

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ENDING SEX TRAFFICKING THROUGH PRAYER, AWARENESS, INTERVENTION, AND RESTORATION.



# THE MISSION OF ELIJAH RISING IS TO END SEX TRAFFICKING THROUGH PRAYER, AWARENESS, INTERVENTION, AND RESTORATION.

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SCAN THIS CODE TO  
READ TESTIMONIES  
FROM 2020

# A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dearest friends,

I write this with deep gratitude and reverential joy as I reflect on 2020. This past year was one of the most challenging for Elijah Rising and likely for you as well. And yet, our team is entering this new year with a deep sense of confidence and faith. Despite the difficult circumstances, I have witnessed both exploited women and sex-buyers come to know the compassionate love of the Father. I have had the privilege of belly-laughing and crying with the survivors we house. I have seen the eyes of women light up as they encounter Jesus for the first time. And I have watched as our staff grew not only in numbers but in faith, wisdom, unity, and excellence like never before.

Elijah Rising is a company of audacious dreamers, and I suspect you are too. Having the audacity to face a flood of injustice is genuinely a fearless action. It is also a biblical action. Over and over again in scripture, I see where the faith of the few shifts the many, even nations. That is the vision, isn't it? That, in our day, justice would roll down like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Though the Lord has charged us to love our neighbor, he didn't really lay the responsibility of changing the world upon us. So, while we continue to intercede for the widespread release of justice, we have also begun praying over the individual names of women our teams encounter out on the streets. These daughters caught up in "the life" are the sole purpose of Elijah Rising's existence, and we are privileged to serve them.

Because of your incredible and generous support in 2020, Elijah Rising has already begun executing a plan to expand direct services to reach and support exploited women, which is our sole united purpose.

I am confident that no matter what this year brings, we will see the Lord remain faithful to His promise to "preach good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

May this year indeed be a year of the Lord's favor on you and yours.



**MICAH GAMBOA**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**95**

**People equipped to pray for the issue of human trafficking**

**177**

**Hours of prayer for the issue of human trafficking**

## PRAYER

Prayer remains foundational to all our work. While 2020 presented many challenges, especially in limiting our ability to gather, we found ways to connect virtually. We hosted virtual prayer meetings for the public. Our outreach teams met and prayed online in the months where it wasn't safe to meet. We also used this opportunity to re-create our anti-trafficking prayer guide. Elijah Rising was able to make this 30-page prayer guide available to everyone who desires to pray for this issue.

**"We, of ourselves, have no power to bring about any great and spiritual change; but herein is our hope— God has the power, and we have access to God."**

**— JOSEPHINE BUTLER, ABOLITIONIST**

## INTRO TO PRAYER GUIDE BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

It may be tempting to approach this guide with hopes of quickly finishing to see instant "results." We encourage all who begin this journey of prayer to start with an open mind and heart. Here are some quick tips to get the most out of your journey:

1. Make sure to meditate and fully process the words you are praying. We suggest you read these words out loud if you can. This guide is not meant to be a formula to force God's hand. It is an on-ramp for all to engage with a good God in the reality of heartbreaking injustice. Some parts of this guide include personal reflection. Try not to shy away from this. Re-read the sections that feel particularly important to you and your journey.

## AWARENESS

In 2020, Elijah Rising successfully launched The Elijah Rising Podcast at the beginning of the pandemic. When we planned our podcast launch, we were not anticipating quarantines and COVID restrictions. The podcast enabled us to reach thousands of people and bring them into our conversations with various guests about human trafficking. The pandemic caused us to pause our Van Tours, one of our most effective awareness tools. During that time, we reimagined a more effective way of doing the tours with an added video component. We look forward to finishing this project in 2021, and soon opening Van Tours up to the public. Another major accomplishment this year was the filming of *Restored: She Will Rise*. The film is comprised of true stories from survivors of human trafficking, with an emphasis on hope and overcoming adversity. This series of monologues premiered at our first-ever virtual gala and they continue to make an impact.

**4,755**

Times the Elijah Rising Podcast was downloaded

**1,533**

Average reach per post on social media

**1,266**

Hours of awareness content watched on YouTube

**5,890**

Livestreamed original film *Restored: She Will Rise*

In 2020, Elijah Rising partnered with Marathon Oil and OGTA to raise awareness of human trafficking in the oil & gas industry.





**RESTORED**  
**SHE WILL RISE**

WATCH ONLINE AT  
[ELIJAHRISEING.ORG/RESTORED](http://ELIJAHRISEING.ORG/RESTORED)

SCAN THIS CODE TO  
WATCH THE FULL  
MOVIE



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## INTERVENTION

During the 2020 pandemic we saw an increase of women trafficked on the streets. Small groups of Elijah Rising volunteers continued to go and reach women by providing tangible resources like masks, food, and water while also providing a safe way of escape through the 24/7 hotline. Numerous exits occurred—women escaped dangerous situations and were able to find safety thanks to our amazing team of volunteers.

