

Everyone deserves  
to be loved.

Everyone deserves a  
life free from exploitation.



## Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2021 | July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

We exist to provide pathways to freedom, safety, and hope for victims of sex trafficking and people involved in the sex trade.

**647**

In Fiscal Year 2021,  
REST engaged with 647  
victims and survivors  
of sexual exploitation.



## A Note from Amanda

With so much going on around us—so much pain, so much loss, so much conflict—I know it can be hard to lean in and take a closer look at the realities of sex trafficking in our community. And yet, I promise you this, while you will encounter stories here that shed light on the tragedies connected to trafficking, what resounds more than anything here is love.

Healing, authentic, nonjudgmental love that shows up day after day, even in the face of doubt and hardship, changes everything. It's essential that we offer services that are uniquely designed to support survivors of trafficking on their healing journey, but it's love that makes them work. And REST is filled with team members who are passionate about both.

Our team continues to show up every single day to meet people who are exploited in the sex trade right where they are, building relationships that help break down shame and sending the message: "you deserve to be loved, and you deserve a life free from exploitation." In fact, in the face of so many hardships this last year, we get to celebrate that REST has collectively served over 3000 individuals since we began in 2009!

I am overwhelmed with gratitude for all of our supporters and partners who make this work possible and who stand with us as we take steps to multiply our impact. Thank you for leaning in. It's worth it.

Amanda Hightower  
Executive Director

## A Note on Ethical Storytelling

At REST, we seek to honor survivor experiences and voices through the storytelling process. We are committed to telling survivors' stories in a way that is empowering to them, contributes to their healing journey, and avoids re-exploitation.

We partner with survivors from the start, offering them the opportunity to choose how they want to be represented in their stories. We invite them to consider their own safety, future, and personal preference as they make these decisions.

In this Annual Report, you'll be invited into the unique experiences of four different survivors who have decided to courageously share their stories with you. Each one made their own decisions as to how they wanted to be named and represented.

*There is some content in this Annual Report that may be challenging to read, especially for individuals who have experienced sexual assault, physical abuse, addiction, or mental health issues. Please care for yourself while reading.*

# REST Principles of Care

## Everyone is worthy of love.

We believe that every person is made in the image of a beautiful Creator, with inherent dignity and worth, and is undeniably deserving of love. Yet, harm meets all of us in different ways and plants seeds of shame that tell us we are unworthy. For exploited individuals, this shame often becomes paralyzing.

However, when met with a non-judgmental, fully accepting and unconditionally caring love, the shame gets unraveled, hopes are restored, and dreams are reactivated. Effective services are essential, but a community that offers authentic, healing love makes all the difference.

## Individualized

We understand that each person is different, with unique needs, strengths, and culture. We tailor our services and interactions to the individual so that they feel known and are more invested in the relationships, the programs, and their goals.

## Relationship-Based

It is often a harmful relationship that leads to exploitation. Therefore, it often takes a trustworthy and consistent relationship to give someone the courage to walk away from their trafficker. Building trust, safety, belonging, and a supportive community are essential components to the programs within REST.

## Strengths-Based

Survivors of sexual exploitation have consistently received the message that they have no value apart from selling their body. Yet, we see incredible strengths that have enabled survivors to endure the harshest of circumstances and navigate constant threats of danger. So rather than focusing on deficits, we celebrate and build off of their strengths, skills, hopes, and dreams.

## Trauma-Informed

Survivors of trafficking have experienced many layers of trauma, so the way we interact and care for them must start with an understanding of the effects of trauma. We know that the brain holds trauma responses for a long time and therefore, we may see trauma responses even when someone is no longer in danger.

Knowing this, we craft our services in a way that accommodates for trauma responses and provides an environment that is truly conducive to healing.

## Self-Determination and Empowerment

In the world of exploitation, choices are often taken away. We seek to restore choice and build self-efficacy. Rather than choosing for someone, we help uncover their goals and work together to develop a plan that matches their unique strengths and culture. We help survivors think through options, consider possible outcomes, and identify the choices most aligned with their goals. When they believe in their own ability to make positive changes in their lives, they are more equipped to face life's challenges in the future.

## Faith Integration

We are a Christian organization that desires to offer respectful services to individuals of all faith backgrounds. Our faith shows most strongly in our values of providing unconditional care, focusing on relationships, recognizing strengths, minimizing barriers, and walking with our clients on their journey to freedom, rather than acting as "saviors," or attempting to proselytize.

We don't require faith engagement at REST. Instead, we simply offer a healing environment where survivors are free to incorporate their own spiritual beliefs or exploration in whatever way is comfortable for them.

On any given night in King County, thousands will be sold for sex.

Of the thousands, 500-700 of them are youth.

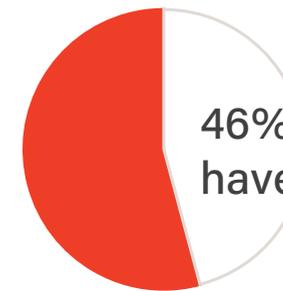


## Sexual exploitation usually starts at a young age.

As you read the stories of the survivors who boldly and generously shared their stories with us, you may notice several common factors, including that every one of them entered sexual exploitation or trafficking before they were 18 years old. In sex trafficking, this is the norm.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children in Seattle/King County 2019 Update<sup>1</sup>, a local report by Debra Boyer, PhD Boyer Research, puts some statistics about sexually exploited youth to the stories we hear.

**14.4** ← The average age of entry into commercial sexual exploitation



46% of sexually exploited youth have experienced housing instability



66% of sexually exploited youths have faced homelessness

*"Youth" is commonly defined in social services demographics as 24-years-old and younger.*

Barriers to exiting the sex trade are complex and intertwined, requiring comprehensive solutions to overcome.

**5.8** ←

The average number of attempts to leave the sex trade to finally, fully exit

The ability to leave the sex trade is often hindered by an array of barriers that intersect and create the need for holistic support and care. Without income, it's impossible to maintain a roof over your head—without a roof over your head and the privilege of basic utilities like electricity and water, it's hard to find and maintain a job. When you add other barriers to this mix—mental health issues, addiction, trauma, and toxic relationships, getting out of this cycle becomes even more complicated and daunting.

The COVID-19 pandemic created new barriers and exacerbated long-lasting barriers for many REST clients. You'll read about some of them throughout this report.

All the challenges I had before COVID got worse. I lost my job, my mental health declined, and now the eviction moratorium has ended. Where am I going to live next month?



# Sexual exploitation impacts every demographic in every region, but we know that certain sociocultural factors increase the risk for sex trafficking.

Multiple sources of data show sharp disparities between who is being sexually exploited in our community. More data on trafficked youth is available locally, but we can extrapolate that data to adults in the sex trade—knowing that trafficked youth often grow up and remain in the sex trade.

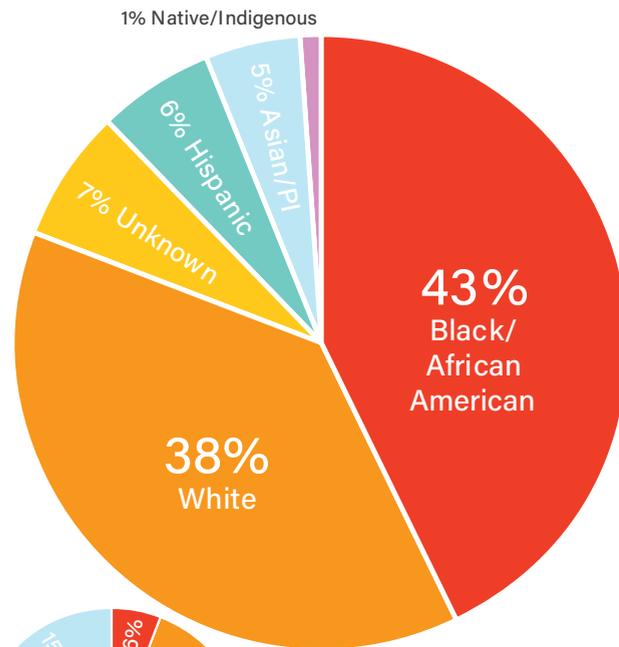
The most recent King County data on sex buyers reveals that local sex buyers are predominantly white, male, and with above-average education.

When we compare the disproportionalities in the race and gender of those who are exploited, and those who are exploiting—we see the harmful effects of misogyny and racism.

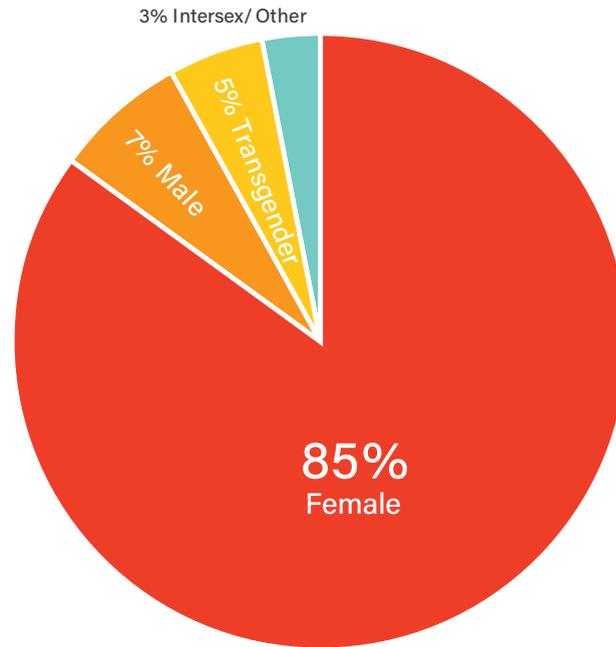
## Race and gender are not the only sociocultural factors that increase the risk for sex trafficking.

Risk also increases with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) such as abusive home situations, and the impacts of poverty, such as homelessness, having been placed in foster care or being a part of a minority gender identity or sexuality group.

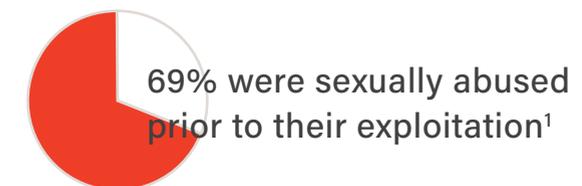
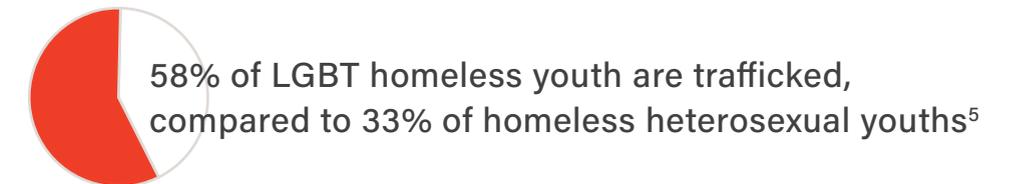
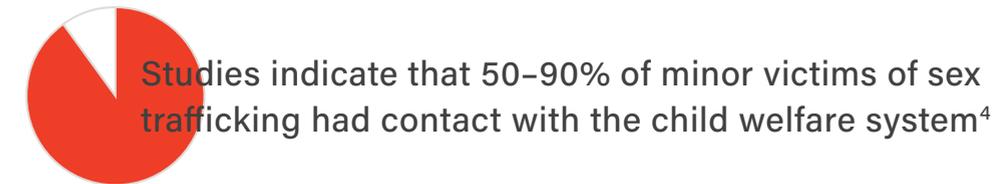
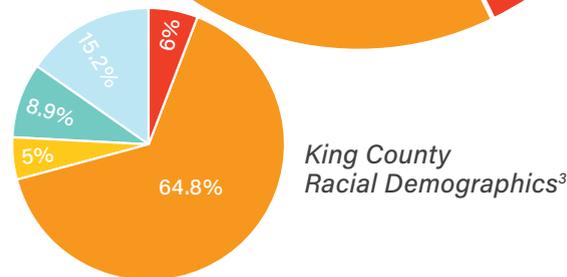
**Minor Victims by Race<sup>2</sup>**  
2011–2020 King County



