



YOUTH CENTER OF TEXAS
Sunflower Home



2022 IMPACT REPORT

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Letter from the President & C.E.O.

Adriana McKinnon

Throughout 2022, our Sunflower Home Program experienced incredible growth; growth that has shaped our program into a uniquely specialized, comprehensive continuum of care for young women, survivors of childhood sex trafficking.

Since its inception, our program has successfully provided immediate physical and emotional care for hundreds of vulnerable youth. Working with a number of phenomenal community partners, we have expanded upon our programming and services, developing and implementing innovative options for continuum of care critical to restoration and healing. Focused on long-term recovery and healing, we continue to adhere to evidence-based approaches in providing ongoing therapeutic care, mentorship, and social supports necessary for each survivor to reintegrate into society and live a peaceful, healthy life.

Enhanced services in our programming provide each survivor equitable access to on-site trauma-informed counseling by trained professionals in the fields of complex trauma and PTSD. We emphasize educational achievement and re-entry into the workforce, financial independence, and other aspects of independent living. Ensuring the well-being and safety of each survivor in our care is a top priority, and we have been intentional in increasing professional training and education for all staff, as well as effectuating enhanced hiring practices that allow us to attract and retain highly skilled professionals to care for our vulnerable population.

With the addition of a progressive and innovative approach to data collection we aim to create a robust system to evaluate outcomes and transformational impact. As we enter our third year of operation, our goal for 2023 is to demonstrate the success of our proprietary framework of services. We will be able to clearly constitute evidence of the significant impact these interventions and services create for our survivors, their children and for generations to come.

Now, more than ever, we need your support to continue moving forward with our vision to end the generational cycle of childhood sexual exploitation by promoting community awareness and collaboration, and to restore hope and dignity for all survivors.

I am incredibly grateful to our staff and Board leadership for their dedication and commitment to the Youth Center's mission: To provide the holistic support needed to restore each survivor's growth into a life that is peaceful, productive, and free from victimization.

A heartfelt Thank You! to our donors, funders, and to the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation for its vision in establishing the Sunflower Home Program to address this critical need in our community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adriana McKinnon".

Adriana McKinnon, President & C.E.O.

Meet the Board



INGRID PETTY

Board Chair and Secretary
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation
Retired, Director of Initiatives and
Partnerships



LESLIE KOMET AUSBURN

Komet Marketing
Communications
President and CEO



LESLIE MOUTON

Morgan's Inclusion Initiative
Creative Media Director



CARROLL SCHUBERT

Professional Contract Services,
Inc. (PCSI)
Retired, President and CEO



STEFANIE YOUNG

Innov8 Place (Web Solutions)
Co-founder and CEO



ANNETTE RODRIGUEZ

Around the Corner Consulting LLC
CEO and Principal

Meet the Team



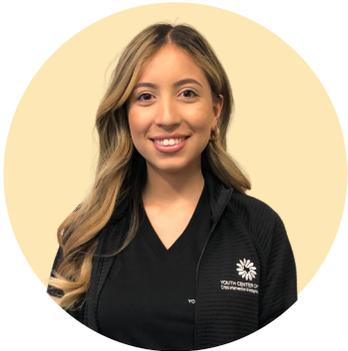
ADRIANA MCKINNON
President & C.E.O.



ALEXANDRIA GARCIA, LMSW
Program Director



KAYLA RUSSELL
Case Management Services
Manager



SIERRA CORONADO
Case Manager



TIFFANY SAUNDERS
Case Manager



ANNA AREVALO
Case Manager



ALYSSA SCHAFFER, LMSW
Case Manager



TIARA GOODIN
Case Worker



ALYSSA GOMEZ
Admissions Coordinator

THE FIGHT AGAINST

Sex Trafficking

What is Sex Trafficking?

U.S. law defines sex trafficking as the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts against their will.

In 2021, **10,359** situations of human trafficking were reported to the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline involving **16,554** individual victims.

Who are the traffickers?

