

Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force

HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM REPORT 2016



The Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force (OCHTTF) is a virtual organization which includes law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and community groups; multidisciplinary partners working together to serve a common purpose – combat human trafficking in Orange County.

In 2004, Community Service Programs (CSP) co-founded the OCHTTF, and thus helped kick off the anti-human trafficking work in Orange County. As a non-governmental organization and the County’s designated victim service provider, CSP was able to develop direct victim assistance plans that met the specific needs of human trafficking victims. In 2010, the Anaheim Police Department (APD) joined the OCHTTF as the lead law enforcement agency. APD’s proactive approach to investigations made a significant impact on how these crimes were addressed and victims were identified, which created an environment where traffickers suddenly knew they might get caught. On-line chatter from traffickers suggested avoiding Orange County because “this area is no joke”. In 2013, the Orange County District Attorney’s Office created a vertical unit, Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT), specially designed to prosecute all human trafficking, pimping and pandering cases in Orange County.

Currently, the OCHTTF structure includes Task Force Investigators from the Anaheim Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Irvine Police Department, Orange County District Attorney’s Office, Orange County Sheriff’s Department, and Santa Ana Police Department to address enforcement and the rescue of victims. Working in tandem with law enforcement are four felony Deputy District Attorneys (DDA) and one misdemeanor DDA from the HEAT Unit. Victim Advocates from CSP and The Salvation Army provide wraparound case management for all victims of human trafficking in Orange County, including 24/7 on-call response when law enforcement needs an advocate to provide assistance for a victim. Orange County Social Services responds to cases involving minors.

The projects and tasks carried out by, or alongside, the OCHTTF have organically transformed and expanded over the years in response to the needs of the victims, as well as the concerns of the community that the OCHTTF serves. However, the mission still continues - to help create a safer Orange County. A place that won’t tolerate human traffickers committing acts of violation and violence with disregard for human dignity; a place where law enforcement and prosecutors make extraordinary efforts in pursuing justice for the victims; a place where victims are valued as individuals and will receive the assistance they need; a place where the community works together to combat human trafficking and help the victims regain some measure of hope in this world.

Victim Report Overview

The fourth annual release of the OCHTTF’s Human Trafficking Victim Report attempts to project the best estimated data for Orange County, using figures of those identified and assisted by the OCHTTF. The report is broken down into five main sections and outlines the following:

- I. 2015 Victim Demographics
- II. Victim Service Considerations
- III. Survivor Statements
- IV. Law Enforcement & Prosecution
- V. Community Partners

I. 2015 VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

The total number of human trafficking victims assisted in 2015 is **225**.

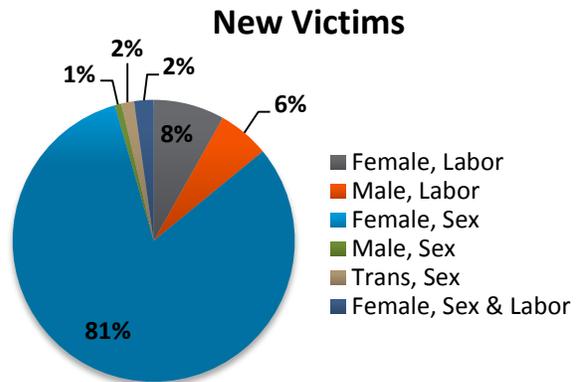
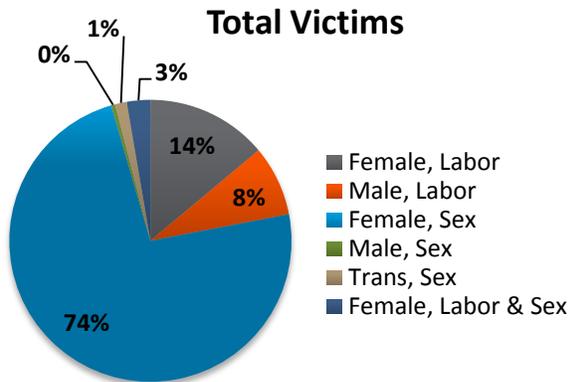
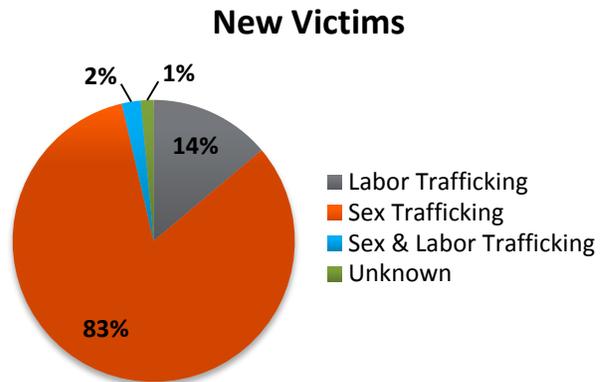
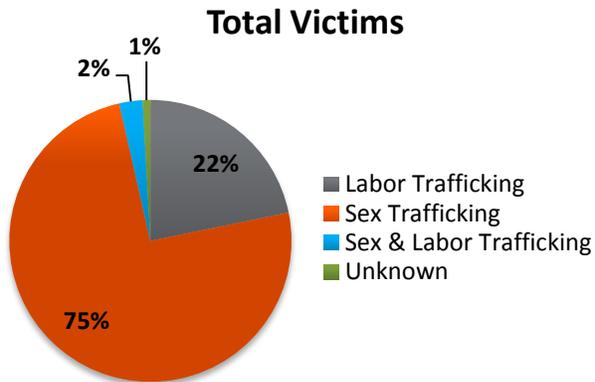
	Population	Labor Trafficking	Sex Trafficking	Labor & Sex Trafficking	Unknown	Total
Gender	Female	31	164	6	2	203
	Male	18	1	0	0	19
	Transgender	0	3	0	0	3
Age	Adult	48	121	6	2	177
	Minor	1	47	0	0	48
Nationality	Foreign	42	17	4	0	63
	<i>Adult</i>	41	16	4	0	61
	<i>Minor</i>	1	1	0	0	2
	U.S.	7	151	2	2	162
	<i>Adult</i>	7	105	2	2	116
	<i>Minor</i>	0	46	0	0	46
Total		49	168	6	2	225

