



2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our theme for 2023 was The Lord's Table. It's where all are welcome. All can find fellowship, renewal, belonging... the only thing one must do is accept the invitation.

The grand narrative of the table is God's creation becoming God's guests, God's friends, God's family. His has always been a story of welcome, of invitation to take, eat, and enjoy. To join Him in His joy, be filled with Him. Salvation, from Jesus' own mouth is to come and receive His body and blood, given for us (John 6:54). In John 6:35 Jesus said: "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Those statements came a day after He fed the 5,000. Feasting with Him and in Him is His idea. And every day, Elijah Rising invites the Survivors in our Program to the table to feast in Him and heal. We invite the Survivors on the streets to come to the table to be saved. And we're inviting you to join us in these pages as we reflect on what God has done and join Him in what He will do!

Luke 12:37 is such a precious promise: "Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when He comes. Truly, I say to you, He will dress Himself for service and have them recline at the table, and He will come and serve them." Jesus served us on the cross. He serves us now by interceding and empowering. And one day, as these verses share, we'll join Him at the bridal feast, and He will serve us there too. We get the privilege of holding out this Jesus to Survivors with the invitation to come, taste, eat, and join in His joy.

**You enable this invitation to trust, to receive new life,  
to connect, heal, and grow. You provide the Table.  
On behalf of the Survivors that we serve and the staff of Elijah Rising,  
Thank you.**

Together at the table,



*Micah Gamboa*

MICAH GAMBOA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## PROGRAMMATIC PILLARS



**Prayer is the  
foundation of  
all that we do.**

Through prayer partners and public prayer gatherings, Elijah Rising unites the community to seek justice and rely on God to bring restoration and freedom to people.



**Awareness  
educates the  
public.**

Through our online resources, Van Tours, and public presentations, Elijah Rising equips people with knowledge and volunteer opportunities to end sex trafficking in our communities.



**Intervention  
reaches those  
trapped in  
exploitation.**

Elijah Rising conducts outreaches across the Greater Houston area. Volunteers provide women with resources to find a way out of the sex industry.



**Restorative  
Care is a place  
to heal and be  
restored.**

Elijah Rising's Restorative Care Program is faith-based and provides housing, trauma-informed counseling, and a caring community of support for survivors of sex trafficking.

**Learn more about our work at  
[www.elijahrising.org](http://www.elijahrising.org)**

## RESTORATIVE CARE

The Elijah Rising Restorative Care (ERRC) Program specializes in providing high-quality residential care to women who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. Through safe housing, an education program, mental health treatment, addiction-recovery, occupational development, case management, and the coordination of healthcare services, we help women recover from the trauma of sexual exploitation.

**3,898**

NIGHTS OF SAFE HOUSING

**353**

HOURS OF CLINICAL THERAPY

**5,118**

MEALS PROVIDED

**17**

SURVIVORS SERVED IN OUR PROGRAM

**1,696**

HOURS OF RECOVERY SUPPORT

**2,636**

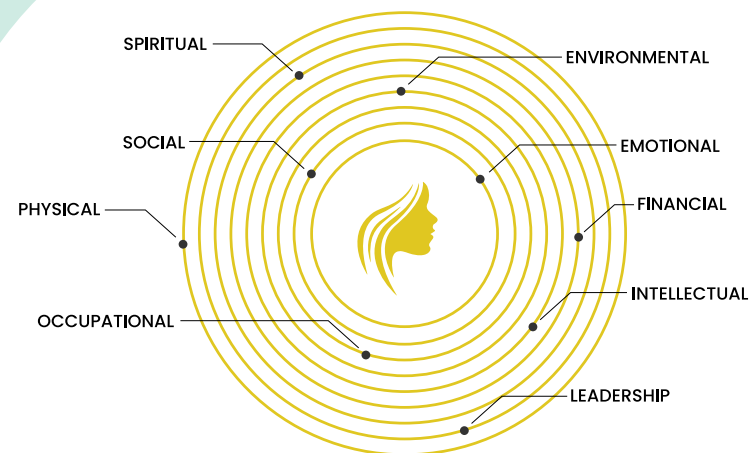
HOURS OF CASE MANAGEMENT

*"Today, David came over to the house to teach us about cooking safely on the grill...I was apprehensive because of some childhood trauma where as a punishment various body parts would be burned on a grill grate... Today, with the help of (Elijah Rising) staff, I was able to not only attend the beautiful community time we got to spend together, but I also walked up to the grill and flipped the chicken that was on there. It was so amazing to be surrounded by safe people who love and care about me while I took back this everyday activity."*

