

# Standing Against Slavery in the Monterey Bay Area



**SET FREE**  
MONTEREY BAY

**Our vision is to see that the needs of survivors are met with a complete, holistic approach.**

**We believe that an informed and educated community is a community that is part of the solution to ending modern day slavery.**

Set Free Monterey Bay is a Christ centered organization with the goal of establishing and operating a restoration home for women escaping the sex trafficked life and providing education and outreach to the Monterey Bay area.



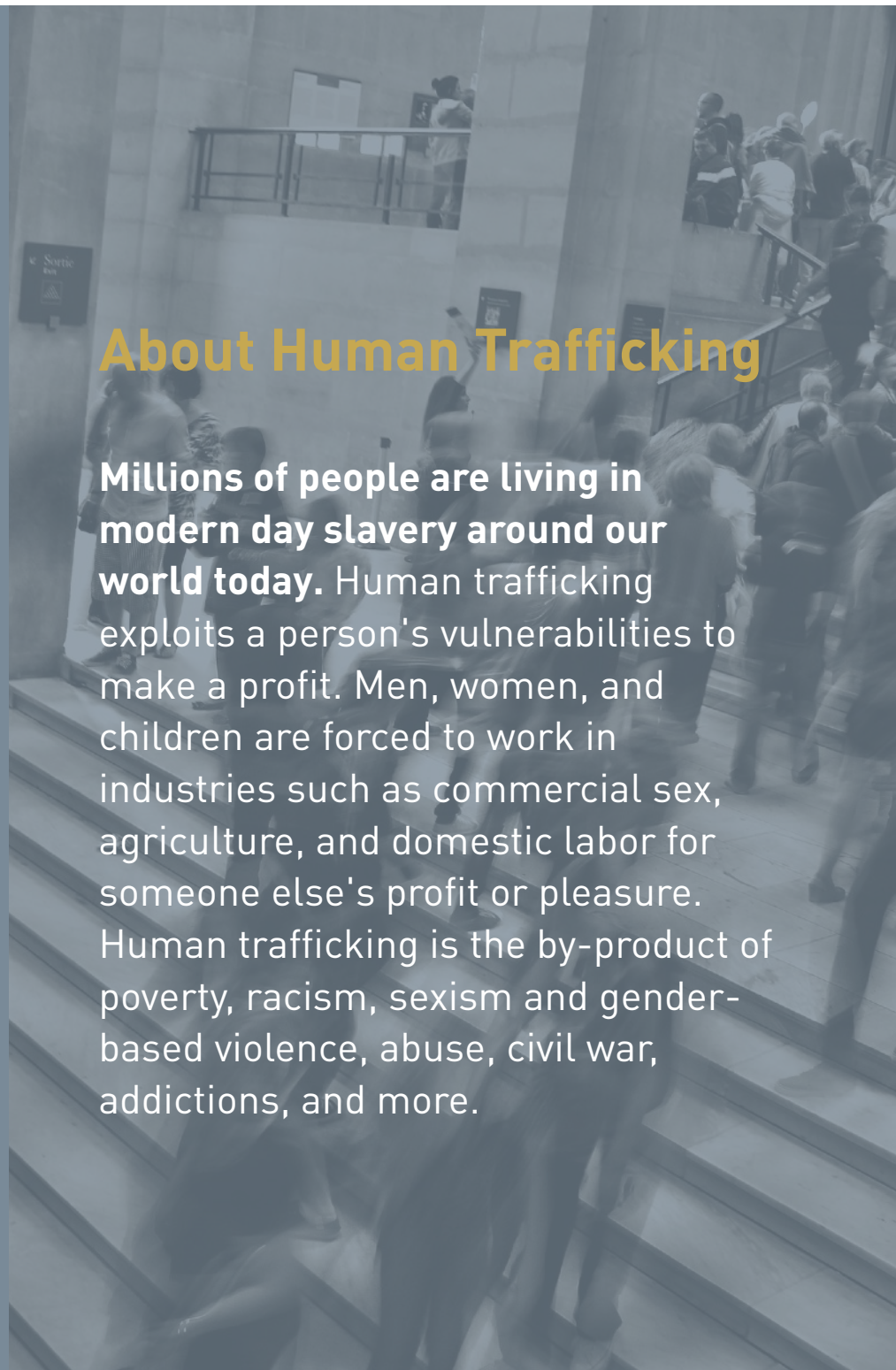
**Trafficking happens both in-person and virtually. According to Polaris, there are approximately 25 million slaves in the world today, making trafficking a multi-billion dollar a year business.<sup>1</sup>**

## **About Human Trafficking**

**Millions of people are living in modern day slavery around our world today.** Human trafficking exploits a person's vulnerabilities to make a profit. Men, women, and children are forced to work in industries such as commercial sex, agriculture, and domestic labor for someone else's profit or pleasure. Human trafficking is the by-product of poverty, racism, sexism and gender-based violence, abuse, civil war, addictions, and more.