**Minor Victims by Gender**  
2019 King County

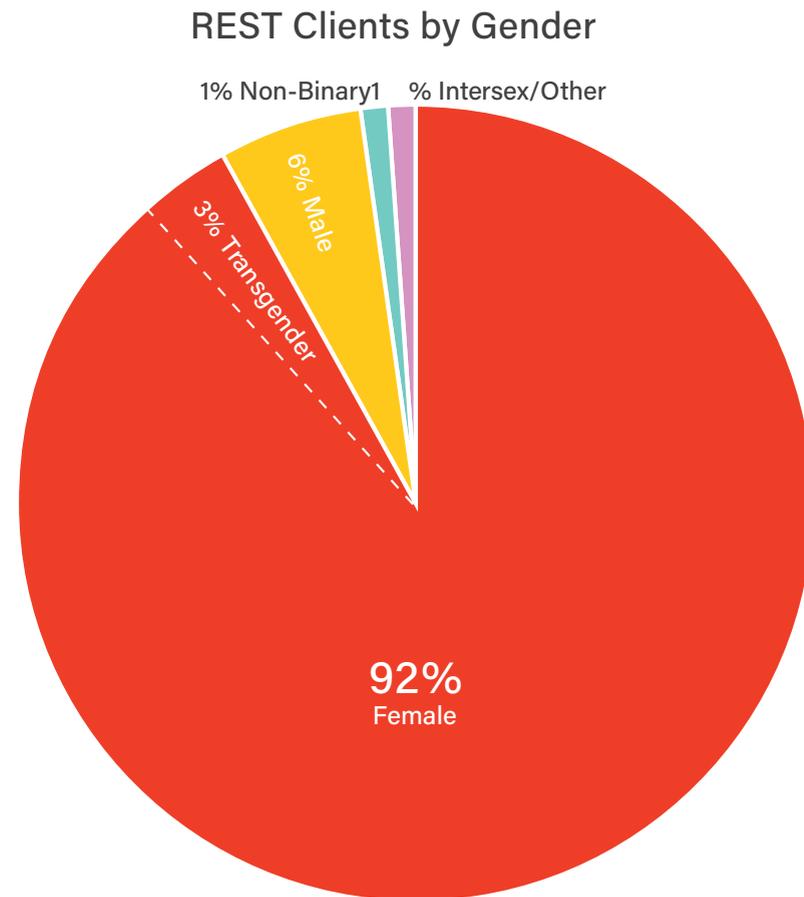


*Local anecdotal evidence suggests that trafficking among males and transgender individuals is severely underreported.*



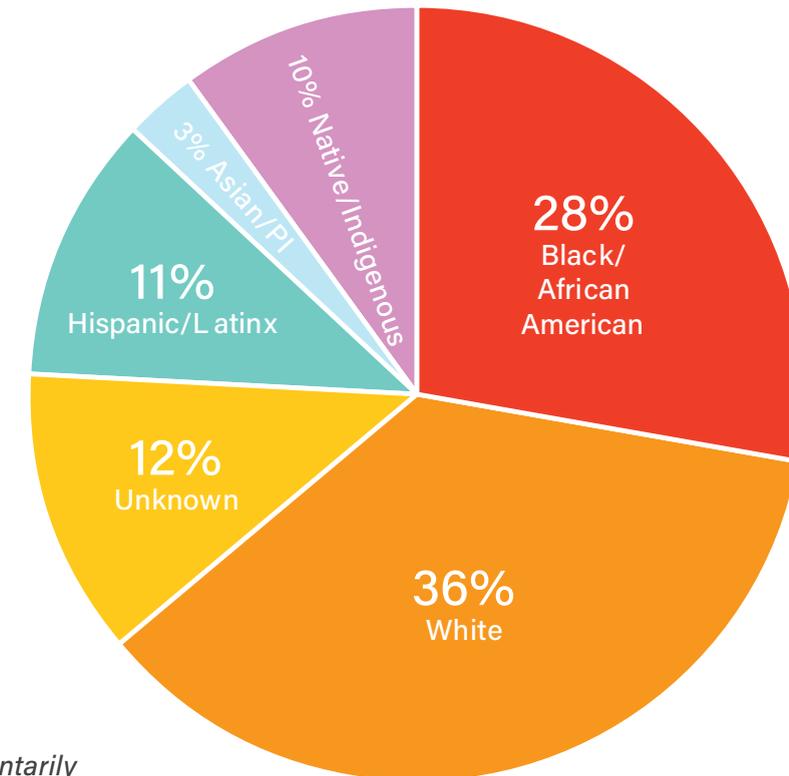
# Who does REST serve?

REST serves individuals of all ages, genders, and backgrounds who have been trafficked or involved in the sex trade.



We take a proactive approach to offer culturally responsive services, including fostering diverse teams and welcoming a wide array of cultural practices.

### REST Clients by Race\*



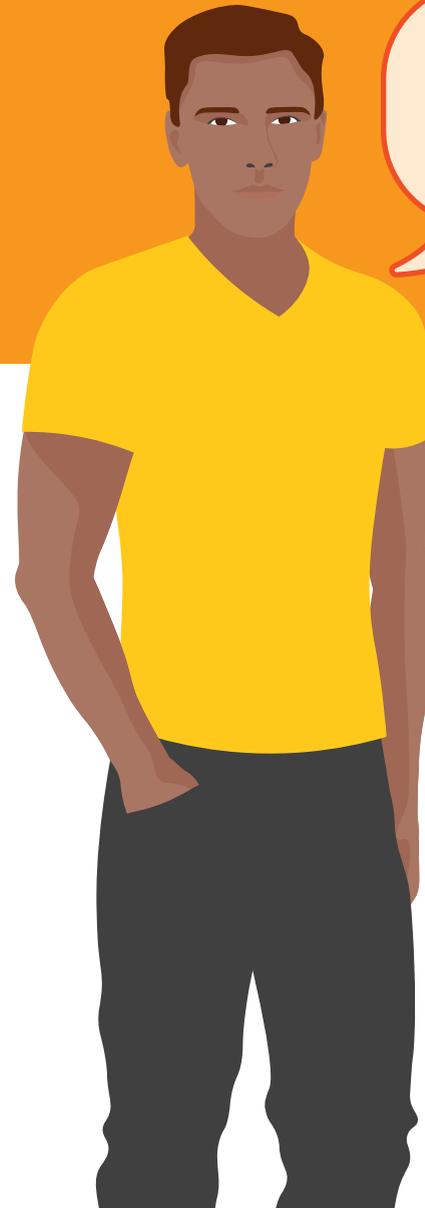
*\*Chart based on voluntarily disclosed ethnicity information. 22% of all of those who disclosed identified as multiracial.*

# It can take one toxic relationship to lure someone into the sex trade.



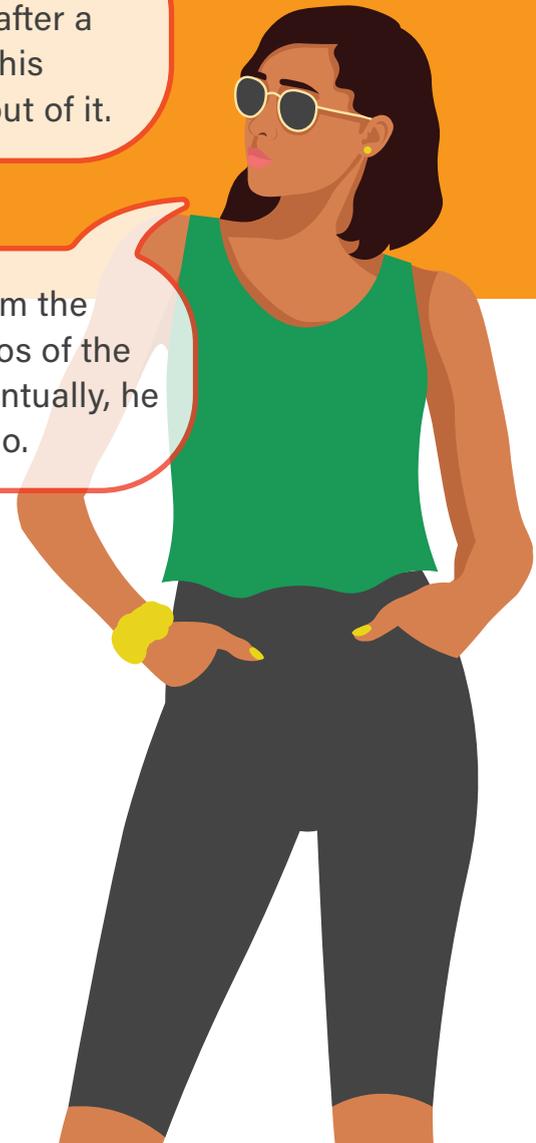
I was being abused in foster care, so I ran away and moved in with my boyfriend. He became violent and abusive, and demanded I start trading sex to bring him money.

Throughout our clients' stories, there is a common theme: hardship accompanied by a lack of positive, loving relationships—and then—the turning point into sexual exploitation, involving one or more toxic, abusive relationships.



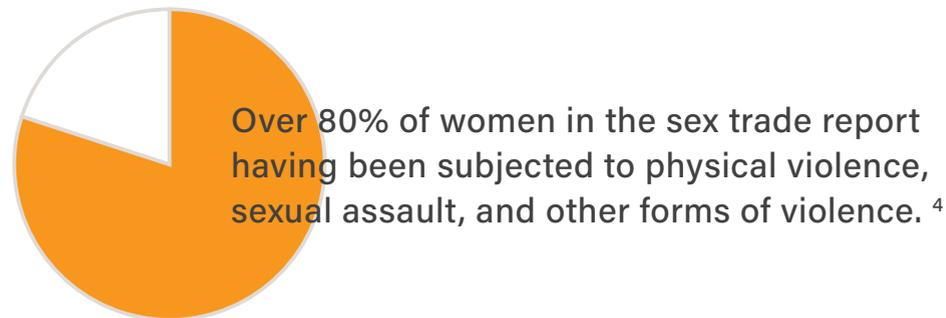
When I came out as gay, my parents kicked me out. An older man took me in, but after a few nights, he gave me drugs, and let his friends have sex with me while I was out of it.

My father was sexually abusive from the time I was little, and he made videos of the abuse, uploading them online. Eventually, he started selling me to other men, too.

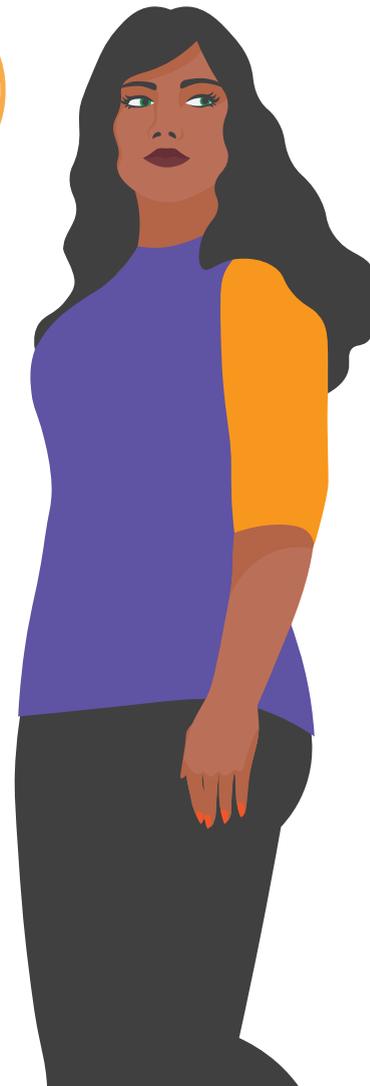
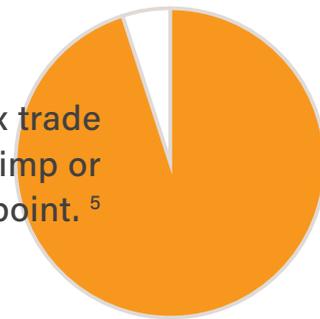


## The sex trade is violent.

He was nice at first. He asked me to move across the country to be with him—I thought he loved me. Once I got there, the mask came off.



85–95% of women involved in the sex trade report being under the control of a pimp or a trafficker at some point. <sup>5</sup>



## Who are the traffickers?

There are many different types of traffickers, also known as “abusers” or “pimps.”