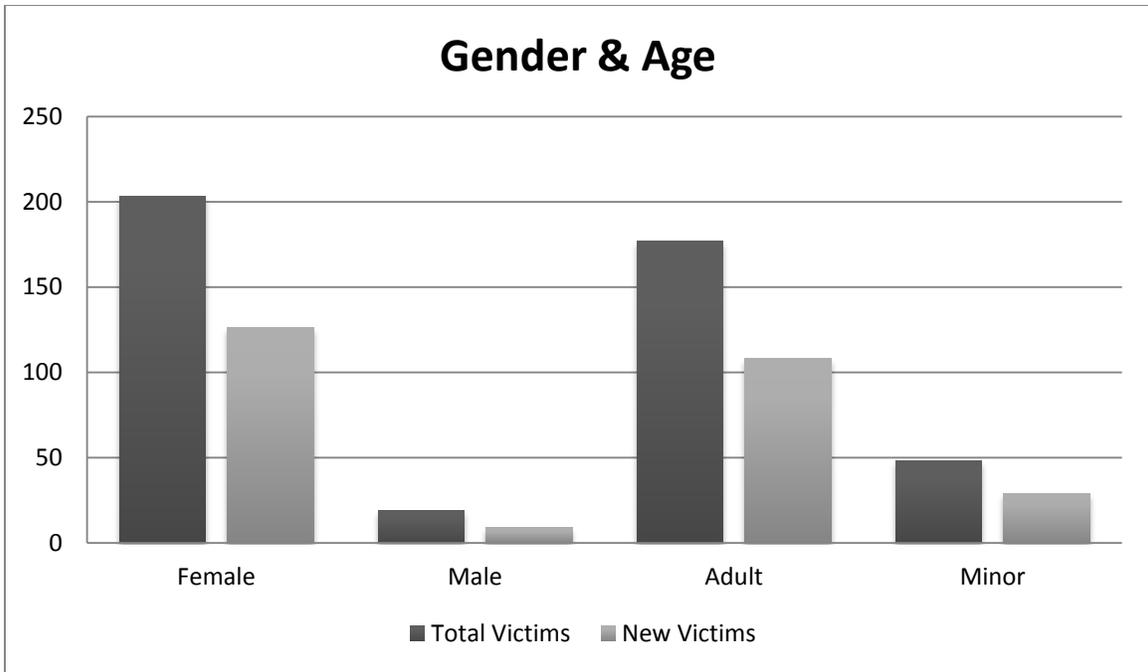
Source: Community Service Programs and The Salvation Army

The total number of **new** human trafficking victims assisted in 2015 is **137** or 61% of the overall total.

	Population	Labor Trafficking	Sex Trafficking	Labor & Sex Trafficking	Unknown	Total
Gender	Female	11	110	3	2	126
	Male	8	1	0	0	9
	Transgender	0	2	0	0	2
Age	Adult	19	84	3	2	108
	Minor	0	29	0	0	29
Nationality	Foreign	14	7	2	0	23
	<i>Adult</i>	14	6	2	0	22
	<i>Minor</i>	0	1	0	0	1
	U.S.	5	106	1	2	114
	<i>Adult</i>	5	78	1	2	86
	<i>Minor</i>	0	28	0	0	28
Total		19	113	3	2	137

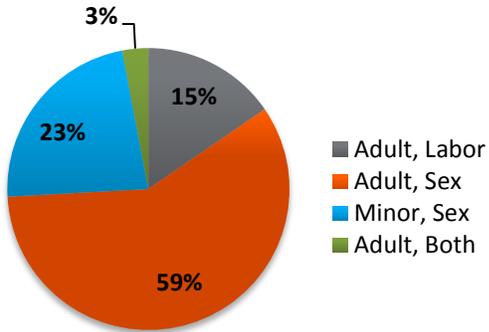
Source: Community Service Programs and The Salvation Army



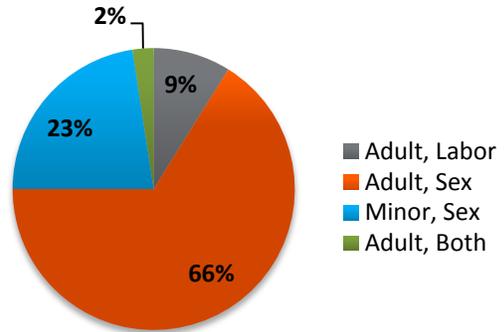


Total 2015: 90% female, 8% male; 79% adult, 21% minor. New 2015: 92% female, 7% male; 79% adult, 21% minor

