



2024



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THE HOPE CENTER



# Letter From The President

I still remember the moment when we found out. Our recently built operations center in Amorwongora village was mere steps away from one of the biggest trafficking hotspots in all of East Africa. At the time, our work had primarily focused on humanitarian aid and education, but we knew we simply could not continue as we had been. The knowledge that hundreds of girls were being victimized every week, right on our doorstep, was too great a burden to ignore.

It was then that we decided Hope's Cry would exist to empower communities to create environments where trafficking could not exist. Our headquarters rests on the border of Karamoja, home to a nomadic tribe, ostracized by the people of Uganda and cut off from most of civilization. This makes them easy targets for traffickers. More than 70% of all trafficking in Uganda happens in Karamoja.

In 2019, we began working with our partner organization, EverFree, to pioneer the first local-based aftercare facility for survivors of human trafficking from Karamoja. This solved a major problem for EverFree, who has successfully run several city-based aftercare shelters. Karamojong survivors could not adapt to city-based care. Many of them remained closed off to rehabilitation and some would even run away, only to be revictimized.

Our shelter is intentionally designed to feel and function like home for Karamojong survivors. The results have been instantaneous and overwhelmingly positive. Many girls have achieved major breakthroughs in the recovery process since transitioning from city-based to village-based aftercare. Our hope for them is that they would become empowered to carry their freedom to their people, establishing communities where the conditions necessary for trafficking to thrive will simply not exist.

As our partnerships have expanded, both with anti-trafficking organizations and local government and law enforcement, the demand for our unique solution has been overwhelming. Our vision is to expand the Hope Center to a total capacity of 96 survivors at any given time. As we expand, we will also continue rolling out our highly effective prevention and education programs in local schools, reaching thousands of students.

The work is only just beginning.

But, together we can create a world where trafficking is not allowed to exist.

Until all are free,



Co-Founders, Todd and Michelle Allen





Property Capacity	25
2023 Operating Budget	\$161,800/yr
Operating Budget Capacity	12
Capacity By 2027	90
Operating Budget Needed	\$595,100/yr

# Did You Know?

- 🌐 Karamoja is home to over 1.2 million people.
- 🌐 **Over 70% of all people trafficked in Uganda come from Karamoja.**
- 🌐 Hundreds of Karamojong girls are trafficked every week.
- 🌐 **We are the only local organization offering aftercare to Karamojong survivors.**
- 🌐 More than 80% of survivors who do not receive proper aftercare will return to their traffickers.

#### Sources:

1. Global Fund To End Modern Slavery - Assessing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Napak District of Karamoja, Uganda
2. UNFPA Issue Brief 7 - August 2018
3. State Department Trafficking In Persons Uganda Report 2023
4. Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative

## THE *hope* DIFFERENCE



### LOCAL

We have proven that village based aftercare is far more effective for rehabilitating Karamojong survivors. Despite the overwhelming majority of survivors needing local support, we are the only aftercare facility in Karamoja.



### CHARACTER

Our innovative virtue-based curriculum prepares survivors to become leaders in their community. We focus on whole-being transformation resulting in empowered individuals equipped to help others find true freedom.



### EMPOWERMENT

Our survivors are going home to one of the poorest economies in the world. We are working to equip them with marketable skills and safely connect them to the global economy to secure their forever freedom and revitalize their home communities.

Program Partners



WILLIAM LAUTMAN  
Founder of Nexus Health Capital





## *She* wouldn't even look up.

**W**hen Lydia came to the Hope Center, she was frightened, angry, and even violent. Trafficked at the age of 4 and a second time when she was 9, she had been brought to the EverFree shelter after being abused and raped.

When members of the EverFree team took her home to retrieve her belongings, she refused to get in the car, screaming and crying for help. Concerned community members told her to get in the car and never come back to that village, it wasn't safe for her there.

Lydia cried for days, refusing to eat or participate in the program. She even began to demonstrate violent behavior toward other children in the shelter. EverFree sent her to us, in hopes that a change of scenery to a more familiar environment would put her on the path to a full recovery.

When she arrived, she remained closed off to our help. As you can see in the picture on the top left, Lydia refused to turn around for her intake photo. But, being close to home was exactly what she needed. Being around people who spoke her native tongue, in an environment that was familiar to her, helped Lydia begin to find her true identity.

Having never attended school, Lydia has now learned to count to thirty, write her name, and speak some English. In the picture on the top right, she is confidently telling the camera that one day she wishes to become a doctor.

The Hope Center has unlocked the door to freedom for Lydia and many survivors with similar stories. Without an aftercare facility in her homeland, Lydia may have simply become a tragic statistic. Because of our unique and necessary program, she is on the road to being forever free.



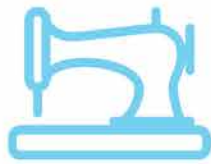


# Prevention



## SCHOOL MEALS

Two primary risk factors that lead to trafficking are dropping out of school and lack of money for food. We partner with local schools to offer a lunch program to solve both problems, keeping kids in school, increasing their learning ability, and reducing their risk of being trafficked.



## STRAIGHTWAY

Girls without access to sanitary products are denied access to school during their monthly cycle. This leads to many female dropouts. We teach girls to make their own sanitary products.



## SUSTAINABILITY

We use a proven model of implementation involving progressive levels of participation from parents and community leaders until they are ready to carry on the initiatives without our help.



150,000+

meals served.

3,000+

students supported.

100%

of Straightway students advanced to the next grade.

0

Straightway students dropped out of school.

Program Partner



HOPE SEEDS





# Empowerment



## SKILLS

Many survivors come to us with no marketable skills. We teach them a trade and show them how to use it to make an income. They also receive business training, money management skills, and access to a private, community banking fund.



