



2022

IMPACT REPORT
OPERATION UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

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OUR MISSION

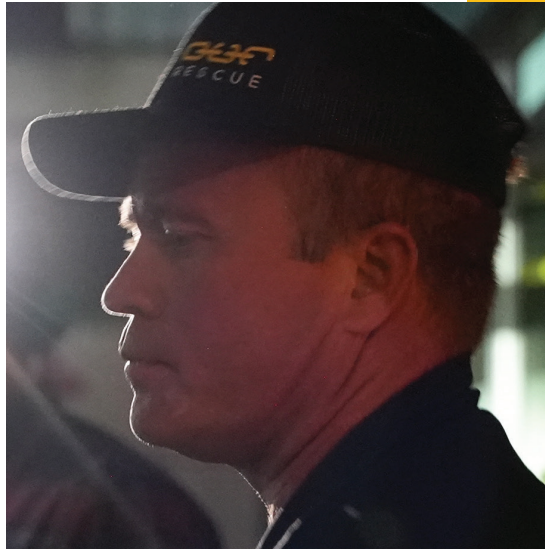
WE EXIST TO **RESCUE CHILDREN** FROM
SEX TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

Operation Underground Railroad's mission is to shine a light worldwide on the global epidemic of child sex trafficking, and in so doing, rescue more children from slavery and assist law enforcement to seek justice for those who violate children. While our focus remains on the children, we assist survivors of all ages to bring them safety and healing. We place survivors on a path of recovery by partnering with vetted aftercare providers or by placing them with families.

“We have so much more work to do,
and thanks to you, we are expanding
our efforts across the globe..”

One overcast February morning, I unlocked my phone to a flood of headlines: Russia invaded Ukraine. Explosions heard across Kiev. Ukrainians take shelter from bombs. Over the next several hours as the situation unfolded, I spoke to my wife Katherine and she said Tim, “You’ve got to get to Ukraine.” She had already been working hard to integrate Children Need Families (the adoption arm of O.U.R.) into Ukraine to help the children there, and this news further confirmed to her what was already on her heart. (I’ve learned over the years that when she speaks, especially from the heart, I listen...and act. Quickly.) I knew it had to have been a divine download, otherwise she would have (hopefully) never told me to fly into a warzone. She instinctually saw an opportunity to help.

Little did I know at the time that there was another person five thousand miles from my home who opened their phone to the same headlines that late February morning, who also instinctually saw an opportunity...a very, very different kind of opportunity that involved hurting





children. In an undercover capacity, I would come to know this individual over the next several months. This individual recognized the vulnerabilities of the people in Ukraine and was making plans to exploit them. This individual is also a self-proclaimed pedophile. Our job was to stop him.

In the ensuing months, we uncovered and infiltrated a global pedophile network spanning at least 6 countries. I call this project “The Hidden War” because of the violent, warlike nature of this group’s actions towards children...and unfortunately, it’s been hidden for too long.

Starting now, it will no longer be hidden. We are bringing it to light and holding the predators accountable. We plan to talk more about “The Hidden War” in 2023 so stay tuned to O.U.R.’s social media channels.

I wish I could say that this one project was all that was needed to protect all the children in the world from being trafficked or exploited, but it’s not. We have so much more work to do, and thanks to you, we are expanding our efforts across the globe in unprecedented ways!! 2022 has been a landmark year for so many reasons.

Your donations have allowed us to continue to strengthen our mission and expand our work in ways I never thought were possible. You have allowed us to station six O.U.R. Regional Operations Directors across the world. In 2022, these Directors have soared to new heights, bringing O.U.R. Operations to levels that we have never seen. These Directors all have extensive law enforcement backgrounds including CIA, Navy Seals, and skilled operatives. Working hand in hand with the O.U.R. Regional Aftercare Directors and law enforcement in their respective regions, these incredible people have spent every day strategizing, planning, and carrying out ways to rescue and provide aftercare to more children who have suffered from sexual exploitation and trafficking. The sun truly never sets on O.U.R. Operations and Aftercare since these teams are now set in motion across the entire world. The momentum will only continue to build, and we will not stop until every child is protected from the greed of traffickers and pedophiles.

Tim Ballard
Founder, CEO

YOUR IMPACT

2022 AT A GLANCE



5,000th
Arrest Made



6,000th
Life
was impacted
this year

2022 was an unprecedented year in the fight, and none of it would have been possible without your support. Because of you, Operation Underground Railroad and supporting alliances made an impact in the fight against human trafficking and exploitation in 2022.

39+ Countries

Provided aftercare services in 39+ countries



142 Children



Awarded 96 adoption grants, which provided a home for 142 at risk children

175 Agencies

Assisted 175 local law enforcement agencies in all 50 states

45 New Alliances

Formalized new alliances with 45 anti-trafficking Non-Profit Organizations

2022 was an **unforgettable year** of milestones in the fight against human trafficking. Watch our 2022 Impact Video [on YouTube](#).

GLOBAL IMPACT

O.U.R.'s International Operations Team ensures the safety of exploited children and victims around the globe. Our Regional Operations Directors build relationships with law enforcement units to provide specialized training, equipment, or ground assistance for increased effectiveness in investigations. They work closely with O.U.R. Aftercare to ensure that vetted, quality aftercare services are in place.

Because of your support, O.U.R. was able to expand this team and broaden our global footprint in operations, resulting in more rescues than ever before. Below are a few successes from each region.

EUROPE Ukraine



In Ukraine, people are at risk of sex and labor trafficking, illegal adoption, and exploitation in armed conflict -children, minorities, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and elderly and disabled people are particularly at risk. Ensuring sustainable provision of humanitarian aid and access to essential services makes people more resilient to trafficking and exploitation in a conflict context. (UNODC Research)

With help from generous donors' support, initiatives are underway to ensure access to essential services which fortifies people against potential risks of trafficking or exploitation in a crisis context:

1

O.U.R. and The Nazarene Fund were happy to provide considerable support to efforts led by Aerial Recovery in rescuing vulnerable Ukrainian children and women who were caught in the devastating effects of a brutal war. So far, over 5,500 Ukrainian people have been protected.

