71 Awareness Speaking Events
- 100 Trauma Group Therapy Classes
- 102 Work Therapy ShopWell Shifts
- 144 On-Site Recovery & AA Meetings
- 154 Crisis Calls Answered
- 164 Average Length of Days Per Stay
- 194 Life Skills Offered
- 250 Bible Study Classes
- 500 On-Site Clinic Visits
- 1,144 Counseling Sessions
- 10,950 Nights of Safety

- 9 Worked Towards GED
- 9 Purchased an Automobile
- 9 Resident-Led Serve Days
- 12 Worked on College Course Work
- 12 Lived in On-Campus Apartments
- 13 Found Employment
- 13 Total Residents Graduated
- 16 Baptisms
- 16 Received Stabilization Center Services
- 26 Equine Therapy Classes
- 48 Survivors Entered Program
- 48 Art Therapy Classes

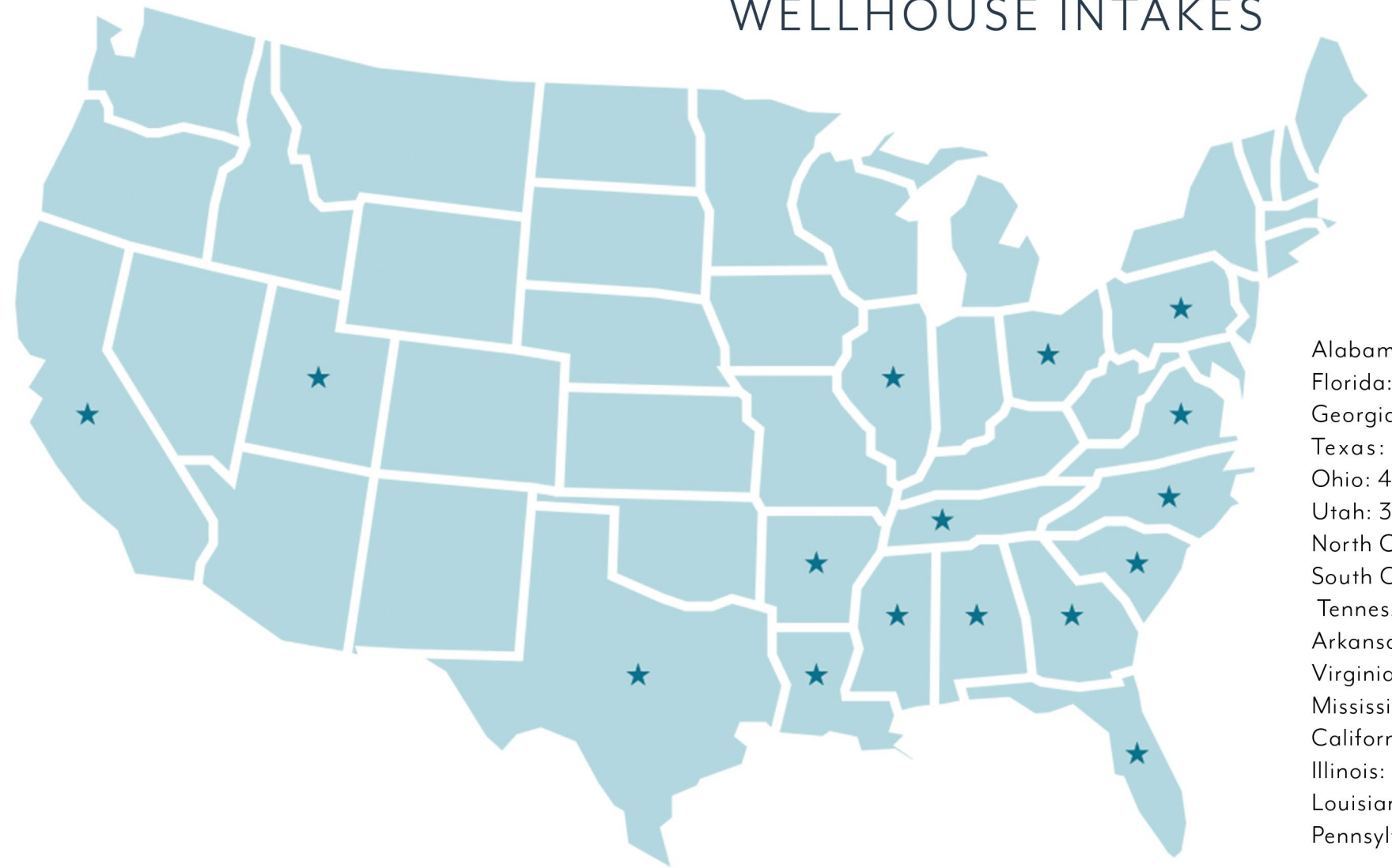


Statistics and Demographics

Gathering information about a survivor's background and identity are vital ways to assess the landscape of human trafficking in our communities. In addition to these percentages, each survivor holds complexities and stories that The WellHouse is honored to know. Among these numbers are incredibly brave women who are taking on the hard work of healing and restoration.