## AGRICULTURE

Our agriculture experts work with survivors to teach them the best ways to grow their own food. This aids them in self-sustainability once they graduate and can become an additional profit center for their businesses.



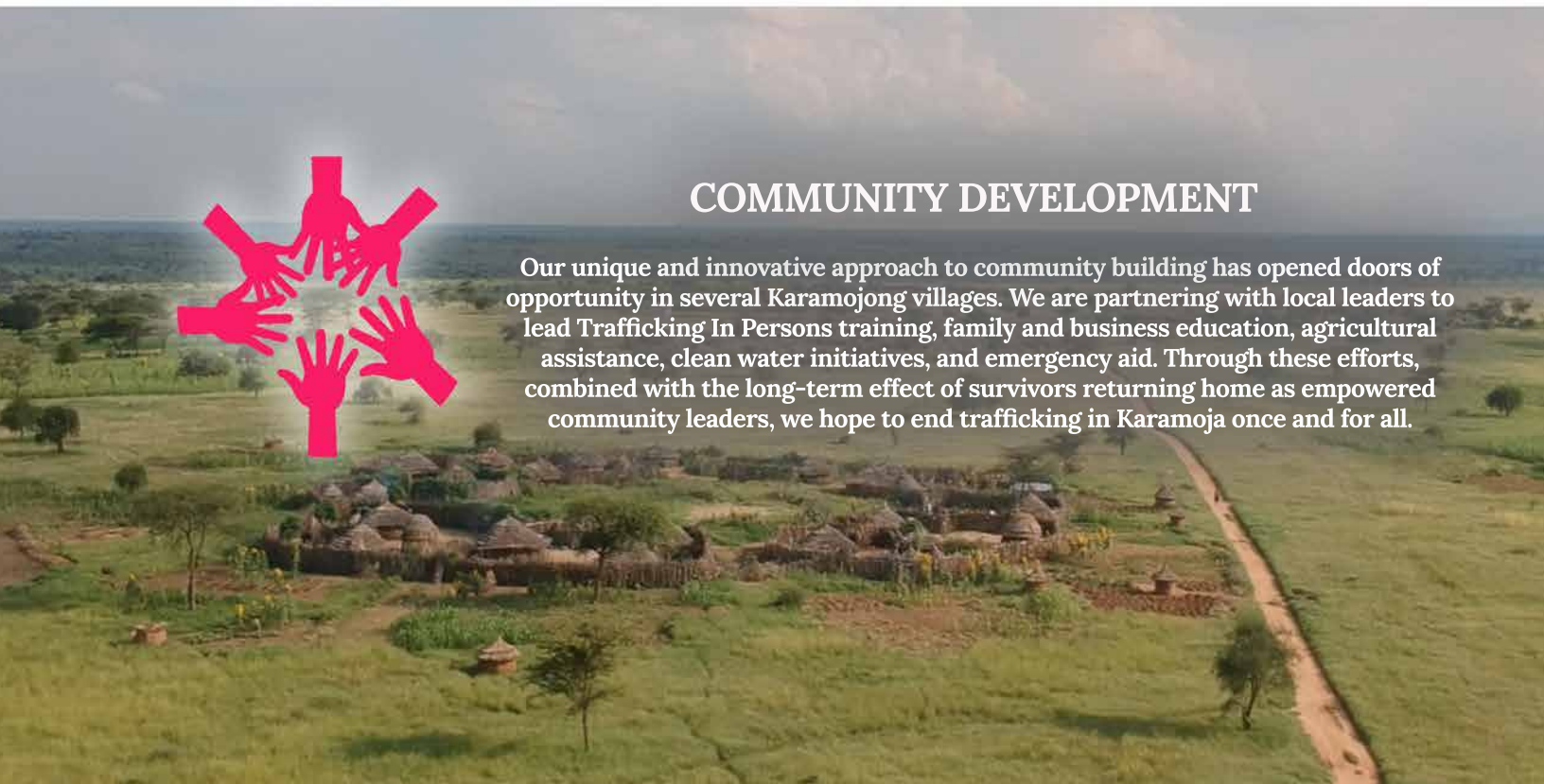
## INNOVATION

We are developing an unprecedented platform for survivors to make their wares available on a global marketplace. The “Keep Her Free” initiative trains survivors to make high-quality products and safely sell them at retail prices online.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Our unique and innovative approach to community building has opened doors of opportunity in several Karamojong villages. We are partnering with local leaders to lead Trafficking In Persons training, family and business education, agricultural assistance, clean water initiatives, and emergency aid. Through these efforts, combined with the long-term effect of survivors returning home as empowered community leaders, we hope to end trafficking in Karamoja once and for all.





# HOPE CENTER PROJECT TIMELINE

2024 - \$160,500

10 Residential Huts - \$73,500

Staff Housing Block - 28,500

Additional Latrine/Shower Block - \$15,000

Additional Transportation - \$43,500

2025-26 - \$164,000

14 Residential Huts - \$112,000

Expand Dining/Classroom Facility - 12,000

Additional Transportation - \$40,000



## Annual Operating Budget

2024

UP TO 50 SURVIVORS

**\$243,700**

2025

UP TO 50 SURVIVORS

**\$345,400**

2026

UP TO 70 SURVIVORS

**\$488,200**

2027

UP TO 90 SURVIVORS

**\$595,100**

FOR INQUIRIES: [INFO@HOPECRY.COM](mailto:INFO@HOPECRY.COM) | [HOPECRY.COM/DONATE](http://HOPECRY.COM/DONATE)