Traffickers come from all genders, races, ethnicities and walks of life. In sex trafficking situations, they may be intimate partners or spouses of the victims, family members, friends or benefactors, business acquaintances and bosses.

Who are the victims?

Anyone can be trafficked, but some people are far more vulnerable than others because they have greater needs. These include people living in poverty or in unstable housing situations, as well as people with a history of trauma or addiction. Because of current and historic discrimination and inequity, people of color, immigrants, and people who identify as LGBTQ+ are more likely to be exploited for these vulnerabilities and face trafficking.

Why Bexar County, TX?

A report by the University of Texas estimates that there are approximately 79,000 children and youth in Texas who are survivors of sex trafficking. Specifically, Bexar County's major highway corridors and their connections makes it a hotspot for sex trafficking and exploitation of youth given the ease of transporting victims throughout the state and beyond.

BEXAR COUNTY

92.5% Female

7.5% Male

4.7% Identify as LGBTQ+

SAN ANTONIO



7 - 17
Age Range

107
Active Youth
in Care Coordination Teams
(CCT) in 2022 alone

*Source: Bexar County CCT
Active Youth, Feb 2023*

About Us

The Youth Center of Texas was founded to provide a safe transition home to victims of child sex trafficking, many of whom have spent years in unsafe homes or in the child welfare system. The Center began as a special project of the Kronkosky Charitable Foundation, and we work in partnership with the Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team. We are the only facility in the Bexar County area providing a long-term transitional living program with a significant range of specialized trauma-informed services for survivors of commercial sex trafficking. The Youth Center of Texas is serving young persons identifying as female, primarily between the ages of 18 and 19, with a reported history of child sexual abuse and family violence. Many of these young women, some with babies, have aged out of foster care or the juvenile justice system. In most cases, they are victims of familial trafficking. In fact, 67% of our survivors identified their trafficker as their mother. Our vision is to end the generational cycle of childhood sexual exploitation by promoting community awareness and collaboration, and to restore hope and dignity for all survivors.



OUR MISSION

“

Provide the holistic support needed to restore each survivor's growth into a life that is peaceful, productive, and free from victimization.

”

JUST

The Nation's Leading Conference on
Juvenile Sex Trafficking



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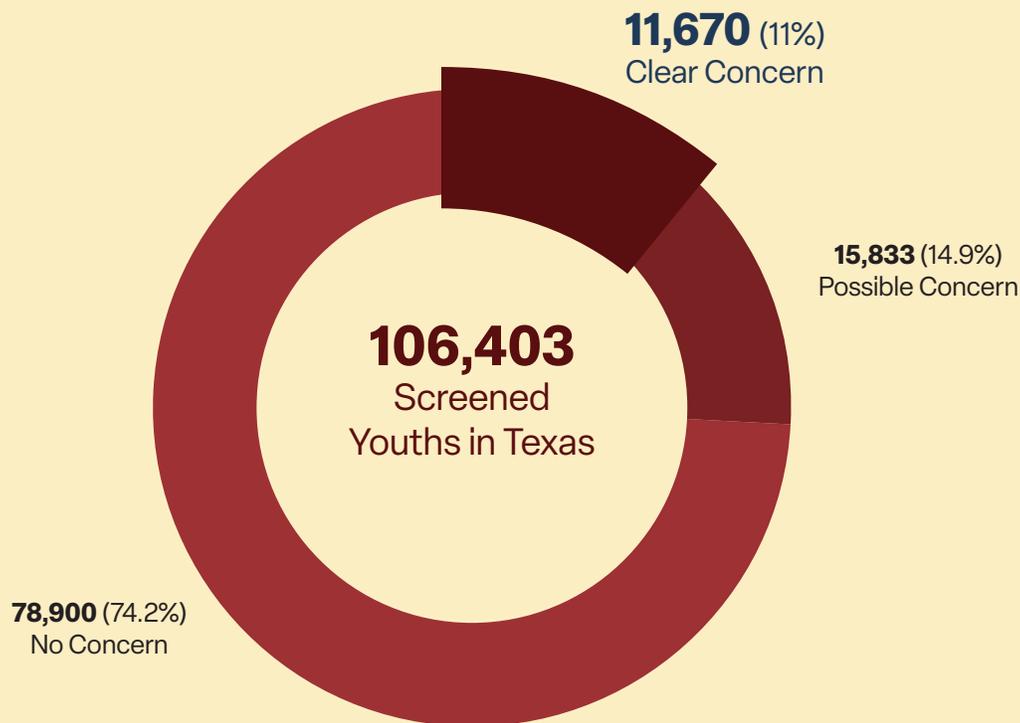
sharedhope
INTERNATIONAL

