



SUPPORT . ADVOCACY . FREEDOM . EMPOWERMENT

# 2019 Annual Report



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
**SAFE CENTER**  
FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS  
EMPOWERING THE STATE

SUPPORT, ADVOCACY, FREEDOM, AND EMPOWERMENT CENTER

# WHO WE ARE

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**The University of Maryland Support, Advocacy, Freedom, and Empowerment (SAFE) Center for Human Trafficking Survivors** provides survivor-centered and trauma-informed services that empower trafficking survivors to heal and reclaim their lives. The SAFE Center aims to prevent trafficking and better serve survivors through research and policy advocacy.

We serve survivors of sex and labor trafficking of all nationalities, ages, and genders.

The SAFE Center is an initiative of the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: *MPowering the State* – a collaboration between the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). As part of *MPowering the State*, the SAFE Center is housed under the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland, College Park.

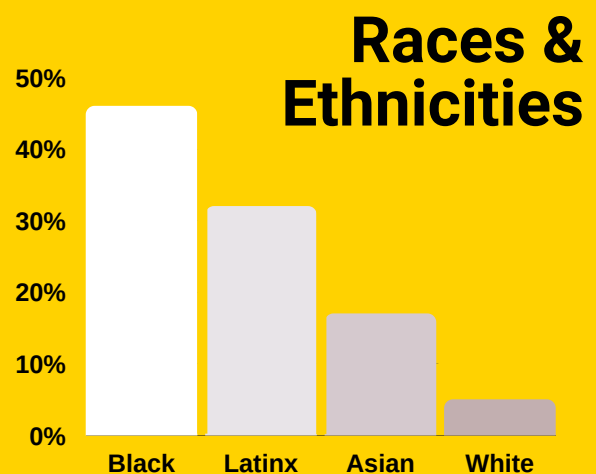
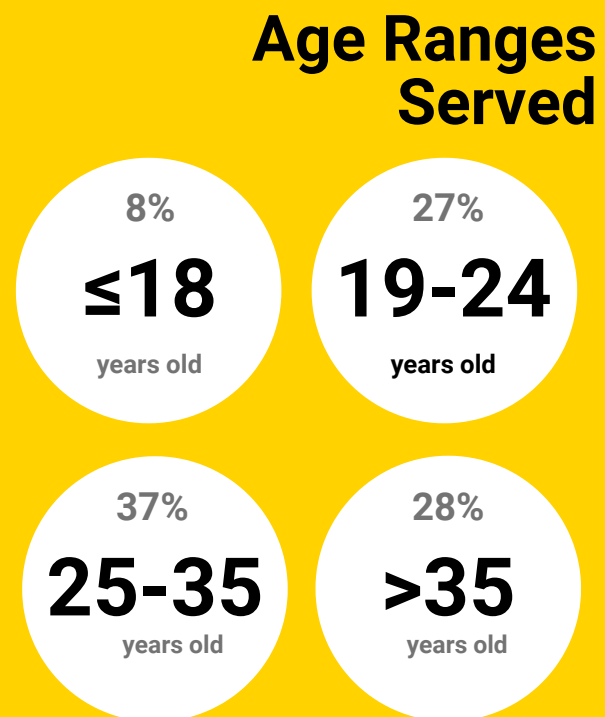
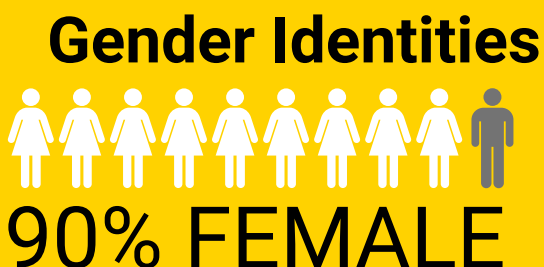
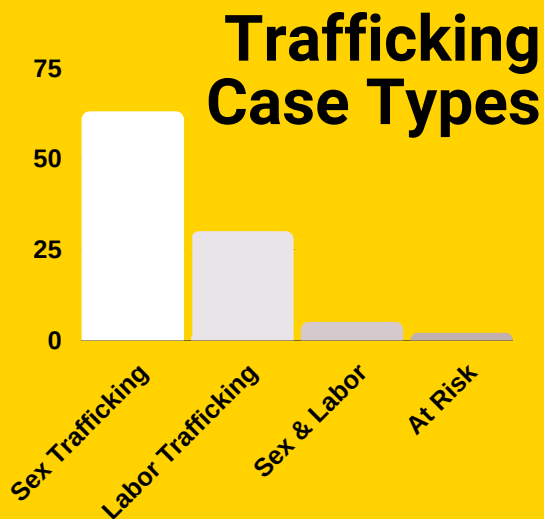
## WHAT WE DO

