

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



ELIJAH
RISING

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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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them."*

GENESIS 1:27

Identity is a polarizing word these days, meaning various things to various people. At Elijah Rising, we think a great deal about identity. Discovering one's true identity is key to freedom for Survivors of sex trafficking. Knowing who they truly are as God's creation and why He made them helps them sit down on the inside: Safe. Free. And then they are able to interact in the world: with Purpose.

But what is their true identity? Pimps have labeled Survivors as Property. Buyers see them as Things to be used. Society often treats them as the Other, one to be Discarded, Avoided at worst, Mistrusted at best.

What each Survivor of human trafficking needs to hear is what God says about her.

We must tell her.

She is: **Beloved, Image Bearer.** No matter what.

And when she accepts Jesus she becomes: **Daughter. Covered in Christ. Holy.**

It is from this same sense of identity that Elijah Rising seeks to operate. Because the enemy wants to distort true identity, in 2021, we clarified who we are as an organization and what we believe. We carefully re-crafted our statement of faith. And we rang in the new year with a renewed sense of purpose and as a staff declared that we will hold fast to the Truth, come what may.

Thank you for supporting us as we move forward with passion and vision. I pray that as you read the following pages, you will see that we remain committed to Christ and sharing who He is, committed to Survivors and sharing who they are, and committed to being who we are and always will be by God's grace: an organization that seeks to end sex trafficking through prayer, awareness, intervention, and restoration.

In Jesus,



Micah Gamboa
Executive Director
micah@elijahrising.org



MEET OUR NEW PRAYER DIRECTOR

John LaChapelle is passionate about ministering to and equipping the body of Christ, establishing cultures of prayer and worship, and casting vision for our future! He brings a wealth of excitement and experience to Elijah Rising as he has been in ministry for 15 years, serving as a worship leader and missionary to multiple nations before graduating with a bachelor's degree in Christian Theology from Houston Baptist University. After graduation, John served as a college pastor before transitioning into his current home base, Launch Houston, a missions sending center focused on effectual prayer, equipping, and discipleship, in 2019, he began a prayer ministry called "The Night Watch" where he and his team led worship and prayer from 10PM to 6AM every week for 2 years. They interceded over a variety of issues across the region, particularly against trafficking in Houston. Through persistent prayer, the Night Watch undergirded Elijah Rising and other anti-trafficking and pro-life organizations across the local landscape.



241
Prayer meetings conducted

PRAYER

Prayer has always been integral to the work of Elijah Rising.

Prayer has always been integral to the work of Elijah Rising. In our 10 years of ministry, we have learned that it is our most essential program. Prayer has been vital to our staff, volunteers, donors, and to the women we serve. We have seen God answer prayers to help women in dangerous trafficking situations, provide strength to women working hard to rebuild their lives, and open doors of opportunity for the women we serve. Near the end of 2021, we were able to hire our first Prayer Director. This role is necessary to our vision of mobilizing the body of Chrstit to cover our city in prayer regarding the issue of human trafficking.

121
Hours of prayer for the issue of human trafficking

AWARENESS

We are innovating new ways to reach our communities with awareness of human trafficking.

11,722
Times the Elijah Rising Podcast was downloaded

9,593
People reached through awareness presentations

840
Hours of awareness content watched on YouTube

Being doers and not hearers only is our call as Christians. That's why we raise awareness of human trafficking, as it empowers individuals and communities to take action against injustice. Programs like Elijah Rising's Awareness Van Tours awaken and activate people into doing the work of anti-trafficking. One "hearer" on our van tour was so impacted by the message, he and his wife made the life-changing decision to be "doers" by serving as foster parents. This family not only donates to anti-trafficking work, but they are actively helping prevent trafficking by becoming foster parents as many traffickers will often wait to pick up children who are aging out of the foster care system. Their story is just one of thousands of individuals and families impacted by Elijah Rising's awareness efforts. In addition to the van tour, our podcast is also equipping listeners around the world to first hear, then do!

In 2021, Elijah Rising completed filming for the new Van Tour documentary videos to expose human trafficking in Houston.





The Elijah Rising Intervention team sets up a table on Bissonnet every week to serve meals, ministry, and other resources. We create a safe space in the midst of a chaotic environment. This was our table for a special Thanksgiving outreach.

INTERVENTION

1865

Women reached during in-person intervention

We bring hope to men and women trapped in commercial sexual exploitation.

980

Volunteers mobilized

Across the Greater Houston area, Elijah Rising mobilizes volunteers to reach women in illicit brothels, strip clubs, streets, cantinas, and hotels. In 2021, we opened a new intervention site in Humble, TX to add to our intervention efforts in Spring/Woodlands, Central Houston, Baytown, and League City. The purpose of intervention is to establish a connection with those in the commercial sex industry and to provide resources and ministry. As COVID continued to disrupt industries, the commercial sex industry was not interrupted. As our intervention teams continued to go out on Friday nights, we saw an increase in traffic at all of our intervention locations. Elijah Rising is continuing to improve our interventions by partnering with native speakers to translate and reach those within the Asian and Latin American communities where sex trafficking continues to thrive.

