



9 WAYS YOU CAN HELP END TRAFFICKING



KNOW THE SIGNS

Learn the red flags and indicators of trafficking

REPORT A TIP



Contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline if you have any concerns about a potential trafficking situation. Call 1-888-373-7888, text HELP to BEFREE (233733), or email help@humantraffickinghotline.org



SPREAD THE WORD

Share and display our All Hands On Deck Awareness Campaign in your community

|

THINK BEFORE YOU SHOP

Consider how you shop and eat. Who made your clothes? Who prepared your food? Know which goods may be produced by child or forced labor



VOLUNTEER LOCALLY

Visit https://www.redefiningrefuge.org/get-involved/



STAY INFORMED

Sign up for our Newsletter and follow us on Instagram and Facebook



REGISTER FOR TRAINING

Redefining Refuge provides tailored trainings to help professionals appropriately identify and address the needs of people impacted by Human Trafficking.

USE YOUR SKILLS



Can you train or hire survivors? Reach out to potential local partners. Do you work in a school? Propose anti-trafficking protocols. Are you an attorney? Offer pro-bono services. Writing a story? Use media best practices.



RAISE YOUR VOICE

Ask our Florida Representatives how they are addressing Human Trafficking.

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDING CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on this past year, we are both humbled and inspired by all that has unfolded—moments of resilience, connection, and purpose. In the spirit of our 2024 Gala theme, "Everyday Superheroes," we are reminded that true heroism isn't found in grand gestures but in the countless acts of dedication and courage shown by our community. Together, we have faced the fiercest storms, both figuratively and literally, with a spirit that shines brighter than any challenge we encounter.

We believe that it takes a village to make a lasting impact, and this year was a powerful testament to that truth. With your support, we were able to participate in initiatives like the U.S. Marshals Service Missing Child Operation, which led to the safe recovery of 27 children. Thanks to your unwavering generosity, we provided for these children's immediate needs—securing placements, covering essentials like clothing and food, and extending heartfelt care to each child during a vulnerable time. The success of this operation serves as a stark reminder of why we do this work and of the critical importance of our community's involvement.

This year also brought literal storms, reminding us of the unpredictable challenges our organization must be prepared for. But no matter the weather, Redefining Refuge remains a sanctuary for those we serve, a place where hope and healing are nurtured and fortified by a community that refuses to back down in the face of hardship.

To every one of our supporters, volunteers, and partners, thank you for standing with us. We may not wear capes, but together, we continue to fight for justice, safety, and healing for every vulnerable child. It's because of your commitment that we can continue to grow, adapt, and rise to the call for a brighter future.

With deepest gratitude,

Founder & CEO, Redefining Refuge

Watasha Wasainento



CCCCC

Comprehensive Care Plans

Mental Health Services

Telehealth and Teletherapy

Alternative Therapies

Treatment Planning

Healthcare Appointments

Facilitation of Non-Medical Services

Educational and Tutoring Assistance

Life Skills Management

Youth Empowerment Groups

Supervised Visitation

Assistance with Transportation

Consultation with Caregivers

Court Advocacy Assistance

Ancillary Needs Assistance

We Also Provide Training and

Consultation to:

Foster Parents

Community Based Care Agencies

Hospitals



OUR VILLAGE



MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERS

BayCare Health System
Tampa General Hospital
Gracepoint Wellness
Journey Forward
Juvenile Assessment Center
Juvenile Addiction Receiving Facility
Devereux Behavioral Health

LAW ENFORCEMENT ALLIES

U.S. Marshal Service
Tampa Police Department
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Homeland Security
FBI

St. Peterburg Police Department HCSO



Children's Network of Hillsborough County
FL Department of Children and Families
FL Department of Juvenile Justice
Guardian ad Litem Program
Attorney Ad Litem Program
13th Judicial Circuit of Florida
Children's Board of Hillsborough County
Gulf Coast JFCS





