

Impact Report

2023



Freedom Network's Big Impact

FNUSA plays a unique role in the United States anti-trafficking field. Unlike many of our partners who focus on their local community and survivors, we focus on changes that can influence the lives of thousands of people at a time. FNUSA strengthens the laws and policies that determine how, where, and why federal dollars are spent to support survivors, how complex or easy it is for survivors to access justice, and whether governments are effectively looking for survivors of all forms of trafficking. FNUSA's Freedom Network Training Institute teaches advocates and organizations to reach survivors and support them in navigating life after their trafficking experience. FNUSA supports the social workers, case managers, attorneys, doctors, teachers, and many others working to end human trafficking all across the country.

Mission

Freedom Network USA mobilizes its collective strength to build a transformative approach to human trafficking that is grounded in anti-racism and anti-oppression.

Helping Organizations Be Their Best for Survivors

Frontline advocates play a crucial role in helping survivors rebuild their lives after their trafficking experience. We provide those advocates with the resources and skills to show up for their clients each and every day. **FNUSA trained and supported over 4,600 advocates in 2023.** From revamping housing programs, to increasing accessibility, to helping attorneys file motions for post-conviction relief, FNUSA's staff and partners are making justice and safety real for the survivors who walk through their doors.

Currently, comprehensive guidance on how to implement survivor-centered, trauma-informed, equitable services for survivors of human trafficking does not exist. In 2022, our reputation as a trusted source for anti-trafficking education prompted the DOJ Office for Victims of Crimes (OVC) and the HHS Office of Trafficking Persons (OTIP) to award FNUSA a grant to fill that gap with

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national standards of care. In 2023, **FNUSA published foundational documents including a literature review and evidence-based framework for the project** (in partnership with RTI International) and established a Technical Working Group (TWG) of 25 experts from diverse aspects of the US anti-trafficking field. FNUSA is working with the TWG and our federal government partners to begin drafting standards in 2024.

Pushing Those in Power to Prioritize Survivors

FNUSA's unique voice, representing the most diverse coalition of anti-trafficking agencies in the US, is critical to ensuring that Congress and government agencies understand the impact of the laws and policies they establish. FNUSA brings the expertise of our staff, along with the experience and expertise of our members, to our advocacy work. We build a bridge between the survivors and providers across the US and the decision-makers in DC.

FNUSA led its first grassroots advocacy campaign in late 2023 that stalled a harmful bill that would hurt survivors seeking help. The House of Representatives introduced a bill that would turn the existing Human Trafficking Hotline, which connects survivors to services and support, into a law enforcement tipline, which would have to report all calls to local law enforcement. Survivors across the United States publicly denounced the bill for fear that it would jeopardize survivor safety and strip away their autonomy. In partnership with the National Survivor Network (NSN), FNUSA asked our supporters to contact their representatives and urge them to vote against bill HR2601. As of spring 2024, it has stalled in Congress.

Additionally, FNUSA worked with the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and NSN to **host a congressional briefing where every speaker had both lived and professional experience of human trafficking.** Speakers were from all over the US and presented a wide range of solutions that were informed by lived and professional experience. Too often survivors have not been provided meaningful opportunities to lead. More troubling, they are often told what to say and how to say it. FNUSA provided logistical support and resources to the speakers, and collaborated with survivors who have advocacy experience in order to ensure that they felt best prepared to communicate with lawmakers. **FNUSA used its privilege and position to center survivors' voices in a way that has never been done before!**

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Building a Community for Advocates

FNUSA relies on its members to give key insights into what is happening on the ground with survivors. In return, FNUSA shows up for these advocates and organizations by creating meaningful spaces and cultivating a community that supports them through working groups, trainings, and collaborative discussions. **In October, our Sex Workers' Rights Working Group published new guidelines for anti-trafficking organizations to meaningfully engage with sex worker safety advocates.** In collaboration with the National Survivor Network, these guidelines took 18 months to draft after an extensive data-collection process.

One of the most impactful things we did for the community last year was intentionally focusing on bringing more survivors' perspectives. **FNUSA welcomed ten survivors into the network in 2023.** While difficult to measure the impact of this type of work, we are confident that bringing more survivors into the conversations and work we do will lead to better outcomes ultimately.

Supporting Survivors to Overcome Systems

Too many survivors have to deal with the long-term impacts of convictions connected to their trafficking situation. Most states in the US have a law that allows human trafficking survivors to clear these records. When survivors have resources to navigate these laws, it can immediately increase opportunities for safe and stable housing and jobs that pay a livable wage.

