

THE NET FW

Annual Report



20
23

WE DISRUPT TRAFFICKING AND
SUPPORT SURVIVORS BECAUSE
everyone is worthy
OF THE CHANCE TO REBUILD
THEIR LIFE.



Dear Friend,

As I reflect on the past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for your unwavering support in our mission to combat sex trafficking and uplift survivors. Your generosity has enabled us to witness incredible transformations in nearly 200 women's lives. Since we serve so many mothers, this impact goes beyond the individuals served and reaches to the next generation. We are seeing that *when a mom heals, a family heals*.

We were so inspired by Nancy**'s journey this year. Her story epitomizes resilience, determination, and the power of community support in rebuilding lives.

Despite experiencing various forms of abuse and sexual exploitation in childhood and early adulthood, Nancy's story is not done being written. We first encountered Nancy through Tarrant County's RISE program, which provides crucial support to incarcerated women seeking to rebuild their lives. Three years ago, Nancy bravely stepped through our doors, seeking solace and a chance for a fresh start. When she stepped into our survivor support group, she found a safe space to heal and discover her passions.

Nancy's love for encouraging others and her culinary talents quickly became evident. Despite facing the challenges of single motherhood, she pursued her dream of becoming a certified chef. Even though she was juggling multiple jobs and parenting responsibilities, Nancy never wavered in her commitment to personal growth and empowerment.

She seized every opportunity to attend our classes, eager to learn and grow. Through our empowerment path, Nancy diligently worked on rebuilding her credit, setting savings goals, and honing her communication skills. Her journey toward holistic healing has been nothing short of inspiring.

I am thrilled to share that Nancy recently secured a full-time position as a lead chef at a renowned restaurant chain. Her dedication and hard work have not only transformed her own life, but have also inspired countless others around her.

Nancy's story is a testament to the transformative power of resilience, perseverance, and community support. It is because of donors and supporters like you that we can continue to provide individuals like Nancy with the tools they need to rebuild their lives and pursue their dreams, and in turn, change the trajectory for their children as well.

As we embark on another year, I am filled with hope and optimism for the future. Together, we can continue to make a profound difference in the lives of survivors, empowering them to embrace a future filled with possibility and joy.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your continued generosity and belief in our mission. Your support truly makes all the difference.

With deepest gratitude and warmest regards,

Melissa Ice

Melissa Ice
Founder + Executive Director

***Name changed for anonymity*



Purchased

"You are not your own; you were bought at a price." - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

IN 2023

Our Purchased Program reaches, supports, and empowers survivors of trafficking through a three-pronged approach:

OUTREACH



Through weekly jail outreach, we meet women who are incarcerated with a history of sexual exploitation. In a time when they may feel alone and forgotten, we share the message that they are seen, known, and loved. In addition, we host a weekly survivor-led support group where they can find a safe and supportive community.

ADVOCACY



One of the key elements for a successful recovery is a deep need for healthy friendships and new forms of recreation. Through advocacy, The Net creates a network of support for survivors of trafficking through one-on-one relationships with trained volunteers and monthly recreational events.

ENRICHMENT



Through Enrichment, survivors of trafficking invest in themselves by participating in life skills classes, case management, and goal setting! As they reach milestones, they can receive financial benchmarks from The Net including gift cards, bills being paid, or direct investments in their savings accounts.

BY THE NUMBERS

197 SURVIVORS SERVED THROUGH OUTREACH, ADVOCACY, AND ENRICHMENT.

130 JAIL VISITS COMPLETED TO SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING IN THE TARRANT COUNTY JAIL.

50 ADVOCATES SUPPORTED SURVIVORS THROUGH ONE-ON-ONE ADVOCACY, OUTREACH, AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS.

\$20,450 FINANCIAL INCENTIVES PROVIDED TO SURVIVORS THROUGH GIFT CARDS AND SAVING MATCHES.

We are thrilled by the growth we've seen in our Enrichment program this year! Our current life skills classes include: GED Prep, Career Planning, Banking 101, Managing Credit, Money Sense, Expressive Arts, Mindful Movement, Bible Study, and more.