599

High probability trafficking locations visited



A young woman was being exploited in a strip club and **was contemplating suicide** on the day that she saw the Elijah Rising “church ladies” (volunteers & staff) enter the club where she was working. Once the young lady spotted the Elijah Rising group, she left the man she was hosting and headed straight for the last team member. She was so excited that they were there on the same night she was working, that she grabbed the hands of the team member and began asking for prayer. She explained about her suicidal thoughts and how she wanted to talk to God but didn’t know how. Our team member encouraged her that her life is valuable to God, so valuable, she explained:

“God has me at the club for you! That is how much God loves you!”

As they both stood there, still on the club floor, the church lady hugged the young girl and prayed for her, speaking close to her ear to be heard over the deafening music. Our Elijah Rising team member walked out of the club that night, still feeling the young girl’s tears on her cheek from the closeness of their prayer together. Seeing her again since that night, our team member has been able to continue speaking life to this young woman.

RESTORATION

We are helping fill the gap in our nation by providing long-term care for women recovering from commercial sexual exploitation.

The Elijah Rising Restorative Care Program was able to celebrate several victories in 2021! One woman who graduated from our program said, "I truly don't know where I would be today if I would not have come to this program. Who knows if I would even be alive today if I wouldn't come. Here I was given a second chance to thrive." Another resident of our program moved into transitional housing in 2021 and began the process of being permanently reunited with her children! Finally, Elijah Rising received top notch instruction from national experts on shelter care as we joined the Institute for Shelter Care's mentorship program. This learning intensive program, combined with our own experience and other best practices, has prepared us to provide the best care possible to the residents of our Restorative Care Program.

164

Hours of therapy provided

564

Hours of biblical discipleship

1,367

Meals provided

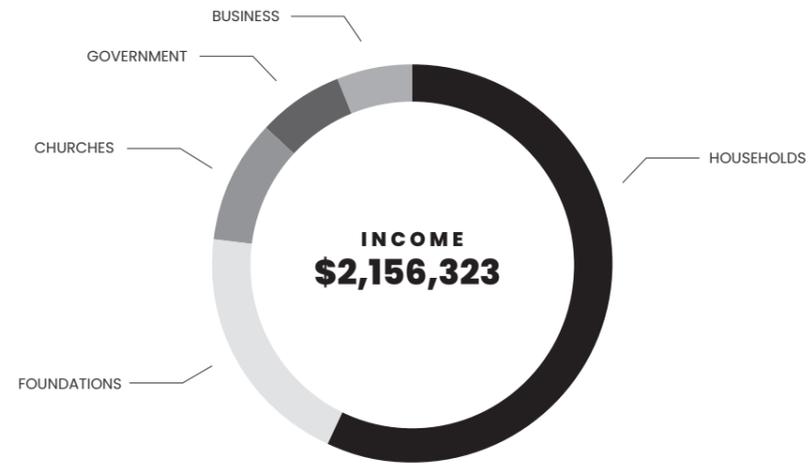
541

Nights of safe housing



Micah,
I want to say thank you for fighting to help people like me. I would never had thought my life could look what it looks like now. Thank you for fighting for freedom not only for me but for many others. As I stand here on the other side I am grateful for my new found family. God knew exactly what he was doing when I started this journey 3 years ago. He knew that my heart needed to break to run back to him. He knew that Elijah Rising ^{Restoration} ~~Leadership~~ program is where I needed to go to press pause on my life. To be still and focus on myself. Thank you for opening the program and showing me Jesus. Most of all I want to say Thank you for loving me and praying for me when I couldn't love myself or really didn't want to. As I stand in freedom today I am blessed and grateful.

2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



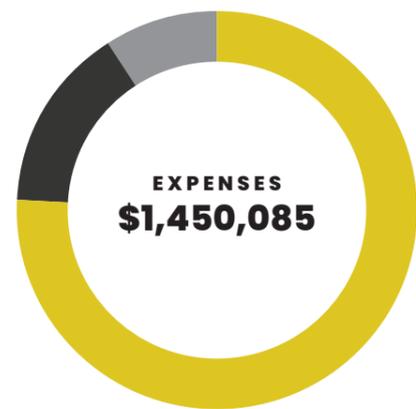
HOUSEHOLDS
71%

FOUNDATION
11%

CHURCHES
10%

GOVERNMENT
5%

BUSINESS
3%



PROGRAMS
76%

OPERATIONS
14%

FUNDRAISING
10%