- Provide free **direct services** for survivors of human trafficking. Our comprehensive service model includes case management, legal, mental health, economic empowerment, primary medical, and crisis intervention services.
- Conduct **research** to fill critical gaps in knowledge and understanding of human trafficking.
- Engage in **political advocacy** to promote justice and empowerment for survivors.



# SURVIVORS SERVED

We served over **165 survivors** of human trafficking and over **50 family members** between our launch in May 2016 and the conclusion of 2019.





# COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE IMPACT

Onsite and through University partners, the SAFE Center provides free legal, intensive case management, mental health, primary medical, economic empowerment, and crisis intervention services to survivors of human trafficking. We also provide emergency food and clothing assistance through our food pantry and clothing closet. More than half of our legal, social services, and mental health counseling staff are bilingual and accommodate the needs of our Spanish-speaking clients.

## Case Management

**We connected over 100 clients to services and resources**, including safety planning, strengths and needs assessments, connection to medical and dental providers, court accompaniment, and assistance applying for public benefits or financial assistance programs.

## Mental Health Therapy

**We provided over 400 individual therapy sessions.** Our clinical social workers use various clinical approaches including cognitive behavioral therapy and solution-focused therapy to help clients develop healthy coping skills, understand the effects of trauma, and process traumatic events.

## Legal Services

**We supported over 150 clients and their eligible family members with critical immigration legal services and crime victims' rights legal advocacy**, including remedies such as T Visas, U Visas, Asylum, Adjustment of Status, Naturalization, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Restitution, Expungement, and representation of victim witnesses during investigations. In successfully securing these forms of judicial relief, our legal team has helped our clients access the ability to safely live, work, and unite with their families in the United States.

## Economic Empowerment

**Through our developing economic empowerment programming, we worked with our clients as they pursue self-sustaining lives through education and career readiness services.** We grew our focus on partnerships with employers and are pleased that in the coming year, the SAFE Center will pilot a global industry training program – sponsored by Marriott International and the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery – that will equip more than 25 survivors with the transferrable skills and support they need to succeed in today's workplace and avoid continued exploitation.





# PROGRAM UPDATES

## RESEARCH

We continued to conduct research on the housing needs, gaps, and opportunities in both Prince George's and Montgomery counties to focus our partnerships with other agencies and organizations to provide more reliable, stable housing for our clients.

## POLICY ADVOCACY

The state of Maryland witnessed several important legislative successes in the fight against human trafficking during the 2019 session of the Maryland General Assembly. Three anti-trafficking bills passed the General Assembly, which will broadly affect the way human trafficking is perceived, investigated, and prosecuted in Maryland. The SAFE Center-supported anti-trafficking bills that passed during the 2019 session include:

- **The Child Sex Trafficking Screening & Services Act of 2019** creates a state-wide system of specialized services for child sex trafficking survivors aged 25 and younger.
- **The Anti-Exploitation Act of 2019** criminalizes labor trafficking in Maryland for the first time.
- **Sex Trafficking Recodification Bill of 2019** recognizes in state law that sex trafficking is a crime against a person; clarifies that trafficking an adult by force, fraud, or coercion is a felony; clarifies that no trafficking can use the "mistake of age" defense when trafficking children; allows for better data collection; and makes felony sex trafficking a crime of violence.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Provided

