



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am filled with gratitude for your partnership and the incredible journey we have shared in 2024. Our missional focus for this year was “The One,” inspired by Jesus’s parable of leaving the ninety-nine to go after the one lost sheep. This powerful image has deeply shaped our work at Elijah Rising, as so much of what we do revolves around the one.

It’s about the one woman sitting across from us as we help her navigate a heartbreaking situation. It’s about the one we connect with on the street, caught in exploitation but too afraid to leave her abuser. It’s about the one who achieves a hard-fought victory, whether it’s obtaining a vehicle, expunging a record, or rebuilding her credit. Every story, every moment, is about the one.

This year, we witnessed a remarkable milestone: the 99th woman or child housed through our Restorative Care Program. To me, this number feels like God’s way of underscoring His message. Jesus leaves the ninety-nine to pursue the one, yet He also calls us to dream bigger, to see the multitudes set free.

As I reflect on stories like the Exodus or Peter’s sermon in Acts, I’m reminded that before those great movements of liberation, there was preparation. Moses endured an eighty-year preparation for the Exodus, and Peter walked with Jesus, learning and growing, before the Holy Spirit empowered him to preach and see thousands come to faith. These stories remind us that God isn’t finished writing stories of His power and grace. He continues to move in ways that bring freedom and transformation—even for those society deems “too lost” to be found.

Jesus’s words echo in my heart: “The prostitutes and tax collectors are nearer to the kingdom of God.” I believe there is a special grace for those on the fringes, for those who have been pushed to the outskirts. We are called to go after them with the same relentless love that Christ shows us.

Thank you for enabling us to reach “The One” this year. Your prayers, generosity, and partnership make this work possible. As we look ahead, would you join us in pursuing our 100th survivor housed in 2025? And more than that, would you pray with us for a harvest that reflects Peter’s miracle—nets cast on the other side, overflowing with those stepping into freedom and restoration?

Together, we can continue this sacred work of going after the one, while preparing for the day when the multitudes will follow. Thank you for standing with us as we press forward in faith and anticipation.

With gratitude and hope,



Micah Gamboa

MICAH GAMBOA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OVERVIEW OF ELIJAH RISING PROGRAMS



Prayer is the foundation of all that we do.

If you trace the work of abolition through history, there is a thread of God's church gathering together and praying for the alleviation of suffering caused by injustice. Through weekly prayer meetings and resources, we aim to equip believers around the world to pray for the issue of human trafficking.



Awareness educates the public.

We educate communities about human trafficking in Houston through Van Tours that highlight exploitation indicators, in-person training for businesses and organizations, and digital outreach via podcasts and social media.



Intervention reaches those trapped in exploitation.

Every month we send teams of volunteers to reach out to women who are trapped in the commercial sex industry. Our teams reach exploited women with resources, gifts, and ministry. Powerful stories come forth of women finding exits out of abuse, buyers turning after facing conviction, and even traffickers repenting of their lifestyle.



Restorative Care is a place to heal and be restored.

One of Elijah Rising's most impactful programs is our long-term Restorative Care Program. We help female survivors of trafficking overcome past trauma and re-establish their lives by providing safe housing, offering legal resources, filling in education gaps, and empowering employment.

RESTORATIVE CARE

Elijah Rising's Restorative Care program reached a significant milestone in 2024, welcoming our 99th resident into the program since its inception. This achievement represents the growing impact of our comprehensive, Christ-centered approach to healing and restoration. In our program, women receive specialized trauma therapy, addiction recovery support, life skills training, and spiritual mentorship in a safe, supportive environment. We took an important step forward this year by developing a formalized transitional living program, which bridges the gap between our initial restoration program and independent living. This new program provides women with a structured, yet flexible environment in which they can continue their healing journey while pursuing education, career goals, and rebuilding safe family relationships. As we look toward 2025, we plan to expand this transitional program to serve more women, recognizing that sustainable transformation requires ongoing support and community. Each woman who enters our program represents a life being transformed, and we remain committed to providing the time, resources, and care needed for deep, lasting healing.