- ➔ Boyfriend or Romeo Pimp: Uses a romantic relationship to manipulate or coerce their victim to trade sex for money
- ➔ Guerilla Pimp: Uses violence from the outset to condition their victim to “obey”
- ➔ Peer: A “friend” shows the victim the “rules of the game” and teaches them how to trade sex
- ➔ Parent or Family: A parent or family member, possibly with ties to a cult or pedophilia ring, trafficks the child
- ➔ Gang: To be part of the gang, the victim must trade sex to contribute to the financial status of the gang
- ➔ Organized Crime: Recruits potential “employees” for work, then forces them to trade sex, often withholding personal documents like birth certificates and passports

# Angelica, Survivor



**“I just wanted food, and a place to call home.”**

Angelica grew up in Chicago with her siblings and a young single mother. Her father passed away when she was young, and eventually, her mother remarried. They had a comfortable life. When Angelica turned 18, however, her mother and stepfather demanded she pay rent... or leave.

At first, she paid the rent—but she didn’t make much, and when it became clear that they wanted her out, she left.

Suddenly, Angelica was homeless.

Hunger and homelessness are powerful motivators, so she began working in a club and stripping to make ends meet. Angelica stripped in Chicago clubs for a few years.

Then, Angelica met a man at a concert. He promised her the world—marriage, a home, a family—but he lived in Seattle. After being assaulted in Chicago, Angelica reached out to him for help. He offered to bring her to Seattle to start their life together.

**“But when I came here, I had to work at the clubs to make everything back.”**

It was Angelica’s first day in Seattle when he asked her if she’d ever stripped before. He told Angelica that she would need to strip to pay off her plane ticket... then to help him buy a house... and then to help him buy more properties.

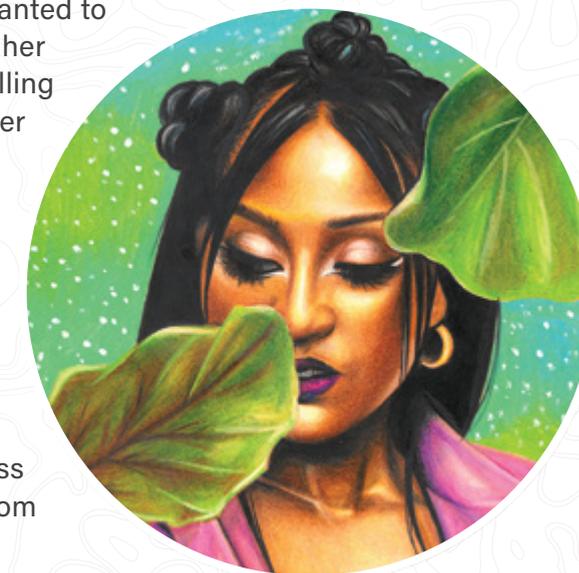
Initially, she went to the strip clubs willingly—she did it in Chicago and assumed it was the same here. She had not stripped in Seattle long when she realized the stark difference between the environments in the different cities.

*“Stripping in Chicago is different than stripping here. Like, stripping in any other city, you can make like five bands, \$5,000 an hour when you're just stripping, or doing some pole dancing. Here you've got to like, [perform oral sex], do all that stuff just to make like maybe \$500.”*

An astonishingly talented artist, Angelica wanted to use her art as a means to make money, but her abuser actively squelched those dreams, telling her that her art was no good, and she’d never been able to make money off of it.

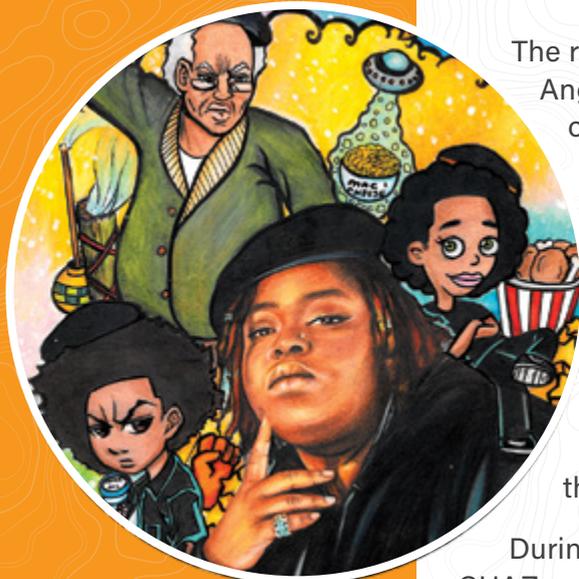
Angelica was realizing the bait and switch that had happened between the sweet guy she met in Chicago, and the manipulative and often threatening man she lived within Seattle.

Once again, she felt trapped by survival needs. If she left him, she would be homeless again—but this time, in a city 2,000 miles from any friends or support.



Angelica was not the only woman that this man was exploiting—but he kept her closer than the others, telling her that he loved her, and treating her with more gentleness than he treated the other women. That is, unless she failed to bring in money, or when she advocated for herself in the relationship.

**“I thought I was going to die... I didn’t think I was ever gonna leave that house.”**



The relationship became more tumultuous, and Angelica realized her life was in danger. After one particularly dangerous situation, her boyfriend kicked her out.

Suddenly, Angelica was homeless... again... at the height of the pandemic, and in the thick of the Black Lives Matter protests in Seattle. Angelica is a Black woman, and participated in the protests against police brutality against Black people, raising her voice calling out for the dignity and respect that Black individuals deserve.

During that time, Angelica stayed in the CHOP/ CHAZ protest camp in Cal Anderson Park, but she was tired and dealing with the trauma of her recent life. She thought the man she met in Chicago would help her, but he manipulated and abused her.

It was while she was staying in the encampment that she met a woman who offered to help her with her art. The woman quickly noticed Angelica’s suffering mental health and brought her to the hospital, where she was promptly put on suicide watch.

**“I’m going to keep fighting... I just want to live.”**

As she recovered, Angelica bounced around between different shelters—and eventually found her way to REST’s Emergency Receiving Center Shelter, after a friend recommended it. She called over and over again until a bed was available.

*“Home is wherever you’re happy. Because no one was helping me, or listening to me, and you guys gave me a home and someplace safe to stay, and I felt lonely, and you know... I know I’m not alone here.”*

Angelica stayed at the shelter for a few months and then moved into her own place.

She takes life one day at a time now. She has housing but is working on finding a better and safer place to live. Her mental health is improving, but the scars and trauma still remain. Through all of it, she moves forward.

She continues to work on her art—including the pieces you see here with her story—and she dreams of one day having a safe and stable home, a family, and someone loving and kind to share it all with.

Along her journey toward safety and healing, Angelica has met many people who have encouraged her, and see the best in her, and when she thinks about the future, she knows what she wants:

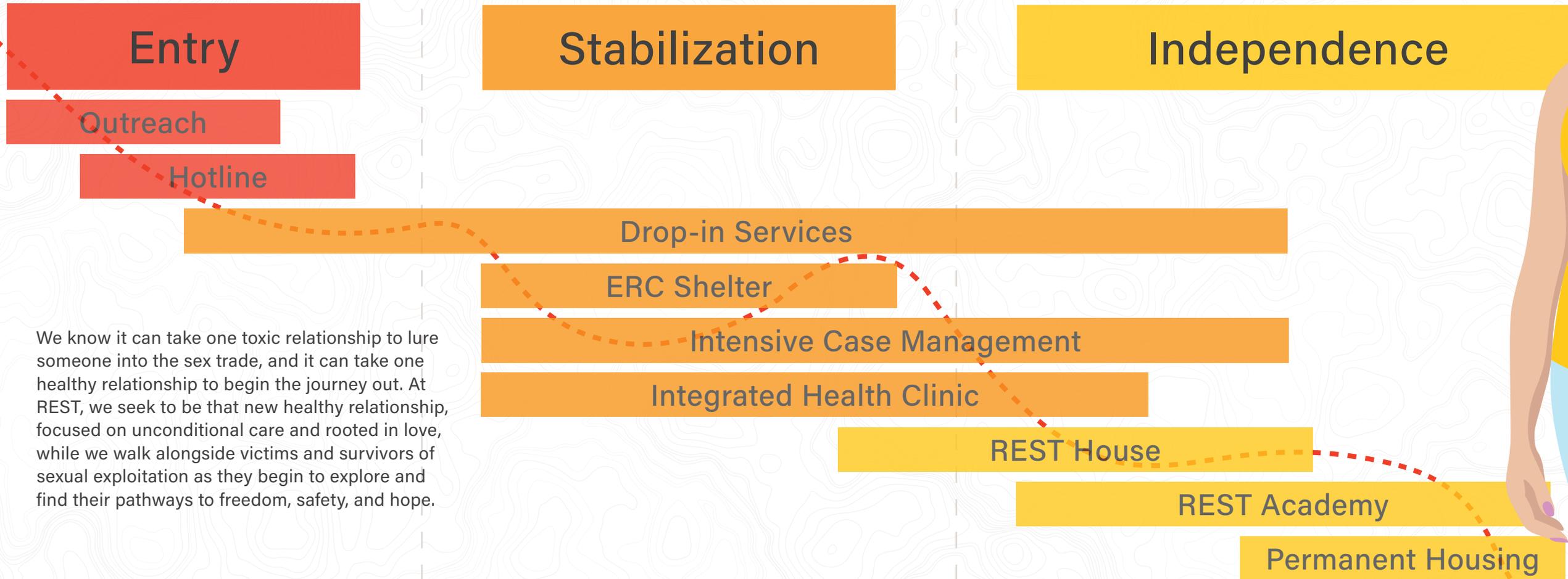
*“I want to see myself how everyone else sees me. I just want a home and feel safe there. I want to have food when I want to eat and feel nurtured and loved. Everyone says they see something good in me... so I’m just trying to do my best.”*

*Angelica decided to provide a few samples of her art, in lieu of a photo, illustration, or self-portrait to represent herself alongside her story.*

# Pathways to freedom, safety, and hope often begin with one healthy relationship.

I deserve to be loved.

I deserve a life free from exploitation. I survived for a reason, and I make the world more beautiful.



We know it can take one toxic relationship to lure someone into the sex trade, and it can take one healthy relationship to begin the journey out. At REST, we seek to be that new healthy relationship, focused on unconditional care and rooted in love, while we walk alongside victims and survivors of sexual exploitation as they begin to explore and find their pathways to freedom, safety, and hope.

## How does REST meet victims and survivors of the sex trade?

The relationship often begins through our Outreach Team, or through our 24/7 Emergency Hotline.

The REST Outreach Team reaches out to survivors in two primary ways: through text messages, and through a feet-on-the-ground team that goes out into the streets of Seattle.

Hey! My name is Emily and I work for an organization that helps offer resources to those who are in the life or have experienced it. Let me know if you wanna chat or need help!



In FY21, we sent 8,327 texts to potential victims of trafficking through Freedom Signal—a software that scrapes numbers from sex ads online and was developed out of a partnership with Microsoft Hackathon volunteers and Seattle Against Slavery.

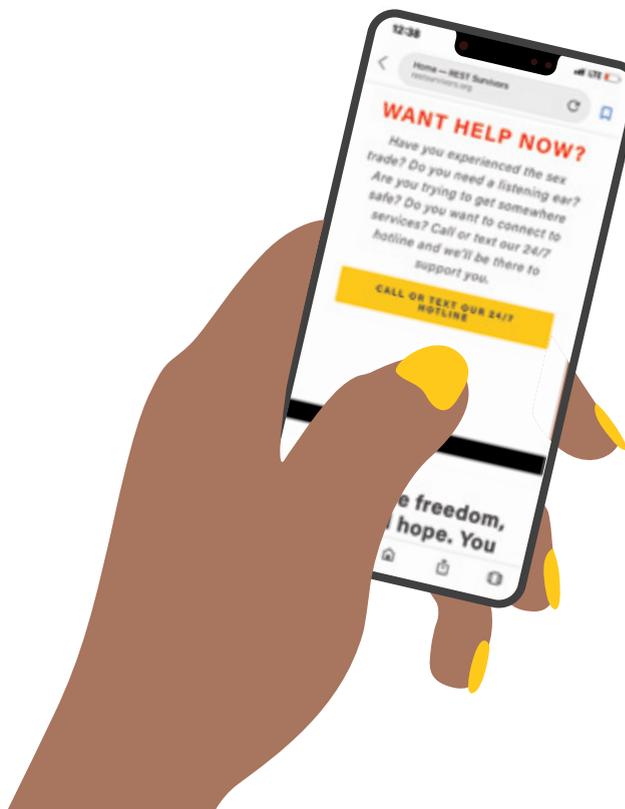
Each text message contains an offer of services and a message of hope for potential victims.