**Sources:**

<sup>1</sup><https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/>





A person is seen from behind, looking out at a city skyline across a body of water at dusk. The skyline includes a prominent tower with a sphere. The scene is dimly lit with warm colors from the sunset.

# The Challenges

in the Monterey Bay Area

## Hotspot for Trafficking

Large events/high-crowd events draw in very affluent people and increase demand for trafficking.

## High Cost of Living

The cost of living makes it difficult for people to sustain a healthy lifestyle and leads to compounding vulnerabilities.

## Unaccessible Restoration

There are no restoration homes operating in the region. Often survivors need to be removed from the area for their safety and require emergency housing and social services.

## Location to Trafficking Loop

Closely located along the I-5 and Highway 101 loop that traffickers use to move victims.

California consistently has the **highest human trafficking rates** in the United States with **1,507 cases reported in 2019.**<sup>1</sup>

Since 2015, we know that at least **100 children ages 10-18 were trafficked within the Monterey County** (Monterey County Office of Education and the Department of Social Services).<sup>2</sup>

Daily internet searches of the Monterey area found anywhere from **10-15 ads selling women for sex.**<sup>3</sup>

**\$563,000 is the median property value** in Monterey County.<sup>4</sup>

In 2017, California had **35,798 chronically homeless individuals.** This is the highest estimated number in the US, followed by New York with 5,087 chronically homeless individuals.<sup>5</sup>

**Sources:**

<sup>1</sup>[www.humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Polaris-2019-US-National-Human-Trafficking-Hotline-Data-Report.pdf](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Polaris-2019-US-National-Human-Trafficking-Hotline-Data-Report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>[www.montereybayparent.com/articles/family-advice/what-parents-need-to-know-about-human-trafficking](http://www.montereybayparent.com/articles/family-advice/what-parents-need-to-know-about-human-trafficking)

<sup>3</sup>Michael Aspland, Set Free Monterey Bay President, Former Monterey Law Enforcement

<sup>4</sup><https://datausa.io/profile/geo/monterey-county-ca>

<sup>5</sup><https://datausa.io/profile/geo/monterey-county-ca#housing>



**Set Free Monterey Bay is a Christian organization established to assist adult women (ages 18 and over) who have been victims of sex trafficking.**

We want to walk alongside them through their journey to **find healing within our two-year residential program.** We will facilitate a restoration home where women survivors can receive services to help them achieve a new life and become healthy, thriving members of our community. Services will include but are not limited to: physical and mental health services, survivor-led support groups, Alcoholics Anonymous /Narcotics Anonymous meetings, vocational training, etc.

In addition to the restoration home, we also provide **human trafficking prevention training to school districts, social service organizations and hospitality industry service providers within the Monterey Bay community.**

**Through 2019, we have trained over 6,000 adults and youth.**

# Strategic Partners

We seek to collaborate with organizations that have the same mission of fighting human trafficking. A few current partners include:



SET  FREE



*Runaway Girl*  
We are a company *with purpose.*

# Faith Partners

Local Churches Include:

Cypress Church  
Calvary Monterey  
All Things New  
Dorea  
Corralitos Community Church





# Our History

**Set Free Monterey Bay started with God calling a small group of people together at the Gospel and Justice event held at Shoreline Church in 2018. Our President, Michael Aspland,** facilitated break out sessions to discuss the issue of HT and the impact on the community. Michael is a retired law enforcement professional with experience working against traffickers. On the panel was Felicia George. Felicia is our Vice President and volunteered with The Set Free Movement teaching on the dangers of HT at local schools. At the Shoreline event, Ashley Chesney, a local survivor, met Michael and Felicia. Hearts and actions came together and in 2019, Set Free Monterey Bay became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.





# Our Values



**Every life is precious and  
deserves to be free**



**Complete restoration is only possible  
through a Christ-centered approach  
that addresses all facets of life:  
healthy spirit, mind, and body**



**Prevention through education  
is the path to eliminating  
modern day slavery**

# Goals for 2020-2022

## **Launch the restoration home by 2022**

Our fundraising goal to open the doors of the restoration home is \$500,000. We believe that this level of funding will allow us to lease a property, hire and train staff, start treatment programs, and provide the necessities of life for our clients.