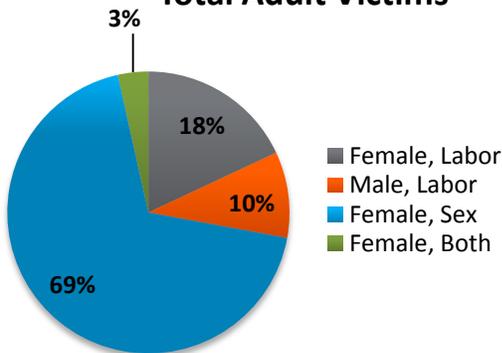
Total Female Victims



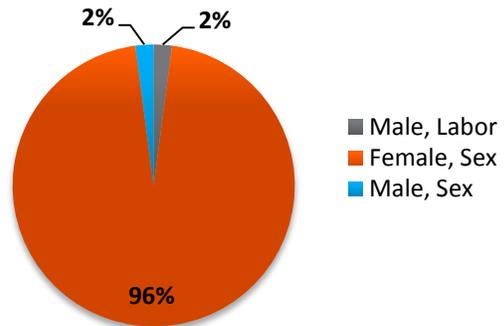
New Female Victims

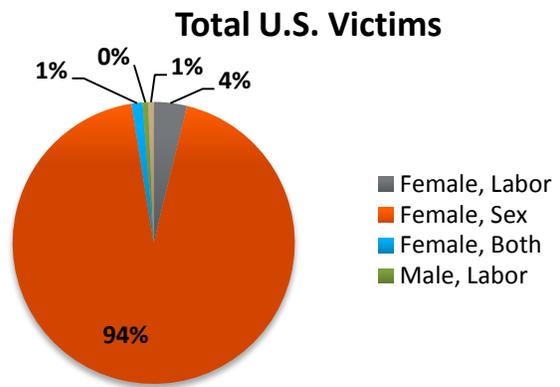
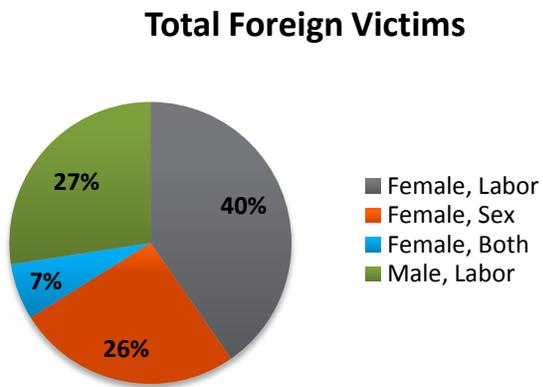
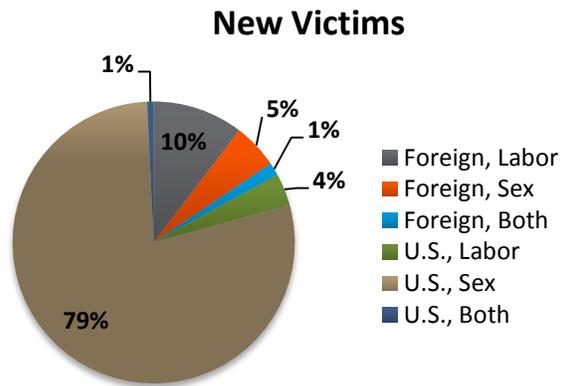
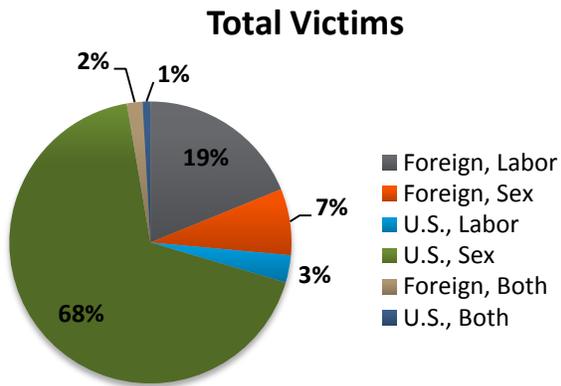
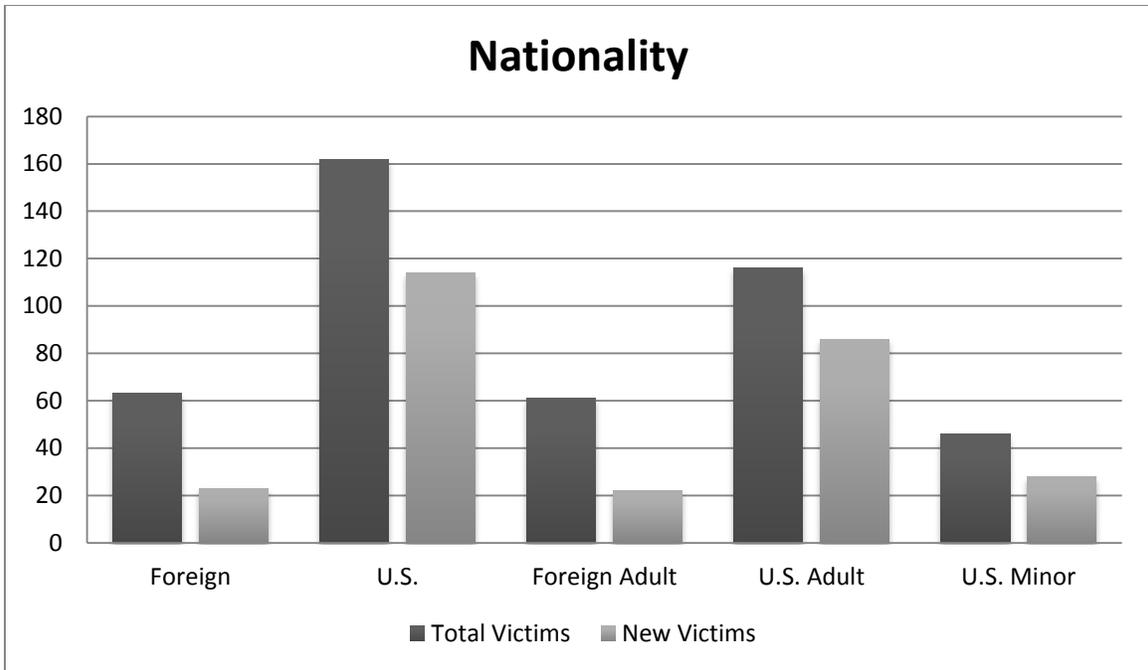