Our Street Outreach team had over 218 interactions with individuals being exploited on the streets of North Seattle. By offering nonjudgemental relationships, food and hygiene items, and information about our services we share, “You are seen and we care.”

## The REST Hotline

The hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Skilled team members respond to calls, texts, or emails from individuals who are in need of assistance, or service providers and law enforcement who would like to make a referral. Through the hotline, we can provide emotional support, safety planning, and assist survivors to connect to the services they need.

**377** unique survivors called the REST 24/7 Hotline



**1,936** ← Calls received

**748** ← Texts received

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we relied more heavily on the hotline this year to coordinate and connect with current clients.



## Meet Jackie.

Jackie is the Community Advocate Supervisor at REST, a survivor of sexual exploitation, and has been on staff for five years.

When Jackie was introduced to REST five years ago, it was through a friend and fellow survivor who invited her to join Thrive, REST's survivor support group. At the same time, it was mentioned that REST was working on opening a shelter, and there may be positions opening up.

*"I came in for my first [support group] and was completely hooked. I was welcomed with open arms. It was nice to be able to identify with other people's feelings and not feel like I was alone. There was this opportunity to talk about some really, really raw things and also being able to honor them. I think the society we're in is always pushing down the bad or the negative. But really in all honesty we have to get it out. We need to talk about it for it to even be addressed as something we need to heal from and so I just think REST and our support group at that time really offered me that."*

Shortly thereafter, she applied and was hired as the Survivor Engagement Specialist on the inaugural team for REST's Emergency Receiving Center Shelter. In the five years she's been with REST, she's also served as the Outreach Coordinator, often being the first person at REST who survivors encounter, is currently overseeing REST's team of Community Advocates and Outreach efforts, and is on REST's Leadership Team.

Her breadth and depth of experience at REST, as well as her experience of being a survivor herself, gives her a unique perspective and ability to be able to understand the needs of survivors and create solutions that address the individualized needs of each client that she and her team encounter.

Jackie's work—in all of the positions she's held at REST—is about building trust and creating a safe space for victims and survivors of sexual exploitation to begin to explore their options. In time, that safety and trust combined with effective services leads to a greater sense of self-efficacy and empowerment.

*"That's what I live for. That is what I live for and that is why I'm here five years later because I see it all the time... You see this metamorphosis of an individual... It's seen in their mannerisms, the way that they advocate for themselves, the way that they go after what they want, the way that they're able to identify what they want. It's so beautiful."*

*To watch them go from this place of hopelessness and despair to now they are inspired and motivated and feeling good and, and getting up and saying 'This is what I want and it matters. This is what I like and it matters. This is who I am and it matters.'"*

At the same time, the work is challenging—sometimes, Jackie and her team are simply unable to meet all of the needs of every client.

*"The hardest part of this work is when we feel like we don't have the answers or we aren't able to do the things that we need to do... When my survivor siblings hurt, I hurt... There are days when I go home and say [to myself], 'How can I do more?' Then I battle with myself—I have to have grace and compassion [for myself] that I'm not always going to have the answer or we're not always gonna have access. But also—how do we still show up to care for individuals?"*

Even amidst the trials and challenges of not being able to meet every need all the time, there is pervasive hope intertwined in the work at REST.

*"I have watched so many people go through their journey—good, bad, ugly, sad. And that gives me hope. That we are still here thriving and growing and able to raise our capacity to serve, right? I think what gives me hope is that people are in support of this work. I think that gives me hope that a place like REST exists..."*

*It gives me hope that our whole organization has continued to show up through the pandemic. This has been, honestly, the roughest year that we've had in a long time. There've been more referrals than we can actually take. But it gives me hope that we're still here and even through the ups and the downs, we're flowing. And we're still able to say 'No matter what, this community matters.'"*

*Throughout the pandemic, REST has stayed open—and staff continue to show up to offer pathways to freedom, safety, and hope for victims and survivors of sexual exploitation and the sex trade. We are honored and blessed to have staff persevere through the pandemic, to declare with their actions that everyone deserves to be loved, and everyone deserves a life free from exploitation.*

## What do you do when your basic needs go unmet?

I grew up in poverty, and surrounded by abuse and chaos. I started trading sex when I was 11 to put food on the table for me and my siblings. It's all I've ever known. How else can someone like me even survive?

For many survivors, a major barrier to beginning the journey out of the sex trade is a lack of resources to meet basic needs—food, shelter, personal items.

And because many survivors have been engaged in the sex trade since they were teenagers—and have often never known a different way to provide for themselves—when their basic needs go unmet, they turn to what they know.

When someone trades sex to meet basic needs, it's known as "survival sex."



# Welcome to the Pathways Services Center

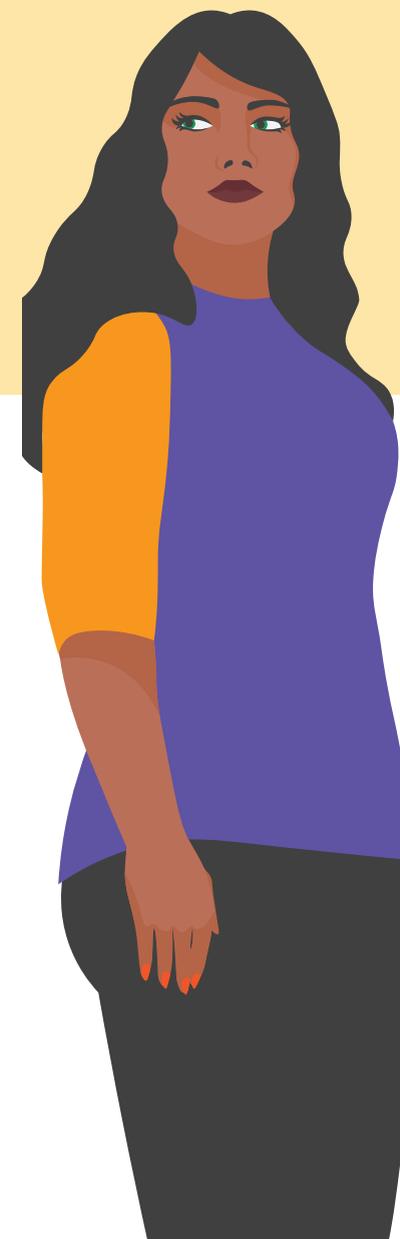
The Pathways Services Center (PSC) is the hub of many of our programs at REST. Survivors who come to the PSC can have their basic needs met through Drop-in Services, enroll in the Integrated Health Clinic (IHC), or participate in the REST Economic and Leadership Empowerment Academy. Our Community Advocate team is also based on-site.

The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated some adaptations to services along the way, but throughout it all, the services at the PSC have continued to operate. In November of 2020, we were able to re-open the space to a higher number of visitors, with safety precautions in place.

Since opening in 2015, survivors have been able to access Drop-in Services to meet basic needs—food, personal items, clothing, access information through staff services and a computer lab, and a safe place to rest and connect to others.

**In FY21, 278 unique guests visited the PSC accessing Drop-in Services 2,780 times.**

# Integrated Health Clinic



I moved here to be with my boyfriend, but he became my abuser. He stole my personal documents. I don't know anyone here or know about local services. How can I even find a place that will see me?

REST's Integrated Health Clinic (IHC) was launched in 2018 through a grant from the Pacific Hospital Preservation and Development Authority (PHPDA) Health Equity Fund. Now partnered with International Community Health Services (ICHS), we're able to offer mental health therapy, medical services, health advocacy, information, and referrals. This allows REST clients low-barrier access to critical health services with confidence that they'll receive nonjudgmental, trauma-informed care.

- ➔ In FY21, the IHC served 53 unique clients.
- ➔ 71% of enrolled clients demonstrated an improvement in mental health
- ➔ 92% of enrolled clients demonstrated an increased awareness of physical health

We were also able to set up an on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinic, reducing the barriers to vaccination for REST clients.

In our upcoming fiscal year, we'll be adding a clinic room to the Pathways Services Center for on-site medical care.



**84% of survivors have endured homelessness.<sup>8</sup>**

Having a safe, stable home is absolutely a basic need. Unfortunately, many victims and survivors of sexual exploitation have experienced homelessness and struggle with housing instability. Even after a survivor decides to leave the sex trade, issues such as criminal history, eviction history, poor credit or lack of credit, or missing personal documents can contribute to difficulties finding stable homes. It is not uncommon for an abuser or trafficker to steal a victim's identity, destroying their credit, and withhold the victim's personal documents as a control tactic.

As survivors stabilize, they often move from emergency housing solutions like shelters, into temporary housing situations such as long-term recovery programs, then into more permanent housing solutions—their own apartment or home.

At REST, we provide services along this entire continuum through our low-barrier emergency shelter, the REST House, and housing assistance and support in finding long-term, safe, and stable housing—including financial support for deposits and rent.

## Emergency Receiving Center

Our low-barrier Emergency Receiving Center is a shelter with individual rooms for seven women to stay for up to 90 days. This is a place for women to rest, stabilize, and identify the next steps on their healing and recovery journey. For our shelter guests, we provide food and hygiene supplies, and assistance in accessing resources like medical care, mental health, and chemical dependency services. Shelter guests also have access to Community Advocates and services offered through the Pathways Services Center, including the Integrated Health Clinic and Drop-in.

**In our last fiscal year, the REST Shelter provided 2,329 bed nights to 57 unique guests.**

➡ On average, guests stayed 43 days, up from 35 days in FY20.

We know that with increased time in the shelter, the likelihood of transitioning out to safe and stable shelter increases, too.

The REST Shelter has remained open throughout the pandemic, with safety protocols in place, and contingency plans for if there is an exposure.

# The REST House

The REST House is a two-year transitional living program, serving up to six adults at a time of any gender, ages 18 and older, from any human trafficking background (sex trafficking or labor trafficking) in a recovery-oriented, safe environment. Guests still have access to all of REST's services including Community Advocacy and intensive case management, employment services, and more. While income is not required to participate in the program, residents who do have income contribute 30% of their monthly earnings to a fund that will be returned to them when they move out for a future deposit on their next safe and stable home.

**In FY21, the REST House provided safe and stable housing to seven residents with a 96% occupancy for the year.**

Two of those residents were Sincere and R, whose stories you'll read in this Annual Report. You'll also read Ronisha's story. She was a resident prior to FY21.

This fall, we'll also be opening a second REST House in North Seattle, thanks to a partnership with Compass Housing Alliance and a generous grant from the Jensen Project.



# Housing Assistance

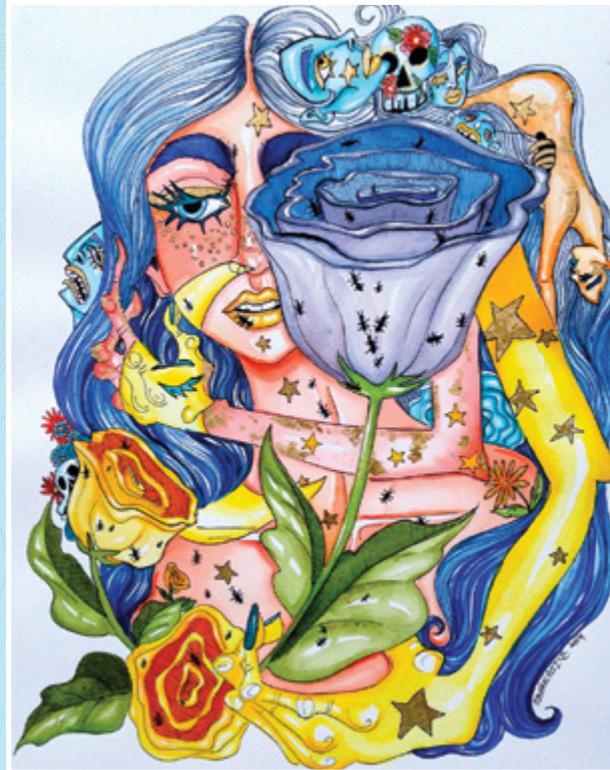
Between the REST Emergency Receiving Center and the REST house, we have 13 beds available for victims and survivors of the sex trade—but we know that thousands are exploited in our community every day. Every single one of those beds is crucial, but 13 is insufficient.

