

HOPE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Amirah
HOPE LIVES HERE

CONTENTS

2 Message from the
CEO & Board President

3 Reflecting on 2020

4 Residential Program

8 Outreach Program

9 Education Program

11 Growth to Come

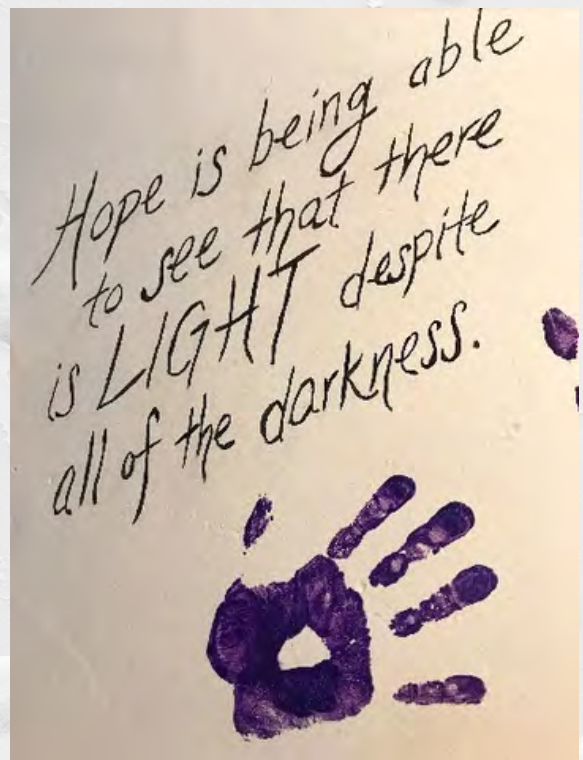
13 Hope In a Pandemic

14 Financials

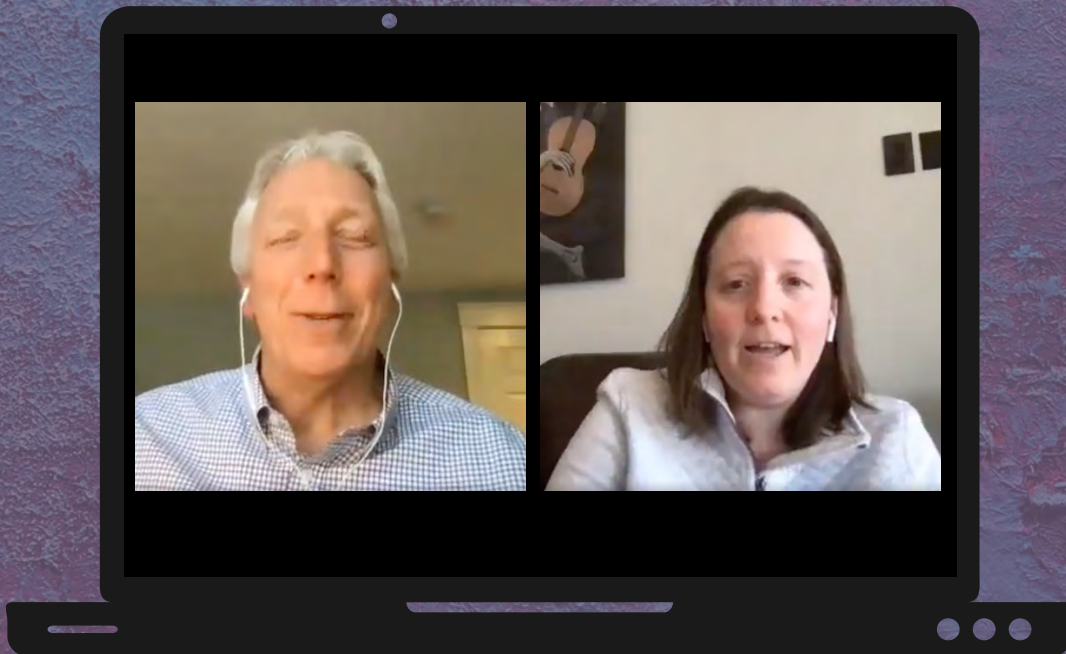
About Amirah

Amirah is a multifaceted aftercare organization for women who have survived the sex trade, providing residential, outreach, and educational services. Our mission is to provide refuge for those seeking to break free from exploitation and heal in community on their journey toward lasting hope.

Our goal is to give each survivor we serve the time and space she needs to reach liberation.