Total Adult Victims



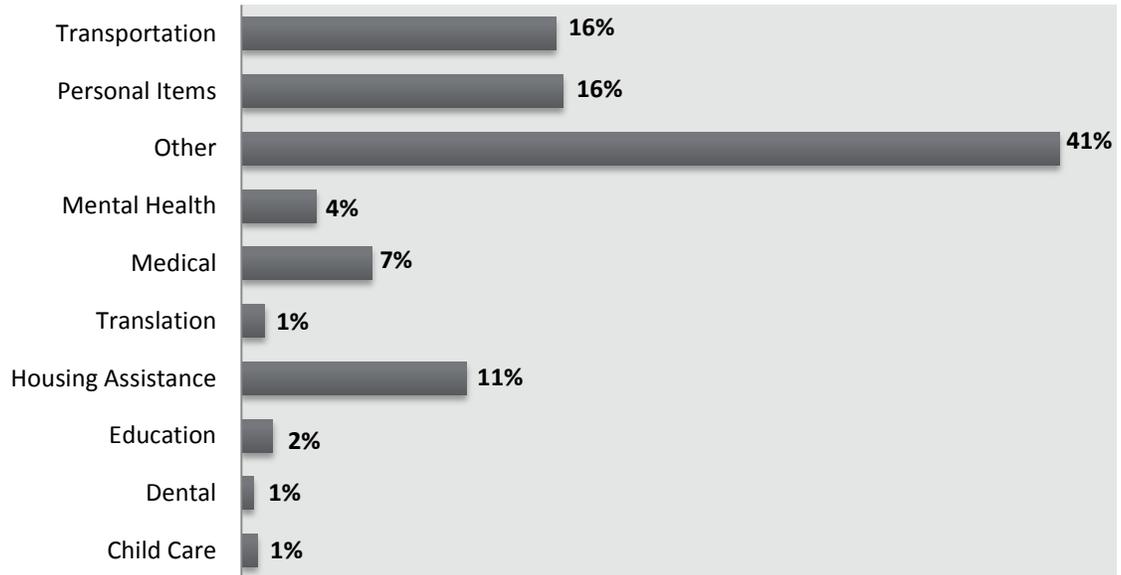
Total Minor Victims





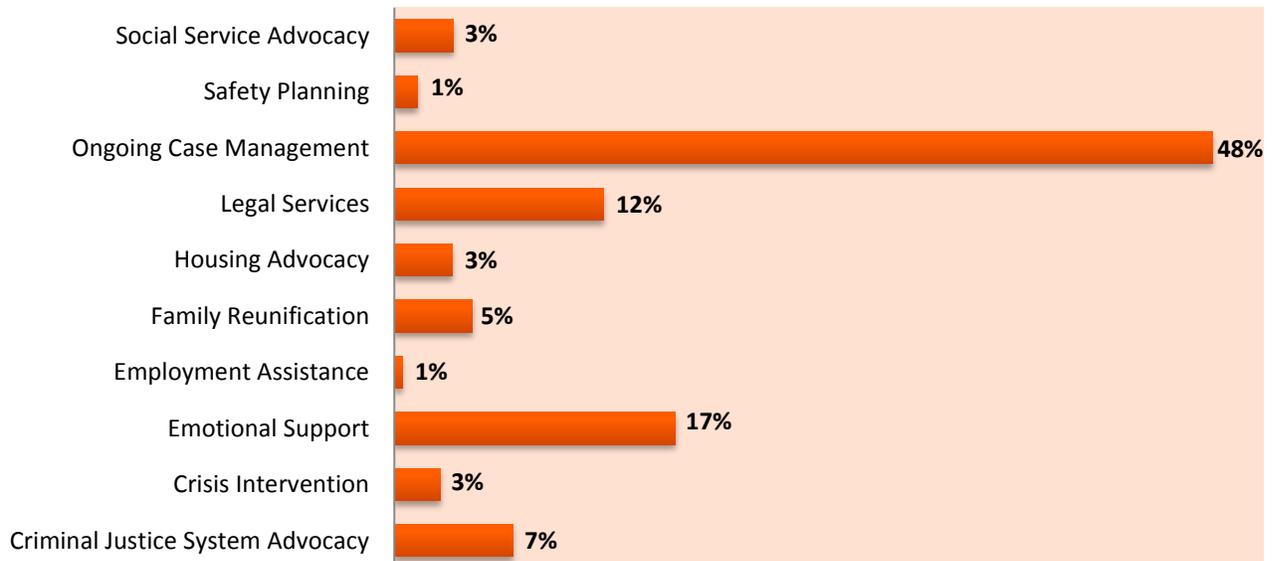
II. VICTIM SERVICE CONSIDERATIONS

Services Provided: Frequency of Services



The **Frequency of Services** chart reflects the number of times each service was provided for victims in 2015. The other category includes: client skill-building workshops, events and social activities.

Services Provided: Duration of Time



The **Duration of Time** chart reflects the length of time spent providing each service for victims in 2015.