WELLHOUSE INTAKES



- Alabama: 17
- Florida: 15
- Georgia: 11
- Texas: 6
- Ohio: 4
- Utah: 3
- North Carolina: 2
- South Carolina: 2
- Tennessee: 2
- Arkansas: 2
- Virginia: 1
- Mississippi: 1
- California: 1
- Illinois: 1
- Louisiana: 1
- Pennsylvania: 1



27 Entered Adult Program

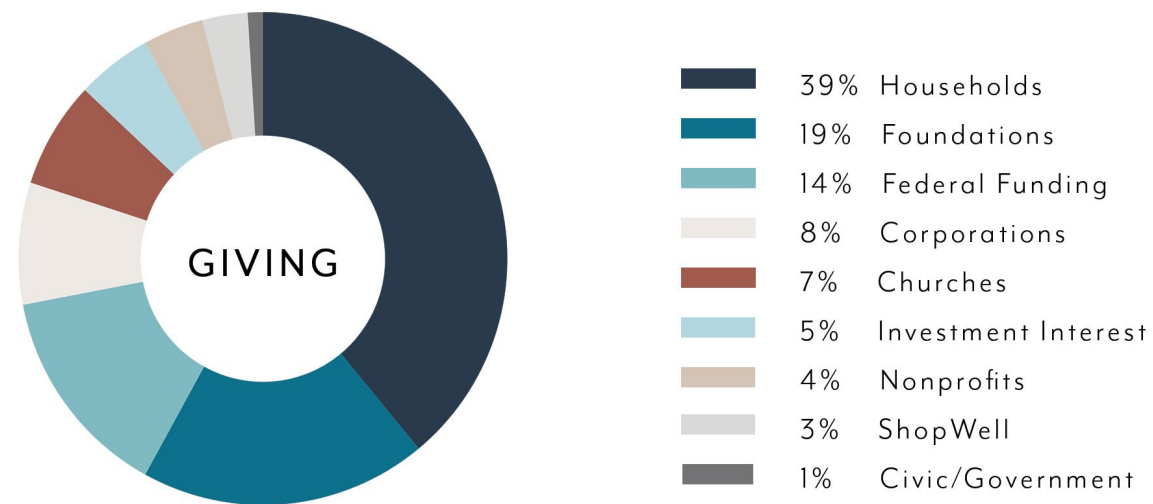
21 Entered Child Program

22 Preexisting Residents

70 TOTAL SURVIVORS SERVED

Financial Overview

At The WellHouse, we see every dollar provided to us as a trust that we only get to spend once. We do not take this responsibility lightly, and we make every spending decision count. The WellHouse accomplishes more with less and stretches itself to be resourceful while trusting that God is the ultimate provider. Your contributions and support for what the Lord is doing at The WellHouse mean more than you'll ever be able to see. Whether you have given your financial resources, time, or talents, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



TOTAL SUPPORT **\$3,708,526**

“DAUGHTER, YOUR FAITH HAS HEALED YOU. GO IN PEACE AND BE FREED FROM YOUR SUFFERING.”

MARK 5:34

“MY FLESH AND MY HEART MAY FAIL,
BUT GOD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY
HEART AND MY PORTION FOREVER.”

PSALM 73:26

our God-given purpose



in the fight against human trafficking

2023 Highlights

TRAUMA THERAPY

Our incredible therapy team continued in their robust offerings to residents. With a fully staffed department and the addition of a full-time, in-house therapist at WellHouse Child, residents were given weekly state of the art care. Over 750 individual therapy sessions were provided, as well as 180 group therapy sessions.

AFTERCARE FOCUS

In 2023, we had the honor of beginning a partnership with Empower Her Network who collaborated with survivors of human trafficking to empower them to make choices that will aid in their economic freedom. Each graduate who has the desire to participate has been placed with a mentor at Empower Her. Through this relationship, they are able to walk our graduates through job applications, navigating affordable housing and much more post graduation.