**Click Below for a Video
Message from Amirah's
CEO Stephanie Clark and
Board President Greg
Smith**



REFLECTING ON 2020

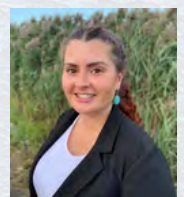
I was asked to reflect on 2020 and the fact that I joined the staff at Amirah. The first thing that I did was look into the mirror to get a true reflection of myself. 2020 was a challenging year on many fronts for most of us, and the pressure that I put on myself to be a valuable member of Amirah only amplified those stressors. It isn't the struggles or pressures that I'd like to address, but rather how I elected to deal with them.

Knowing that I am different due to my anxiety and PTSD, I continue to learn and grow and push through my fears. I have not done all this hard work alone, I had an Army of amazing people that stood by me and still stand beside me today. Amirah helped me get my life back as I built a beautiful foundation around me. By now having the means to reach out to others for help when you are given the resources for true life change. How a community is so much stronger than a single person.

I have come to realize that you don't need to be perfect, and that is okay to be yourself. I'll give back by becoming a better person, stronger leader, and a louder advocate for trafficking survivors. As long as we have a breath left we have hope. Amirah provided me with hope and opportunity. I seized that opportunity and 2020 found me in the grateful position of being able to provide that same opportunity to others. I will cherish this chance and do my best to be there when needed, hug when necessary, and pray regularly.

2020 brought highs and lows, but I chose to focus on the highs and run forward with them. I am not perfect, but I am now comfortable accepting that and accepting myself as I am. That alone has been a journey, but it made me the independent woman that I am today. If I can do it, so can others.

- Jessie Funk
Intake Specialist



RESIDENTIAL

hope lives here

In 2020, when the world shut down, we managed to see our residential program in the North Shore of Boston remain open, continuing to house women through this pandemic. Our wrap-around service model pivoted as each woman began to navigate what online support systems would mean for her recovery. We offered more groups and therapeutic supports in-house and brought on a mentor to offer support through her own lived experience.



In 2020, our Residential Program had some pretty amazing things happen:

- 1,604** Nights of Freedom
- 1,427** Physical Trauma Recovery Meetings and Appointments
- 1,353** Spiritual Trauma Recovery Meetings
- 1,524** Emotional Trauma Recovery Meetings, Groups, and Appointments
- 1,488** Psychological Trauma Recovery Meetings and Appointments
- 1,665** Social Trauma Recovery Meeting, Groups and Outings
- 10,680** Hours of Vocational Trauma Recovery

SEE HOPE

My first day at Amirah was a sunny Tuesday in March, promptly 72 hours after getting to meet the North Shore program staff-- the entire greater Boston area shut down and masked up.

Coming into the house at the start of the pandemic was a lot of things the days, turned into weeks, turned into months, now we sit here a year later. I saw the ways in which our entire program adapted so that most of the work the women needed to do to continue to heal could be done mostly in-home. Quarantine and everything that comes with it is that much more challenging for our women who are working through complex trauma.

However, in between those moments of hard and darkness there are so many cracks of light that pour through the house each day and it is the unmistakable work of so many in the community.

Those cracks of light look like a volunteer dropping off dinner on the porch, which means a night off of cooking for the women and conversation around the dinner table.

It looks like a volunteer faithfully coming into the home on a Thursday night so our participants can build their social support outside of the staff and get to laugh and watch a movie.

It looks like a package of sanitizing wipes arriving at the home, a clean surface that a participant will sit at to do her college homework.

It looks like a mask on the face of one of our women lovingly sewn by an intern that she wears proudly to the job she's kept for over a year.

It looks like a gas gift card being given which means a full tank for a participant who put in so much work over the last two years to be behind the wheel of a car for the first time in a decade.

It looks like a Zoom call with a participant and it's easy laughter with old volunteers that they miss seeing each week. It looks like a bandaid on my arm after I got a vaccine thanks to our amazing community partners.

It looks like the hope that I can soon safely bring the women on new adventures in the community, and bring more volunteers into the home to form more connections.

Things can seem dark at times, but let me tell you- those rays of light, of hope, and freedom have not been dimmed in this home. They cannot be dimmed in a home surrounded by this much light.

- Jaime Rivera

MA Community Life &
Volunteer Coordinator



Even though we are living in a pandemic, I have hope because I am a follower of Jesus and therefore, I know the promises of God are certain. God is called “the God of hope” in the Bible (Romans 15:13). The word ‘HOPE’ in the New Testament is not wishful thinking, but rather confident expectation that God’s promise to renew all things will be fulfilled, that God will answer our prayer that God’s kingdom come and God’s will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. I see the kingdom of God coming and God’s will being done on earth when I am volunteering at the Amirah safe house. No pandemic, or anything else, can keep the God of hope from fulfilling his promises.