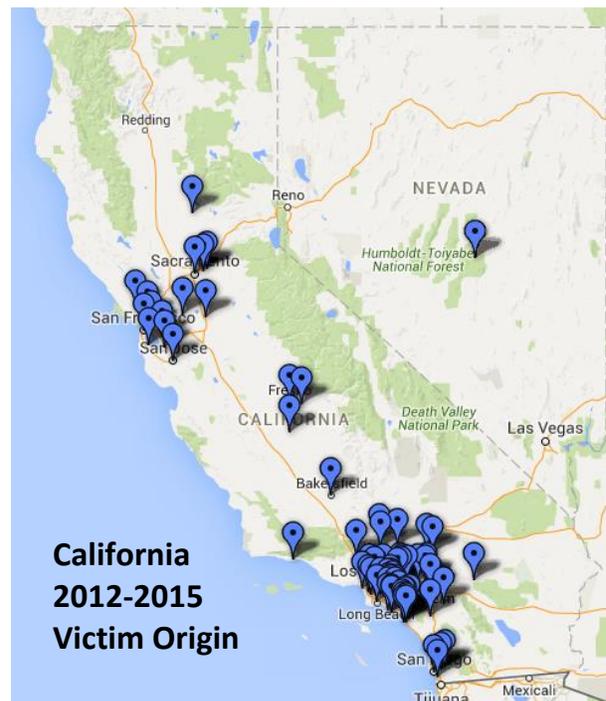
Victim Origin

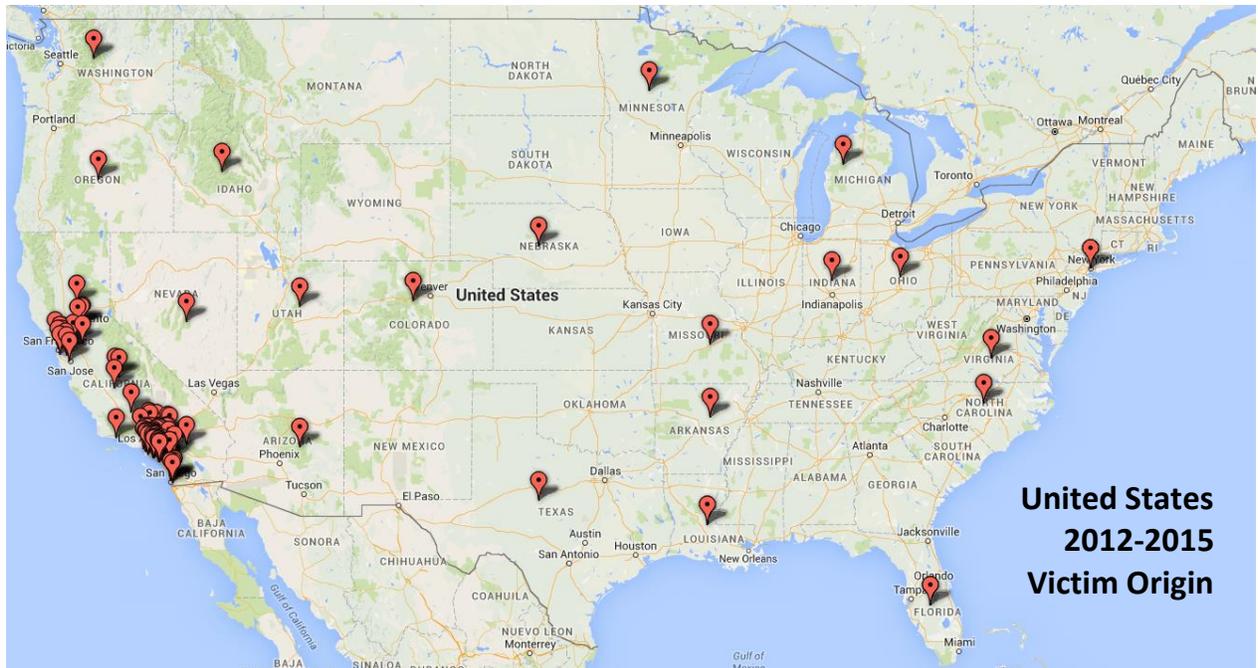
A stable environment rarely exists for those “in the life” or trafficked for the purpose of commercial sex. Movement is a constant way of life. As such, it is difficult to pinpoint the victims’ location of origin, as many are transient or come from unstable homes, being bounced around to different living situations.

The following data and information is based on the best estimation of the location of origin of the victim, specific to city, county or state. The victim origin data does not reflect the total number of victims assisted over the years as they were not all recorded or the locations were unknown.

The maps and charts below reflect the compilation of data since 2012 and show the range of locations where domestic sex trafficking victims (U.S. Nationals, both adults and minors) may have originated.

This data source is from CSP. Over the years, CSP referrals have come from law enforcement, juvenile hall, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, shelters, non-profit organizations, resource centers, family/friend or self-referral, and social services. The following maps only reflect victims identified and assisted in Orange County and where they may have originated.





This map represents 231 domestic sex trafficking victims between 2012 and 2015 across 21 states, 22% Orange County, 78% outside of Orange County (56% from other counties in California, 22% from outside of California).

U.S. States	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Arizona	1	3	1	0	5
Arkansas	0	2	0	0	2
California	51	39	24	66	180
Colorado	0	0	0	3	3
Florida	0	0	0	2	2
Idaho	1	0	0	0	1
Indiana	0	0	0	1	1
Louisiana	0	0	0	1	1
Michigan	1	0	0	1	2
Minnesota	0	0	0	1	1
Missouri	1	0	0	1	2
Nebraska	0	0	1	0	1
Nevada	5	3	0	7	15
New York	0	1	0	0	1
North Carolina	0	0	0	1	1
Ohio	2	1	0	1	4
Oregon	0	2	0	0	2
Texas	0	0	0	2	2
Utah	0	1	0	0	1
Virginia	0	0	0	1	1
Washington	1	1	0	1	3
Total	63	53	26	89	231

Top 10 CA Cities	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Los Angeles	2	6	3	16	27 (16%)
Sacramento	5	3	3	2	13 (8%)
Anaheim	4	1	5	1	11 (6%)
Fresno	2	3	0	5	10 (6%)
Santa Ana	1	3	4	2	10 (6%)
San Diego	0	3	0	3	6 (3%)
Long Beach	3	1	0	1	5 (3%)
Fullerton	3	0	0	1	4 (2%)
San Bernardino	1	0	1	2	4 (2%)
Hawthorne	0	2	0	1	3 (2%)

Total of 72 cities across California. Orange County cities include: Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Dana Point, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Habra, Laguna Niguel, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, Stanton, and Westminster.

Total CA Counties	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Los Angeles	17	13	6	23	59 (33%)
Orange	14	6	10	19	49 (28%)
Sacramento	5	4	3	2	14 (8%)
Fresno	2	3	0	6	11 (6%)
San Bernardino	4	3	2	2	11 (6%)
San Diego	1	3	1	4	9 (5%)
Alameda	1	2	0	1	4 (2%)
Riverside	0	1	0	3	4 (2%)
Kern	1	0	0	2	3 (2%)
Contra Costa	1	1	0	0	2 (1%)
San Francisco	0	0	1	1	2 (1%)
Butte	1	0	0	0	1
Kings	0	1	0	0	1
Madera	0	0	1	0	1
Marin	0	1	1	1	1
San Mateo	0	0	0	1	1
San Joaquin	1	0	0	0	1
Santa Barbara	0	0	0	1	1
Santa Clara	1	0	0	0	1
Shasta	0	1	0	0	1
Total	49	39	25	66	177

Total of 20 counties in California, 28% from Orange County, 72% from outside of Orange County. Of the California minor victim population, 22% of minors from Orange County, 78% outside of Orange County. **This does not include out of state victims.

III. SURVIVOR STATEMENTS

We asked interested survivors if they would be willing to write something for the report. They were able to choose to write something in response to either question:

- 1.) *If you could write something to new victims who are in the same situation as you were and trying to get help (or afraid to get help), what would you want to say to them?*
- 2.) *If you could write something to yourself when you first received help (or any point in time when you were in your trafficked situation), what would you want to tell your younger self?*

“You are strong! You are strong! You are strong!”

“If I was more aware that there are a lot of organizations or people who are kind hearted and willing to help me, I should have asked for help instead of receiving maltreatment and hardship when I was trafficked.”

“Don’t be afraid to come out and seek help because there’s an institution that helps victims like you. All you have to do is give them your full cooperation.”



“Well, you can always try to ask for help. But for me, I stayed quiet because I didn’t really want anyone to know what happened to me. It was too painful that I didn’t even want anyone around me or talk to me. But, I suggest getting help. It’s always good talking to someone who can help you out.”



"You are blessed because there are groups of people that will help. I am so lucky because I met these kind people. I thank God because all of my worries have been answered."

"Life is tough. Life has not been fair to me, but it is part of life all the same. I am not the only person who is in the same situation. After all, God has been kind to me, sustained me, and now moving on with my life. I thank God how far he has brought me. There is much greater things ahead of me. With God all things are possible. I will never give up on life. I will keep on pressing until I become what I was born to be. If there is life, there is hope. Keep on moving forward."