1,679

NIGHTS OF SAFE
HOUSING



364

HOURS OF CLINICAL
THERAPY



5,040

MEALS PROVIDED



19

SURVIVORS SERVED
IN OUR PROGRAM



2,694

HOURS OF ADDICTION
RECOVERY SUPPORT



3,336

HOURS OF CASE
MANAGEMENT



PRAESIDIUM
ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITED ABUSE PREVENTION SITE

In 2024, Elijah Rising achieved accreditation from Praesidium, a leading authority in abuse prevention that has protected vulnerable populations for over 30 years. This certification validates our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of safety and professional care in our work with survivors. The rigorous accreditation process examined all aspects of our operations, confirming that our practices meet the highest standards for protecting those in our care.



ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Behind every number and statistic are real women with real stories of transformation. Today, we celebrate a growing community of survivors who have not only experienced healing through our program but have chosen to stay connected and give back in meaningful ways. Our alumni community represents the full circle of restoration: women who once received help are now offering hope to one another.

TESTIMONY

"I graduated from the Elijah Rising program in May 2021, unsure of what my new normal would look like. However, staying connected to the Elijah Rising community has profoundly shaped my journey of growth and healing. This community has provided consistent support, accountability, and opportunities to serve others. Plus helping me stay grounded in our shared mission to end sex trafficking through prayer, awareness, intervention, and restoration.

Being surrounded by like-minded individuals who understand both the challenges and victories of this journey has been incredibly encouraging. As an alumni,

volunteering and participating in events have allowed me to give back by sharing my experiences and empowering other women who have faced similar struggles. This connection has also fostered personal growth, keeping me engaged in advocacy work, deepening my sense of purpose, and reinforcing the values I learned during the program.

Above all, I've gained a family—a community that stands beside me and supports me unconditionally. Staying connected to Elijah Rising has truly transformed my journey into a continuous cycle of healing, growth, and service."

AWARENESS

In 2024, Elijah Rising made a major step forward in our fight against human trafficking by adding a second van to our Van Tours program. This expansion allows us to reach more communities, particularly in Spring, Texas. Our Van Tours continue to be our most powerful awareness tool, giving people first hand insight into trafficking in the Houston area. Beyond these tours, we educated thousands through in-person presentations, maintained comprehensive online resources, and via our podcast. Each of these programs serves one purpose: showing people the truth about trafficking in our community and empowering them to take action against it.

3,197

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS EDUCATED
ABOUT TRAFFICKING

693

PEOPLE EDUCATED
THROUGH AWARENESS
VAN TOURS

4,963

PEOPLE DOWNLOADED
THE ELIJAH RISING
PODCAST



INTERVENTION

Elijah Rising's Intervention program reaches into areas of Houston where exploitation is prevalent, building relationships and offering support to those trapped in the sex industry. Our dedicated volunteers conduct regular outreach, providing prayer, practical resources, and information about services that can help individuals leave the sex industry when they're ready. This year, we've seen remarkable breakthroughs as our teams have successfully connected with women across Houston's diverse communities, thanks to partnerships with local churches that help bridge language barriers. A powerful example of our impact: one woman who received information during our outreach later used it to find the help that she needed to start a new life. Through consistent presence and judgement-free interactions, our intervention teams demonstrate God's love while helping individuals understand there is hope and help available when they choose to leave.

1,582

INDIVIDUALS IN THE
COMMERCIAL SEX
INDUSTRY REACHED

402

VOLUNTEERS MOBILIZED
IN OUTREACH

295

TRAFFICKING
LOCATIONS REACHED



Photo of outreach taking place at one of the many illicit massage businesses in our area.



HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM

Behind every trafficking statistic is a human story. Houston's position as a major trafficking hub stems from multiple factors: our proximity to the border, international airport and ports, diverse communities, and large workforce. Recent studies estimate there are **313,000** victims of human trafficking in Texas alone, with approximately **79,000** being minors who are victims of sex trafficking.¹ These sobering numbers drive our mission to create lasting change in our city.