That's why we also provide housing assistance, including our Transition-in-Place (TIP) program. It allows us to help clients gain permanent housing and increase success rates for remaining stably housed.

Our TIP Program gives survivors an opportunity to live in their own apartment while they build economic independence, enhance life skills, and continue to make progress toward their personal goals with the support of a Community Advocate. TIP housing provides one year of graduated rental subsidies where REST pays 100% of the survivors' rent for the first three months, 75% for the next three months, 50% for the three months after, and 25% for the final three months. When a participant graduates, they can remain in their home, allowing them to transition-in-place and continue to move forward with their life outside of the sex trade.

**In FY21, REST provided over \$86,000 in housing assistance funds to 41 unique clients.**

# R, Survivor



**“I learned that I needed to be a sexual object from a very young age.”**

R was born in the late 1990s, into extreme poverty and abuse. Her mother struggled with mental health issues, and her father had taken everything but the house and left them with nothing. Her mother, who was also abusive, began seeing a man with substance abuse issues who was physically and sexually abusive. There was no safe place for R—she was physically abused at home and severely bullied at school, so she looked online for community.

*“I was probably like 10 when I started really going into chat rooms a lot... Eventually, I got into the video game community and*

*the forum community... And I met some people that I thought I could trust... Men started approaching me and offering me money to spend time with them [online]. And they would have me participate in different role-playing things—very sexually explicit ones that I wasn't very comfortable with—and I didn't understand.”*

Though what they were asking of her didn't feel good, R had no one else—and it allowed her to put food on the table for her and her family.

**“I just felt like I was an object that existed for other people.”**

R was sexually exploited in chat rooms and forums for about three years, when she stopped because she began experiencing mental health issues, including dissociative episodes.

She was searching for safety, stability, and love, however, her chaotic and traumatic childhood left her vulnerable to abusers.

As a teenager, R got into an extremely abusive relationship and knew her mental health was declining. She decided to get a job and support herself.

*“When I got into bartending, I didn't really wanna work in a strip club, but I was like, I can deal with this. 'Cause I've been through so much shit... I can make good money and I can go back to school 'cause that was all I was trying to do is to pay for school.*

*Then I was bartending and they would start selling dances with me, as a bartender, without my permission... And I was like, I thought about doing it 'cause it was a lot of money, but like I knew that like with my trauma it wasn't a good idea.”*

The dancing quickly escalated into sexual assaults. One of the club managers, a former law enforcement officer, began listing club dancers and bartenders in sex ads online, making under-the-table deals with patrons. The club manager pocketed the extra money, leaving R and the other dancers subjected to physical, emotional, and mental trauma.

The persistent violence and trauma made R feel trapped.

*R's note on her self-portrait: “Through this, I wanted to express my own desire to persevere. Every day I would look forward to my walk outside, and I would walk past a neighbor's garden full of beautiful flowers. I'd noticed the flowers were actually completely full of ants and tiny spiders, all hiding under the petals. I thought it was both revolting and beautiful... It made me feel like you can preserve your strength and sense of self even when parasitic energies are trying to take advantage of you and exploit you. I struggle with hardening myself too much against the world, but try to remind myself you can still be strong and endure without losing your softness and vulnerability.”*



**“He was going to propose to me.”**

R began dating a childhood friend. Though things seemed to be going well with him, she still struggled with mental health issues and the trauma of her situation, which led to a suicide attempt.

*“He was like, ‘Let me take care of you. I’m gonna make all this money. I’ll put you through school. I love you. I bought you this ring in Japan. You know, we’ve known each other since middle school. It’s gonna be fine.’*

*And so I moved with him because I thought that it would be better. And as*

*soon as we got there, it was like the mask fell off. And it was like, the sexual assault started happening so frequently... My mental illness continued to deteriorate and I put myself in a situation where I was dependent on him.”*

When the pandemic started, and her abuser began to work from home, the assaults escalated to several times a day. R had no safe place or time to recover, and her mental health declined. Regular disfiguring self-harm and suicide attempts were a means to get the assaults to stop, if only temporarily.

They sought couples counseling, but the therapist did not grasp the magnitude of the abuse. R’s partner maintained physical, relational, and financial control over her. He manipulated their counselor and the legal system to think she was the harmful one in the relationship. It ended with him getting a restraining order against her, leaving her with nothing, and nowhere to go.

**“R, they have a bed. I looked into it. You should go there. It’ll be okay if you go there.”**

Destitute, with two dogs and very little to her name, R met with her therapist who suggested she try to get into REST’s Emergency Receiving Center. The next day, a bed opened up—and R sold everything to get her support dogs’ vaccinations up to date to be able to bring them to the shelter, and accept the bed.

It took a few weeks to come out of the zombie-like state that the recent trauma had put her in, but now, R had a safe place to stay with her dogs and began to recover. She was able to adjust to this newfound autonomy over her own body, experience safety, and start planning for the future—a place to live, financial stability, a career.

Eventually, R moved into the REST House, where she was able to continue to work on healing, understanding her own freedom, and deciding where she would take her life next.

*“I don’t think there’s ever been a point in time where I haven’t been scared about where I’m gonna be, like where I’m gonna sleep the next day. And for some reason when I was [at the house], because I wasn’t afraid that I couldn’t pay rent, um, I wasn’t scared that I couldn’t be there. And that made me feel like I could choose what I wanted to do because I could count on somewhere to be so I wouldn’t be on the street. And that it was safe, and that someone wouldn’t just be like barging into my room or attacking me, or harassing me for something—I could just like be there and get my shit together by myself, you know.*

*... I just felt like that made all the difference because I just didn’t have that ever, honestly.”*

## “I literally have not violently self-harmed since I left.”

R’s life has changed immensely since she was able to get away from her last abuser. Her mental health has improved significantly, though she still recognizes the need to stay out of stressful situations. She hasn’t used self-harm as a coping mechanism.

In summer 2021, she moved out of the REST House, and into an apartment.

*“It’s been really good. I moved across the country. I was able to get a job and a good job... It would not have happened, 100% would not have happened without REST... Mary is still my therapist [through REST’s Integrated Health Clinic] and I still talk to Mary every week. And like that has been so important is just having a consistent [therapist] [even after] moving across the country...”*

As she moves forward on her own pathway to freedom, safety, and hope, R wants REST supporters to know that trafficking doesn’t always look like the movies. That it can look like someone doing okay on the outside, but just struggling to make their life better—and how crucial the resources are, especially when the barriers are so complex.

*“I learned so much from being [at REST] and learning from those people’s perspectives, and how important those resources are... I’m still privileged [compared to] what a lot of people experienced and have gone through... I saw their experience, and I saw how hard they worked for themselves and how desperate they were [for] those resources. And that made it more valuable because I knew I needed to appreciate this. [REST] provides resources to people that really don’t have them. And it’s really, really important.”*

R is an astoundingly talented artist, is currently in school for graphic design, and holds a job in the design field. In fact, you may have seen her work before. R’s artwork was featured on REST’s 2020 holiday cards, and more recently, her artwork was featured on A Night of REST 2021 marketing materials, which was inspired by the strength and tenacity of the survivors who she got to know in REST’s programs.

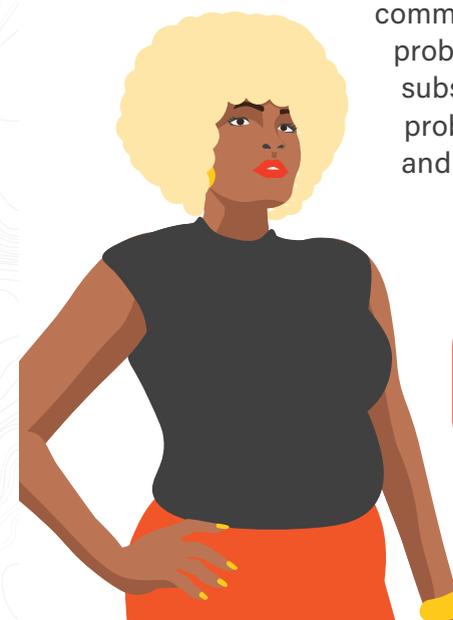
## Joblessness increases the likelihood of relapse.

At REST, we know through over a decade of experience walking alongside survivors that relapse back into the sex trade is more likely for survivors who are unable to secure and maintain a reliable, living-wage job that allows them to sustain housing and meet their own basic needs.

The barriers that survivors face to achieving stable employment are complicated.

Getting a job can be challenging. For many survivors, it may be their first job outside of the sex trade, or they may have a large gap in employment history. Many may face a lack of education or training. On top of that, they may have a criminal history or lack access to their personal identification documents needed during the hiring process.

When a survivor gets a job, it can be hard to maintain. A lack of soft skills that most people learn in their early adulthood employment, such as professional communication, emotional regulation, and conflict resolution can create problems at work. Trauma responses, mental health issues, and substance use can exacerbate these problems. And many of these problems are cyclical—it’s hard to maintain a job without stable housing, and hard to maintain stable housing without a job.



I want to get a good job, but all I’ve ever known is the sex trade. I have no job history, no resume, no transportation—I don’t even have an address to put on my application. Where do I even begin?

## The REST Economic and Leadership Empowerment Academy

In the midst of the pandemic in our last fiscal year, we launched the REST Economic and Leadership Empowerment Academy. The goal of the Academy is to equip survivors to not only obtain but confidently maintain employment.

It consists of four pillars: six weeks of job readiness training, six-week paid internships, employment placement services, and leadership development workshops. Employment placement services and leadership development workshops are available to all REST clients.

With the first full year of the Academy completed, we are thrilled to report to you that:

**90** ← Clients accessed employment services

**24** ← Of those clients were served through the Academy

**36** ← Clients gained employment in the most challenging employment placement year we've ever faced

# Sincere, Survivor

**"I wanted to be somebody important."**

Sincere grew up in poverty in a single-parent home in Pittsburgh, PA. He knew his father—but his father wasn't present, and didn't provide support for the family. He recalls seeing his peers with the stability of a house to come home to and having basic needs met. It wasn't just material things that Sincere lacked, but an environment that made him feel loved.

When Sincere was 17, he began dating a woman who was engaging in the sex trade—and when she suggested he do it, too, as a way to earn the money he lacked and provide for his own needs, he heeded her "advice."

*"I ended up moving away from home and we were just using that as a means to support... I was saying to myself that I wanted to be somebody important. I just had to figure things out. And I wanted to catch up to everybody. I always felt behind my peers because they had resources and a house to come home to and insurance and cars and stuff. So at 17, [my goal was] trying to make up for everything that I didn't have afforded to me in my younger days."*



Sincere was trading sex for a place to stay, food to eat, clothes to wear—and a feeling of belonging, and being loved.

## “There isn’t a lot of protection for me.”

At 24, after finding himself stranded alone in Miami, Sincere came to Seattle with the help of a friend. When the pandemic hit, Sincere’s situation got worse, and he was trying to figure things out—trying to figure out how to survive.

*“There aren’t many resources, being a man, honestly. Being a man, you’re vilified—because I’ve gotten into some legal shit from the state and stuff—and once you’ve been there—there isn’t a lot of protection for me. There isn’t a lot [of support] out there for men in general. It’s especially hard for Black men.”*

Sincere, a Black man, was caught in a world that often uses dehumanizing labels like “criminal” or “thug” for individuals who look like him even while he was being sexually exploited. Sincere was staying at a shelter but didn’t have access to food stamps, had no health insurance, and in his search for help he started “shooting shots in the dark.” One of those shots was at REST.

*“When I first heard about REST, I thought it was just gonna be another one of those things that didn’t go my way. Things never seem to go my way, so I was really surprised that I was able to do this workshop program here, and find connections for my job...”*

## “I got a team behind me.”

Sincere rapidly got involved with REST. He enrolled in—and graduated from—the REST Economic and Leadership Empowerment Academy and moved into the REST House, one of the very few housing programs for male survivors of human trafficking in the country. Then with REST walking alongside him in a supportive role, he got a job with one of REST’s business partners, a local non-profit that hires survivors.