*Not only has this Survivor, \*Cara taken back this everyday activity, she has taken back her everyday life! Cara has graduated from Elijah Rising's Restorative Care program and is enrolled at a University! She has moved out of the Elijah Rising Safe Home, is living on her own, has a car and is making incredible plans for her future.*

*\*Name concealed to protect identity.*

- TESTIMONY FROM PROGRAM GRADUATE -



## OUR 360° APPROACH TO RESTORATION

The Elijah Rising Restorative Care Program was built on evidence-based practices and informed by the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) guidelines for Complex PTSD, as well as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and countless other experts in the field. Our holistic healing model focuses on nine dimensions: physical, emotional, spiritual, social, occupational, intellectual, financial, environmental, and leadership.



## AWARENESS

Awareness serves as the cornerstone of community engagement in combating human trafficking. Elijah Rising dedicates relentless efforts to educate our community through a variety of ways, including Van Tours, public speaking engagements, our online podcast, and other online resources. Our Van Tours reach a diverse audience, including community leaders, civic officials, schools, and church groups. Many attribute the inspiration for their anti-trafficking initiatives and nonprofit endeavors to these tours.

This year, we proudly introduced a new video component to our Van Tours, enhancing the depth of our educational outreach. These videos showcase interviews with survivors, nurses, law enforcement officers, researchers, and other experts, providing a comprehensive presentation on the pervasive issue of sex trafficking in Houston.

**1,759**

COMMUNITY MEMBERS EDUCATED ABOUT TRAFFICKING

**658**

PEOPLE EDUCATED THROUGH AWARENESS VAN TOURS

**8,602**

PEOPLE DOWNLOADED THE ELIJAH RISING PODCAST

Photo from our Van Tour Launch Night where we introduced the new video component of Van Tours.



## INTERVENTION

Elijah Rising takes proactive steps to intervene directly where women are trapped in trafficking, whether in illicit massage parlors, on streets notorious for trafficking and prostitution, or within hotels, strip clubs, and brothels. Our outreach is characterized by a non-judgmental approach, and through the power of prayer, we are able to minister and speak loving truth to individuals who need the Gospel.

Given Houston's diverse demographics, we recognize the urgent need for Spanish and Chinese-speaking volunteers to aid us in reaching communities increasingly vulnerable to trafficking within our city. Through our continual presence in these locations, we have cultivated relationships with both men and women, shared the Gospel, and in 2023, facilitated the exit of seven survivors, including an entire family, from the grips of trafficking.

**794**

INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMERCIAL SEX INDUSTRY REACHED