2

O.U.R. funds were utilized by All Hands and Hearts (AHAH) to purchase a van and an ambulance, which were part of a fleet of vehicles procured to help rescue vulnerable women and children that were at risk of being trafficked. To date, more than 54,000 children and caregivers have been evacuated.

3

O.U.R. Aftercare finished the construction on a shelter for an ally organization in Romania. This home is currently inhabited by several survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking from Romania and Ukraine. This home will remain a safe place for those in need.

4

O.U.R. was privileged to support a resource center for vulnerable and at-risk children in Ukraine. O.U.R. funded additional assistance programs including a makeshift bomb-shelter and a meal program, expanding the center's reach from 80 to 300 children.

5

O.U.R. is also providing anti-trafficking training to the resource center's social workers, who will then provide training to the children and families in the areas to prevent common trafficking schemes during the war.

6

Near constant bombings have destroyed infrastructure around Ukraine, making electricity scarce. O.U.R. provided our allied organization with generators, solar panel lamps, gas cylinder installations together with stoves that include a heating mechanism, water tanks, and bottles with water pumps for distribution. These items will help vulnerable children and families to receive the basic needs needed for the winter.



Operation: Yali

In a groundbreaking operation, the O.U.R. Operations Team provided resources and facilitated a collaboration between the Peruvian National Police (PNP) and the National Police of Spain (SNP). **The operation resulted in the rescue of seven trafficking survivors and the arrest of 11 suspected traffickers. The survivors were lured with false promises of work.**

“The victims lost their freedom, not being able to leave the brothels, being the only sexual services that were contracted out of the apartments outside the house. Their activity was constantly monitored through video surveillance cameras installed in brothels. If the victims expressed their desire to leave the flats, after managing to settle their initial debt, the organization increased the debt contracted so that they would never be able to free themselves.”

-Press Release from Spanish National Police (Translated from Spanish)

The O.U.R. Regional Operations Directors for Europe and South America spent weeks serving as liaisons between the two countries after learning of a Peruvian human trafficking organization operating in Spain. The PNP and SNP worked together on multiple raids in both countries. O.U.R. facilitated travel for law enforcement to the country in order to conduct the raids. O.U.R. Aftercare was on the scene to coordinate with local organizations and ensure that the survivors received individualized care.

The investigation is ongoing to ensure there are no other active traffickers or survivors that need to be rescued.

<https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/es/detalle/articulo/La-Policia-Nacional-libera-a-siete-victimas-de-explotacion-sexual-y-desarticula-la-vertiente-espanola-de-una-organizacion-criminal/>



Operation: Three Musketeers

In 2022, alongside Aerial Recovery Group and Free a Girl, O.U.R. uncovered and infiltrated a global pedophile network spanning at least 6 countries. The series of operations that are connected to this network are dubbed “The Hidden War” because of the violent, warlike nature of this pedophile group’s actions towards children that have been hidden for too long.

One of these operations was called Operation Three Musketeers, and took place in Canoa, Ecuador. After one of the members of the alleged pedophile ring was arrested in Mexico, O.U.R. digital forensics experts found a photo that led them to believe that other predators may be hiding in Ecuador. Next steps included close collaboration between O.U.R., Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), special agents assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Quito, and Ecuador’s Transnational Criminal Investigative Unit (TCIU). It was believed that members of the pedophile network were running a “hotel” where minors were being abused behind closed doors.

After sufficient evidence was found, the TCIU officers initiated a raid on the hotel where they found several children inside along with a couple of suspects.

The investigation has identified that multiple children were subjected to sexual exploitation by the suspects, and some children reported complaints of being drugged. The ongoing investigation revealed that the suspects exploited the hunger of the children of the community as a method to lure them into the hotel on the premise of meals. Now that the predators have been arrested, the community has come together with volunteers forming a small kitchen in the rear of a beauty salon to feed the vulnerable children. O.U.R. has taken a proactive role in assisting with expanding the kitchen, remodeling an adjacent sitting area for the children to comfortably eat their meal. Additionally, O.U.R. is subsidizing the kitchen with cooking equipment upgrades, creating weekly menus with appropriate nutritious meals, and expanding the capability of the small center to feed up to 350 children daily. Most of these children enjoy their only hot and nutritious meal of the day at the center.



The Hidden War

Alongside Aerial Recovery Group and Free A Girl, Operation Underground Railroad has been fighting a hidden war against international child trafficking organizations around the world. What began as a rescue mission in war-torn Ukraine, led to the discovery of a transnational child exploitation ring. Nelson Maatman, founder of the Dutch political party “Neighborly Love, Freedom and Diversity” was arrested in Mexico on June 5th, 2022. His political party — which is not represented in Dutch Congress — sought to promote laws to support adult sex with children starting at age 12.

In the official search of his home, led by O.U.R.’s K9 Hidu, investigators discovered child sexual abuse material on computers, hard drives, telephones, and several USB flash drives, along with a handgun and cocaine.

The ongoing investigation has identified that multiple children were subjected to sexual exploitation by multiple suspects, and some children reported complaints of having been drugged.

<https://www.ad.nl/binnenland/einde-omstreden-pedo-partij-pnvd-na-arrestatie-oprichter-nelson-m-in-mexico-ae29191e/>

<https://people.com/pets/electronics-sniffing-black-lab-solves-pedo-philial-case/>



Latin American Summit

Gala Violeta

Latin American Summit

O.U.R. and the Mayor of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, hosted the groundbreaking Latin American Summit on Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Persons. This summit brought together over 135 law enforcement and prosecutors representing 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, to broaden the vision of strategizing the investigation of human trafficking and exploitation as transnational crime.

Gala Violeta Recognition

Tim Ballard received an award from the First Lady of Ecuador on behalf of O.U.R. O.U.R. was honored and Tim received an award “en reconocimiento por su espíritu solidario y labor social” in recognition of their spirit of solidarity and social work. He was recognized and honored as a hero for his tireless fight against child trafficking.



Child Sacrifice

O.U.R. Ghana

Child Sacrifice

An O.U.R. employee in Uganda recently brought a shocking and long-standing practice to light that consistently occurs in his own country as well as a few others around the globe: child sacrifice.

While child sacrifice takes different forms, children are trafficked and violated for the use of their bodies. This ritualistic practice is driven by superstition and religious belief and varies from country to country.