SCREENING WITH *CSE-IT*

The University of Texas estimates that there are approximately 79,000 children and youth in Texas who are survivors of sex trafficking; however, only hundreds of these victims are actually identified across the state each year. It is clear that a major gap exists in the initial identification of these children. Without proper identification, it is also unlikely that these victims are provided with the most appropriate services.

After analyzing numerous screening tools, the Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) and its evaluators at the Council of State Governments Justice Center identified the **Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT)** as the best suited instrument to meet the urgent needs in Texas.

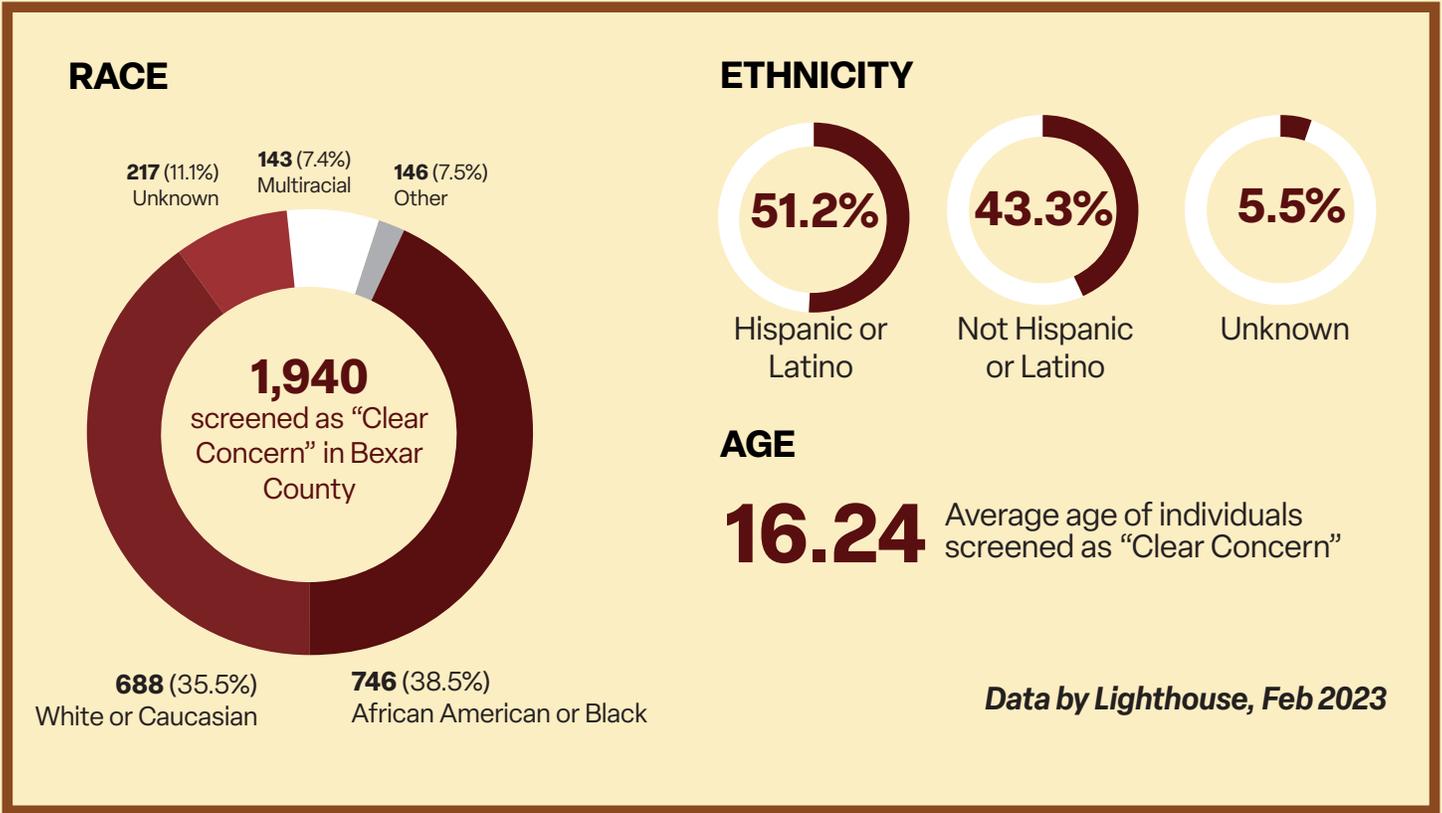
While an initial screening for child sex trafficking is simply the first step toward identification and delivery of appropriate services, Youth Center of Texas adopts CSE-IT as a uniform screening tool to help ensure that children are being consistently identified no matter which system or agency they encounter.