**474**

Women reached during  
in-person intervention

**675**

Women reached during  
phone bank

**329**

Volunteers mobilized

**378**

High probability trafficking  
locations visited



**THE ELIJAH RISING RESTORATION PROGRAM SERVES AND EMPOWERS WOMEN RECOVERING FROM COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN A CLINICALLY-BASED, THERAPEUTIC, RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST.**



# 226

Hours of therapy provided

# 887

Hours of biblical discipleship

# 3,263

Meals provided

# 1,056

Nights of safe housing

## RESTORATION

The Elijah Rising Restoration Program serves and empowers women recovering from commercial sexual exploitation in a clinically-based, therapeutic, residential environment through the compassion of Christ. 2020 presented many challenges due to the pandemic, but we were able to continue to serve women with 24/7 care. The Elijah Rising team focused on strengthening and stabilizing the restoration program through extensive training and development of the restoration program staff. This team is full of dedicated, compassionate, and well-equipped individuals who are committed to the long-term health and success of the residents they serve on a daily basis. The ERRP team has also worked outside of the campus to develop strategic community partnerships, especially in the medical field, which further increases the high quality of service and care offered to survivors. The greatest accomplishment of 2020 was the constant progress made by each one of the program residents as they continue to dedicate themselves to their personal healing journeys every single day.

Their words were never mine,  
but I held them as my own.  
Their thoughts were never I,  
but I refused to let them go.

My heart though cold as stone  
had hope that pierced me deep.  
It scared my tired soul  
I feared the thought of me

But then a word appeared  
with light that stung my eyes  
I fought back pools of tears  
and saw that it was mine

I never knew she spoke,  
She never knew to try  
She could when she awoke,  
She took up space and time

My words are now my own,  
I Speak them now as mine  
They are free to fly and go  
I know her now as I

By Her.



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Elijah Rising Goods provides economic empowerment and job skills for women recovering from commercial sexual exploitation. Social enterprise revenue grew by 28% outgrowing our previous facility's capacity for manufacturing, shipping, and job training leading the social enterprise to move into a new facility. Elijah Rising purchased a historic building in the Heights in late 2020 and we plan to use the space for manufacturing, shipping, and a showroom for social enterprise products.

**17,939**

Total units sold in 2020

**31**

Stores that sell Elijah Rising Goods

**\$160k**

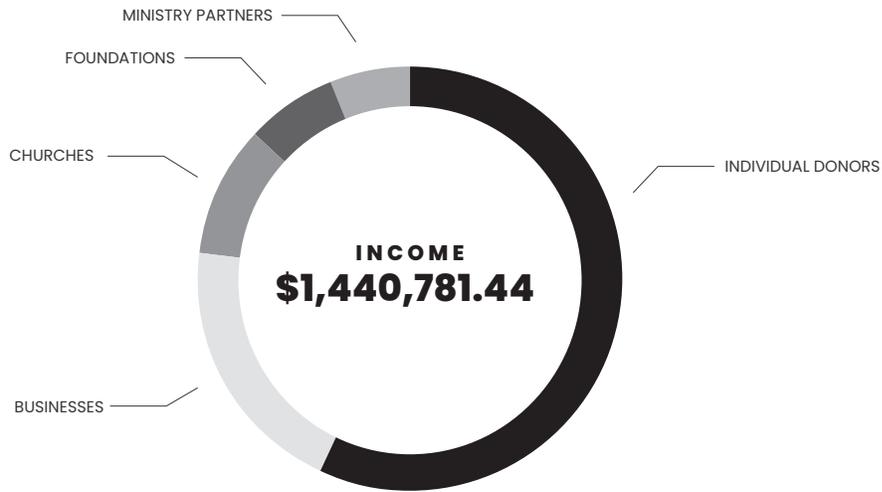
Revenue generated through sales

**2,094**

Hours of employment provided to women recovering from trafficking



# 2020 FINANCIALS



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

**57%**

BUSINESSES

**20%**

CHURCHES

**10%**

FOUNDATIONS

**7%**

MINISTRY PARTNERS

**6%**



PROGRAMS

**76%**

OPERATIONS

**15%**

FUNDRAISING

**9%**

"Our goal is to financially partner with organizations whose mission is consistent with our values and who maximize the impact of their resources. Elijah Rising is just that. It is led by faithful, effective people who keep an intense focus on being leaders in the effort to fight human trafficking throughout our region while being amazing stewards of the resources entrusted to them. At i3, we could not be more grateful to have the opportunity to play a small part in their amazing efforts that are rescuing and changing lives for eternity!"

**Rene Joubert, President & CEO, i3 Houston**