Children and families affected by child sacrifice face immense social, emotional, and physical challenges on their healing journey. This not only includes children who were mutilated, but family members of children who were murdered or trafficked are traumatized by these practices.

O.U.R. Aftercare is working on individualized, trauma-informed care for these survivors and their

families. Some of the care includes Hydrotherapy, sports therapy, balanced meals, and healing nature experiences like zoos, lakes, and national parks to help survivors process traumatic events and work through relapses.

O.U.R. will continue to work with survivors in the area and develop relationships with those on the front lines of the fight against child sacrifice.

O.U.R. Ghana

The integration of the incredible Ghanaian nonprofit organization (Abuse Relieve Corps) and the work they have been doing for seven years, has created an instant presence for O.U.R. in Ghana with 7 staff members in two offices.



CORRETT

Belize Operation

CORRETT

On September 5, 2022, O.U.R. signed an important document of understanding and allyship with the Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (CORRETT). CORRETT is an initiative started in 2011 that includes nine countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic. The government commissions against human trafficking, human smuggling, and child exploitation in each of these countries compose the coalition.

The signed agreement is focused on aftercare for survivors of human trafficking. It states that CORRETT and O.U.R. are committed to working with countries to strengthen joint efforts in combating trafficking in all its forms. This agreement creates a space where challenges, such as aftercare, that need joint attention and technical capacity can be tackled. This document marks the continuation of collaboration with multiple governments in

the Central America region.

<https://www.ourrescue.org/blog/building-understanding-in-central-america>

BELIZE: Joint Operation with the Human Trafficking Task Force

O.U.R., in cooperation with the Human Trafficking Task Force of Belize, revealed a human trafficking suspect originating from India who had deceived and recruited numerous survivors to work against their will in forced labor upon arriving at Belizean borders - passports confiscated immediately upon entrance.

Inspectors from the Belize Task Force worked with the survivor, where he was able and willing to identify his trafficker. O.U.R. worked with the aftercare team from KABOD Int. to temporarily provide housing for the survivor while he cooperated with law enforcement and then assisted in helping him return home safely to his family.



O.U.R. Thailand Office

Outstanding Agency Award

O.U.R. Thailand Office

The O.U.R. Thailand Team, consisting of 29 members, primarily Thai citizens, is one of a few NGOs in the country assisting law enforcement in investigating sex trafficking and sexual exploitation cases.

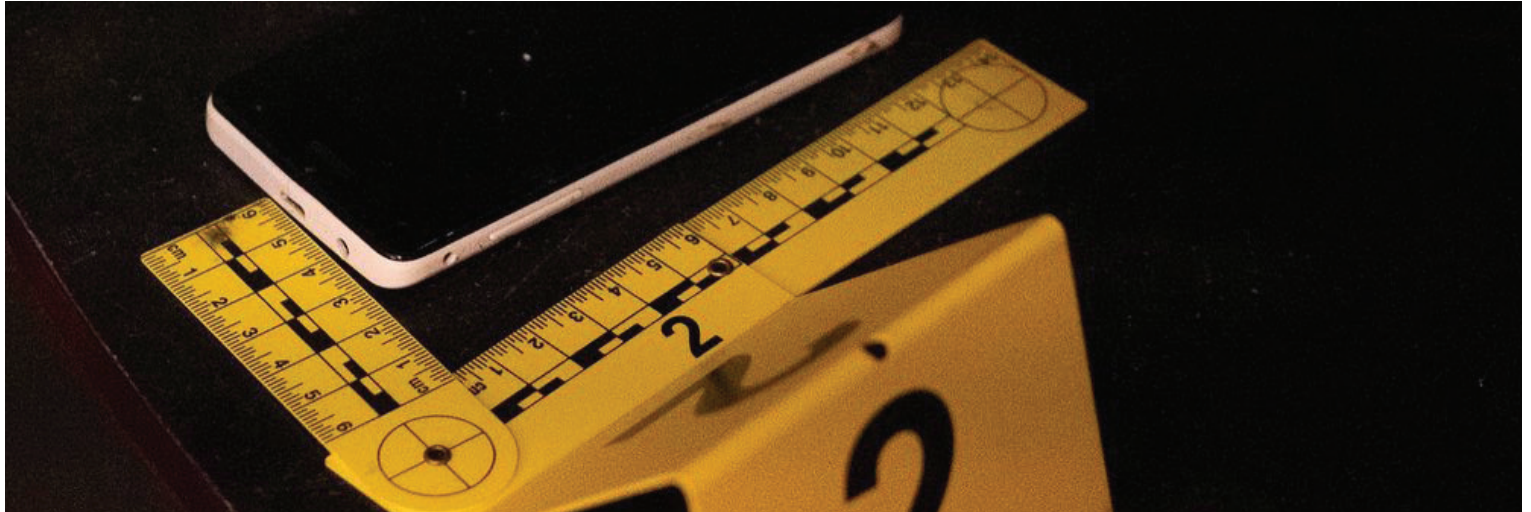
O.U.R. opened the Thailand Office to offer a facility that can enhance the skills, knowledge, and collaborative efforts of law enforcement and O.U.R. to help solve the evolving trends and tactics used to traffic and exploit minors. In addition to having a multi-department office space for the Thailand team, the new office also has complete space and facilities such as digital evidence room, command center and training room, and an additional training room for law enforcement units.

<https://www.ourrescue.org/blog/our-celebrates-grand-opening-of-thailand-office>

Outstanding Agency for the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (Prosecution) Award

O.U.R. Thailand was awarded the Outstanding Agency for the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (Prosecution) Award. The Thailand team is the first NGO to receive the prosecution award.

O.U.R. received the award from Prime Minister Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, who chaired the 2022 “National Anti-Human Trafficking Day.” The nomination was graciously submitted by the Governing Officers’ Law Enforcement Operation Centre, the Department of Provincial Administration (DoPA).



Operation: Imposter

Anytime there is an online group of younger children, there is a significantly higher risk of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

While conducting online investigatory work, an O.U.R. undercover operator came across a hashtag referencing young female models in Asia. The hashtag led to a messaging group originating on Kik, which consisted of children as young as 10-years-old.