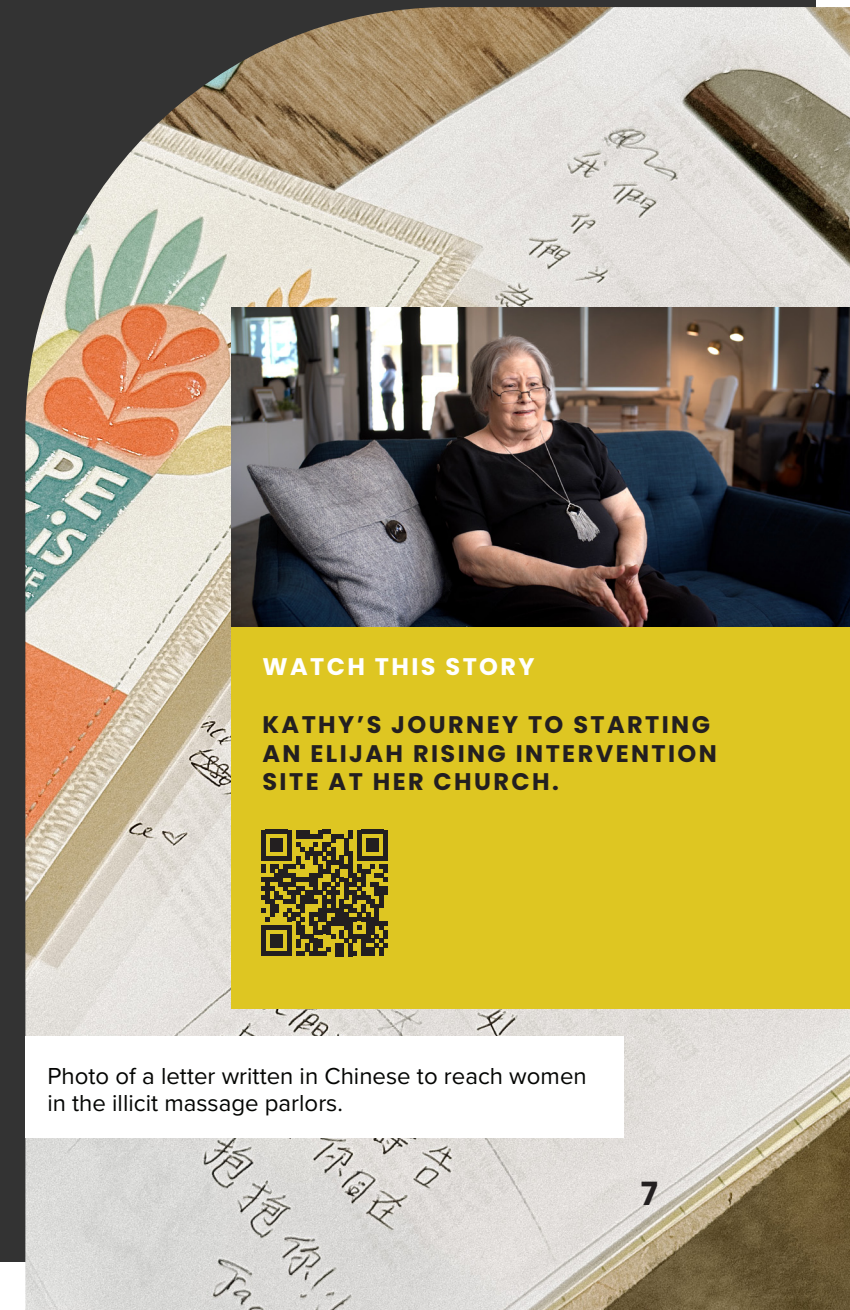
**335**

TRAFFICKING LOCATIONS REACHED

**7**

SURVIVORS EXITED THE LIFE OF TRAFFICKING \*

\* Elijah Rising partners with other agencies and private recovery services to facilitate the majority of exits for survivors. The number of which are not included in this total.

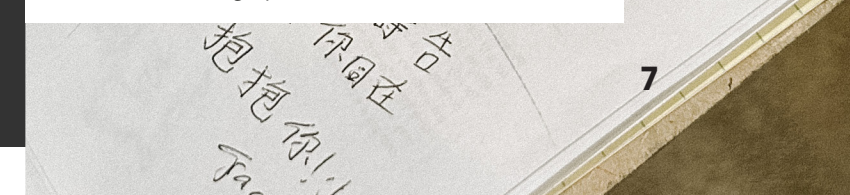


WATCH THIS STORY

KATHY'S JOURNEY TO STARTING AN ELIJAH RISING INTERVENTION SITE AT HER CHURCH.



Photo of a letter written in Chinese to reach women in the illicit massage parlors.



## TRAFFICKING IN HOUSTON

Houston continues to grapple with the alarming issue of human trafficking, maintaining its status as a significant hub in the United States. In a positive development, the city successfully shut down the Bissonnet track this year, yielding tangible results in reducing trafficking activities in that specific area. However, the fight against human trafficking remains dynamic, as new tracks emerge in different parts of the city. Additionally, there remain hundreds of massage parlors operating as illicit brothels, contributing to the persistent challenge. The evolving landscape of human trafficking demands ongoing attention and comprehensive strategies to effectively combat this pervasive issue within Houston, and Elijah Rising is actively seeking to identify and employ those strategies.

**400+**

NUMBER OF ILLEGAL BROTHELS IN HOUSTON, MORE THAN STARBUCKS AND MCDONALD'S COMBINED <sup>1</sup>

**95%**

OF WOMEN IN THE SEX TRADE HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED AS CHILDREN <sup>2</sup>

**87%**

OF WOMEN IN THE SEX TRADE WANT TO LEAVE BUT FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES OR HAVE NO OTHER OPTIONS <sup>3</sup>

1. Evaluation, C. F. S. M. A. (2020, February 27). Map: Human trafficking near public schools - CHILDREN AT RISK. CHILDREN AT RISK. [https://catriskprod.wpengine.com/simb\\_map/](https://catriskprod.wpengine.com/simb_map/)

2. Pre. (2012, February 23). Prostitution and Trafficking - Quick Facts | Prostitution Research & Education. Prostitution Research & Education. <https://prostitutionresearch.com/prostitution-and-trafficking-quick-facts/>

3. Center, T. A. (2021, June 29). Houston, we have a problem: Cost of risk to traffickers, buyers and victims in commercial sex... Medium. <https://angie-henderson.medium.com/houston-we-have-a-problem-cost-of-risk-to-traffickers-buyers-and-victims-in-the-commercial-sex-5af1c79d0f8f>

## PRAYER

At Elijah Rising, prayer is the foundation of our mission. When combatting trafficking, education often emphasizes the 4 P's: prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership. We believe that prayer deserves the top spot on this list. Thus, we dedicate ourselves to mobilizing the Church to intercede for those suffering under the injustice of human trafficking.