"The first words that I would say to a new victim are 'DON'T BE AFRAID' because there are some people that are willing to help. This team helped us a lot in many ways, not only by helping with giving things we need, but also moral and emotional support. And they are very open to answering all our questions. Communication with staff is open all the time."

"I would have never imagined there was so much help as the help I received. It's sad to think that no one cares about your suffering, but know that in the future someone did help you. It can't be worse than what it is now."

"Think about it as a bad dream and there will be a happy dream. Hold on to hope. Another life, another will come. You are a special person."

“I would tell myself to be more well-informed with regards to the law of a certain country.”



“There is nothing to be afraid of because there’s help. There are authorities that will rescue you and organizations that will assist you.



“Don’t be afraid to get help, because a lot of people or organizations are willing to extend their help to us and become the voice of victims.”

“First, I will say to try and clam down and put yourself together. You should not try to kill yourself or bring harm to yourself because doing that will not change anything. Try to know God. Believe in him. Put your trust in the Lord, because he alone will have solutions to your problems. God will never disappoint you. He will bring help your way. He will make a way for you when there is no way. There are good people out there who will love and care for you the way you need. So don’t end your life. Stay really strong. Love you. ”

“Please trust and try. There’s no reason not to try. You won’t lose anything. We are in a different time and now there are people to help us women who are victimized.”



“When I first came to Southern California, I was still reeling from the aftermath of the DA’s Office (where I was originally from) dropping the felony charges against my perpetrator. It was a time when I needed more than I could even comprehend. There were the obvious things like a place to stay, food and clothing, and a place to be safe, but there were also the things that we don’t even know we need in the beginning. Today, I am able to look back and say that CSP provided me so much more than I ever thought possible.

As time goes on, one of the most important roles CSP provides is the consistent person on my team. I feel that my advocate has been there when no one else was. She provided me with a glimpse of what my life can look like. She has been there for meetings that I needed her to be my emotional support. She has fought for me when I was ready to give up. Although she doesn’t do the work for me, she encourages and supports me in my decisions. For a person coming from a place of absolute powerlessness, that is one of the most important things an advocate can do. To encourage you to make your own decisions is an all important first step in the healing process.

CSP also provides financial assistance that a victim needs from toiletries to personal things. They offer classes that are empowering and fun. There is a spirit of support amongst the people that care for the victims. For the victims, all this allows us to move from victim to survivor. Day to day my needs have changed or maybe it is just that I can see them more clearly now. For most of my journey I have found that my advocate has been one of the most important parts of the healing process for me.

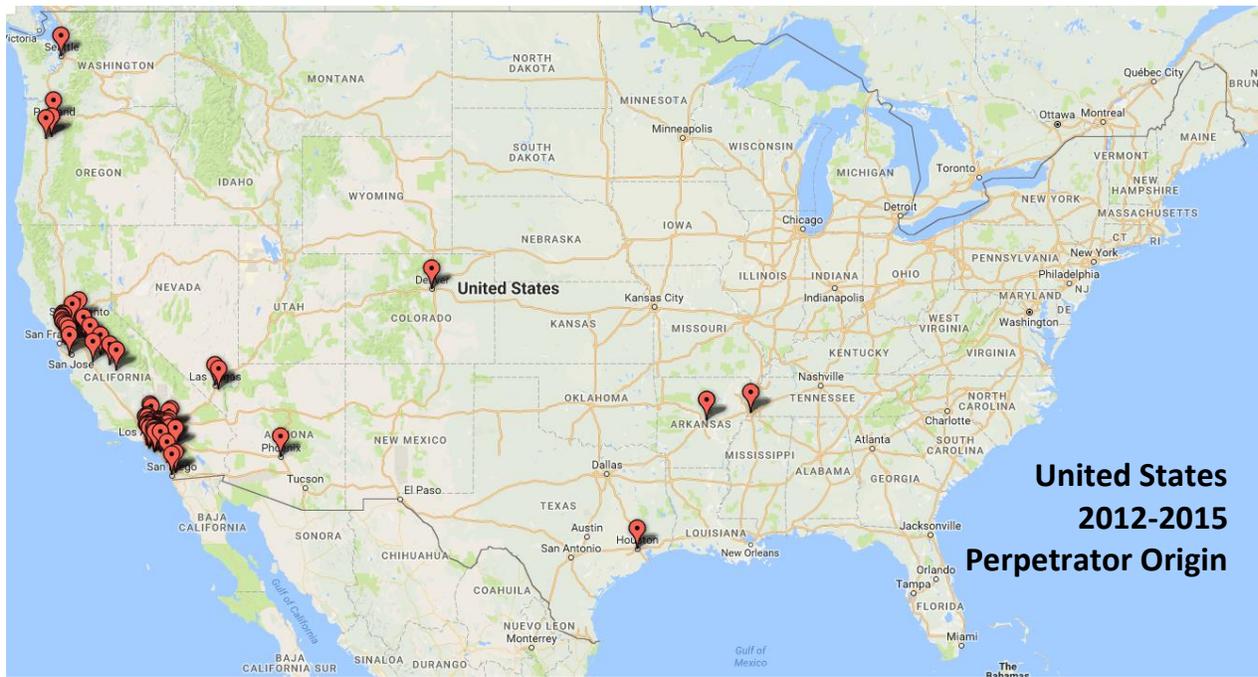
To say I owe my life in part to CSP and my advocate is an understatement and I know that I will forever be grateful to them for their support and assistance.”



IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT & PROSECUTION

Perpetrator Origin

The following map and charts represent the location of origin of 183 perpetrators arrested and prosecuted for human trafficking, pimping and pandering. This data has been collected by the Orange County District Attorney's Office.