The admin of the group claimed to be a 10-year-old girl named “Allison”. Upon further investigation, the undercover operator discovered that the admin was actually an adult male exploiting his own 10-year-old daughter, using her identity to gain the trust of other children. While messaging these children, he would coerce them into taking compromising photos of themselves to send to him, promising to propel their modeling careers.

This predator had a lengthy history of abuse in multiple countries and was arrested twice for sexual abuse of his own three-year-old stepdaughter. Upon his release from prison, he married a girl in Asia, had two daughters with her, then promptly divorced her so he could be alone with the girls.

Law enforcement needed proof that he was posing as his own daughter in order to incriminate him. In order to do so, the international operations team created an undercover account as an amateur photographer, asking if he could book the daughter to take images in public locations where the father would accompany her. This ultimately led to the proof that law enforcement needed to make the arrest.



Operation: Catleya

At the end of 2021, the O.U.R. International Operations Team began what would be a banner rescue operation in the Dominican Republic - Operación Catleya. Responding to a request for assistance from the Dominican government's Specialized Anti-Trafficking Police (PETT), O.U.R. Operators went undercover to confirm the existence of multiple transnational trafficking rings. These networks were reportedly dedicated to recruiting young women, between 15-23 years of age, to be sexually exploited for financial gain.

What started with a lead on a potential case of human trafficking became a precisely coordinated and thorough investigation of over ten suspected traffickers working in the Dominican Republic. These traffickers were reportedly selling young women daily, facilitating ongoing exploitation and abuse. The group allegedly targeted underage girls with promises of work as waitresses in hotels or nightclubs but then abused those promises to ultimately traffic the girls.

A case this size was an immense challenge, both for our host government partners, and for O.U.R. Operación

Catleya took place on August 4, involving over 250 officers from multiple Dominican law enforcement agencies and security services.

On the initial takedown day, 10 suspected traffickers were arrested. In the days that followed, Dominican authorities continued to work the case and identified an additional 9 suspects to arrest, bringing to 19 the total number arrested to date. About a dozen members of the O.U.R. Ops Team supported Operación Catleya from its inception in 2021 and members of the O.U.R. Aftercare Team supported survivors throughout the entire process.

This operation marks a vital moment for Dominican law enforcement as it continues the fight to end human trafficking. O.U.R. is honored to have supported Dominican authorities in multiple human trafficking investigations and operations over the past several years, including Catleya.

<https://www.ourrescue.org/blog/how-one-went-undercover-on-one-of-the-largest-anti-trafficking-operations-in-dominican-republic-history>

GLOBAL **IMPACT**

DOMESTIC OPERATIONS LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATIONS

In the United States, we fight to protect children in our own backyard from trafficking and exploitation by developing relationships with law enforcement agencies and offering resources to expand and amplify their anti-human trafficking and exploitation efforts.

Because of your support, O.U.R.'s Domestic Law Enforcement Relations team was able to expand our efforts in all 50 states and introduce our efforts in Canada. **In 2022 alone, 175 agencies were supported.**

23 ESD K9's funded and placed in 17 different states

Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.) works closely with law enforcement agencies across the United States to bolster their ability to prevent and prosecute crimes against children. One way we do this is through our electronic storage device (ESD) detection K9 program.

O.U.R. has sponsored over 50 ESD K9s that support law enforcement agencies across the U.S. Each dog is specially trained by the experts at Jordan Detection K9s to identify the unique scent of USB drives, hard drives, SIM cards and other ESDs. These devices can be used to store child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and are easily hidden by predators. When conducting search warrants, K9s can sniff out this key evidence that can lead to the successful prosecution of offenders and identification of survivors.

K9s are also used by law enforcement when conducting forensic interviews with children. The pups provide comfort to the children during an otherwise stressful time.

The ESD K9 program has been widely successful. In 2022, the efforts of these dogs and their handlers recently resulted in the following:

- **700+ search warrants** in 2022, resulting in 1250+ search warrants that K9's assisted, 801 of the warrants the dogs found evidence on secondary searches (things officers missed).
- **475+ arrests** made attributed to the K9's efforts in 2022, resulting in almost 900 total arrests
- **100+ rescues** attributed to the K9's efforts in 2022, resulting in overall 225+ rescues.

“K9 and handler assisted with an undercover chat operation with the Polk County Sheriff’s Office, targeting suspects seeking to sexually entice minors on the internet. As a result of this operation, 13 suspects were arrested for traveling to engage in sexual activity with children. Additional arrests are forthcoming.

On September 7, 2022, K9 Layla was deployed on an ICAC search warrant in Lutz, Florida. K9 Layla located 6 electronic items that were collected as evidence. One of these items was a small thumb drive, which was rolled-up in a pair of underwear and shoved into a crammed dresser drawer. This was a piece of evidence that would have been left behind had the K9 not located it.

The ESD K9 team’s efforts contributed to the arrest of 2 adults that were distributing and collecting child sex abuse material (CSAM).”

Florida Department of Law Enforcement | K9 Layla

“We encountered a suspect who was a computer programmer. During our search, we observed various containers, bins and drawers filled with numerous electronic and computer devices. After performing a very thorough search, Emery was brought in. After searching a room filled with various bins and articles, she alerted us to one bin. This bin had been previously searched but after her alert led to discovering a very small thumb drive.”

Office of the Attorney General, PA | K9 Emery

K9 HIDU

The first international
ESD K9

The graduation of O.U.R.'s very own official electronic storage detection (ESD) K9 took place in May. K9 Hidu is the first K9 to work on O.U.R. operations, as well as the first-ever international ESD K9. Thanks to the training of Jordan Detection K9, this talented K9 will be working with the Southeast Asia team on child exploitation investigations. Since his training, Hidu has made a significant impact in the fight against trafficking and raising awareness. He has assisted in six search warrants, leading to five arrests and has been involved in ten educational demonstrations and interviews.

<https://www.ourrescue.org/blog/how-our-dogs-are-fighting-child-exploitation-across-the-united-states>



Provided digital software extraction to 118 total law enforcement agencies

Digital forensic technology exists to aid law enforcement to comb through child sexual abuse reports more efficiently to save time and get to survivors faster. Different tech can help to locate perpetrators, identity abusive material, match faces, find fake accounts, and so much more.