To date, over 100,000 Youths in Texas have been screened using the CSE-IT, with 11,670 youths screened as “Clear Concern” for being at risk of sex trafficking.

Data by Lighthouse, Feb 2023

A CLOSER LOOK: BEXAR COUNTY



Why CSE-IT?

Brief & Embeddable

The CSE-IT allows for the quick integration of data collected in the course of a regular intake process (5 - 10 minutes), effectively enabling implementation to be embedded into current procedures.

Appropriate for Multiple Systems

Identification of child sex trafficking needs to take place across an array of community segments, including children in the child protection system, youth in the juvenile justice system, children who have runaway or are homeless, and children in educational and medical settings. *The CSE-IT has been successfully piloted and used in multiple types of agencies.*

Necessary and Appropriate Training

Individuals responsible for screening should be adequately trained to utilize the screening tool and should be competent in utilizing a trauma-informed approach to interactions with the youth. The CSE-IT tool is *accompanied by a three hour training as well as a train the trainer for agencies at a reasonable cost.*

Effective for Identifying Child Sex Trafficking

The priority for a screening tool is not to confirm victimization but rather to quickly and effectively triage those youth who are at higher risk of trafficking and, therefore, in need of further assessment. While few screening tools have been studied and validated, *CSE-IT is currently in the best position to meet the needs of Texas victims of child sex trafficking.*

Our Approach

TRUST-BASED RELATIONAL INTERVENTION

TBRI is an evidence-based therapeutic model of care that utilizes an attachment-based, trauma-informed approach that is designed to meet the complex needs of survivors of commercial sexual exploitation by providing services that are **correcting, empowering, and connecting**.

Utilizing TBRI ensures that we are creating and fostering a healthy environment where all survivors can develop socially and emotionally.



SUNFLOWER CARE FRAMEWORK

The Sunflower Care Framework is a tool that was created by the Youth Center team to ensure success for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation of youth. Residents set goals that align with these six dimensions quarterly and their progress is reviewed based on these goals.

RELATIONAL DEVELOPING GOAL

Staff will build genuine relationships with residents by incorporating Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) principles and practices.

MEDICAL & PHYSICAL DEVELOPING GOAL

Staff will support each resident while encouraging the development and maintenance of physical wellness.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPING GOAL

Residents will acquire and practice new social skills, identify faulty thoughts, and replace with positive thinking.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPING GOAL

Each resident will connect to their spirituality to aid in their holistic growth and healing.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPING GOAL

Staff will support each resident by encouraging the development of social skills and achievement of career and educational goals.

TRANSITIONAL DEVELOPING GOAL

Each resident will feel prepared to transition into a life that is peaceful, productive, and free from victimization.