U.S. States	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Arizona	0	0	1	0	1
Arkansas	0	0	0	1	1
California	11	44	44	68	167
Colorado	0	0	0	1	1
Nevada	0	0	1	4	5
Oregon	0	1	1	1	3
Tennessee	0	0	0	1	1
Texas	0	0	0	3	3
Washington	0	1	0	0	1
Total	11	46	47	79	183

*Of the 183 perpetrators of known origin between 2012 and 2015 across 9 states, 20% Orange County, 80% outside of Orange County (71% from other counties in California, 9% from outside of California). **Note: In 2015, there were 81 perpetrators with cases filed for prosecution, but the national origin chart only reflects 79 due to the fact that 2 of the defendants were considered transient.*

Top 15 CA Cities	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Los Angeles	5	6	7	12	30 (18%)
Anaheim	0	5	5	3	13 (8%)
Sacramento	0	3	5	2	10 (6%)
Oakland	0	6	0	3	9 (5%)
Fresno	1	0	1	4	6 (4%)
San Bernardino	1	0	1	3	5 (3%)
Hemet	0	0	1	4	5 (3%)
Santa Ana	0	1	1	2	4 (2%)
San Diego	0	2	1	1	4 (2%)
Compton	0	0	3	1	4 (2%)
Vallejo	0	2	0	1	3 (2%)
Palmdale	0	0	2	1	3 (2%)
Madera	0	0	2	1	3 (2%)
Huntington Beach	0	0	0	3	3 (2%)
Costa Mesa	0	0	3	0	3 (2%)

Total of 65 cities in California with 167 perpetrators of known origin. Orange County cities include: Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Lake Forest, Midway City, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, Santa Ana, Stanton, Westminster, and Yorba Linda.

Total CA Counties	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Los Angeles	6	13	13	26	58 (35%)
Orange	0	10	14	13	37 (22%)
Alameda	1	7	2	3	13 (8%)
San Bernardino	2	2	3	4	11 (7%)
Sacramento	0	3	5	2	10 (6%)
Riverside	0	1	1	6	8 (5%)
San Diego	0	3	2	2	7 (4%)
Fresno	1	0	1	4	6 (4%)
Solano	0	2	0	2	4 (2%)
Contra Costa	0	1	1	2	4 (2%)
Madera	0	0	2	1	3 (2%)
San Joaquin	0	0	0	2	2 (1%)
Merced	0	2	0	0	2 (1%)
Stanislaus	1	0	0	0	1 (1%)
Santa Clara	0	0	0	1	1 (1%)
Total	11	44	44	68	167

Total of 15 counties in California with 167 perpetrators of known origin. In California alone, 22% from Orange County and 78% from other counties in California. This does not include those from outside of California.

Between 2012 and 2015, a total of 187 cases of human trafficking, pimping and pandering were prosecuted. In 2015, 81 cases were filed for prosecution by the Orange County District Attorney's Office. There were 39 cases that received convictions in 2015. Of those cases that were convicted in 2015, some were from previous years' case filings and some were 2015 case filings. There are still open cases from 2015 that have not received convictions. The following four cases highlight the different types of human trafficking cases that are investigated and prosecuted – social media undercover, human trafficking of adult, sex trafficking of minor, and the far reaching arm of the OCHTTF.

In **June of 2015**, an OCHTTF investigator was contacted on his undercover social media account by an individual who wanted the investigator to work for him as a prostitute. Although the investigator told the suspect he was a minor, the suspect continued recruiting the fictitious minor to work for him. The case developed to the point the suspect directed the minor to Los Angeles County to meet him so he could put her to work. The OCHTTF responded to Los Angeles County and arrested the suspect when he arrived to pick up the female juvenile. The suspect was charged with the attempted trafficking of a minor. He took his case to jury trial where he was found guilty and sentenced to 6 years in prison.

In **April 2015**, the OCHTTF received information from a father in Minnesota that his adult daughter was possibly being trafficked in Orange County and that the trafficker also had his daughter's 2 year-old-son with him. Investigators initiated an investigation which led them to the female victim. The victim told investigators that she was being forced into prostitution by the suspect and that he used her son as leverage against her to keep her working for him. At the time, she did not know the location of her son. The trafficker would only bring her son to her once she had met her quota. Investigators worked through the night and eventually found the trafficker and the victim's son. The suspect was arrested and charged with human trafficking of an adult. The trafficker took his case to trial asserting that he was only the babysitter. He was found guilty by a jury and later sentenced to 14 years in prison.

In **November of 2015**, OCHTTF investigators received information from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that a missing juvenile from Michigan was possibly being trafficked in Orange County. Investigators initiated an investigation and learned the victim was in a neighboring county. The investigation led officers to a motel where the juvenile victim was located in the company of the suspect. Investigators learned the victim had the suspects initials tattooed on her face, which unfortunately is not uncommon in the pimp subculture. The suspect was arrested and charged with trafficking of a minor and is currently awaiting trial.

In **May of 2015**, OCHTTF investigators responded to a local motel to assist patrol officers with a disturbance call which appeared to be human trafficking related. Investigator learned that the two females present were assaulted by their trafficker for falling asleep instead of being on the street working. The trafficker fled and was later captured in a neighboring county. He was charged with human trafficking; however, due to non-cooperation by either victim he pled to six years in prison, which was suspended, and he was released on probation. The court ordered him to stay away from the victims. Investigators continued to keep track of him and learned that soon after his release he contacted at least one of the victims and was in her company in Florida. Investigators worked with a task force in Florida which found the suspect. He was arrested for violating the court order. OCHTTF investigators flew to Florida and brought the suspect back to Orange County and the judge ordered him to serve his 6 years prison term.

V. COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The OCHTTF wanted to highlight some community partners whose collaborative efforts have made substantial impacts on the overall mission of the OCHTTF. These partners go above and beyond what is required of their organization as they assist victims of human trafficking in Orange County or find ways to fill gaps in services as needed. The following are responses from one of the organization's main liaisons to the OCHTTF.

Friends Church, Yorba Linda, 3 years of collaboration

Activities assisted and supported: Survivor graduation, client social activity, moving furniture for clients as they transition to independent living, OC Fair community outreach, member of the Faith-Based Advisory Council, and assisted in developing a curriculum addressing demand for men's group.

Why is it important for your organization to help victims or bring more attention to this cause? Our church has a heart for the people victimized by human trafficking. Our main focus is human trafficking. We have been traveling and building schools in India for many years for that very reason. Now we are not just focused around the world, but around the corner.

Are there any special stories you would like to share? While resettling a survivor, she literally followed me back and forth with tears in her eyes. She thanked me each and every time I passed.