LEGISLATIVE

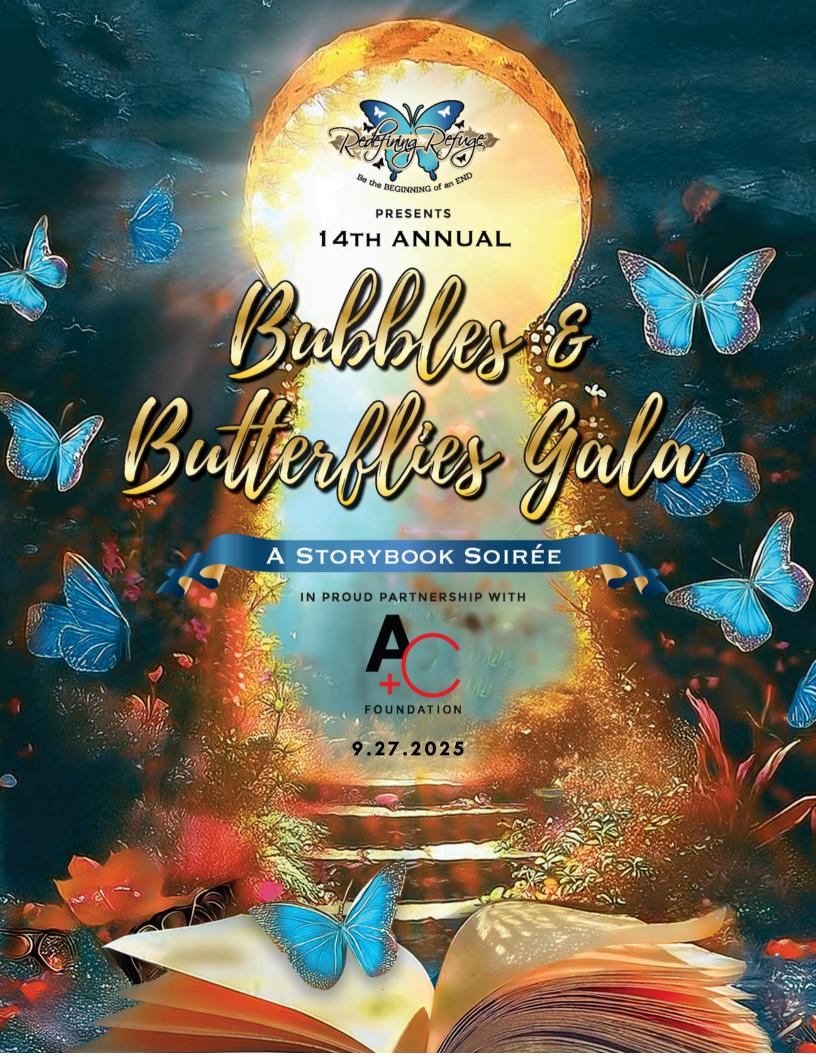
Commission on Human Trafficking – Hillsborough County

Office of the Attorney General – Statewide Council on Human Trafficking –

NON-PROFIT AGENCIES

Heart Gallery of Tampa Tampa Museum of Art Mary Lee's House Wheels of Success Metropolitan Ministries More Too Life One More Child SAFE in Tampa FREE Network Camelot Community Care
Children's Home Network
Created
Horse Force
Junior League of Tampa
Lutheran Services
University of South Florida
Trafficking in Persons Lab
Community Foundation of
Tampa Bay





A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

We've often said that "It takes a village" and this past year, that truth came to life in the most beautiful way.

At Redefining Refuge, our mission has always been rooted in compassion, collaboration, and community. And in 2024, our Village showed up for our kiddos like never before. From the launch of new initiatives to the creation of a long-envisioned community space, it was a year filled with heart, purpose, and hope.

Two years ago at our annual Gala, Simon Canasi generously pledged \$100,000 on behalf of the Adele Bernett Memorial Fund to support our dream of a dedicated community-based facility. With the help of several of our 'villagers,' that dream became a reality. Our new space now serves as a vital "home base" with dedicated rooms for tutoring, therapy, reading, and even showers, creating a nurturing environment where our youth feel safe and seen.

From the moment we opened the doors, our community sprang into action. Keller Williams and other local partners helped prepare the space through volunteer days and generous donations. Artists and decorators added beauty and warmth—from custom wreaths to hallway murals—while countless volunteers brought supplies, wrapped holiday gifts, assembled care baskets, and supported us at every turn.

In January, we joined our Mayor as she turned the city blue for Human Trafficking Awareness Month—a powerful gesture that placed our mission front and center. Throughout the year, our incredible media partner, Cracker Jack Media, helped us amplify our voice, expand our reach, and engage even more hearts across the region.

We celebrated another magical Mommy & Me High Tea, led by Alyssa Rhoads and Eventing Tampa Bay. With princesses, fairies, cookie decorating, and glam stations, moms and littles alike enjoyed a day of joy and whimsy—all in support of our Cause.