- Roger Lier
Volunteer

RHYTHMS

Even though we are living in a pandemic, I have hope because of faithfulness. The staff and program of Amirah have remained faithful to providing a home that feels like a home: a place to rest, to laugh, to eat good food, and to recharge for the next day; a place of guaranteed safety. I'm honored to be a part of this mission, creating a continual belonging and a consistent presence in an ever changing pandemic.

As an OSL, I see how all of us have carried on the daily rhythms of life with courage and grace. I mainly see the rhythm of life towards the end of the day, when a woman might want to quietly turn in, or a woman wants to watch a movie, play a board game, or talk about their day. I'm there for whatever the sort of unwinding each woman needs or feels like. This home is still a home, full of life, joy, resilience and the people who faithfully keep going.

- Tori Thornburg,
Overnight Shift Leader, MA



OUTREACH

hope experienced here

In 2020, we continued our Outreach Program that had launched the prior year. Our hope was to reach more women through groups in correctional facilities, but the pandemic pivot happened again.

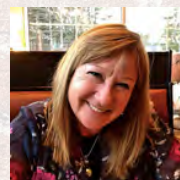
We were able to reach 95 women through our Outreach Program. Some groups did meet prior to the pandemic closing correctional facilities to the public. Late in the fall, we were able to safely offer one group with full PPP gear and support from the correctional facility staff. The women of that group had not seen a person from the outside in months. There was a deep sense of gratitude for the mentor who gave her time and was willing to come in to support them in their roads of recovery. We also began to launch survivor groups online and are bearing the fruits of those labors even more in 2021.

“Even though there is a pandemic, I still have hope because our Community Resource Center has provided opportunities to partner with agencies in the North Shore who have programs that specifically address the needs of women exiting ‘the life’.”

At the end of 2020, we were able to staff and begin the process of launching out our new Community Resource Center as a part of our Outreach Program. This new endeavor was a result of the pandemic pivot. We knew the need to reach women where they were at was more important than ever. We are so thankful that we were able to staff and train the Community Resource Center in 2020, opening the doors in early 2021.

- Cheri Crider

Director of Mentoring
& Outreach

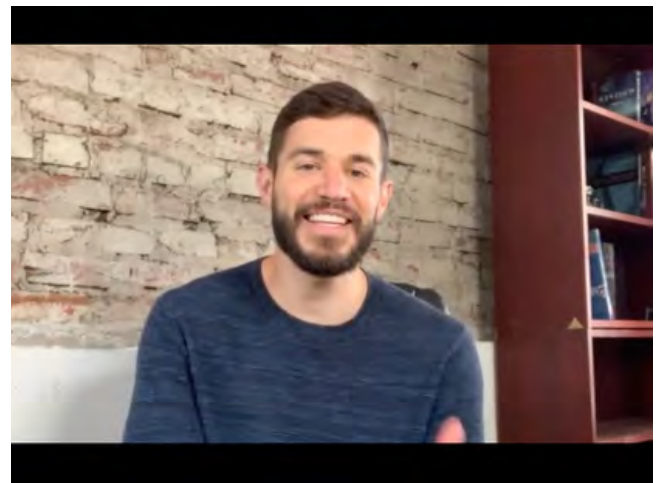
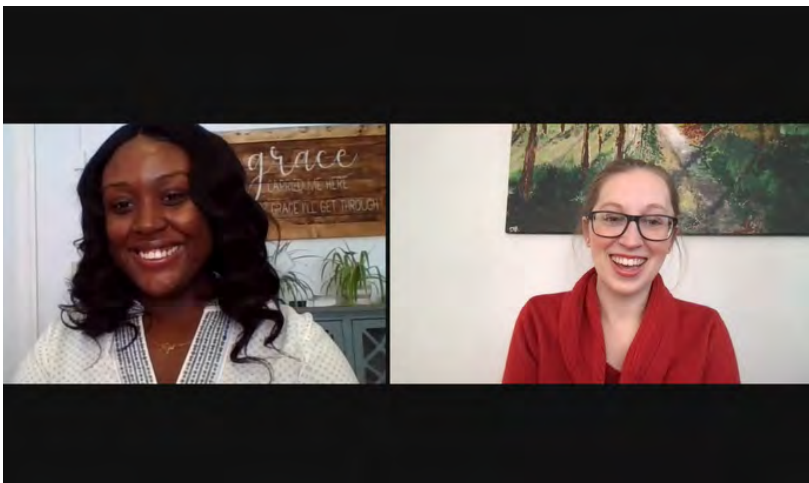


