

Amirah, Inc. Duplicates its Residential Program for Trafficking Survivors, Expands Capacity

Amirah, Inc., an organization serving women who have experienced sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, opened its second long-term recovery safe home for this population in the Greater Hartford area of Connecticut in April. The nonprofit is duplicating its residential recovery model, which it first launched in its safe home on the North Shore of Massachusetts in 2015.

Most experts place the estimate of the number of trafficking victims in the U.S. between 400,000 and 800,000, with most of them being women and girls trafficked for sex. Despite a growing awareness of the problem, the U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report continues to show that less than 1% of victims get out of their trafficking situation each year. The most common reason for this is a lack of services to help them escape and establish their independence.

"In an average week, we receive 4 referral calls from service providers throughout New England looking for supportive housing for survivors," said Stephanie Clark, Amirah's CEO. "By expanding our Residential Program, we are able to offer a chance for recovery and long-term care to more women in need."

Amirah's safe homes provide women age 18 and up a trauma-informed recovery program rooted in a whole person care model, taking care of their physical, mental, social, spiritual, emotional, and vocational needs. Women stay for an average of 2-3 years, depending on their level of need. The individualized tracks for recovery put survivors at the center of the narrative.

"Our Residential Program is designed to put the individual's trauma and need at the forefront of their program. Each woman is writing her goals for recovery in every facet of her whole being. We merely come alongside to provide the necessary support as they take hold of their lives once again," said Clark.

The organization partnered with the Connecticut grass roots organization, The Underground CT, which engages faith-based communities across the state in anti-trafficking efforts. The collaborative effort was key to Amirah's ability to open this new safe home and expand its service capacity. Amirah offers all of its direct care services at no cost to the women they serve.

About Amirah: Amirah exists to provide aftercare, resources, and opportunities to women who have survived different forms of sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and prostitution. They offer residential recovery opportunities, organize outreach efforts, and educate communities, providers, and policy makers on the unique challenges victims and survivors face in the Northeastern United States. Amirah's residential branch offers long-term recovery programs with an individualized, trauma-informed, whole person approach at safe homes in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The outreach branch brings survivor-led groups to incarcerated women and women in shelters who are at risk for exploitation or have been exploited. Amirah synthesizes what it learns from its work with external data to advocate for changes to policies that break down exit barriers and make recovery and independence possible for more women.