Once Sincere began to see opportunities and services move from hypothetical options on paper to tangible real-life support, he began to see a different future.

*“Once I got accepted into the REST House community, I was immediately moved to tears. Uncontrollably. I could not stop crying because before I had a place with a shelter—it was just a bunk bed, and that was my world. It was the connections... as they started to materialize, then it really started to click... okay, I can make something of myself.”*

Sincere is taking steps every day toward freedom, safety, and hope—and he’s doing it with the team at REST helping him overcome challenges, and face barriers that are still very real for him. He’s maintained his job at the local non-profit, earned his driver’s license, and lives in the stable environment of the REST House. He’s still working toward repairing relationships, getting insurance, buying a car, and following in his mother’s footsteps to become a Licensed Nurse Practitioner.

*“It’s interesting, with me working at [employer], we used to operate in a position of scarcity, and recently we changed our policies to no longer move in that position of scarcity, but to operate in a position of abundance. So this is a new lesson that I’m learning at work, and it’s so coincidental that it ties into my life, because I’ve always lived in scarcity... and it wasn’t just money and food that was a scarcity, it was a scarcity of everything. A scarcity of personality, a scarcity of comfort, a scarcity of rest, a scarcity of relaxation and mental preparation, or anything. So now, I’m trying to live in abundance of those things. A healthy abundance.”*

Sincere recognizes how much REST has helped him, but also sees how much he’s helped himself and gives himself credit where credit is due.

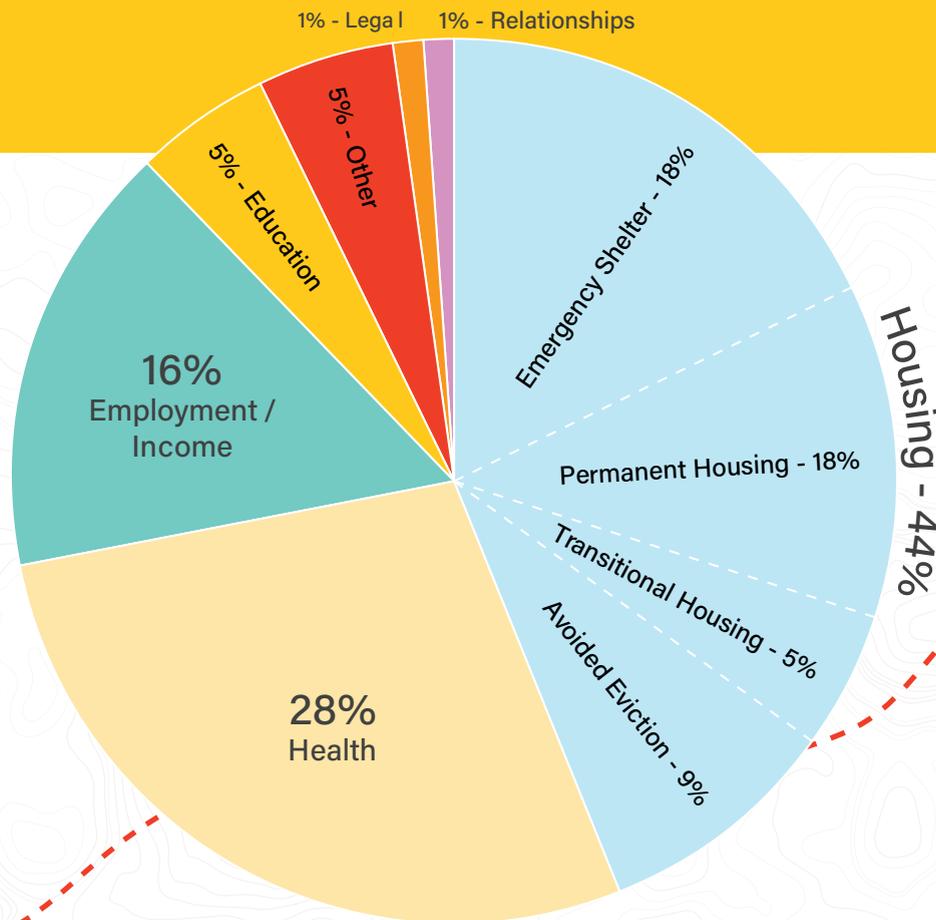
*“REST gave me the tools. I feel like, for me personally, REST has given me the shovel, and it’s up to me every day to dig and plant the seeds... They put you inside a space that’s safe, and it allows you to really reach for these goals.”*

*Shortly after doing the interview for his story, Sincere achieved one of his major goals: purchasing a car—and not just any car, his dream car, a red Camaro, which he now uses to commute to his job that he’s maintained for several months.*

# With holistic, unconditional care—a lot is possible.

At REST, we use the phrase, “Do for, do with, cheer on.” That summarizes the approach we take to walking alongside survivors as they pursue their goals and higher levels of self-efficacy.

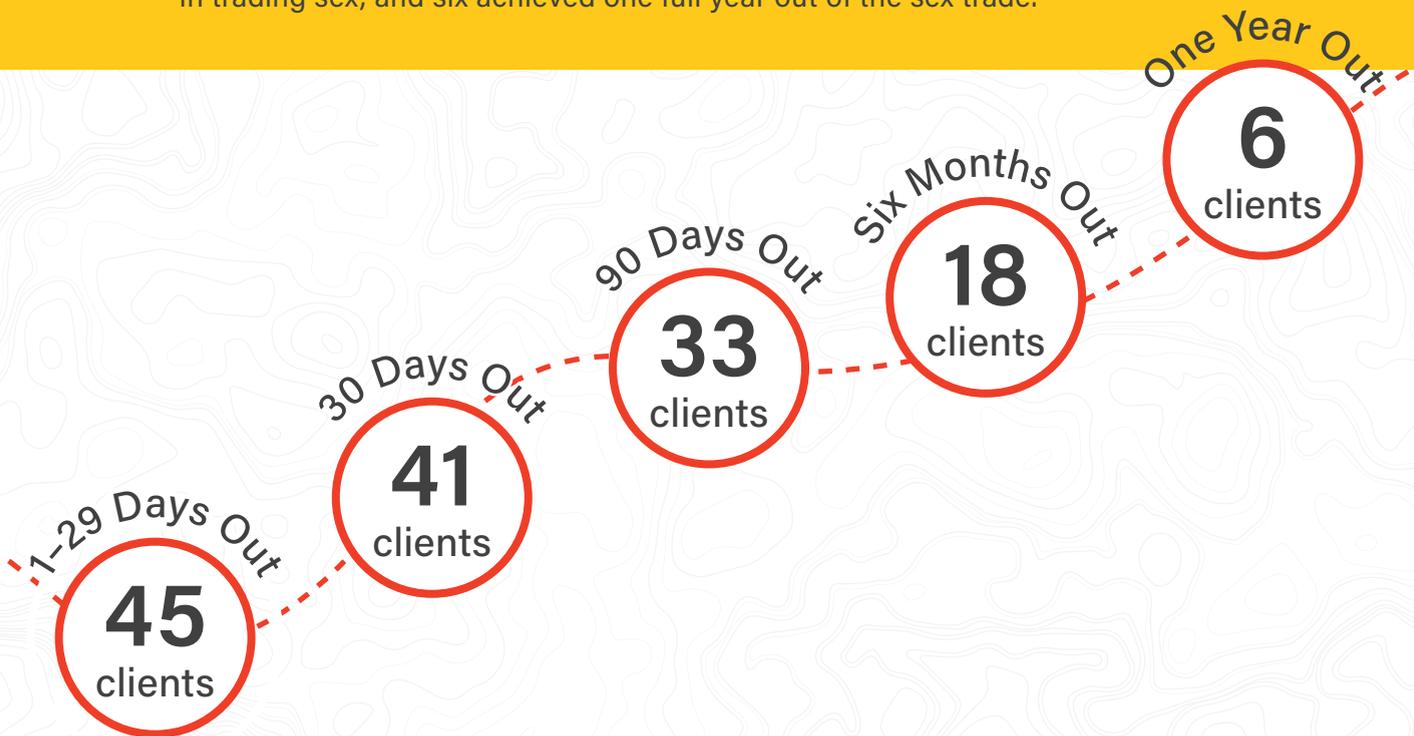
➔ In FY21, 152 clients achieved 453 self-identified goals. 188 of those goals were achieved through the support of a REST Community Advocate.



## Finding Rest

As survivors seek their paths to freedom, safety, and hope, they often start by experiencing “interruptions” (1-29 days out of the sex trade). Then, those interruptions last a little longer—and eventually, as they stabilize, they’re more empowered and equipped to maintain a life outside of the sex trade.

➔ Even amidst the ongoing pandemic, 54 clients reported a reduction in trading sex, and six achieved one full year out of the sex trade.





## Meet Renée.

Renée has been involved with REST for a decade—for the last seven, as a member of REST’s Board of Directors. Her passion for anti-trafficking work is personal. From the age of 16 until she was 23, she was trafficked and sexually exploited. She knows firsthand the deep impact it has on all who are involved—the victims, buyers, traffickers, community, and society at large—and she knows that survivors need to know that there are pathways out.

*“I learned about REST back in 2011 after meeting Amanda [Executive Director at REST] at a sexual exploitation awareness and prevention training. I had shared my story for the first time ever and had shared my dream of creating a place where victims and survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation could go to gain holistic healing. Amanda made a beeline to me immediately after the meeting closed, and we scheduled a meeting. When Amanda shared her heart for REST, it became clear I needed, wanted, HAD to get involved.”*

Renée’s work alongside REST has been multifaceted, including mentorship for survivors, speaking at a variety of events including REST Training Days, and using her career expertise as a Community Health Worker to help clients achieve better outcomes for their overall health and well-being. In recent years, she’s been a leading voice in REST’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access initiatives.

In addition, Renée is chairing the Strategic Planning subcommittee as REST looks out into the future and evaluates what it means to be a beneficiary-first nonprofit, and asks the question, “How does REST not just serve survivors of the harms of sexual exploitation, but also eradicate systems that create the harm in the first place?”

Renée’s service has made an incredible impact for victims and survivors of sexual exploitation, and it has also made an impact on Renée.

*“REST and the [clients] are a very large part of my healing journey. While I had been out of the life for 10 years prior to serving, I had only just barely realized and began healing from a lifetime of trauma, only a year before I met Amanda. REST has helped/helps me grow and heal—from surviving to thriving—while serving.”*

Underneath her personal ties to REST’s work, and her passion for providing quality, effective services to victims and survivors of sexual exploitation, is the same unwavering belief that REST holds at the center of all of our work: That everyone deserves to be loved, and everyone deserves a life free from exploitation.

*“God is love. Therefore, we are love—worthy and deserving to receive and give it. When in the life, you often become consumed with deep shame and self-loathing. We serve as a reminder and reflector of this truth.”*

# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

We have known for several years that Black and African American women are disproportionately impacted by commercial sexual exploitation, as demonstrated in the demographics earlier in this report. We also know that compared to local demographics, REST serves a disproportionately high number of Black and African American Individuals.

This is why REST has made efforts over the last several years to improve Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) throughout the organization in hopes of creating an environment that feels safe and welcoming for people of all races and ethnicities, genders, sexualities, and abilities.

The leadership at REST, including the Board of Directors, is committed to listening, learning, and taking action to integrate DEIA work throughout our organization, starting with ourselves.

Some actions we took in FY21:

- ➔ Eight-month DEIA initiative including organization-wide training and policy development in partnership with LTHJ Global
- ➔ Grew and diversified our Board of Directors
- ➔ Disaggregated our service data, to show where our services may be resulting in disproportionately positive or negative outcomes for people of different races or ethnicities.

We know that even though we have taken important steps, these efforts will be ongoing, as there is much work to be done.

## Looking to the Future

“What do we need to do to eliminate sex trafficking in King County by 2040?”

This is the question the REST staff and board are currently percolating on. We intend to continue to provide a holistic continuum of care for victims and survivors of the sex trade as long as the problem exists—but what would it look like to eradicate the systems of harm that perpetuate the idea that people, created in the image of a beautiful Creator, can be bought and sold? And what is REST’s role in that?