¹ Busch-Armendariz, Noël, Nicole Nale, Bruce Kellison, Melissa Torres, Laurie Heffron, and John Nehme. 2016. "Human Trafficking By The Numbers: The Initial Benchmark Of Prevalence And Economic Impact For Texas". The University Of Texas At Austin, School Of Social Work, Institute On Domestic Violence And Sexual Assault.

FOX 26
HOUSTON

9 Houston bars given 90-day suspension after 84 human trafficking victims found

By FOX 26
Updated
FOX



LOCAL NEWS

Human trafficking awareness urged as Houston sees alarming rise in cases

NEWS4SA

Houston massage business owner shut down 10 businesses amid human trafficking claims

by SBG San Antonio Staff Reports
Monday, Sep 23rd 2024

MASSAGE

HOUSTON

Nine Houston clubs and bars shut down in Texas' largest sex trafficking bust, revealing ties to drug cartels, authorities say

KTRK - Houston
Fri, October 18, 2024 at 10:14 PM CDT

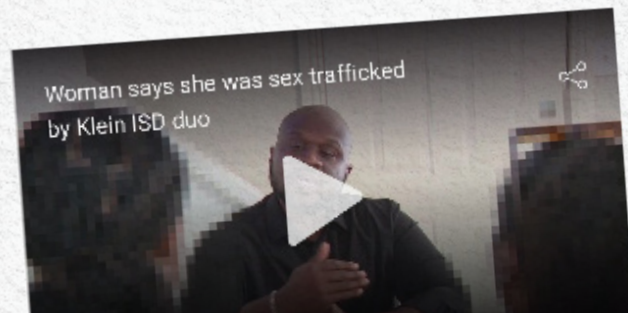


ONLY ON 13
DOZENS OF WOMEN SAVED FROM SEX SLAVERY DURING RAIDS AT HOUSTON BARS: AUTHORITIES

Houston teen sex trafficked on Bissonnet, says she was victim in former Klein ISD teacher trafficking case

By Sherman Desselle

| Updated April 13, 2024 12:44pm CDT | FOX 26 Houston



U.S. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1,632

ESTIMATED BEDS IN RESTORATIVE CARE HOMES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES (272 HOMES WITH AN AVERAGE OF 6 BEDS)

75

EMERGENCY HOMES

200

LONG-TERM HOMES

46

TRANSITION HOMES

FOR EVERY 100 HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS IN THE UNITED STATES, ONLY 12 HAVE ACCESS TO A SAFE HOME, LEAVING 88 WITHOUT THE SHELTER AND SUPPORT THEY DESPERATELY NEED TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES.

CARING FOR THE ONE

Elijah Rising fills a critical gap in Houston's anti-trafficking response through our long-term residential care program. As the only long-term care home in Houston proper focused specifically on trafficking recovery, we provide comprehensive healing that addresses the complex trauma, addiction recovery, and extensive support survivors need to rebuild their lives. Our program goes beyond immediate crisis care, offering women the time and resources needed for deep healing and sustainable transformation.

In 2025, we are expanding our impact by developing a transitional home to support survivors who have completed our core program but need additional time and support to fully transition to independent living. Additionally, we are conducting a feasibility study to assess the creation of an emergency response program in Houston, which would provide immediate, trauma-informed care for trafficking survivors in crisis - addressing another crucial gap in our city's survivor support system.

Stats are from *Safe House Project. 2022 National Restorative Care Landscape. April 2022.* https://22570428.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/22570428/Safehouseproject_November2022/pdfs/2022%20National%20Restorative%20Care%20Landscape.pdf.

PRAYER

At the heart of Elijah Rising's mission is our belief in the power of prayer to transform lives and end trafficking in Houston. Each morning before the workday starts our staff gathers to pray for an hour. Every Tuesday, our community gathers virtually via Zoom to intercede for survivors, our programs, and the fight against exploitation in our city. This dedicated prayer time creates a space where abolitionists from across Houston unite in purpose and faith. Join our weekly prayer calls by signing up online for the Zoom link, or sign up for our prayer text alerts to receive specific prayer requests and praise reports throughout the week.