In a time where trafficking often starts online, those fighting it need access to the right digital tools. O.U.R. assists law enforcement across the United States by providing state-of-the-art digital forensic software that helps them find more predators, faster. However, these software programs can often be expensive. This is where we come in. With help from donors, O.U.R. is able to provide licenses for this technology for different agencies. O.U.R. also can fund training for the technology.

<https://www.ourrescue.org/blog/how-digital-forensic-software-is-helping-the-fight-against-human-trafficking-and-online-exploitation>

“This digital forensic tool has been an absolute game-changer for our area law enforcement. Being the only agency in a 150 square mile area with a GrayKey has allowed us to assist so many investigators in the detection and prosecution of crimes against children. Thank you!”
West Texas A&M University

“A suspect was brought in after determining that they were involved in exploitation case provided by a cyber tip we received. While interviewing the suspect, their suspect device was obtained and put on the GrayKey. After the extraction, the illegal files were located on said device, along with the discovery of more illegal content. During the interview, the suspect admitted to his illegal activities after being confronted with the files found on the phone.”

Hardeman County Sheriff's Office, TN

“Two phones were extracted for a nearby agency for child exploitation cases during this reporting timeframe. The victim was being enticed online to meet a person who appears to be an adult male. The male successfully convinced the 13 year old female to send him child sexual abuse material. Investigation is ongoing.

Having this technology available to our agency as well as any nearby agency helps tremendously with turn around time and live information given to the investigator. In the above case, I was able to help the submitting agency get the information almost immediately to help them work with the family of the victim.”

Belknap County Sheriff's Office - New Hampshire

RIBBON CUTTINGS



2 new ribbon cuttings complete on two new buildings funded by your support

Marshall University, WV

With the rise of crimes related to online child sexual exploitation, West Virginia State police partnered with Marshall University's forensics students to utilize and train interns in forensic analysis.

This collaboration has proven to be wildly successful. A few years ago, the students assisted on an O.U.R. operation that led to the liberation of almost forty survivors of human trafficking.

The growth of the lab and the need for its work was quickly outgrowing the 600-square foot space. In total, the lab has helped with over 1,000 cases in conjunction with the West Virginia State Police. O.U.R. was able to step in and sponsor the expansion of the lab and added 800 additional square feet of space. We can't wait to see the continued success of this lab as they fight to end child exploitation

Jordan Detection K9 training facility, IN

Because of you, O.U.R. was able to fund the completion of the Jordan Detection K9 barn

in Indiana. This project provided a tremendous amount of additional capacity to the program allowing Jordan Detection K9 the space they need to expand their ability to train more ESD K9's. The success of the K9's is reflective of just how effective these dogs are in locating hidden CSAM which is the evidence often needed to secure convictions against perpetrators. Prior to the K9 building be completed, Todd Jordan and his team were operating out of Todd's home garage and borrowed space elsewhere. They now have a beautiful facility enabling them to be more effective and train more dogs. This is a service to the entire country and soon to be globe in this respective space as the program grows and expands.

To date, through generous donations, Operation Underground Railroad has funded 59 of the 100 dogs trained by Jordan Detection K9 in Indiana. Dogs provided by O.U.R. have been placed in 28 states and Thailand. They have been used on 532 search warrants in the United States after initial searches by law enforcement officers.

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20221222005120/en/Operation-Underground-Railroad-Places-100th-Cyber-Sniffing-Dog-to-Hound-Down-Child-Predators>



GLOBAL IMPACT

AFTERCARE

“There is no rescue
without aftercare.”

Tim Ballard

Founder and CEO of
Operation Underground Railroad

When a survivor leaves a trafficking situation, healing and hope don't happen overnight. The process takes time and support is needed. The O.U.R. Aftercare team stands with survivors of human trafficking and exploitation in their healing process by providing access to individual, holistic care. Aftercare is how we end the cycle of trafficking—one story of hope at a time.

In 2022, the O.U.R. Aftercare team added 59 new alliances around the globe in a collaborative effort to provide the opportunity and resources survivors need to move forward, resulting in over 172 repatriations and educational support in 21 countries.

With the support of donations, more survivors are experiencing freedom year after year, and together, we celebrate every accomplishment, large or small. Each individual milestone represents one brave step towards healing and hope. Below are just some ways you made a difference:

○ *Provided small business training and capital to more than 100+ survivors in Africa.*

○ *The sentencing of the Galarza Case brings closes a chapter to a 4-year journey of finding justice for 8 survivors who were trafficked and exploited online.*

○ *Three survivors were positively impacted by the Survivor Host Home Program pilot—the program will be ready to fully launch in 2023. One survivor stated that through case management and the host home program she was given space and time to heal.*

○ *U.S. collaboration with the FBI for a survivor's needs that government assistance couldn't provide. Safe homes, computers, ongoing case management, emotional support, and supplies needed for their living environment were provided by O.U.R. case managers.*

○ *Provided two survivors with full mouth reconstruction surgery that was needed.*

○ *Collaboration with Face Forward to provide support to a survivor that endured acid burns.*

AFTERCARE

○ *Collaboration with USANA to bring garden towers all over the world to supply sustainability for food to survivors and aftercare homes. These garden towers have also been very therapeutic for survivors as they cultivate and care for the vegetables.*

○ *Helped a survivor in Malaysia with medical issues and paid for month long hospital. She was then placed in an aftercare home while we work with them to get her repatriated back to Uganda.*

○ *Provided school fees for 50+ children of survivors and food/medical care.*

○ *Provided educational support to one survivor that just completed one year of nursing school and starting her second. She has 'always dreamed of being a nurse.'*

○ *One survivor was severely abused during her trafficking experience. Through the course of this abuse she sustained damage to her eye. Donations from O.U.R. helped provide 2 surgeries, greatly improving her ability to see.*

○ *O.U.R. sent funds to expedite the legal process for two survivors to create more stability in their lives and help the chances of them receiving asylum.*

When survivors share their personal experience and expertise, they lead the way in stopping what they survived. Their courage to speak up, tell their stories of hope and perseverance, and raise awareness inspire and impact us all. See what one survivor had to say:

Operation: Barberosa Update

Drea was trafficked when she was 11 years old by a local gang in her hometown that was run by a judge. This was her life for two years before O.U.R. intervened. In coordination with law enforcement, the O.U.R. International Operations team spent several months building trust within this trafficking ring before the operation took place. When the takedown occurred, the Aftercare team was onsite, where they met little Drea. She was dressed much older than she was- wearing high heels that she struggled to walk in. She was 13 clutching onto a teddy bear while the operation took place. This occurred in 2018.