It’s a lofty question—but as we work on our long-term strategic planning for the organization, that is the lens we’re approaching it from.

If you want to get involved with helping us answer that question, you can visit [iwantrest.com](http://iwantrest.com) to learn more ways you can contribute.

# TIRA™ – Trafficking Interruption Resource Agent

In the early days of REST, we knew that when someone said they wanted to get away from their trafficker or get out of the sex trade time was of the essence. Our motto back then was to “do whatever it takes” to connect survivors to the resources they need. When we found that the resources weren’t working or didn’t exist, then we committed to building them.



As long as anti-trafficking organizations have existed, the process of getting to safety and connecting with resources has meant that survivors of trafficking and their advocates must place dozens of calls and emails to various programs, often only to learn that a program is no longer active, they don’t have any openings, don’t serve a certain age group, or can’t meet specific needs. This current model for connecting survivors to resources can take days—even weeks—and the longer someone has to wait, the less likely they are to believe that change is possible.

We must do better—and that’s why two years ago we asked service providers what they would need in order to provide real-time updates on the availability of their services and we asked survivors what they would need out of a platform to

connect them to those services. Since then, REST has been working on a collaborative project with the National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance, Boston University’s SPARK! program, the University of Washington’s Impact++ program, and volunteers from Microsoft Hackathon to create a platform to increase access to services for victims and survivors of human trafficking.

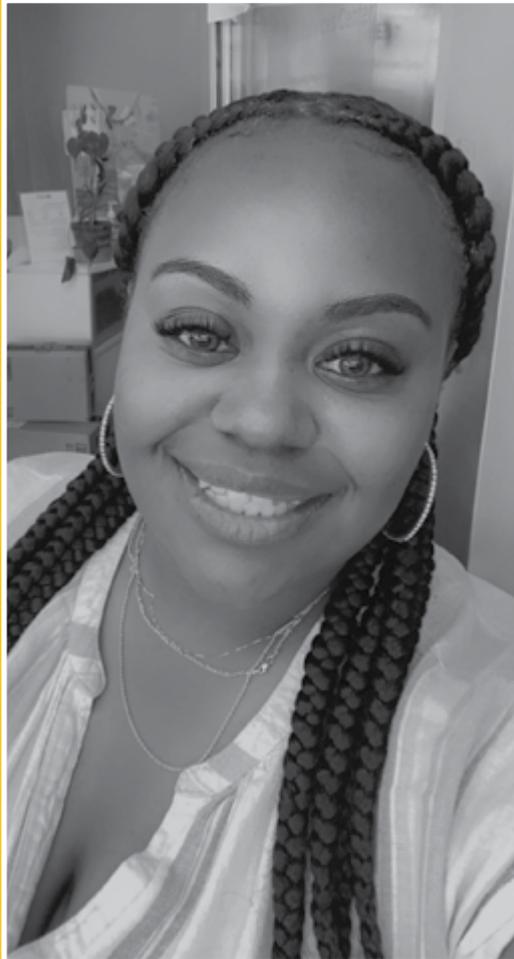
TIRA™ will provide a safe, trauma-sensitive, and confidential way for victims of trafficking to find options for services that have current openings and match their self-identified needs and preferences.

TIRA™ will be launching initial testing with service providers in late 2021, and we cannot wait.



# TIRA

# Ronisha, Survivor



**“I became gang affiliated.”**

Ronisha grew up in the Central District of Seattle and was a good student. She was involved in student activities, yearbook, taking Spanish classes, and playing soccer. At school, she excelled—but at home, things were different. Certain parts of her childhood were stable, but there was a tough-love relationship with her mother, and there was also domestic violence in the home. Ronisha often found herself having to take care of her younger brother and felt she wasn't getting the love and attention she needed.

Seeking community, Ronisha became affiliated with a gang—and things began to spiral. She began shoplifting as a coping mechanism and got involved with older guys.

At the age of 16, one of the gang members persuaded her to “try” trading sex—“wouldn't you rather be [trading sex] for money, instead of going into stores and stealing?” he suggested.

*“I met another guy that sounded like this fairytale life... it was just an escape route, honestly. My mom and my grandma had no*

*clue at the moment, that I was even being sex trafficked or was raped and abuse was going on. I hid it very well. They just thought I was going to the store stealing things.”*

**“I got a felony, then found out I was pregnant with my first daughter.”**

When Ronisha was 18, she got into an altercation over a racial incident with her boss at work, which led to her first felony conviction. Soon after she found out she was pregnant. Then shortly after, her father passed away.

All the while, she was dealing with verbal abuse and domestic violence from her daughter's father—and facing the reality that she now had a child to care for.

*“I decided to do any and everything to have money to take care of this child. My grandma and my mom were very supportive with helping with my daughter as I engaged in the street life. I pretty much told them, “Me and my baby daddy have domestic violence going on. I'm, you know, in a gang, in and out of jail for stealing and living an unfit and unsafe life. I need you to take temporary custody of my daughter 'cause the life I'm living is not fit or fair to her.” So from 19 to probably about 25, I was in and out of jail, um, receiving charges, being sex trafficked.”*

**“2015, I got incarcerated in Kitsap County. That was my reality check.”**

During her incarceration, Ronisha endured racism, including an interaction with a guard that left her in “the hole.” She also encountered a Jewish woman who offered her Bible studies, which she did, and she became closer to God. Through all of that, she came to want a different path in life, and a better life for her daughter. She began seeing a psychiatrist, going to therapy, and attending yoga classes. She even wrote a letter of forgiveness to the guard—which resulted in the guard also apologizing to her.

Though she wanted a different path, once released from prison, Ronisha had no other alternatives to provide for herself and her child. Even with her heart and mind changed, she quickly found herself back to her old life.

## “This is it.”

Ronisha had ignored outreach texts from REST in the past, but one day she responded.

*“I was just like, you know what? This is it. I’m ready for it. So I met up with her... I felt like she was sincere and genuine—and I was just like, “Ok, maybe I don’t know this woman from Eve, but I’m taking all these chances doing illegal stuff... why not?” [Jackie] explained the programs and the support, and I was just like, “That’s something I’ve been looking for all my life. Why not? I mean, I’m going to therapy... I’m doing all these other things... and I just gave it a chance.”*

Ronisha began to pick up the pieces of her life by committing to herself and her daughter to never steal or sell her body again. She engaged with REST services and joined Thrive, a support group for survivors.

## “Hey, I love you. I appreciate you supporting me. But you're supporting me in the wrong way.”

Ronisha realized that her mother and grandmother, while supportive, were also enabling—they would take in her daughter while she was out trading sex, and would allow her to come home with stolen merchandise. They knew she was shoplifting, but didn’t know about her trafficking situation. So Ronisha put her foot down, and invited more healthy support from them—and they responded, and put their foot down when it came to her actions.

*“I didn’t have a stable living situation until I came to REST. Because of the life I was living, I wasn’t allowed to continuously stay at my mom’s.”*

Three years ago last December with REST Staff member Jackie’s encouragement and support, Ronisha moved into REST’s shelter. Shortly thereafter she moved into the REST House. There were times she felt like dropping out of the house program, but her mom told her she couldn’t return home until she finished.

## “It was a lot. But I wanted it.”

Ronisha was the last REST House guest before a season of transition in the program. The program was temporarily closed, the house remodeled, and the program restructured, reopening in mid-2020. This big season of transitions—being the last guest in a community-living house program, knowing the increased urgency of finding her next living situation—all while preparing to give birth to her second daughter—was a challenge for Ronisha.

Through that transition, there were some trials—but she overcame them. Ronisha enrolled with Sound Mental Health to address some mental health issues and began engaging with a REST Advocate. Eventually, through a collaborative effort across agencies with Ronisha fervently advocating for herself, she was enrolled in Rapid Rehousing, a program that pays your rent for a year. She moved out of the REST house into a stable living situation with her daughter and her newborn had a good job and was eager to change her life. Then COVID hit.

*“A few months after COVID hit, we were all furloughed. And I came back to REST ‘cause I needed help with rent.”*

She met with REST’s Employment Specialist, and he told her about a new program—the REST Economic and Leadership Empowerment Academy.

*“I tried the program. And it was amazing. I had the greatest experience during REST Academy. Like I learned so much in that little six weeks, I swear to you. Like I learned about things in the communication field, setting boundaries, how to communicate with HR in effective ways, policies I didn’t even know about, resume building... “*

A part of the Academy's curriculum is a paid internship, and Ronisha's internship was at REST's Pathways Services Center. During her internship, she found out about an opening at REST. Ronisha applied for the position and advocated for herself.

The day we did the interview for her story was Ronisha's first official day on staff at REST.

## "Damn, you really did all that."

Ronisha doesn't just want a different life for her daughters, she is giving them one. She is teaching her daughters to be strong young women who know their value and worth—and leading them as an example of a strong, capable, woman.

*"I did a whole 180 in my life. I'm really shocked. Like I worked my ass off. Mentally and physically, I'm just grateful, honestly... I just want to be able to show my girls like, "You can, you know, go through hell and back and still change. It's your choice. It takes time for each person... It took a lot of years to get that self-care and self-love and the confidence that I have now... But I'm very grateful where I am, and very proud of myself."*

*Ronisha being hired at REST was in no way contingent upon her participation in the storytelling process. Please see our note on ethical storytelling at the beginning of the Annual Report for more information on this.*

# Business and Financials

In all that we do, REST seeks to steward the resources we're entrusted with well—maximizing the impact we're able to make for and with survivors of sexual exploitation.

## Profit and Loss

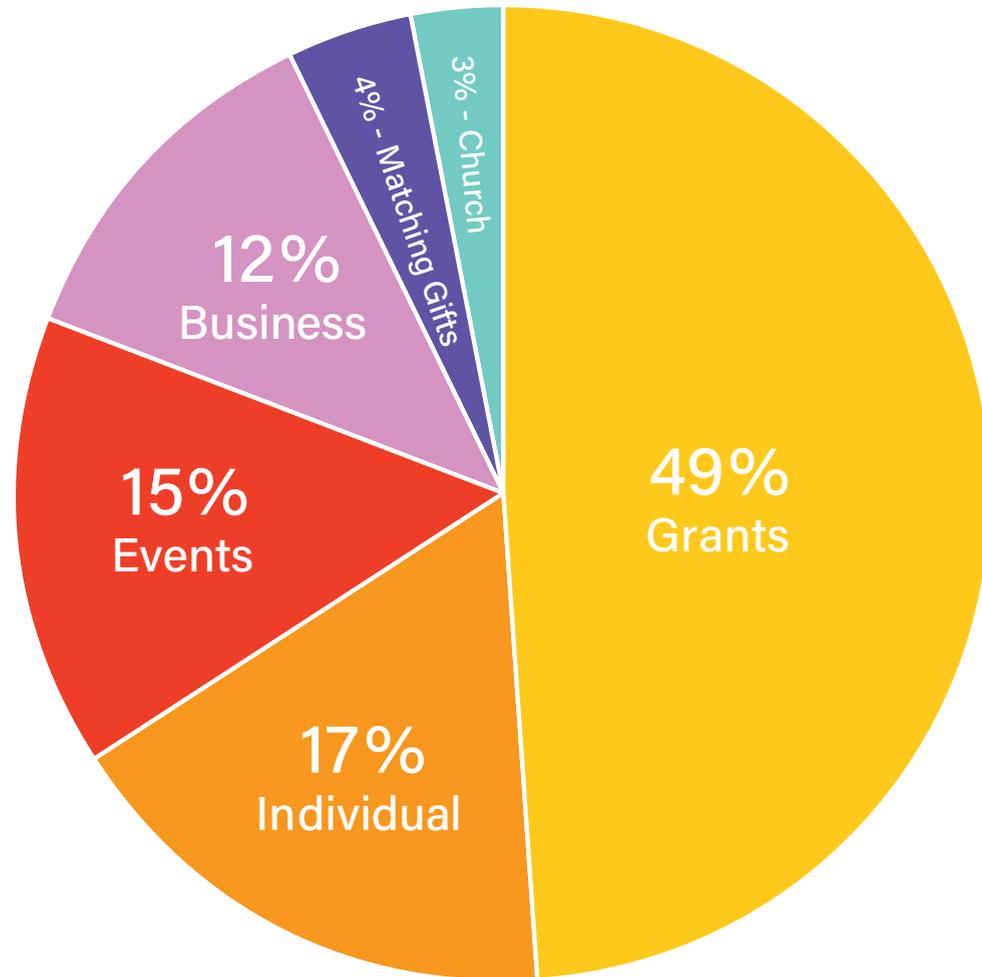
Revenue	
Donations	\$894,997
Events	\$470,086
Grants	\$1,572,272
Other	\$288,005
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,225,360</b>
Expenses	
Programs	\$2,224,070
Fundraising	\$545,072
Management	\$355,320
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,124,462</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