The Survivor Reentry Project (SRP) is the only national program that provides criminal record relief for human trafficking survivors by connecting them to a nationwide network of pro bono attorneys. **The SRP team served 140 survivors**

and provided individual technical assistance to 180 professionals who were working on these cases in 2023.

FNUSA partners with law firms, providing them with training in trauma-informed lawyering and the legal issues presented, the firms then provide pro bono representation to survivors.

This partnership multiplies our impact, providing over \$1,000,000 worth of free legal services in 2023.

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Starting New Conversations

Anti-trafficking advocates were surprised by the success of a summer blockbuster movie based on inaccurate stories of trafficking and boasting of dramatic rescues. The movie was actually more harmful than helpful for victims. The film received national media attention, as millions of tickets were sold. FNUSA convened a coalition of leading anti-trafficking organizations to make sure that people across the country had access to accurate information about human trafficking and a clear path to help. This coalition launched two educational campaigns in late 2023.

The 'Teach Trafficking Truths' and 'Screen Survivor Stories' campaigns offered people clear and accessible information directly from the experts. 'Teach Trafficking Truths' featured interviews with experts who shared general information about what trafficking looks like, who it impacts, and how people can get involved. '[Screen Survivor Stories](#)' launched during Human

Trafficking Prevention Month in January 2024 and featured a list of movies that were vetted by survivors from all over the world.

Thousands of people were exposed to accurate information about human trafficking through these campaigns, which challenges misinformation that is so harmful to survivors. Sharing more accurate information leads to better informed laws and policies, which ultimately leads to more effective support for survivors of human trafficking.

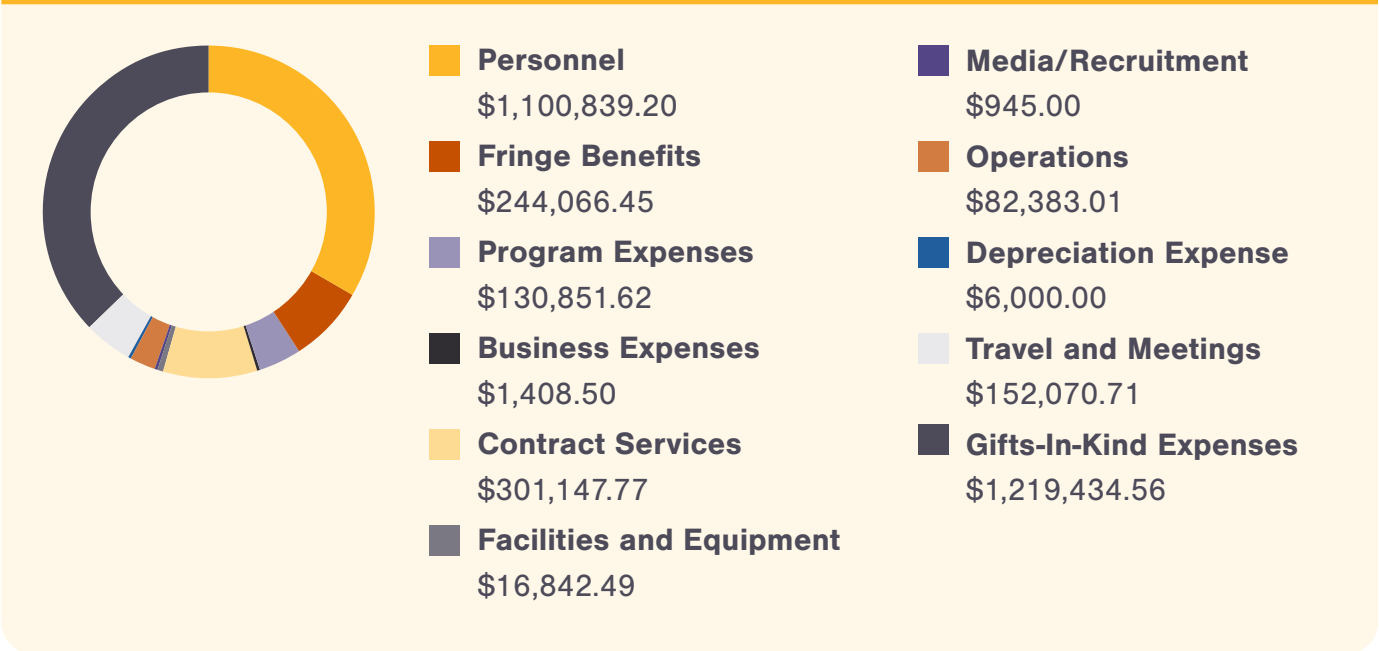
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Financials

Income | Total: \$3,034,745.72



Expenses | Total: \$3,255,989.31





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