Cottonwood Church, Los Alamitos, 6 years of collaboration

Activities assisted and supported: Moving clients to new apartments or furniture for storage, assisting with the survivor graduation, mentoring clients, driving clients to various appointment and events, OC Fair outreach, provided finances and decorations to The Salvation Army's new guest house, providing Thanksgiving dinners, donating gifts and gift cards for Christmas, going through required training to work with clients, providing backpacks with basic necessities, OC FREE THEM art and awareness event.

Why is it important for your organization to help victims or bring more attention to this cause? Our Pastor originally realized that if this horrific crime is in our backyards, we as a church needed to do something. We had many people that had no idea this issue was in other countries, certainly not ours. We wanted to be a voice to those who had no voice and see lives restored.

Are there any special stories you would like to share? We have been able to work alongside such amazing, selfless, incredible staff and volunteers in a concerted effort to make a difference. To be able to see a family reunited and restored after 4 years apart. To see children of survivors grow up after these 5 years and the wonderful young people they have become, full of expectation and excitement in their new life. To be able to have a young child come into our home knowing that her case manager was helping her mom in crisis in the middle of the night. To attend a wedding of a client, with an entire room filled with survivors and their children. These are amazing memories and we are so honored to have been a small part of this.

Sisters of St. Joseph, Orange, 12 years of collaboration

Activities assisted and supported: Provided shelter for some survivors, some Sisters helped tutor in ESL and homework, driving to appointments (medical, social services, bank, fingerprinting) and to/from work, planned social activities, assisted in looking for a job, clothes and grocery shopping.

Why is it important for your organization to help victims or bring more attention to this cause? The Sisters of St. Joseph have committed themselves to a corporate stance against human trafficking by restoring right relationships in order to advance the global community of life and to denounce all forms of human trafficking and slavery with the United States and the international community. We have committed the gift of ourselves and our congregational resources to educate ourselves, to minister to survivors, and to collaborate with others to abolish human trafficking and slavery.

Are there any special stories you would like to share? In the very beginning when we were learning about human trafficking, we collaborated with the OCHTTF and The Salvation Army. They didn't know who we really were, except their idea or concept was like the movie "Sister Act". The case manager at that time called us asking if we would provide assistance to a survivor and keep her in hiding. At that time, we were unsure, since it was new to us, but said that we would discuss the matter with our superiors and get back with an answer. It didn't take very long when we received the okay and called the case manager back and said, "Yes, we can." Since then, we have been able to help with sheltering survivors and reuniting families together here in Orange County.

Richfield Community Church, Yorba Linda, 2 years of collaboration

Activities assisted and supported: Hosted a fair trade shopping night, supply emergency backpacks filled with toiletries and comfort items, provide an annual community education event to raise awareness, maintain a Facebook page to keep our congregation and friends informed of human trafficking headlines and needs as they arise, hosted the 2015 Holiday Party, worked through Safe Families for Children and Safe Families Plus to provide safe housing/respice care for four at-risk children and one young adult trafficking survivor for varying lengths of time, conducted donation drives for gift cards.

Why is it important for your organization to help victims or bring more attention to this cause? We are motivated by the love that Jesus Christ has shown to us, his compassionate heart for those suffering from injustice, and his command to extend that same love and compassion we have received to those who are in need.

Are there any special stories you would like to share? A standout experience for us as a church was last year's holiday party where we hosted survivors, their families, the case managers, and the volunteers who work directly with them. Our members were so excited to serve these special people that we ended up having to turn volunteers away! They brought many dishes so that clients from other countries could find choices for dinner that they felt comfortingly familiar. We provided fun group games with prizes, face painting and crafts for the children. One of the most special things about that day was seeing the adult attendees let down their guard and become almost childlike in the way they delighted in the activities and experiences. Although our guests had a wonderful time, we actually received the greatest joy by serving them and seeing the smiles on their faces.

Foursquare Church, Westminster, 4 years of collaboration

Activities assisted and supported: We have held donation drives, made a space in our church for a pantry and clothing closet, have a team at our church dedicated to being cleared volunteers, helped at the OC Fair, hosted community awareness events, and hosted client events at the church including holiday parties and game nights. We are part of the Faith-Based Advisory Council for the Task Force.

Why is it important for your organization to help victims or bring more attention to this cause? As a faith-based community, specifically a Christian church, one of our core values is bringing people to Jesus. This looks like reaching out into our community. This includes understanding that if it is a problem for our community and society, then it is a problem for us that we cannot ignore. Being a partner with the Task Force is not just part of some “good deed work” or “giving back”, but it is part of our lifestyle and culture here at the church. We love our community, and we are in our community. In a way, we have chosen to love our community through a partnership with the Task Force. We love because we were first loved by Him.

Are there any special stories you would like to share? Driving the clients is one of my favorite things to do. Most clients have been amazing. Their resiliency amazes me. Those small conversations, even while driving someone can help build a big perspective. The impact one person can have with small acts that lead to other big acts count! I tell my friends, family and congregation that in order to see the impact, you have to be part of the work. There have been multiple times when case managers and even police department personnel have brought a client to our pantry and clothing closet. The care and patience that those who have chosen to work in a career of service impact our lives here in our faith community. Their care for the clients is an example for many to observe and learn from. They not only show their care in those small appointments, but the interaction that I have observed at client events and outreach events remains the same. They truly care for their clients. Their laughs and tears are true, genuine and sincere.

Vineyard Church, Anaheim, 10 years of collaboration

Activities assisted and supported: Clothing resource closet, houseware/furniture resource storage, monthly food delivery to The Salvation Army guest house, coordinate yearly holiday/Christmas program, active member of faith-based advisory council, church volunteers to go through OCHTTF volunteer program to assist with clients, assist with donation drives and client workshops/events, attend monthly general and volunteer meetings.

Why is it important for your organization to help victims or bring more attention to this cause? As a Christian organization, we feel it is a mandate to care for those who are in need, to speak for those who can't speak for themselves, to act justly and love mercy, and to loosen the chains of injustice and set the oppressed free.

Are there any special stories you would like to share? One of the first clients I assisted was a mother with three young children. She was a practicing Muslim. She had A LOT to deal with and was feeling overwhelmed. My small part in assisting her was finding housing that would allow her kids to attend a good school. It formed a bond and she would afterward occasionally text me with updates and even asks for my prayers. I still feel connected to her and her kids several years later.