A highlight of 2024 was our first Men's Prayer Breakfast, which brought together more than 70 men from local churches across Houston. This powerful gathering demonstrated the growing commitment of men in our community to stand against trafficking and support our mission through prayer. The success of this event has paved the way for future gatherings where men can unite in prayer and purpose for this crucial cause.

335

PRAYER MEETINGS
CONDUCTED

2,630

HOURS OF PRAYER &
INTERCESSION

586

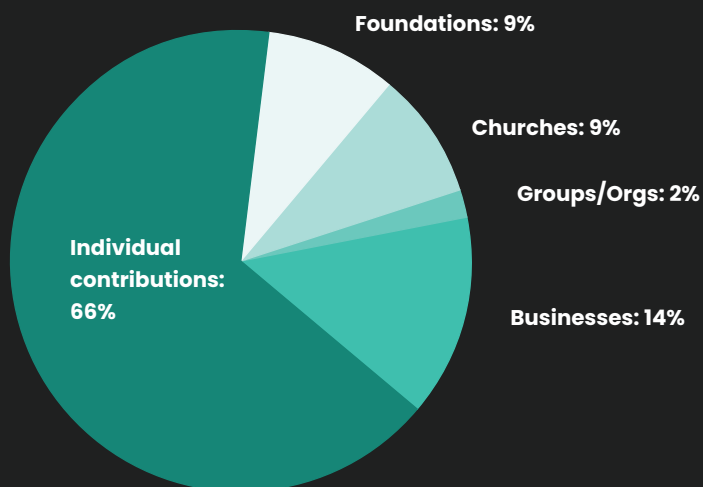
PEOPLE ATTENDED
PRAYER MEETINGS

Photo from our men's prayer breakfast at Open Door Church Houston.

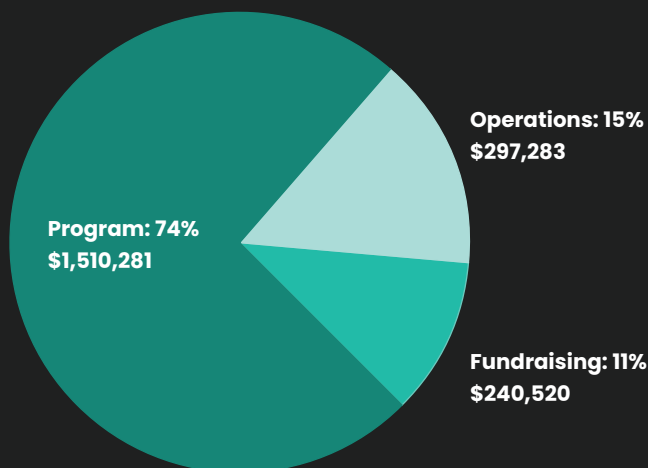


FINANCIALS

SOURCE OF FUNDS



USE OF FUNDS



IN 2024, WE RAISED

\$2,274,028.85

End of year net assets: **\$4,793,605**

IN 2024, WE SPENT

\$2,048,085.84



EIN/Tax ID: 46-1885871

Elijah Rising is a 501c3 nonprofit.

elijahrising.org/financial-accountability/



IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Shelley S. Garner, we witnessed a touching tribute at this year's Gala as her husband Chris sponsored a table for women who have overcome trafficking. The evening perfectly reflected Shelley's heart for this mission as the women's infectious joy filled the room — celebrating with an energy that touched everyone in attendance. Their presence was a beautiful testament to the transformation and healing that Shelley championed throughout her life.



VISIT [ELIJAH RISING.ORG/DONATE](https://www.elijahrising.org/donate)

**THE MISSION OF ELIJAH RISING IS TO END HUMAN
TRAFFICKING THROUGH PRAYER, AWARENESS,
INTERVENTION, AND RESTORATION.**



[WWW.ELIJAH RISING.ORG](https://www.elijahrising.org)