As women attend classes and meet with their Staff Advocate, they can earn gift cards and other financial incentives. As they invest in themselves, we invest in them!



"Over the past year, we have more than tripled the services that we provide. There are now so many different touch points for survivors to hear about The Net and get involved. We offer nine classes a week and two different social events a month. It is so exciting to see our programs grow and be able to offer more opportunities to help our ladies build a healthy and safe community!"

- Abby Phifer
Clinical Director

"The Net is my safe place because I can show up and be me and know I will be loved."

- Net Survivor Leader



MASE

MEN AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Our MASE Program reduces sex trafficking and exploitation at the source by disrupting the demand for commercial sex through:



BUYER ENGAGEMENT

Through cyber patrols, we partner with law enforcement to directly engage with sex buyers attempting to purchase sex online. Our goal is to educate them on how purchasing sex is not a victimless crime and understand what led them to this point.

We also meet face-to-face with buyers shortly after they're arrested during sting operations in partnership with law enforcement.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Our quarterly MASE Breakfasts provide education, build community, and start conversations around the relevant social and cultural issues that drive the demand for commercial sexual exploitation.

In 2023, we hosted guests such as demand experts from Epik Project, the Tarrant County Sheriff's office, and more.

- It is estimated that **1 in 10 men** in the U.S. will buy sex in any given year.
- Research shows that **2 out of 3 men** who purchase sex say they want to stop.

OUR 2023 IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

2,260 SEX BUYERS DISRUPTED AT THE POINT OF SALE BY ADVOCATES ON OUR DISRUPTION TEAM.

280 FORT WORTH MEN ATTENDED EDUCATIONAL BREAKFASTS TO BE EQUIPPED TO MAKE AN IMPACT.

15 ADVOCATES PARTICIPATED IN 22 ONLINE CYBER PATROLS TO DISRUPT MEN ATTEMPTING TO PURCHASE SEX.

3 LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIPS WHERE WE OFFERED RESOURCES AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MEN ARRESTED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO PURCHASE SEX.

Demand for commercial sex drives the business of sex trafficking. We believe without sex buyers, there would be no sexual exploitation.

Led by men to reach men, MASE (Men Against Sexual Exploitation) focuses on direct buyer engagement and community education to change the culture around the objectification and purchasing of women and children.

Our vision? To see Fort Worth become a city where men do not exploit vulnerable people.



"Through MASE Breakfasts and partnerships with local law enforcement and probation, MASE had its most impactful year ever in 2023. I am so proud nearly 300 men were equipped at our breakfasts and for our new partnership with Tarrant County. Through education and restoration, we are working together to prevent arrested sex buyers from buying again."

- Ty Bowden
Associate Director





THE WORTHY CO.

GOODS THAT EMPOWER WOMEN

As a non-profit social enterprise of The Net, The Worthy Co. supports survivors of trafficking through hands-on job training and dignified employment. Survivors of trafficking often struggle to find employment that can support themselves and their families. Barriers such as a lack of education or work history, presence of a criminal record, or struggles with trauma and mental health can seem insurmountable. Through The Worthy Co., survivors of trafficking receive hands-on job training and work history, all in a trauma-informed work environment.



BY THE NUMBERS

2,993 HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT AND HANDS-ON JOB TRAINING PROVIDED FOR 4 SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING.

11,585 HANDMADE PRODUCTS WERE PURCHASED AND 100% OF EVERY PURCHASE WAS REINVESTED BACK INTO OUR PROGRAMS.

2,000 CANDLE STUDIO ATTENDEES PARTICIPATED IN A CANDLE-POURING CLASS WHERE THEY HEARD ABOUT OUR MISSION AND SUPPORTED SURVIVORS.

