The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Understanding and Responding to Victims

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My Life My Choice A Program of Justice Resource Institute

## Media Images of Human Trafficking





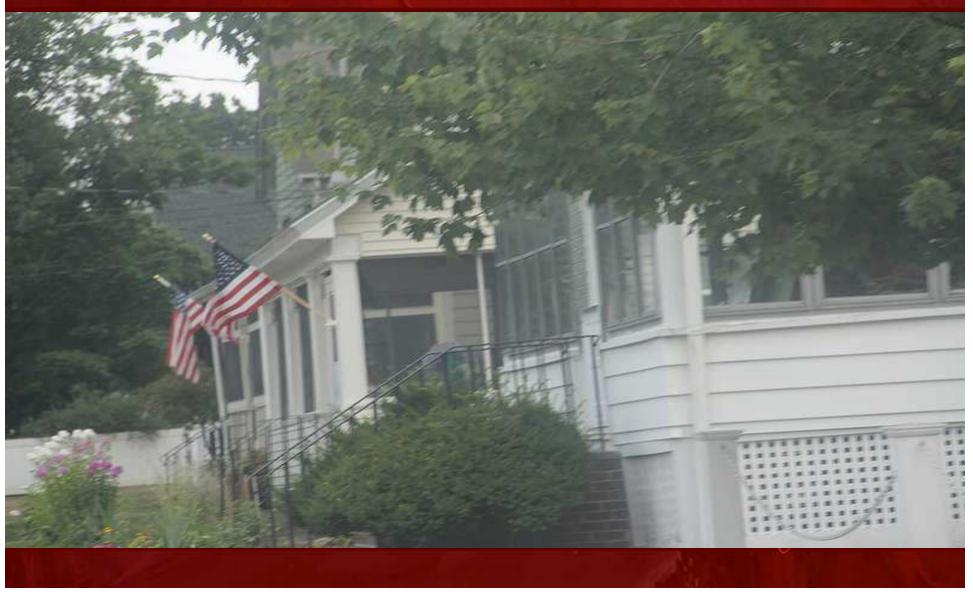






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# Laura







## The Process...

## From Victim...

## To Survivor...

## **To Leader...**



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## **Types of Referrals**

- Child Protective Services
- Shelter/housing
- Basic needs met/safety
- Support
- Mental health services
- Legal services
- Substance abuse treatment
- Educational plan/support

## **Comprehensive Service Provision**

# MY LIFE XXX MY CHOICE

**Empowering Youth. Ending Exploitation.** 

#### VULNERABLE ADOLESCENTS

#### PREVENTION

10-week girls' groups

#### **IDENTIFICATION**

training to help service providers identify victims

**INTERVENTION** survivor mentoring

AWARENESS & ADVOCACY transforming understanding MLMC RESTORES THE POWER TO CHOOSE

## Why Mentoring? Key Facets

- Everyone needs a "person"
- Our girls lack consistent supports
- Our girls get moved frequently
- Recovery takes a long time



## Why SURVIVOR Mentoring?

- Trust: The bridge is shorter
- Leveraging trust to use other supports
- Accountability
- Hope



## What else? Importance of Community

- We must offer and create what the pimps tried to...
  - -Love!
  - Community
  - -Connection
  - Protection/Safety
  - -Fun
  - Opportunities
  - Excitement



## Evaluation

# What funders ask for: How many girls "got out"? VS. **Reality:** What a Stages of Change evaluation can look like



## Questions?

"My Life My Choice is the gold standard in prevention and mentoring programs for commercially sexually exploited and trafficked girls."

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