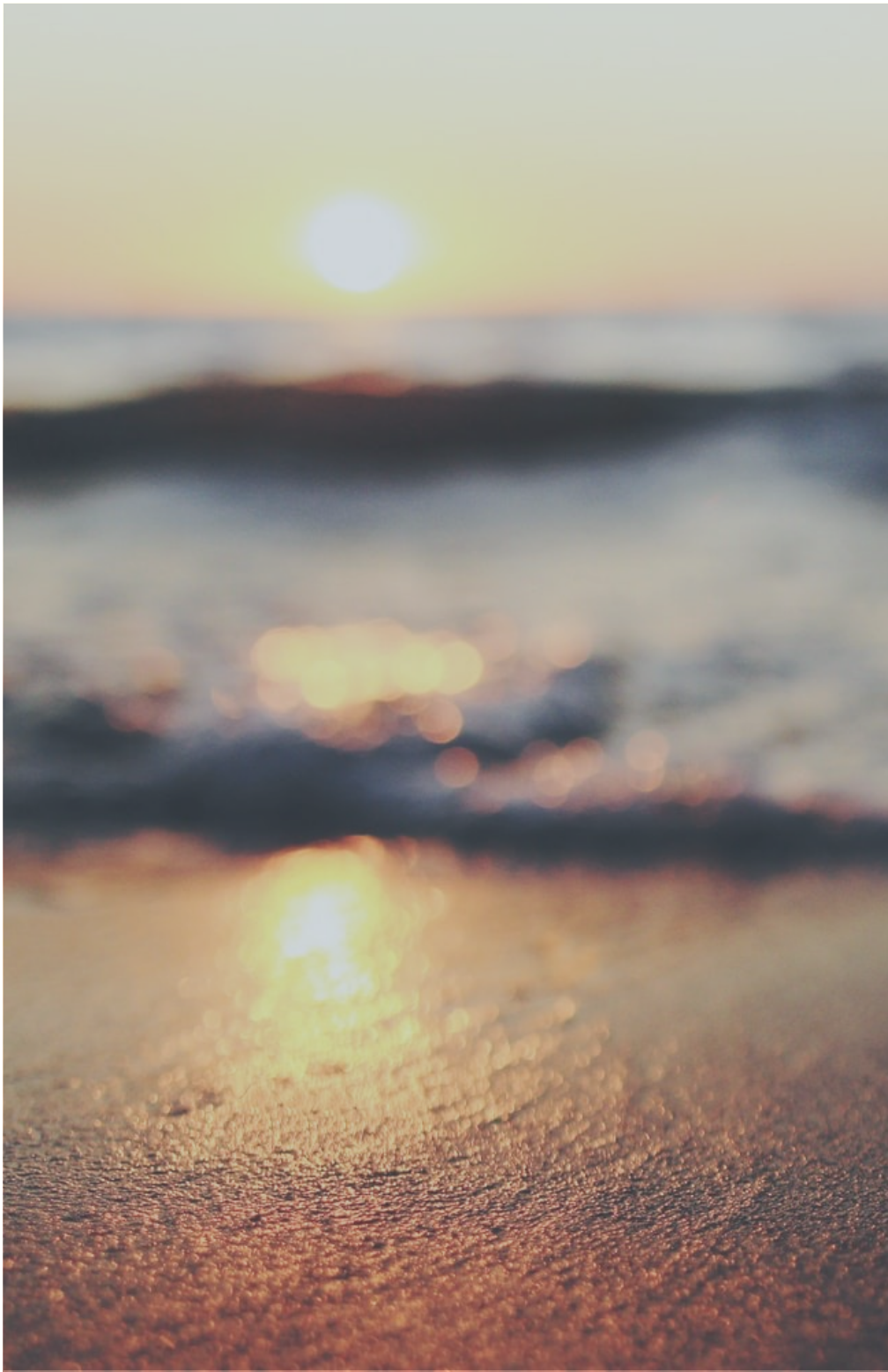
Set Free Monterey Bay will provide a sanctuary for healing and restoration along with support services, vocational training, employment, and safe housing.

## **Grow our network of partnerships within the local faith community**

As a Christ-centered organization we seek to partner strong with our local faith community.

## **Expand our school curriculum to be available both in-person and digitally**

The education team will be working with Production Manager, Eddie De la Rosa, on building an online interactive media curriculum to use across a variety of education settings and training platforms.



## Where We're Called

**We are called to serve women who have come out of sex trafficking.**

We will serve local women of the Monterey Peninsula in our home and through our program. We will engage with our community to create a strong network of services for those we serve. We will continue to provide educational training to school districts in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties.



# Restoration Home Partnership

**We will continue to be a referral location for the services provided by Eden's Glory.** Eden's Glory, based in Illinois, is a sister organization that started as a Set Free Movement ministry project. We will assist Eden's Glory with identifying and vetting women seeking to escape the trafficked life. As part of our collaboration with Eden's Glory, we will provide full financial support for women who enter the Eden's Glory program for two years (approximately \$2,000/monthly). **We have been called to serve women coming out of sex trafficking.** We look to serve local women from the Monterey Peninsula in our program and home first. Until the home is established, we will refer women as appropriate to Eden's Glory.



# Ways to Connect



PRAY



BECOME A  
VOLUNTEER



GIVE



**SET FREE**  
MONTEREY BAY

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