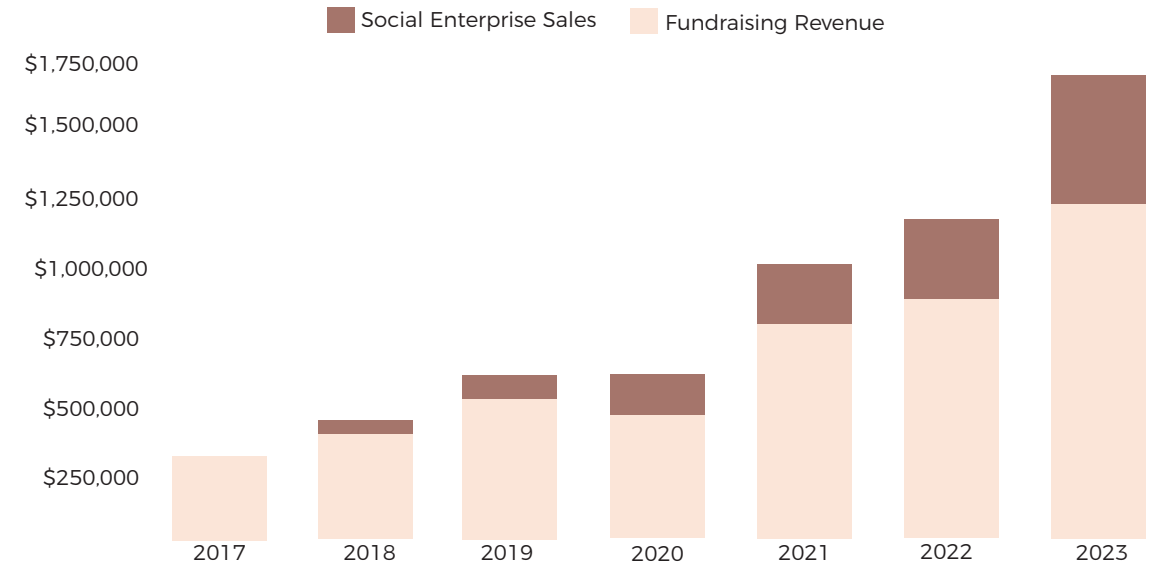
685 HOURS INVESTED IN OUR SURVIVOR EMPLOYEES BY TRAINED NET ADVOCATES AND STAFF.

"I love Worthy Co. because they're preparing me for the next part of my life. And they're helping me become the woman I was designed to be."

- Worthy Co. Employee

IN 2023

REVENUE OVERVIEW



100% of every purchase at The Worthy Co. goes back into the mission of employing and empowering survivors on their journey to rebuild their lives!



"I am so proud of our team as we have seen revenue for The Worthy Co. expand 64% in the last year. We are excited for the opportunity to offer dignified employment to even more survivors this year!"

- Sarah Bowden
Worthy Co. Co-Founder +
Chief Operations Officer



The Net's Survivor Gala

A Night in New Orleans



In 2023, we had the joy of hosting our first Survivor Gala at the Fort Worth Zoo. "A Night in New Orleans", 450 people dressed up in Nola Glam and experienced the sights and sounds of this iconic American city.

Together, we recognized the resilience and strength of survivors of trafficking in our community. We stood together as cheerleaders and committed to championing them as they do the hard work of rebuilding their lives!

Thanks to our incredibly generous community, \$410,000 was raised for the fight against trafficking! This overwhelming outpouring of generosity is more than just an amazing number. It represents a city full of passionate individuals, businesses, and partners who believe every person is worthy of the chance to rebuild their life.



a note from the board



EMPOWERING TRANSFORMATION: A YEAR OF IMPACTFUL CHANGE

By receiving The Net's Annual Report, your involvement, however big or small, is catalyzing positive change. Your commitment, whether as a first-time volunteer or a dedicated donor, has cast a vision of hope. The tireless efforts of The Net team have magnified your support, transforming individual affirmations into a formidable force for change!

This past year has been characterized by extraordinary achievements in our united front against trafficking. The Net has reached a milestone, assisting more survivors than ever before, thanks to the enhancement and diversification of our programs and enrichment initiatives. Our MASE program has widened its scope to include additional opportunities for men to serve. Additionally, the expansion of The Net staff has significantly bolstered our capability for increased impact and to pursue and achieve our mission more effectively with even bigger vision!

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you, our valued supporters, for your unwavering support. Your prayers, generosity, and active engagement have been instrumental to The Net's impact and the tangible differences we have made. Your trust in our endeavors is profoundly appreciated and is a cornerstone of our continued success. By addressing this daunting issue through manageable, progressive steps, we are not merely combating trafficking; we are shaping Fort Worth to look a little more like heaven.

