



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

LIGHT TRIUMPHS

NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN

**“FOR ANYONE IN CHRIST IS A NEW CREATION;
THE PAST IS GONE. A NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN.”**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

At Elijah Rising, we believe light always triumphs over darkness. Our deepest hope is not only freedom from exploitation, but new life in Christ. In 2025, four residents publicly declared that new life through baptism, standing as living testimonies that the light of Jesus overcomes even the darkest places.

One resident shared that while in our program, for the first time she could remember, she felt truly safe. Safe enough to say yes to baptism. During her time in the home, God spoke to her through Jeremiah 17:7, reminding her what it means to place her trust fully in Him: “Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.”

**BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO
TRUSTS IN THE LORD, WHOSE
CONFIDENCE IS IN HIM.**

JEREMIAH 17:7

Moved by the Lord, she expressed a strong desire to be baptized as soon as possible as an outward declaration of the healing and faith taking root in her heart.

Around the same time, another resident surrendered her heart and life to Jesus during a Sunday morning church service and was saved. In the days that followed, her joy overflowed as she shared the good news in case management, recovery sessions, and prayer with staff who had been walking alongside her. She had encountered the love of the Father, and light had broken through. Soon after, she approached our team and

asked to be baptized at Elijah Rising’s Wednesday chapel service, surrounded by people who loved her... by those who had witnessed her journey from darkness into light.

What began as one request became a powerful movement of obedience and courage. Two other residents quietly expressed the same desire, each sensing that baptism was their next step of faith. One, though afraid of going under the water, chose faith over fear and asked to be included. Each shared, in her own words, that baptism was an act of obedience to Jesus and a declaration that her life now belonged to Him.

Before being baptized, one resident shared how she had been learning to pray Scripture over herself. She stood and boldly declared, “I am in Christ. I am a new creation. My past is gone. My new life has begun.”

**DARKNESS LOST ITS GRIP AND
LIGHT VISIBLY TRIUMPHED.**

Prayers were spoken, tears were shed, and former victims, now Overcomers were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These were sacred moments in which we could see a visual representation: darkness lost its grip and light visibly triumphed.

This is the heart of Elijah Rising. Light triumphing over darkness. Freedom leading to faith. Healing leading to hope. And lives made new through Jesus Christ.



“

...baptism represents something so profound. It's dying to the old nature and rising to new life in union with Jesus Christ.

...How glorious to know that the Father delights in each one of these women and the steps they have taken toward restoration and transformation.

Truly, I can only imagine the joy in Heaven as these women step forward, claiming the life God has prepared for them.

SHANNAN WILLIAMS

**RESTORATIVE CARE
CASE MANAGER**

PROGRAM OUTLINE

At Elijah Rising, we have seen that the light shines brightest in the darkness. Our Safe Home Program, also known as Restorative Care, shines the light of Jesus as we walk alongside survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation toward safety, healing, and purpose.

Each survivor is welcomed into our Long Term Safe Home, where she can live at no cost for up to twenty-four months. Through counseling, spiritual care, education, addiction recovery, and vocational training, survivors engage in the courageous work of healing. Surrounded by consistent care and the love of Jesus, confidence returns and the human spirit to thrive is reignited. These moments reflect powerful triumphs of light over darkness.

After successfully completing this program, residents have the opportunity to graduate into a separate Transition Home for up to one year.

In this next step toward independence, survivors begin working, pursuing education, building healthy community and positive rental history while continuing to receive supportive services and guidance.

Our goal is for every survivor to step into a future defined by strength and freedom. Many graduate self sufficient, reconnecting with loved ones, and becoming thriving members of their communities as they live as Overcomers and reminders that light triumphs.

OUR APPROACH



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As the year draws to a close, one sentiment I've heard repeatedly is, "I can't believe how quickly 2025 passed." Looking back, I couldn't agree more. The year feels like a whirlwind of momentum and activity, and I feel deep joy as we reflect on all that God has done, on how we have been able to shine His light in the darkness because of your support!

The greatest blessing has been seeing more Safe Home Residents surrender their lives to the Lord than ever before, publicly pronouncing their trust through baptism services at our office. Ultimately, this is our greatest hope, that through the loving care, sincere compassion, and practical generosity you make possible, these women would step out of the darkness and into His marvelous light. We know that Jesus alone restores hearts, minds, and lives, and we also know that, at times, **tangible needs must be met before that truth can fully take root.**

Over a century ago, the Salvation Army captured this reality with a simple phrase: **"Soup, Soap, and Salvation."** While ministering to homeless and impoverished Londoners, they understood that when love is demonstrated consistently, practically, and tangibly, it has the power to break through trauma, dismantle deeply rooted lies, and open hearts to the true Giver of life.