Additionally, The WellHouse has begun a survivor networking project to check in on the well being of our graduates and connect these survivors nationwide. We've also been gathering their insight so we can improve our practices and keep aiming to provide effective care to victims. Each of these initiatives has a lasting impact on the aftercare of survivors who are connected to The WellHouse.

Our goal is that each and every woman and child is flourishing. Moving forward, we believe that these implementations will ensure that survivors live life to its full in safety, community, and recovery.

PROPERTY PROJECTS

One of our greatest gifts is the stunning property on which we have the honor of operating. In 2023, The Lord continued to provide us with new offerings on property. We completed a prayer/walking trail that spans 0.6 miles around the pond at the center of our campus. This trail has served as a place for staff and residents alike to experience the profound peace and healing capacity of nature.

In addition, with the help of our friends at One Hundred Shares Birmingham, we were able to purchase a new van for our houses' use! Now, each home (TIS, NSF, and WellHouse Child) have their very own van to transport residents to off campus activities, doctors appointments, grocery store runs, and more.

With the help of some wonderful friends, old and new, we completed the construction and decoration of a clothing closet at WellHouse Child. Now, when a new child comes, they will be greeted with a wonderful "store-like" experience to fit their specific needs. The closet is another way of saying, "We care about you and you matter" to the survivors at WellHouse Child.



A Look Ahead

We are looking ahead with great anticipation for the many exciting new things happening at The WellHouse. Our new Barn, which broke ground in Fall of 2023, will house a new ShopWell studio, all of our therapy offices, and a workout facility. This beautiful new building is over 5,280 square feet and is slated to finish construction in Spring of 2024. This dedicated space will help ShopWell continue to grow, with the hopes of offering more full-time job opportunities to our residents and graduates. The new ShopWell studio will feature an office, large open workspace with ample storage, and additional space to grow our wood, leather and new candle line that will go live Summer of 2024. It will also feature a small gift shop front where volunteers and visitors to The WellHouse will have the opportunity to shop and support our survivor artisans.

Upstairs, the Barn will house our therapy offices and a beautiful, open group therapy room where so much of the healing that happens at The WellHouse will take place. The Barn will have a beautiful screened-in porch that looks out over our stunning property, and will have workout equipment to help our residents stay active.

We will continue our initiative to provide more full-time employment opportunities to our residents and graduates by opening a new ShopWell storefront space, slated for 2025. This space will not only bring in additional revenue for the ministry through the sale of ShopWell and other survivor made goods, but it will provide essential employment opportunities and on-the-job training to our residents and graduates. Along with our partnership with The Empower Her Network, which provides economic empowerment and aftercare to survivors of human trafficking, we believe our storefront space will be essential for long term employment and economic freedom for our survivors.

Volunteer Highlights

In 2023 we had approximately 345 volunteers give their time, resources, and heart in serving at The WellHouse, giving a total of 4,682 service hours.

Churches such as Crosspoint Church, MeadowBrook Baptist Church, Church of the Cross, Redeemed Ministries, Church of the Highlands and Kingsway Church participated in serve days and ministered to our residents throughout 2023.

Culinary Arts, led by a faithful volunteer, served as a new addition to the WellHouse Child programming. The girls have loved learning how to cook and follow recipes! Additionally, as a part of our initiative to increase health and wellness offerings on campus, a volunteer-led workout class has been occurring weekly on campus for our adult program.

Many residents also joined our new offering of guitar lessons held in the chapel. They even led us in worship during a Chapel service! Lastly, our long standing volunteer-led classes such as sewing, art therapy, and cooking classes have continued to thrive as residents learn new skills and develop their passions.

Lastly, we want to thank our wonderful mentors for their consistency and faithfulness in walking alongside our residents through their restoration journeys. Your presence in their lives is invaluable. We are sincerely grateful for you!

▶ 345

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

▶ 4,682

HOURS WORKED

▶ \$148,888

VALUE OF SERVICES



ADVOCATE

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

TEAM UP

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

PRAY

Pray for our residents as they go through our programs and for our staff and volunteers.

SHOP

Browse items in our online store made by empowered survivors.

CONNECT

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

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SUBSCRIBE

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

COMMIT

Consider becoming a Restoration Partner with a committed recurring gift.

VOLUNTEER

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

LEARN

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

FULFILL

Visit our online wish list to purchase and donate needed items.



THE WELLHOUSE

P.O. BOX 868

Odenville, AL 35120



Support Our Mission!   

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www.the-wellhouse.org

Email

info@the-wellhouse.org

Address

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