EDUCATION

hope found here

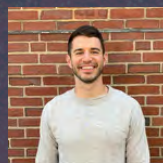
Like everyone else, we went online in a big way in 2020. We started our first survivor conversation webinar, featuring Audrey Morrissey and Mary Speta speaking about the connections between racial inequities and sex trafficking. We continued to train (virtually) and raise awareness (virtually) about this issue. We are so grateful for technology and that we saw more people than ever before being willing to learn, grow, and start this beautiful conversation on what it looks like to be a part of a thriving community of supporters.

248 Professionals and service providers trained
17,380 Community members educated on exploitation



**I HAVE HOPE BECAUSE,
THOUGH THE CONSEQUENCES
OF THIS PANDEMIC ARE REAL
(AND IN SOME CASES TRULY
TRAGIC) TRUE HOPE IS
ROOTED IN SOMETHING EVEN
MORE REAL THAN CURRENT
CIRCUMSTANCES - TRUE
HOPE, FOR ME, IS ROOTED IN
A FUTURE SO BRIGHT THAT IT
CAN ONLY BE SEEN BY THE
LIGHT OF A PROMISE FROM
HEAVEN.**

- Michael Distefano
Director of Faith &
Justice Initiatives



GROWTH TO COME

hope flourishes here

We finished out 2020 by seeing two of our major goals come to fruition. We were able to see the funding come through for our expansion efforts to open up a second safe home in the state of Connecticut. At the end of the year, we hired on some amazing individuals to make up the staff for this new Residential Program and they began some pretty intense training.



"Even though we are living in a pandemic, I have hope because I have joined a wonderful organization with the means and determination to make an impact!"

- Summer Rodriguez
Group Therapies
Director, CT



My Jesus, My Savior, has conquered the grave and He moved through death and into life, and no matter what occurs on this earth this gives me hope that we can always get through hard things together. Because of His example, I have learned to live and care with a deep affection and a loving heart. I am not shackled by the image, wants, needs and ideologies of this world, so I am able to completely give of myself, in mind, body and spirit, for the Mission of God. The mission is to serve with a reckless abandonment to the persecuted, hurting, and vulnerable of this world.

I am a man working in a Sex Trafficking Safe Home, where women have been completely crushed, exploited, abused, and objectified for most of their lives by men. I am blessed by God, in that I am a witness to these beautiful creations, these daughters of the King, and their strength, courage and journey towards recovery. I see their desire and fight to get their lives and minds back and we heal together at Amirah as a family. By this family, and the work done in the home, I have even become healed from my life's hurts and traumas. I am blessed and humbled to have any part in the lives of this staff and the women of Amirah. These brave women and the work done at the Amirah home completely fills my cup and it overflows to all parts of my life. I have hope because of God's hands all over the Amirah home!

- David Nicastro
Volunteer



HOPE IN A PANDEMIC

"Even though we are living in a pandemic, I have hope because I see God working. And I know He works all things together for good. He is using the pandemic to draw us closer to Him and each other in a different way."

- Lori Schofer

Community Life &
Volunteer Coordinator, CT



"I've seen God at work in the lives of the women as they continue to progress toward their goals despite the obstacle of the pandemic and I know He has everything under His control."

- Susan Alley

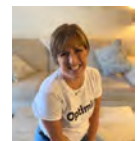
Home Manager, CT



"We were able to welcome three women into the NS home."

- Shelley Hood

Home Manager, MA



THANK YOU

We are only able to do all this incredibly work because of the support of our donors, church partners, volunteers, and community. Thank you for making the stories written in these pages possible with your gifts, talents, and support.



Financials

hope given here

Revenue

Contributions Unrestricted	\$787,222
Contributions Temp Restricted	\$133,693
Special Events Unrestricted	\$20,847
Special Events Temp Restricted	\$126,112
Other Types of Revenue	\$185
Total Revenue	\$1,068,059

Expenses

Program Costs	\$421,392
Administrative Costs	\$106,338
Development Costs	\$181,520
Depreciation	\$4,562
Total Expenses*	\$713,812
Total Amount in in-Kind Donations	\$11,984

"Amirah saved my life.
I was so broken and
beaten down when I
came here, but today I
can honestly say that
my life is great.

**I wake up happy. I go
to bed grateful."**

- Survivor

Residential Program Participant