Our program

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING IN SAN ANTONIO FOR SURVIVORS OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH

We provide transitional housing services for survivors of childhood commercial sexual exploitation who have aged out of child-serving systems. By providing safe transitional housing we create a space where healing can begin.

Sunflower Home is an 8-bed, residential program and is the first of its kind. YCOT provides the only transitional housing in San Antonio designed to provide trauma-informed support services exclusively to young women aged 18-22, who have experienced sexual exploitation or trafficking.

Our program has a trauma-informed, evidence-based, and holistic approach to address all needs of our residents. Onsite support services include specialized case management, individual and group therapy, and life skills classes. We continue to provide off-site long term case management services to former residents until they reach 24 years of age.

All youth in residency actively participate in daily structured activities. These activities include: life skills training, financial literacy classes, group therapy, wellness activities, individual counseling, and case management status meetings.



THE SPACE

Sunflower Home is located on a serene campus that provides a healing therapeutic environment while fostering a sense of safety and reconnection. Our program provides specialized services and a restorative experience to our residents. With a comprehensive framework services model our team provides stability while fostering safety, healing, and a secure path to independent living.

Sunflower Home provides each resident with a safe space to start their healing journey. The journey begins at first arrival and continues each day as it brings a new opportunity to heal and grow. We understand that every resident is unique and so are their needs and goals. Our team will create an individualized plan of services designed in collaboration with residents and their assigned long-term case manager. Emphasis is placed on educational achievement, work-force re-entry, and mental health.



OUR SERVICES

Parenting classes

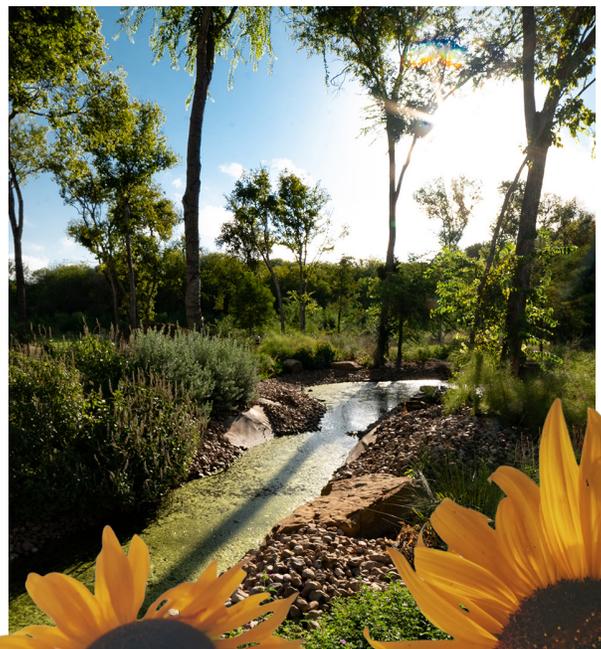
Re-entry into education

Employment procurement assistance

Long-term housing support services

Care coordination via a Care Coordination Team

Legal advocacy



SURVIVOR STORIES

Andrea

Andrea is a 20-year-old victim of childhood sex trafficking, who witnessed her mother's suicide at the age of 13. With no other family, Andrea entered the child welfare system, and was placed in several foster homes. While still in care at the age of 16, she was first sexually exploited, with an ensuing history of missing while in placement. She became homeless at the age of 18. The level of trauma she has experienced is unthinkable.

On September 16, 2022, Andrea contacted the Youth Center's hotline and self-referred herself for services. Andrea had been admitted to the San Antonio Behavioral Health Hospital for depression and suicidal ideation several weeks prior and desperately needed a place to stay after discharge. She found us.

Andrea was admitted to our Sunflower Home Program on September 19. After several weeks, she was able to settle in and stabilize, as she built trust with our team members. Thereafter, we worked with the STOP Taskforce Against Human Trafficking adult care coordination for her advocacy and wraparound services, and with Baptist Medical Center for her psychiatric care and medication management. At the same time, Andrea received specialized case management services provided by our staff, all fully trained in trust-based relational intervention, and individual and group therapies.