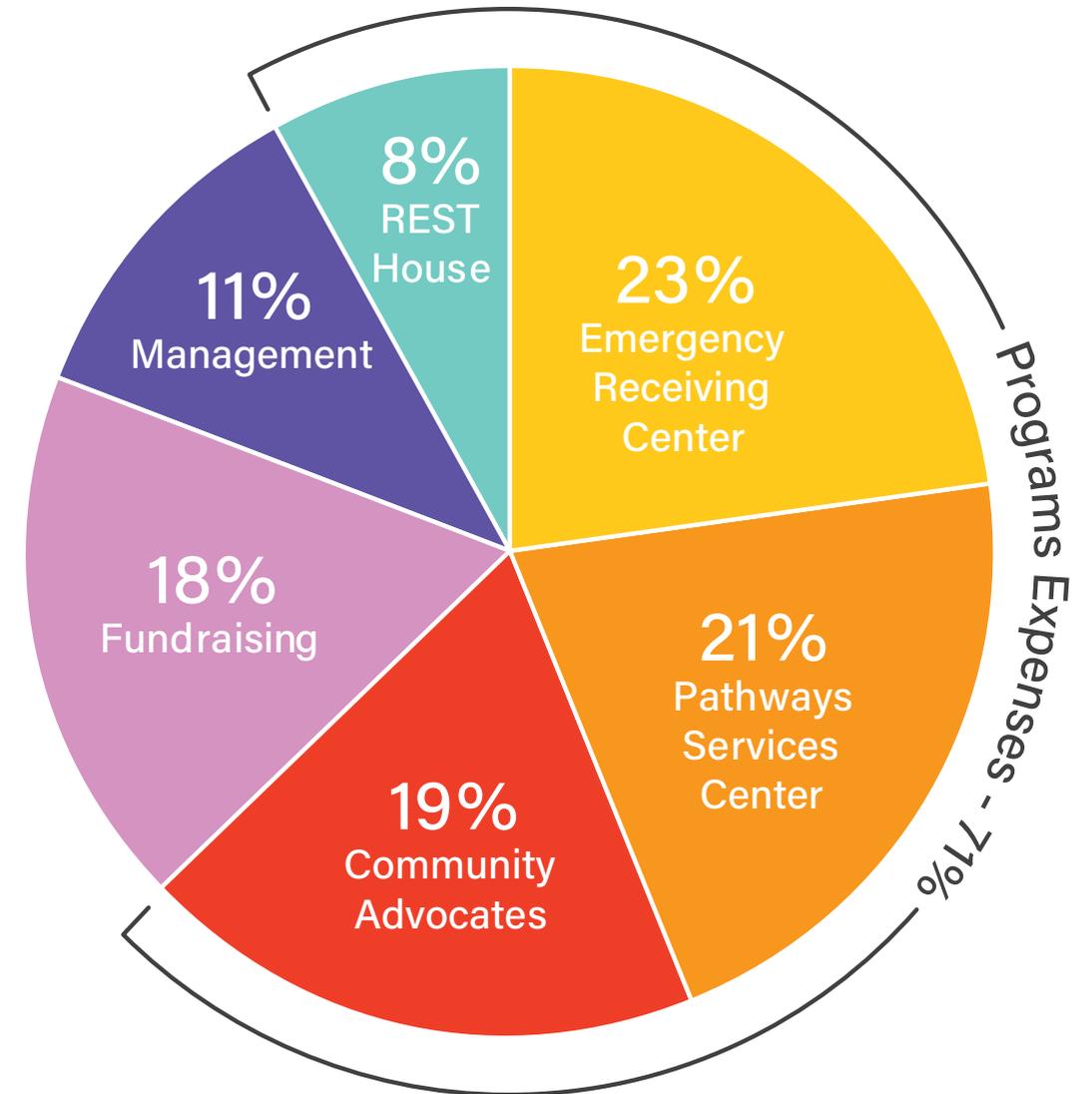
Assets	
Current Assets	\$634,145
Fixed Assets	\$60,441
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$694,586</b>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$286,791
Net Assets	\$407,795
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$694,586</b>

*Information reflects REST's 2021 Fiscal Year, which ran July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, at time of publishing.*

# Funding Sources



# Functional Expenses



## Leadership Team

**Amanda Hightower** | Founder & Executive Director

**Gina Cittadini** | Director of Operations

**Shama Shams** | Director of Philanthropy & Marketing, Survivor

**Audrey Baedke** | Programs Manager

**Philip Luseni Massaquoi** | Finance Manager

**Kim Merrikin** | Marketing & Communication Manager

**Yasminda Dorrough** | Pathways Services Center Supervisor

**Jacquelynn Loos** | Community Advocate Supervisor, Survivor

**Victory Tualatai** | Emergency Receiving Center Supervisor

## Board of Directors

Each of our board members are devoted to ending exploitation. We are grateful for their continued passion and expertise as they help us achieve our mission.

**Brent Turner**, Board Chairman / Chief Operating Officer, Rover.com

**Jaqueline Finnan Hemmer**, Board Vice-Chair / Vice President of Brand Business Development, IT Cosmetics

**Meg McCann**, Board Secretary / Court Administrator, Seattle Municipal Court (SMC)

**Cambria Schmidt**, Board Treasurer / Licensed CPA

**Jesse Bryan**, Board Member / CEO and Executive Creative Director, Belief Agency

**Linaya Bunbury**, Board Member / Associate Pastor, Calvary Christian Assembly

**Candace Colman**, Board Member / Director of Talent Development and Belonging, Adaptive Biotechnologies

**Will Little**, Board Member / Managing Director, Prota Ventures

**Renée Wallace**, Board Member / Community Health Worker Lead, YWCA, Survivor

**Jevon Washington**, Board Member / Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships, Mt. Baker Housing

# Thank You

To the four survivors who bravely shared their stories for this annual report.

To Renée Wallace and Jackie Loos, who also shared their stories.

To every single donor, volunteer, and supporter who helped create pathways to freedom, safety, and hope for victims and survivors of sexual exploitation during our 2021 Fiscal Year.

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## Volunteers

*Andrea Arany-Kovacs*

*Muhammed Arrabi*

*Rachel Brown*

*Brionna Butz*

*Becky Campbell*

*Clarissa Case*

*Amy Chapman*

*J'anna Chilcoat*

*Amelia Cioffi*

*Kelli Cuhaciyen*

*Frank DiGirolamo*

*Makenna Dreher*

*Marlee Dubnow*

*Ryan Everett*

*Laura Fagan*

*Audrey Graves*

*Tabitha Hsia*

*Lance Jacobsen*

*Aaron Jasper*

*Trang Lee*

*Abby LePage*

*Ana Lopez*

*Nan Lucke*

*Sarra Lynne Havens*

*Daniella Melegh*

*Ted Neill*

*Ashley Petryk*

*Philip Potee*

*Elisabeth Rickard*

*Julie Rollins*

*Rebecca Rollins*

*Kimberly Sandquist*

*Mark Sandquist*

*Lisa Siu*

*Whitney Swope*

*Tiffany Tarrant*

*Katie Truelove*

*Rebekah Truman*

*Aaron Walsh*

*Cathy Waner*

*Serah Waweru*

*Mihkai Wickline*

## Foundations

*Anchor Point Foundation*

*Baird Foundation, Inc*

*Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*

*Bruce and Mary Stevenson Foundation*

*Building Changes*

*Byron W & Alice A Lockwood Foundation*

*Champions Foundation*

*CHI Franciscan*

*Clark R Smith Family Foundation*

*Costco Wholesale*

*Edwin & Kathleen Neill Family Foundation*

*Fales Foundation Trust*

*Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund*

*Gorder Family Foundation*

*HCA Family Fund*

*ImpactAssets*

*International Rescue Committee, Inc.*

*Jensen Project*

*MDRT Foundation*

*Morgan Stanley GIFT (Global Impact Funding Trust)*

*One4All Charitable Fund*

*Pacific Hospital Preservation & Authority Development*

*Raymond James Charitable Endowment Fund*

*Rescue: Freedom International*

*Safe House Project*

*Schwab Charitable Fund*

*Serving USA*

*Stolen Youth*

*Strategic Alliance to Fight Exploitation*

*Sweeney Conrad Charitable Gift Fund*

*The Biella Foundation*

*The Jeff And Andre Shinabarger Fund*

*The Norcliffe Foundation*

*The Seattle Foundation*

*Theda Tamblin Clark Smith Family Foundation*

*Thrivent Financial*

*TisBest Philanthropy*

*Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund*

*UK Online Giving Foundation*

*United Way of Snohomish County*

*US Bank Foundation*

*Vanguard Charitable*

*YoungLife Foundation*

*YWCA*

*Rachel Wightman*

*Rona Williamson*

*Ryan Williamson*

*Eileen Wolf*

*Lauren Wolf*

*Ellicia Wong*

*Connie Yau*

*Lana Zumbrunn*

*Prayer Volunteers:*

*Tammy Ignell*

*Jesse Jansma*

*Christy Jansma*

*I-Fan Lin*

*Maureen McKenzie*

*Jan Oehlschlaeger-Browne*

*Karen Pecota*

## Interns

*Ainsley Robinson*

*Kalee Werner*

## Government Grantors

*King County*

*Office of Crime Victims Advocacy*

*Office for Victims of Crime*

*WA State Combined Fund Drive*

*Washington State Student and Youth Homelessness COVID-19 Response Fund*

## Corporate Partners

*501 Commons*

*Amazon Smile*

*APSE LLC*

*Axia Home Loans*

*Belief Agency*

*Bombas Socks*

*Bright & Sent*

*Brittany Hunt Design*

*C2S Technologies*

*Chapman Homes*

*Citizen Design Collaborative LLC*

*Costco Wholesale*

*Crystal Wellness Co.*

*Dunn Lumber*

*Facebook Payouts*

*First Party Coalition*

*Fred Meyer (Kroger)*

*Gesa Credit Union*

*Impact West Seattle*

*Lyft*

*Macrina Bakery*

*Mia Mickelson*

*Network for Good*

*Passport Unlimited*

*Paypal Giving Fund*

*PRINT NW*

*Propel Insurance*

*Salesforce*

*Seattle Against Slavery*

*Starbucks*

*Symetra*

*The Bungie Foundation*

*Tio Levi's*

*Truist / FrontStream*

*US Bank Matching Gifts*

*Valor Builds Collaborative LLC*

*Waggener Edstrom Worldwide*

*(WE Communications)*

*West Coast Candle Co*

*Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati PC*

*YourCause, LLC*

## Churches

*Bellevue Presbyterian Church*

*Bethany Presbyterian*

*Calvary Christian Assembly*

*Churchome*

*Commonhouse Vineyard Christian*

*Fellowship*

*Dwelling Place Church*

*Grace Church Seattle*

*Island Ministries*

*Lighthouse Christian Center*

*Northview Community Church*

*Rainer Avenue Church*

*Seattle Community Church*

*Sound Life Church*

*St. Monica Catholic Church*

*Trinity West Seattle*

*United Methodist Women Bellevue*

*First Methodist Church*

*Woman at the Well*

You deserve to be loved.

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For a fully cited version of this annual report,  
download the PDF version at [iwantrest.com/annual-report](http://iwantrest.com/annual-report).

REST Fiscal Year: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

*Photography & imagery information: The illustrations of the survivors were done by Betsy Cauffman.*

*Photos of the REST House were taken by Gina Choi - Gold & Brave Photography. The photo of Ronisha was provided by Ronisha. The photo of Renée Wallace and Jackie Loos were taken by Kim Merrikin.*

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