This year Drea able to fill a lifelong dream to graduate high school. She always assumed this would never be possible, but because of your support, O.U.R.

was able to help her through this process.

As a tradition in Guatemala, the seniors of the graduating class all get rings made with the date of their graduation inscribed on the ring. Drea didn't do this, her ring has April 8, 2018-the day she was rescued, the day her life changed. She now has plans to study social work and English with the hope of working with survivors like herself one day. She is so "in love with this moment of her life."

When Founder of O.U.R., Tim Ballard, posted her story, thousands commented messages of love and support. Drea stayed up until 2 AM google translating them all to understand what they said. **Your support matters to these amazing women. Thank you.**



GLOBAL **IMPACT**

CHILDREN NEED FAMILIES

Children Need Families (CNF), a preventative project of Operation Underground Railroad, is committed to adoption initiatives that benefit at-risk children across the globe. O.U.R. recognizes that healthy adoptions can be a step toward the prevention of child exploitation. While CNF is not an adoption agency, the primary mission of CNF is to assist adoptive families already in the adoption process by offering a financial grant. Children Need Families envisions a world where orphanages are empty and homes are filled.

In 2022 alone, you have helped support 96 adoptions, in 29 different countries, resulting in 142 at risk children now having a place to call home. Children Need Families was also able to complete an orphanage in Haiti and support home hosting programs.

The Tippetts Family



“For us, the reason is simple: there are children who need homes and families, and we are able to offer both. I grew up in an extended family that was made up of many races and ethnicities that was built by foster care and adoption. Phil and I love kids and love being parents. We have more than enough love and resources to bring more children into our home, so why wouldn’t we?!”

“We were incredibly grateful to receive financial assistance from not only friends and family, but also amazing organizations like Children Need Families,” the family said. “Having the financial burden lifted allowed us to focus on bonding rather than our bills.”

The Mendenhall Family



“We were matched with a beautiful little 4-year-old girl. She has Cerebral Palsy, specifically Spastic Hemiplegia, which affects her right side. She is able to walk, but she has a noticeable limp. We are excited to see what a loving family and proper therapy can do for her development! “

The Rose Family



“We are firm believers and supporters of family preservation. We sponsor five children in Rwanda and Uganda. We have seen them thrive with their families and in school. Helping to support their families has been a great joy in our lives. The absolute best place for a child to be is with their biological family, but we know that this isn’t always possible. When this can’t happen, children deserve a family.”

AWAWARENESS **IMPACT**

NEW O.U.R. EDUCATION TEAM

The O.U.R. Education Team was established this year with the purpose to shine a light on human trafficking and exploitation by developing and implementing educational programs, customized trainings and presentations to raise awareness and promote prevention of exploitation.

This team has been working hard at developing survivor-informed initiatives that will spread awareness and inform vulnerable peoples. Their many initiatives include:

Speakers Bureau

A program where individuals can request a trained anti-trafficking educator to speak to their community. They strive to bring factual and relevant information to community members and leaders to further fuel the fight against human trafficking and exploitation. Supporters can apply to become a speaker on behalf of O.U.R. through a training and vetting process.

Education leaders at O.U.R. have already been training and teaching anti-trafficking advocates around the world, we are excited they are now working together, concentrating on awareness and education. In 2022, they have trained over 9,500+ individuals in anti-trafficking topics at over 100 speaking events.

Students Against Trafficking

There are over 3800 members in the 47 student-run, and O.U.R.-supported clubs throughout the United States. These clubs work hard to abolish modern-day slavery by building awareness, educating themselves and others, and being active within the school community. In 2022, 235 club meetings were held and 31 awareness or education events were held at their schools.

Redwood High school's Internet Safety Event

Redwood High school's Students Against Trafficking (SAT) club, consisting of roughly 150 members, has been bringing attention to the subject of human trafficking in many ways. A recent carwash fundraiser and educational event where they showed the documentary *It's Happening Right Here*, was well attended with over 200 supporters who raised over \$14,000.



In-Person Training

The Education team provides anti-trafficking and survivor-informed training and technical assistance for any group seeking assistance. This training will help bolster other groups' anti-trafficking work and allow us to support even more survivors.

AirAsia and O.U.R. Training

O.U.R. is proud to join forces with AirAsia in combating the harrowing issue of human trafficking and exploitation through training security staff on recognizing deceptive lures victims into these unimaginable circumstances, both domestically and abroad. To ensure that this data will be useful for those at risk from being taken advantage of by traffickers, Operation Underground Railroad has begun hosting informational sessions across Asia since their inception March 2023!

Ugandan Parliament Subcommittee Speaking Event

Alessandra Serano and Dean Morgan addressed the Ugandan Parliament Subcommittee at an exclusive speaking event, focusing on how public and private partnerships are crucial to safeguarding children's futures. They highlighted the importance of providing remedies such as restitution for victims in order to right wrongs and protect those most vulnerable.

Latin America Symposium Speaking Event

Alessandra Serano spoke at the Latin American Symposium, outlining O.U.R.'s stance on child exploitation and trafficking with a focus four crucial areas: restitution, distinguishing between smuggling versus trafficking, US federal laws governing this crime, and trafficking in person to ensure progress is made against these offenses.

JOINING FORCES WITH

ALLIANCES

O.U.R. Strategic Alliances collaborate with like-minded organizations that are working hard to prevent and eradicate trafficking/exploitation. The support that O.U.R. provides for projects that fight human trafficking and sexual exploitation are game changing for some organizations as they make a significant impact towards these efforts.