We also took All Hands on Deck to new heights on World Day Against Human Trafficking. With the support of dozens of businesses and over 150 attendees, our community came together—literally leaving their mark—by stamping blue "butterfly hands" on a stunning art installation that now lives in our new center.

One of the most moving moments of the year came when one of our kiddos, isolated in detention for weeks, received letters every single day—from you. You became her Village. She read each note, learned your names, and felt the love of an entire community rallying behind her. That kind of impact is immeasurable—and unforgettable.

We can't always share every detail of the work we do. But please know this: your time, your resources, and your belief in us change lives every single day. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being our Village. We can't wait to continue building hope together in 2025.

philanthropy



Redefining Refuge's

courageous battle against sex trafficking

"Kids need a hug, not handcuffs." - Natasha Nascimento



NATASHA NASCIMENTO

id you know that for many years, minor children were arrested for prostitution in the state of Florida despite being forced to engage in inappropriate and horrific behavior against their will?

Redefining Refuge Founder and Executive Director Natasha Nascimento was outraged when she learned this and was determined to make a difference. In 2010, she organized a public awareness campaign designed to educate and, ultimately, influence state legislation. Fortunately, she succeeded.

Changing Florida laws further demonstrated that there is a need for programs to help young sex trafficking victims, says Nascimento.

This led her to oversee the development of a safe house program, which launched in 2012. Redefining Refuge's safe house program was the first of its kind in the Tampa Bay area. It provided care, and assistance, to girls in an undisclosed location between the ages of 12 and 17. While the safe house program was able to serve many young victims, it was limited by state law. Only girls of a certain age range could be cared for.

Nascimento, understanding the ever-increasing need for programs for minors of all ages and genders, realized she could do much more if Redefining Refuge made its services mobile. In 2019, she decided to close the safe house program and extend her organization's

services. Redefining Refuge would assist 93 victims in the first year, after making those changes.

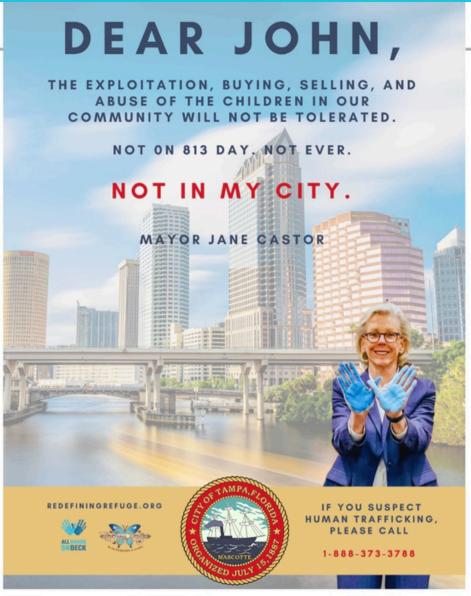
Redefining Refuge provides comprehensive care to the victims it serves. Services the organization offers include a variety of alternative therapies and mental health programs, the facilitation of medical care and non-medical needs, educational assistance, and the purchasing of groceries and back to school supplies, among others.

There is a misconception that most children forced into the sex trafficking trade are crossing borders, Nascimento says. This could not be further from the truth. Frighteningly, 85% of trafficked children are community children, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Even worse, most of these children are involved in familial sex trafficking and are sold in the trafficking market so that a parent, or guardian, with a substance abuse addiction can get their needs met, Nascimento says.

In 2023, Redefining Refuge was able to serve 131 children through referrals. The prior year, they helped 142. As demonstrated by numbers alone, there is a concerning need for the organization's services in the Tampa Bay area. The Redefining Refuge team has participated in missing child operations in collaboration with the United States Marshals Service, Florida Department of Children and Families, Children's Network of Hillsborough and other organizations. According to a United States Marshals Service press re-



ALYSSA RHOADS



lease, 10 of Hillsborough County's most endangered children were recovered because of their combined efforts.

When speaking about her "why," Nascimento defines Redefining Refuge's mission in a profound, yet simple statement. "Kids need a hug, not handcuffs." Sex trafficking is a serious human rights issue and children forced into the trafficking trade should have access to services, she elaborated. "One child is too many children being trafficked."

While Redefining Refuge has already helped so many children in need since its establishment, Nascimento has ambitious goals for its future. The organization is currently developing a community center, which will be a reliable resource and safe space for trafficked children.

Additionally, Nascimento wants to influence more state legislation. Trafficked children are still frequently required to testify against their perpetrators in court. Not only can this make children relive horrible experiences but can be even more painful if a child is testifying against their parent or guardian, she explained.