**80 +  
trainings**

reaching over 2,500  
members of Maryland  
communities

Collaborated with

**10  
Schools**

at the University of  
Maryland in College  
Park & Baltimore

Hosted

**70 +  
interns**

at undergraduate,  
graduate, doctorate  
student levels

The SAFE Center continues to co-chair numerous **Human Trafficking Task Force** committees within the Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and Maryland task forces. In 2019, as co-chair of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force's the medical subcommittee, the SAFE Center partnered with the Maryland Hospital Association to produce comprehensive *Human Trafficking: Guidelines for Healthcare Providers* – the first update on the state's guidelines for identifying and supporting survivors of human trafficking in the hospital setting.



# OUR SUPPORTERS

## Public Funders

- University of Maryland, Baltimore
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: *MPowering the State*
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
- Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
- Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center
- Prince George's County

## In-Kind Donors

We thank the many individuals and organizations who have contributed their professional services; organized donation drives; and donated much needed food, clothing, and toiletries for the SAFE Center's clients. We are especially grateful for the immense support we have received from **Steptoe & Johnson, LLP**. The firm has provided critical early funding, pro bono legal assistance, operational support, and furniture for our Center. We express our great appreciation for the pro bono legal support provided by **Jean Schlesinger**, and we also thank **Susan Vallon** for donating her interior design services and creating a warm and inviting space within our Center where human trafficking survivors can find security and healing.

## Private Funders

### \$100,000 +

The David & June Trone Family Foundation

### \$10,000 – 99,999

Brokell Foundation  
 Campus Compact Mid Atlantic, AmeriCorps VISTA  
 Clark Foundation  
 Equal Justice Works  
 Esserman Family Foundation Inc.  
 The Greater Washington Community Foundation  
 Susan G. Esserman & Andrew Marks  
 The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation  
 Steptoe & Johnson LLP

### \$5,000 – 9,999

AI & Susan Minite  
 HIIT Contracting, Inc.  
 Law Firm Vendors Association, Inc.  
 RBC Wealth Management  
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### \$1,000 – 4,999

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 Brigida Benitez  
 Charlene Barshefsky & Edward B. Cohen  
 Charles (Sandy) & Helen Wilkes  
 David & Deborah Astrove  
 Derrick West  
 Eleanor Roberts Lewis  
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 Kaller Fine Arts  
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 Stephen Fennell & Barbara Smith  
 Susan Liss  
 University Christian Church  
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# OUR SUPPORTERS

## Private Funders (continued)

### \$500 - 999

Bill Baer & Nancy Hendry  
Debra Waggoner  
Doris Meissner  
Harry Wellens  
J K Moving Services  
Jean Schlesinger  
John & Lynn Sachs  
Joseph Ardito  
Law Offices of Steven D. Kupferberg  
Lisa Davis  
Lucinda Ann Low  
Lynne Miller  
Marilyn Smith  
Molly Poag  
Patricia White  
Pratik Mathur  
Providence-Fort Washington UMC  
Raphael Sagalyn  
Robert Taylor & Vicki Jackson  
Sarah Buffone  
Scott Sinder  
Seasons Culinary  
Steven H. Brose

### Up to \$499

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Adele Robinson  
Alfredo Nava-Tudela  
Allan J. Reich  
Ampal Pizza LLC  
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Anna Maddox  
Anne-Marie Zell  
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Seth Goldberg  
Sonya E. Bowen  
Stephen Marks  
Students Ending Slavery  
TC Anthony  
Teresa K. LaMaster  
Washington Hebrew Congregation  
William Pecau  
Woman's Club of Kensington

"Every time I volunteer, I look forward to entering the SAFE Center's welcoming and compassionate atmosphere and participating in making a tangible impact on the community. The perceptive and conscientious team provides services that address survivors' physical and emotional needs – down to the small details. SAFE goes the extra mile to help survivors not only heal, but also thrive."

**Anfisa Wilson**

*University Student Volunteer*