In 2023, we initiated several impactful prayer campaigns, spearheaded by our commitment to engaging the Church through prayer. Notably, we introduced an online prayer gathering via Zoom, uniting individuals worldwide in fervent prayer for victims of trafficking and the broader issue at hand.

**322**

PRAYER MEETINGS  
CONDUCTED

**3,563**

HOURS OF PRAYER &  
INTERCESSION

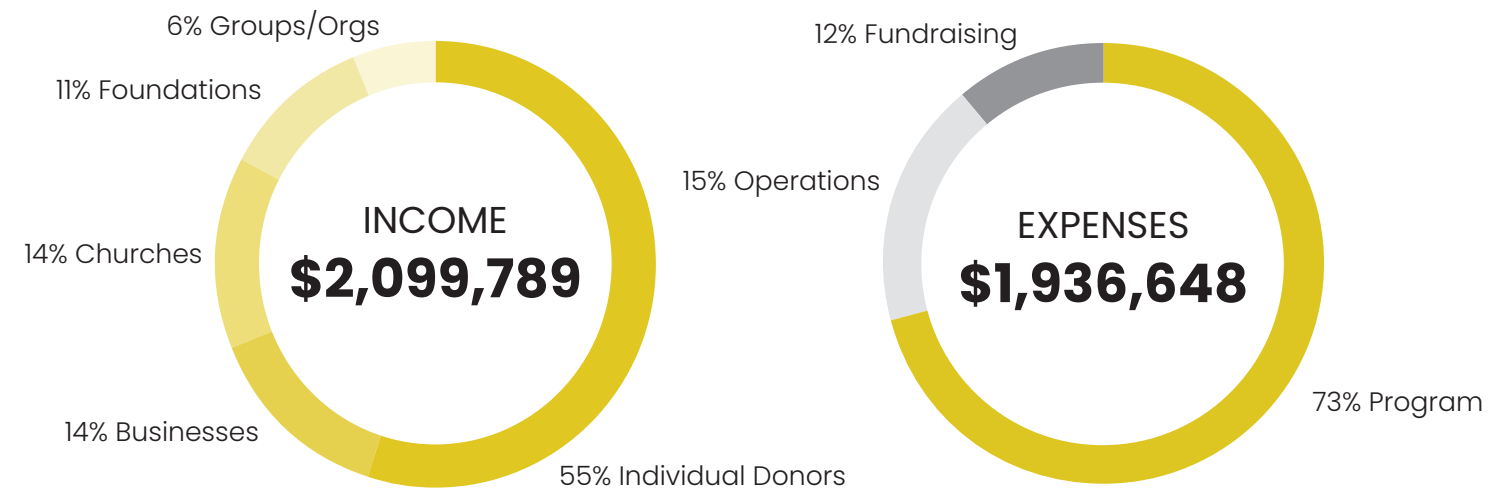
**518**

PEOPLE ATTENDED  
PRAYER MEETINGS

Photo taken during our Van Tour Launch night as we prayed over this new awareness strategy.

## FINANCIALS

Elijah Rising, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, thrives on the generosity of our faithful partners. Your donations are the lifeblood of our mission, enabling us to bring about transformative change for survivors of sex trafficking. Every donor, partner, and grantor holds a vital role in sustaining this crucial work, and for their unwavering support, we are profoundly grateful.



### 2023 PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: MCNAIR INTERESTS

McNair Interests is a private investment and management company headquartered in Houston, Texas. The firm's focus on transformative real estate projects, breakthrough medical discoveries and disciplined investments has enabled it to become a valuable and diversified company. Their Community Investment Program includes a voluntary employee spring giving campaign, which the company matches, followed by a fall day-of-service at the employee-chosen non-profit. Over the course of our two-year partnership, McNair Interests employees along with the company match have raised a total of \$265,262 for Elijah Rising!



WATCH OUR INTERVIEW WITH CINDY CANEVARO

**OUR MISSION IS TO  
END SEX TRAFFICKING  
THROUGH PRAYER,  
AWARENESS, INTERVENTION,  
AND RESTORATION.**



[WWW.ELIJAHRSING.ORG](http://WWW.ELIJAHRSING.ORG)