Nascimento and the Redefining Refuge team also want to educate others about how social media is being used to target children. Social media has presented a "big issue" for us, Nascimento says. More children are being exposed and social media is attracting the unwanted attention of pedophiles.

Every day, Redefining Refuge is making a difference. Nascimento is adamant that the organization will continue to serve until the sex trafficking trade is fully eliminated. For the countless children who are being victimized, Redefining Refuge not only provides essential support but gives the gift of something irreplaceable. Hope. •

WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING 2024



All Hands On Deck isn't just a call, it's a charge.

Because Human Trafficking doesn't end with awareness alone.
It ends with action.

This year, in Partnership with Crackerjack Media; we took that action beyond our walls, launching our first-ever **All Hands On Deck Roadshow** to ignite corporate engagement across Tampa Bay and beyond. From boardrooms to break rooms, businesses of every size joined our fight, proving that advocacy isn't confined to a single sector but belongs to everyone.

It takes every voice, every gift, every profession, and every person who dares to believe they can make a difference.

Whether you're a policymaker or a parent, a teacher or a techie, a CEO or a cashier, you are needed in this fight.



Because the truth is:

When every hand is on deck, every child stands a chance.



ANNUAL OVERVIEW



* HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY FOSTER CARE/COMMUNITY YOUTH

DEFENDING INNOCENCE

RESTORING HOPE

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS

YOUTH RECEIVING
ASSISTANCE VIA OUR
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
LIAISON AND
SPECIALIZED CASE

MANAGEMENT SERVICES*

COMMUNITY YOUTH
REFERRED WHO ARE
NOT IN FOSTER CARE

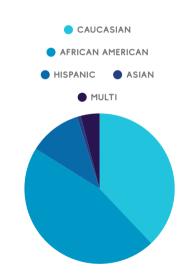


92 % OF OUR CENSUS CONSISTED OF FEMALE YOUTH, AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF

AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF COMPREHENSIVE CARE PER CHILD

\$5,136.84





OVER 35,605 PROFESSIONALS TRAINED IN THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINES:



CHILD PROTECTIVE INVESTIGATORS



CHILD WELFARE CASE MANAGERS



LAW ENFORCEMENT



JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICERS



SCHOOL PERSONNEL



ATTORNEYS



PHYSICIANS



TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

MAYOR PROCLAMATION







MAYOR PROCLAMATION

We were deeply honored to receive an official Proclamation from Mayor Jane Castor in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Her commitment to the cause was not only written into words, but illuminated

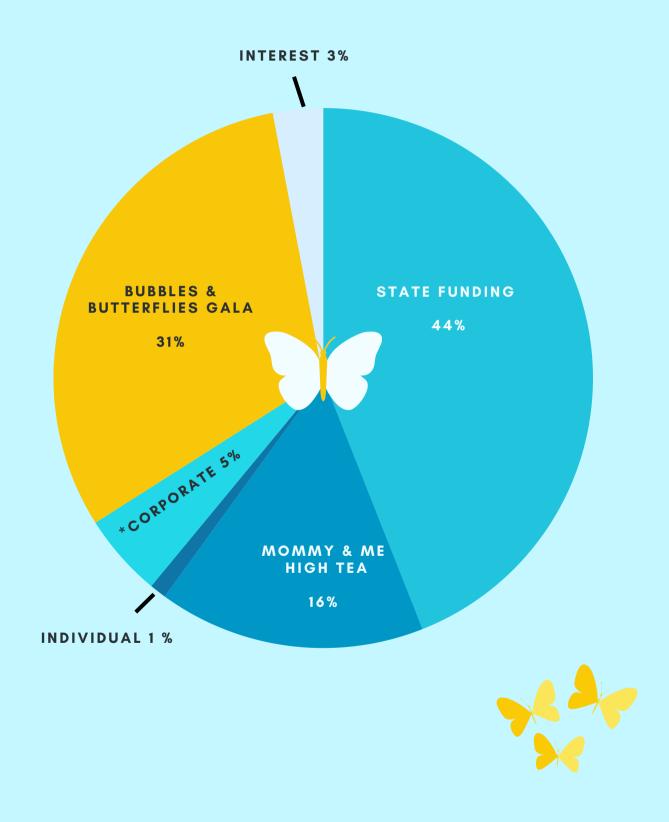
As night fell, Tampa turned blue in solidarity with survivors and in recognition of the ongoing fight to end human trafficking. To see our skyline reflect the very mission We've dedicated our hearts to was powerful beyond