Together, we are not just fighting against trafficking; we are nurturing a culture of hope, empowerment, and renewal. Thank you for being an integral part of this transformative journey.

Chris Mellina
Board Chair

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Alexi Alvis, Ciara Bertolino, Megan Dobbertien, Misty Davis, Katey Hellman, Melissa Ice, Tyler Kelly, Chris Mellina, Keeton Monahan, Brandon Neely, Drew Neill, Karen Smith, Chris Taylor, Julie Wilks



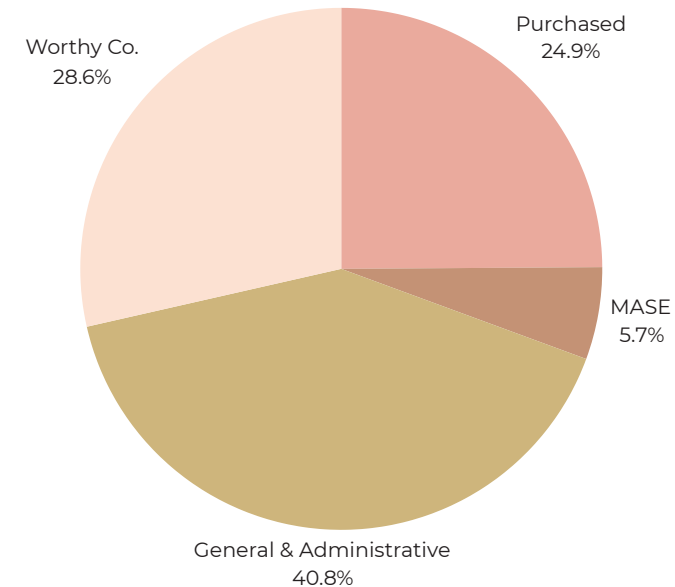
FUNDRAISING & INVESTMENT

IN 2023 WE RAISED:

- \$968,000 General Giving
- \$313,000 Foundation Grants
- \$626,000 Social Enterprise Revenue



ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES:



DETAILED FINANCIAL NUMBERS
ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Platinum
Transparency
2023
Candid.

Donations are tax-deductible under IRS 501©3 regulations. The Net FW is a proud Certified Guide-Star Exchange 2023 Platinum Participant.

"Thanks to your contributions, we've been able to expand our outreach efforts, provide more comprehensive services, and empower survivors with the skills and support needed to rebuild their lives. Your investment has created a ripple effect of hope, healing, and independence that is truly inspiring.

We take the stewardship of your generosity with utmost seriousness, ensuring that every dollar invested is maximized for direct impact. Our commitment to transparency and accountability guides our actions, as we continuously seek to refine our programs, making them more effective for the women that we serve.

As we look to the future, we are filled with gratitude for your partnership. Together, we are not just changing lives; we are restoring dignity and creating pathways to freedom for those who once thought it impossible. Thank you for believing in our mission and being an integral part of our community. Your support is helping us in our fight for a world where girls are not for sale."

- Tyler Kelly
Board Treasurer

The Network

A special thank you to The Network, our monthly giving community. You are the backbone of The Net and allow us to forecast what we're able to accomplish each year. Your monthly giving makes a huge impact in the lives of those affected by trafficking. Thank you!

Andrea Aber
Maggie Acosta
Patty and Perry Adams
Tricia and Paul Alexander
Cassandra Altizer
Laura Amble
Abigail and Ryan Armstrong
Kilby Bench
Tara Benson
Sean Berger
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Jennifer and Mark Smith
Parker and Brady Smith
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Laura Stapleton
Daniel Stull
Becca and Mark Stupfel
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Susan and Andrew Thielman
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Angela and Tyler Wall
Caroline Wall
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Ashley and Trey Watten
Judge Rainey Webb
Kayla Weldon
Angela Wells
Daniel Westfall
Wyatt Wheeler
Nicole Whiteside
Andrew Wileman
LeCIA and John Williams
Lauren and Holt Williamson
Stacy Wright
Hannah and Carter Wyrsh



Thank you!

TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



KIRSTIE MARIE
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