We witnessed this truth firsthand in 2025 with the launch of **Lifelines**, a new outreach ministry designed to encourage women who are still in the Life and gently beckon them toward truth. Though launched later in the year, participation has exceeded our expectations fourfold. Through Lifelines, women are receiving daily, interactive devotionals, and their responses are revealing a profound hunger for the Word of God and a longing for something more: ultimately, Jesus and the freedom He offers.

Jesus consistently entered the hardest places, ministering to those society had cast aside, healing, freeing, and then empowering them to walk in the light, becoming advocates for their own people. I think of the man once tormented by demons, who longed to follow Jesus but was told,

"Go home and tell them what the Lord has done for you." Or the woman at the well, moments removed from a life of shame, who became the catalyst for an entire village turning to Him.

These "impossible" stories of freedom and healing are becoming more and more commonplace at Elijah Rising, and we've only just begun!

We believe in a God who still does the impossible.

As we look ahead, it is difficult to capture in a few words all that we are preparing to step into in 2026. Our team has committed to accomplishing something truly momentous, a long-held dream that your generosity has made possible. As part of our World Cup rescue initiative, Elijah Rising will open **eight additional beds dedicated specifically to emergency housing.** And these beds will continue long after World Cup, addressing a critical gap along the Gulf Coast, where the nearest emergency safe home is currently located in North Texas.

These beds will serve survivors referred by law enforcement, our outreach teams, and partner nonprofits across the region. We will receive individuals experiencing the highest levels of mental and physical crisis, providing round-the-clock care, including medical and dental services, detox support, psychiatric care, and 24/7 supervision. **This represents a significant step forward for Houston and for our state.**

We are deeply grateful to you for helping move the needle not only for survivors but also for our city and the broader Gulf Coast region.

Thank you for standing with us, for loving boldly, and for making this work possible. You are helping us in our mission to illuminate the path to freedom; your faithfulness is bearing eternal fruit.

Light triumphs,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MG'.

MICAH GAMBOA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A PARTNERSHIP THAT BUILDS HOPE

Eight Days of Hope was built to respond to natural disasters. But in 2017, the organization's President, Steve Tybor III, saw trafficking as its own type of disaster.

A DISASTER HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

"How do you keep your blinders on and not acknowledge that this is happening in every town that we go to?" Steve asked. He stepped out in faith to put his organization's skills to work for survivors..

THE MUSEUM THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

A visit to Elijah Rising's museum sealed Steve's commitment. (Today, Elijah Rising carries on the museum's awareness mission through Van Tours that function as a moving documentary, bringing people face-to-face with what trafficking looks like in their own communities.) As a father and a man of faith, the immersive experience was personal.

"IT ROCKED MY WORLD. I CANNOT IGNORE WHAT GOD JUST TAUGHT ME, WHAT I JUST LEARNED, WHAT I JUST SAW."

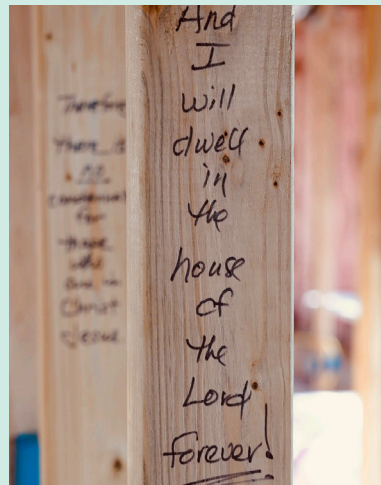
That conviction became the foundation of Eight Days of Hope's Safe House Ministry.



20 SAFE HOMES AND COUNTING

To date, Eight Days of Hope has completed work on 20 safe homes across the country, representing an estimated 70 to 100 beds for survivors of trafficking. Elijah Rising holds a special place in that story as the very first safe home Eight Days of Hope ever renovated, and the partnership has only deepened since, with Steve's team returning multiple times to complete other projects.

"We're a better organization because we partner with Elijah Rising," Steve said. "Iron sharpens iron."



A CALL TO ACTION

Steve's message is simple: awareness demands action.

"ONCE YOU'RE EDUCATED ABOUT WHAT IS TRULY HAPPENING RIGHT HERE IN AMERICA, IT WOULD BE SAD FOR YOU TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES."

Steve challenges everyone who encounters this work to ask: What gifts has God given me, and how might they serve survivors? Whether it means swinging a hammer, writing a check, raising awareness, or connecting resources, there is a role for everyone. "You can't sit on the sidelines and just watch it play out in front of you. God has called his people to love and serve the brokenhearted."