Thank you, Mayor Castor, for standing with us and for



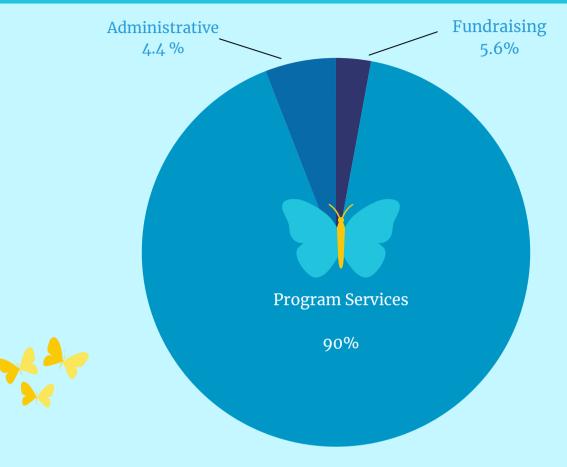


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW INCOME DIVERSIFICATION



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

PROGRAM EFFICIENCY RATIO



Revenue		
	State Funding	\$362,061.00
	Private Contributions	\$431,503.00
	Investment Income	\$23,478.00
	Total	\$817,042.00
Expenses		
	Program Services	\$577,429.00
	General Admin	\$36,189.00
	Fundraising	\$28,487.00



USING THE SIDEWALK CHALK, DRAW AND LABEL CIRCLES ACCORDINGLY.

INSTRUCT YOUR CHILD TO STAND IN THE CIRCLE LABELED "ME"

CIRCULAR SPACES TO PRACTICE BOUNDARIES

WITH YOUR CHILD.

EXAMPLES MAY INCLUDE:

IN THE SPACE FURTHEST FROM THE CHILD AND GIVING
THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE YOU TO BE CLOSER TO
THEM IN ANOTHER CIRCLE OR IN THEIR "ME" CIRCLE.

PUTTING A NEW FRIEND IN THE CIRCLE CLOSEST TO THE
CHILD AND GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THAT
THEY'D LIKE THEM TO STEP FARTHER AWAY.

INSERT AS MANY DIFFERENT EXAMPLES AS POSSIBLE TO
NOT ONLY TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HEALTHY PHYSICAL
BOUNDARIES, BUT ALSO ALLOWING THEM TO
COMMUNICATE TO YOU ABOUT WHO THEY ARE MOST AND
LEAST COMFORTABLE WITH.





TOO FAR

JUST RIGHT

TOO CLOSE



PRACTICE THIS AT HOME WITH YOUR
KIDDOS FOR AN AGE APPROPRIATE,
INTERACTIVE AND FUN WAY TO
IMPLEMENT PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

OPERATION SEMINOLE SABER

Operation Seminole Saber marked one of the most impactful multi-agency collaborations of the year, resulting in the recovery of 27 missing children across the

Redefining Refuge proudly served as the official command post for this statewide operation, working alongside federal and local law enforcement to provide immediate, trauma-informed care and post-recovery support. This operation stands as a powerful testament to what's possible when agencies come together with a unified mission: to protect and restore the lives of our







REDEFINING REFUGE BENEFACTORS



Adria Abrams

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Caitlin Alessandro

Erin Allen

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Candace Cotham Anthony Crawford

Keisha Cross Lisa Crow

Leigha Crumbly Michael Cunningham Christopher Currie

Gina Curry Tammy Davis

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John and Gina Dickinson

Michael Disser
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Tracie Domino
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William Driscoll
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Rachel Ducille
Caroline Ducoin
Lynn Dumais

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Dan Khasis

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Kasey Maloney Ferit Mamudi

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Kathi West

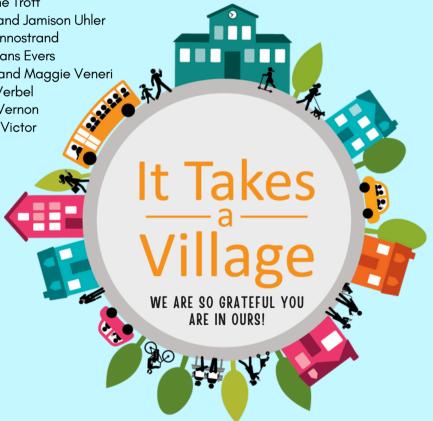
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Thank you for giving me roots to grow and wings to FLY