Below are a few ways **O.U.R.** was able to support **45 new alliances** with anti-trafficking NGOs and fund **37 projects:**



Love Never Fails

Raise community awareness and outreach initiatives and protect communities from trafficking and help support the crisis hotline focused on trafficking prevention



Hope for Justice

Provided a grant for online trafficking training/awareness tool



National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

Supplement existing training materials with anti-trafficking prevention material



Dressember

Expand outreach to college campuses for recruiting students to recognize and fight trafficking



Global Centurion

Supported research and focus groups evaluating needed resources for pregnant trafficking survivors



Street Grace

Provided funding for a youth leadership academy focused on prevention of exploitation



Exodus Cry

Provided support to provide domestic policy work to fight online exploitation



The Foundation United

Supported education/prevention training focused on parents, communities and churches



Love Justice

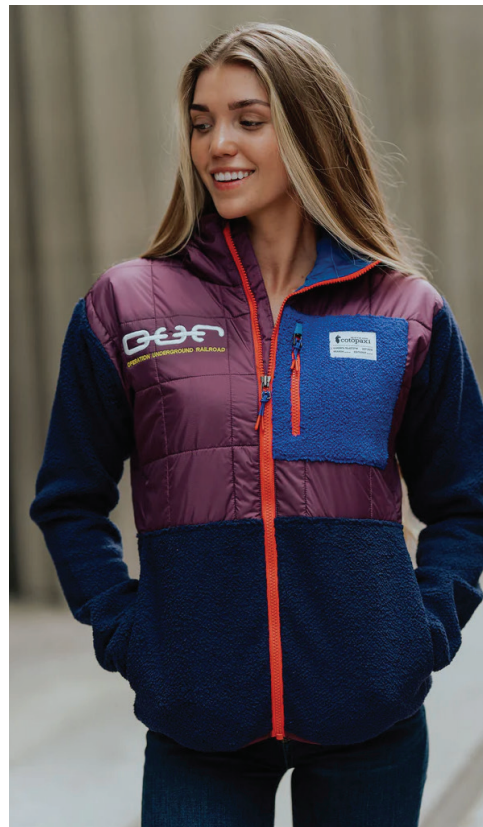
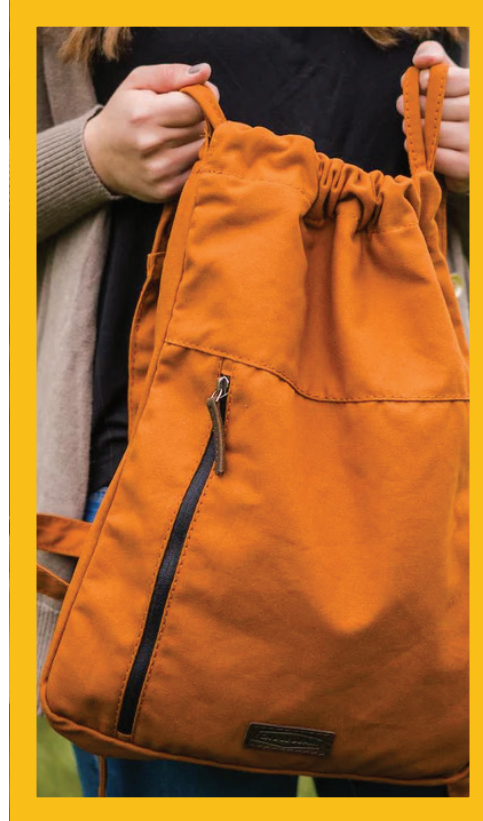
Provided a grant to prevent trafficking by assisting potential victims before they are exploited

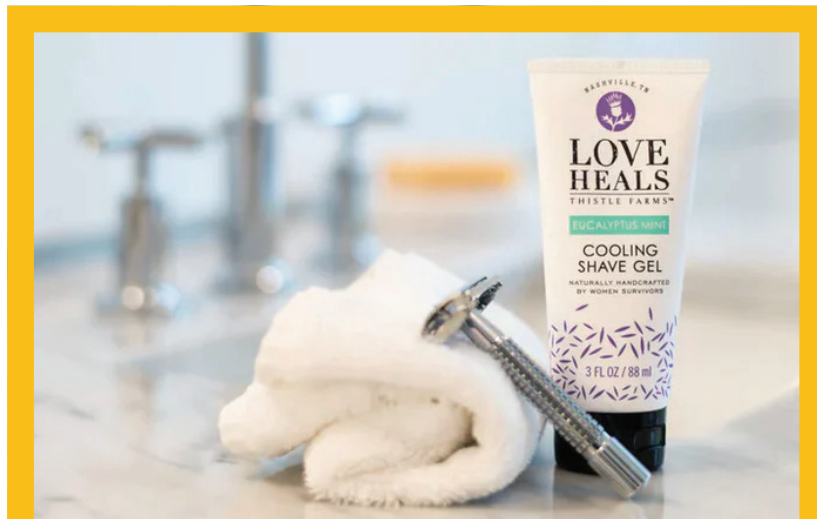
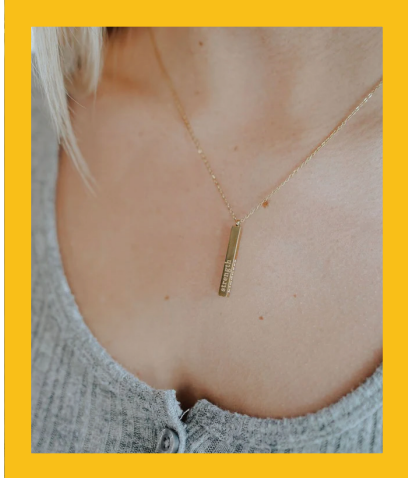
O.U.R. STORE

The O.U.R. Store has a vision to earn sufficient revenue to pay the general and administrative expenses of Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.), enabling more dollars from each donation to be used for awareness, rescue operations, and aftercare. The store focuses on responsibly procuring and offering merchandise that facilitates conversation about human trafficking, supports the mission of Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.), and/or directly supports survivors of human trafficking.