RESTORATION



At Elijah Rising, restoration is a journey from darkness into light. Our Restorative Care Program follows The Samaritan Women's CARE Model, guiding each resident through three phases: Stabilization, Growth, and Independence.

Stabilization is where healing begins. Residents experience safety and compassionate care as they release what has harmed them and begin rebuilding trust. Growth is where hope expands as women develop healthy relationships, strengthen emotional wellness, and pursue education and

workforce preparation. Each milestone represents a meaningful triumph over their past.

Independence is where freedom takes root. Residents prepare for stable, sustainable futures through life skills, career development, and personal goal setting. Each phase supports the whole person, addressing physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, and vocational needs. Because of supporters like you, women are not only finding safety, they are experiencing lasting transformation where light triumphs.

9

**NEW SAFE HOME
BEDS ADDED**

324

**HOURS OF
CLINICAL THERAPY**

2935

**HOURS OF
CURRICULUM
& BIBLICAL
DISCIPLESHIP**

31

**SURVIVORS
SERVED IN OUR
SAFE HOME
PROGRAMS**

**VOLUNTEER WITH
RESTORATIVE
CARE**



PRAYER

At the heart of Elijah Rising's mission is our unwavering belief in the power of prayer to transform lives and end trafficking in Houston and beyond. This year marked a significant milestone as we were invited to join 24/7 Prayer USA's Justice Prayer Committee, where we now help advise national concerted prayer efforts for human trafficking. This is a recognition of the strategic role prayer plays in our work.

Our prayer volunteers continue to gather faithfully each Tuesday evening via Zoom to intercede for survivors, our programs, and the fight against exploitation in our city. We've witnessed time and again that prayer isn't just part of our work; it's the foundation that sustains every work of justice, every moment of healing, and every step toward freedom.

305

**PRAYER MEETINGS
CONDUCTED**

2973

**HOURS OF
PRAYER AND
INTERCESSION**

664

**PEOPLE ATTENDED
PRAYER MEETINGS**

**DOWNLOAD
THE PRAYER
GUIDE HERE**



INTERVENTION

Our Crisis Response Team recently assisted an 18-year-old young woman who had just aged out of foster care. She had been introduced to her trafficker through someone she met in the foster system. After being arrested, she told police she wanted out of the life, and they contacted us for help.

Two of our Crisis Response Team members stayed with her while she awaited transfer to a longer-term program outside of Houston, because remaining in this city was not safe for her.

During her time with us, she asked for help calling her brother, who did not know what she had been experiencing. Up to that point, she believed she had simply “made a bad choice.” As we gently talked with her about what trafficking is, she began to understand that what happened to her was not a choice...it was exploitation.

She wanted us to tell her brother what happened, but we encouraged her to speak for herself, because naming her story in her own voice was an important step in her healing. We sat with her during the call.

At first, she spoke in vague terms about “bad things.” When her brother asked for clarification, she went silent. She was overwhelmed. One of our team members quietly reached for her hand and encouraged her that she could do this.

In that moment, she broke open the walls holding it all in... she found the courage to speak clearly for the first time. She told her brother that she had been trafficked and manipulated, not that she had chosen prostitution. Her brother listened, expressed his care for her, and was grateful she was safe.

She then told him that she was with our team, “the church ladies,” and that she was going to enter a safe program where she could heal and learn how to live independently.

It was a painful moment but also profoundly empowering. For the first time, she named the truth of what happened to her, claimed her story, and took a step toward freedom and healing. This is why our work matters.



2645

**INTERACTIONS
WITH INDIVIDUALS
BEING EXPLOITED
OR TRAFFICKED**

463

**VOLUNTEERS
MOBILIZED IN
OUTREACH**

402

**TRAFFICKING
LOCATIONS
REACHED**

10

**RESCUES/EXITS
CONDUCTED FOR
WOMEN LEAVING
THEIR TRAFFICKING
SITUATION**

LIFELINES

Lifelines is Elijah Rising's newest ministry, a daily text connection for women still trapped in exploitation. Each evening at 6 PM, she receives Scripture, a short devotional, & an invitation to respond. Paired with street outreach, these texts help us go deeper in relationship and trust. Women are even bringing others to us, so they too can receive the life-giving texts. Lifelines officially launched at the beginning of December, and in that one month, we saw 60 women subscribe!

TESTIMONY

When we send out the Lifelines devotional texts, we give them 3 options to respond. They usually look something like this:

1. I WANT JESUS TO MAKE ME NEW FROM THE INSIDE OUT.
2. I'M AFRAID TO SURRENDER MY LIFE TO HIM.
3. I DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS YET.

In just one day, we had **THREE** women reply with a **1!** Praise God. The response team continues those conversations via text, and then street outreach teams connect on Friday nights in person! God is moving, bringing new life through Lifelines.