Within a few months, Andrea began working at a convenience store close to the Center. A few weeks later, she was able to regain access to her personal vehicle and pay for required repairs. Coupled with the services and counseling provided at Youth Center of Texas, having personal transportation allowed

Andrea to gain independence and become self-reliant. She then took charge of her physical health, attending primary care, dental, and gynecological care appointments.

Andrea received legal advocacy and peer support while she completed probation. She paid restitution and fees for charges incurred during the years she was homeless.

Andrea's mental health has improved dramatically. She is now able to manage her mental health through therapy and healthy coping skills. She consistently attends the gym and focuses on her nutrition to help her grow into the person she wants to become. We are thoroughly heartened with her progress and commitment to the life-changing opportunity our program has afforded her.

Andrea's awareness of her own ability to improve her life, with the proper support, has inspired her to become a Peer Support Specialist with Form Communities, a Youth Center partner. She has built strong relationships that help her stay encouraged, and she would like to share her story, to empower and help restore other girls like herself. Since being in the Center's Sunflower Home Program, Andrea never ran away or was late for curfew. Through Thrive, a community partner, Andrea leased an apartment where she will reside for up to a year with expenses paid.

Andrea is currently working at Whataburger as a team lead and successfully transitioned to independent living on February 16, 2023. We still see her often. We are like family.

Hear from our team

Why did you choose to work with Youth Center of Texas (YCOT)?

“I have worked with Youth Center of Texas since the program opened in March 2020. During my initial experiences working with survivors of child sexual exploitation, it became apparent that there was a need in Bexar County for specialized programs and services specifically for this population. Many survivors lose access to services when they age out of juvenile justice and child welfare systems at 18. I was immediately drawn to the Youth Center’s mission of providing the holistic support needed to continue assisting survivors during their healing journey as they continue into adulthood.”

What are some of the biggest lessons learned working at YCOT?

“One of the biggest lessons learned working at YCOT in the past year is the importance of relational development when a survivor first enters the Sunflower Home Program. The trust and connection that our staff builds with each survivor has been the key to collaboration and support through the other Sunflower Home Service Plan goals. Another lesson has been continuing to identify the current and evolving needs of each survivor when it comes to connecting them to accessible psychiatric care and substance use services.”



KAYLA RUSSELL

Case Management Services Manager

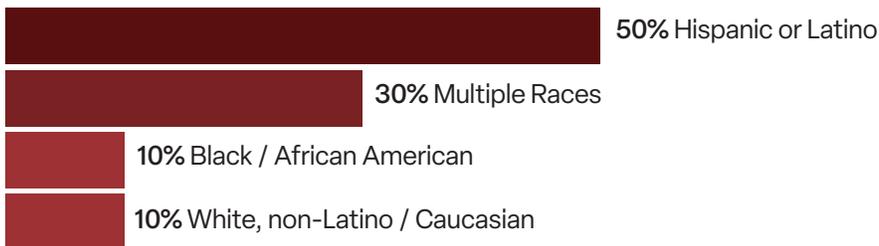


2022

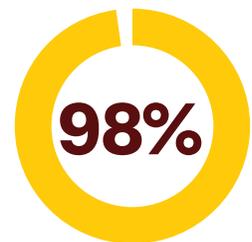
IN REVIEW



113 Survivors received holistic support



Female-Identifying



Reported being unhoused



Identify as LGBTQ+

100% Of survivors reported sex trafficking

98% Of survivors receiving service reported secondary victimization

65% Of survivors reported sexual abuse

74% Of survivors reported child sexual abuse

75% Of survivors reported domestic / family violence





1295

Total bed nights provided to survivors

110

Average length of stay in days

407

Hours of life skills and peer support groups

270

Hours of support groups

132

Hours of individual counseling



696

Transportation services provided to survivors



276

Individual advocacy services provided to survivors



154

Crisis intervention services provided to survivors



83

Emotional support/safety services provided to survivors

**For more information, visit
YOUTHCENTEROFTEXAS.ORG**