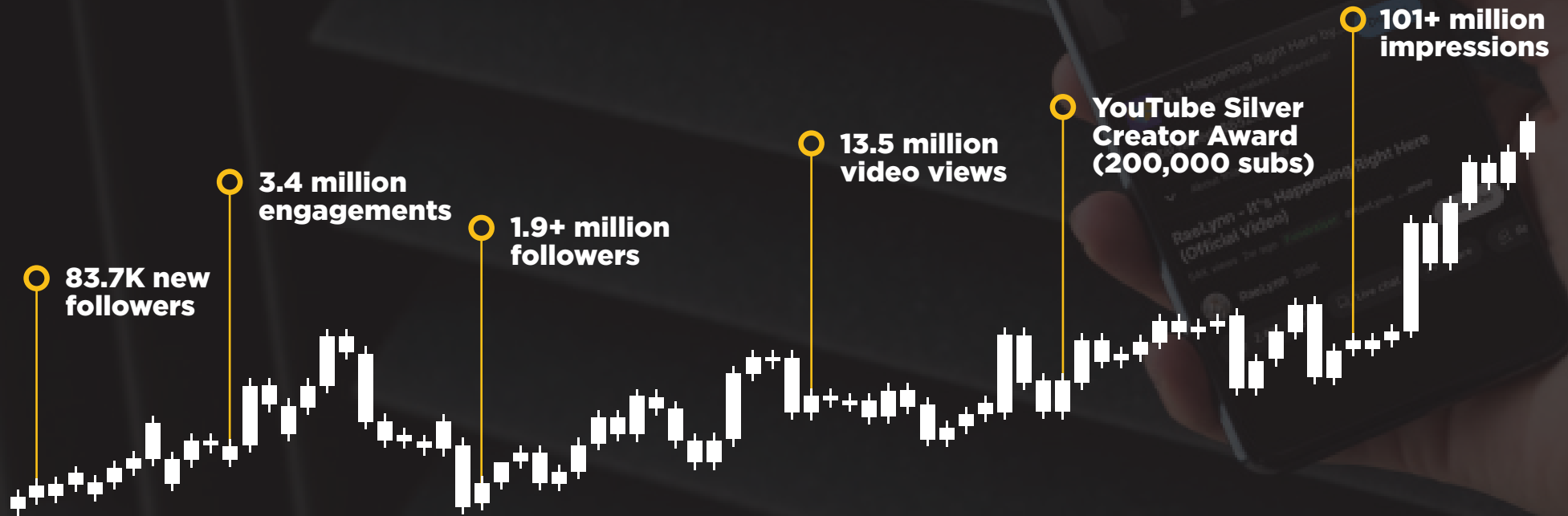
SURVIVOR MADE

Each item in the Survivor Made collection was made by women protected from human trafficking. Your purchase directly impacts them and supports O.U.R.'s mission. In 2022, O.U.R. was able to triple the amount of Survivor Made items listed on the site, providing more financial support to survivors.





RAISING AWARENESS



CAMPAIGNS

IT'S HAPPENING RIGHT HERE

START TALKING

“It’s Happening Right Here” documentary unveils the truth that sex trafficking can happen in every community in the U.S. Despite the darkness of the crime, hope can be found in the organizations fighting to end trafficking and those sharing their experiences to protect others. The one-day screening, on November 3, was released to over 700 theaters across the nation.

In 2023, Voice Contestant and pop country artist, RaeLynn will debut the song and music video, “It’s Happening Right Here” on digital music and video streaming channels. The documentary will be released on January 31, 2023, on video streaming devices.

Today, the internet is the top recruiting location for all forms of human trafficking. O.U.R. created an online safety guide for parents to help them start talking to their children about the dangers of being online.

Start Talking Video Series: We gathered teens from across the country to ask them what they know about online safety to help parents understand what children are encountering on social platforms. The answers were alarming.

**Audience reached through August’s ‘Start Talking’ Campaign:
9.9 million**

CAMPAIGNS

WHY I FIGHT

IT'S EVERYWHERE AWARENESS VIDEO

For National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we highlighted a handful of the O.U.R. Operators to see what drives and motivates them to go to the darkest places to fight for survivors. We are consistently inspired and grateful for their dedication, especially in the face of what are often difficult and dangerous circumstances.

Audience reached through January's 'Why I Fight Campaign': 9.8 million

"We care about the numbers, but we aren't the researching organization that is coming up with the numbers. We know the numbers from the great organizations that specialize in that. That's how we know there is an estimated 2 million children in human trafficking.

But we wouldn't care if that number was even half a million. We know it's out there. It's everywhere. Everywhere we go we see it happening and until we don't we see it anymore, we won't stop trying to help."

-Tim Ballard, Founder and CEO of Operation Underground Railroad

A short video was created to raise awareness that human trafficking and sexual exploitation is, in fact, everywhere.

Audience reached through It's Everywhere Awareness Video: 8.8 million

"It's Everywhere" O.U.R. Store collection: 737 items purchased to raise awareness

CONDUCTING CHANGE

CONDUCTOR CLUB, O.U.R.'S VOLUNTEER CLUB



3,465 newly registered conductors, totaling **61,000+** supporters raising awareness about sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.

It will take all of us to make a difference and educate our communities on the realities of human trafficking. O.U.R.'s Conductor Club invites community members to join the fight and get involved in awareness and prevention efforts in the fight against human trafficking. We offer resources, educational materials, and online and location-specific groups to build an educated community of people ready to make an impact.



An incredible high school community in Colleyville, Texas hosted their ninth 5K Color Run to support O.U.R. this year.

Colleyville Heritage High School has hosted this run every year since 2014 and raised tens of thousands of dollars for O.U.R. to rescue survivors and support them in healing. This success is in large part thanks to the Student Council faculty leader, Terri Kitzmiller. We are amazed by their efforts.

We believe that awareness and prevention efforts can protect children from human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Learn how you can join the fight and conduct change here (Conductor Club - Operation Underground Railroad (ourrescue.org/conductor-club))

THE FIGHT CONTINUES

From the beginning our mission has been clear- **we exist to rescue children from sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.** When we committed to this fight in 2013, we never imagined the amount of support we would receive from those determined to make a difference alongside us- shining their own light on the issue of child sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. We are inspired and humbled by your commitment and are inspired by those who have sacrificed, rallied, and fought with us. For that, we will never give up fighting and **will continue to go to the darkest places until this crime no longer exists.** Thank you for continuing to be the light that we take into the darkness.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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