**GET INVOLVED:
HELP WITH
RESCUES**



AWARENESS



In 2025, the Awareness team significantly expanded its reach, innovation, and community impact, bringing education on human trafficking to new audiences through immersive training, strategic partnerships, and accessible formats.

VIRTUAL VAN TOUR LAUNCH

In August 2025, we successfully launched our Virtual Van Tour, extending the reach of our signature in-person experience beyond physical limitations. This immersive presentation brings participants through real locations connected to trafficking while highlighting survivor experiences and our team's boots-on-the-ground work. The virtual format has allowed us to educate broader audiences while maintaining the emotional and educational impact of our live tours.

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

We invested in prevention by educating youth and young adults at key stages of life. The senior class of Logos Preparatory Academy participated in a van tour experience designed to build awareness,

critical thinking, and protective knowledge as they prepare to enter adulthood.

HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE TRAINING

Recognizing the vital role healthcare professionals play in identifying trafficking, we trained over 100 future nurses at Texas Woman's University, equipping them to recognize red flags, respond appropriately, and advocate for vulnerable patients in clinical settings.

FIRST RESPONDER ENGAGEMENT

We partnered with the South Montgomery County Fire Department, training over 100 firefighters across multiple sessions. These trainings strengthened frontline awareness and reinforced the critical role first responders play in identifying and interrupting trafficking situations in real time.

**BECOME A
VAN TOUR
VOLUNTEER**



9085

**COMMUNITY
MEMBERS EDUCATED
ABOUT TRAFFICKING**

1027

**PEOPLE ATTENDED
AWARENESS VAN
TOURS**

6244

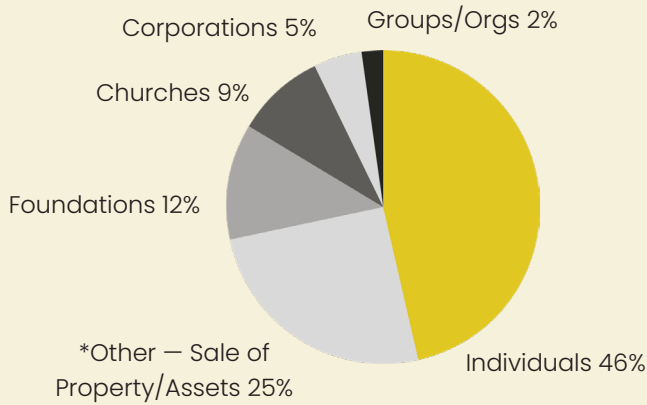
**PEOPLE VISITED
THE ELIJAH RISING
DIGITAL MUSEUM**

FINANCIALS

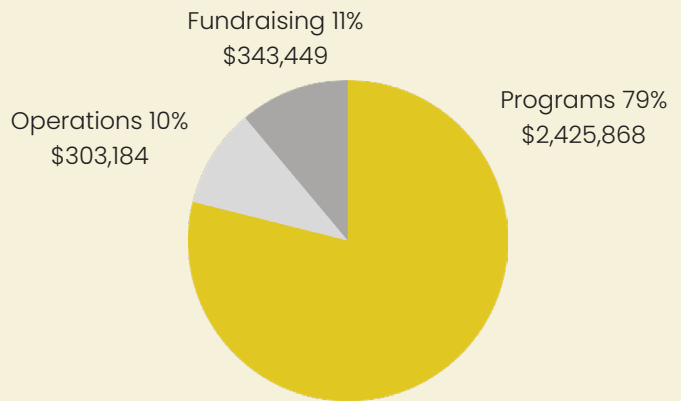
EIN/Tax ID: 46-1885871
 Elijah Rising is a 501c3 nonprofit.
elijahrising.org/financial-accountability/



SOURCE OF FUNDS



USE OF FUNDS



*These funds are being reinvested into restoration and expansion.



THE ILLUMINATE GALA

The Illuminate Gala: Light Triumphs combined a one-of-a-kind immersive guest experience with measurable impact, making it our most successful gala to date. The evening featured the debut of an original short film, *The Stars at Night*, which told Victoria’s story, portraying the reality of how a young woman from a good home can be trafficked, while highlighting the urgent need for rescue, prevention, outreach, and long-term restorative care. Through powerful storytelling and mission-focused engagement, Illuminate deepened understanding and inspired action. Because of the generosity of attendees and sponsors, the gala raised approximately \$630,000, significantly advancing Elijah Rising’s work to bring hope, healing, and freedom to survivors of trafficking, demonstrating that Light Triumphs.

ELIJAH  RISING

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

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GIVE TODAY

