



Freedom Network USA

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2016



Letter From the Director

Greetings!

Freedom Network USA has made tremendous strides in growth and impact in 2016. With a new organizational structure, FNUSA is moving more boldly to ensure that the human rights-based approach defines the US approach to ending human trafficking. From expanding membership, to influencing federal policy, to hosting a record-breaking conference, FNUSA is leading the way.

The human rights-based approach is more than a tag line, it is a dedication to holistic policies and processes that honor the individual and the community. FNUSA works to grow healthy communities that respect the rights of individual workers, no matter what

- country they are from,
- gender and sexual orientation they identify with,
- age they are,
- language they speak, or
- type of work they choose to do, or are forced to engage in.

Everyone deserves respect, compassion and protection.

This report offers only some highlights from 2016, and some hints of the work to come in 2017. FNUSA invites you to stay engaged and connected through our website (freedomnetworkusa.org), newsletter (sign up on our website), Facebook (@FreedomNetworkUSA) or Twitter (@FreedomNetUSA).

Gratefully,



Jean Bruggeman
Executive Director

About Us

MISSION

Freedom Network USA is the nation's largest alliance of experienced advocates advancing a human rights-based approach to human trafficking in the United States. Our members believe that empowering survivors with choices and support leads to transformative, meaningful change. Together, we influence federal and state policy through action and advocacy. We guide the discussion narrative by prioritizing the self-determination and empowerment of survivors in the development of policies, procedures and programs. Our members work directly with survivors whose insights and strengths inform our work. And through our national effort, we increase awareness of human trafficking and provide decision makers, legislators and other stakeholders with the expertise and tools to make a positive and permanent impact in the lives of all survivors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathleen Morris

Board President

Daniel Werner

Board Vice President

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Board Secretary

Jacqueline Murray

Board Treasurer

Florence Burke

Board Member

STAFF

Jean Bruggeman

Executive Director



Melinda Smith

National Coordinator



ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Freedom Network USA accomplished significant organizational development in 2016. After 15 years as a network under the umbrella of various fiscal sponsors, FNUSA became a fully independent 501(c)(3) non-profit in October 2016, under the leadership of our Board and Executive Director. FNUSA's members continue to engage in collaboration, training and technical assistance and coalition-building work through our standing committees: Membership, Social Services, Policy, Conference and Freedom Network Training Institute. Each standing committee is led by two co-chairs who are elected by the full membership, and who also serve on the Steering Committee working with the FNUSA staff to lead the organization. FNUSA is working to diversify and expand our funding base, grow our capacity and staffing and multiply our impact in raising the profile of the human rights-based approach to human trafficking. This report includes all of the efforts of the Freedom Network USA in 2016, including the first three quarters of the year while operating under the fiscal sponsorship of Mosaic Family Services.

FREEDOM NETWORK USA'S GOALS

Promote a human rights-based approach to human trafficking

Collaborate with allies and survivors to address the root causes of trafficking

Improve services and response to survivors

OBJECTIVE 1

Engage in advocacy with government agencies and legislators to promote the adoption of human rights-based legislation, policies and programs.

FNUSA is committed to consolidating the expertise of our individual members into a powerful voice for change at the policy level. Most of FNUSA's members are small organizations that have little to no capacity for national advocacy work, but they deeply understand how national policies impact individual programs and survivors. A few of our members are large organizations with policy expertise that informs our efforts, and their FNUSA membership helps to demonstrate that their experiences are not unique. FNUSA is uniquely situated to gather these experiences of providers, advocates and survivors from across the country to develop policy recommendations and engage in advocacy at the federal level to promote the adoption of human rights-based legislation, policies and programs.

EFFORTS

Freedom Network USA staff and members attended 10 meetings with federal agencies and policy makers to address challenges and recommend solutions to addressing human trafficking in the US. FNUSA produced 10 reports, blog entries and papers to provide concrete recommendations to federal and international leaders. FNUSA filed one amicus brief to impact the application of federal human trafficking statutes. FNUSA engaged actively with three strategic partners to impact federal human trafficking policy.

IMPACT

As a result of our work, the US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Trafficking in Persons adopted a new strategy to better protect the confidentiality of human trafficking survivors. The US Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations issued a new Continued Presence Directive that expands access to, and length of, temporary immigration protection for foreign national survivors of human trafficking. The UN Special Rapporteur agreed with FNUSA's recommendations and urged the US to end the practice of arresting sex workers and sex trafficking victims and also acknowledged the US' failure to effectively address labor trafficking.

OBJECTIVE 2

Develop collaborations with allied organizations to address the root causes of trafficking including abuse, poverty and discrimination.

FNUSA is a small organization with a very specific mission and focus. However we know that human trafficking is actually at the intersection of a host of civil and human rights issues, including: criminal justice reform, workers' rights, immigrants' rights, LGBTQ rights, juvenile justice reform, sex workers' rights, women's rights and children's rights. To fully address human trafficking, including prevention of trafficking, we must also address root causes including abuse, poverty and discrimination. Thus, FNUSA is working to build relationships and alliances and to contribute to cross-movement or cross-issue work.

EFFORTS

FNUSA staff and members attended three meetings focused on protections for immigrants at high risk of exploitation and trafficking, including: unaccompanied immigrant youth arriving in the US fleeing poverty and gang violence in Central America, temporary guest workers, and domestic workers. FNUSA also signed on to five letters urging action on underlying issues including temporary immigration protections for Central Americans present in the US, and enforcing Title IX protections for transgender students. FNUSA actively engaged with six strategic partners, including the National Women's Law Center, International Labor Recruitment Working Group and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

IMPACT

Due to the 2016 election, many policy efforts were delayed or derailed. Protections for transgender students, advanced by President Obama, have been retracted. President Trump has promised increased immigration enforcement without regard to the impact on immigrant victims of, and witnesses to, crime, but rather portrays immigrants as dangerous criminals. We are continuing to work with our partners to identify a new path forward within this new political reality, to most effectively protect vulnerable communities.



2016 Accomplishments

OBJECTIVE 3

Provide training and technical assistance to legal and social service providers, law enforcement and prosecutors, and faith and community groups in the US to increase access to effective, victim-centered non-judgmental services for survivors.

FNUSA is committed to building the capacity of service providers and first responders, while also increasing community awareness, to ensure that survivors are quickly identified and properly supported. Our members are experts in the victim services field and can provide peer training and mentoring based on their real-life experiences to help service providers in improving their policies, procedures and knowledge.

EFFORTS

FNUSA staff and members hosted our 14th Annual Human Trafficking Conference in Chicago, IL, and provided three additional in-person trainings. FNUSA staff and members also hosted five webinars, including a four-part webinar series on Trauma Informed Case Management for Human Trafficking Survivors. 690 individuals applied for this training course, which was limited to 200 participants. The webinars were recorded and are now available, free to the public, on FNUSA's website. FNUSA's staff also contributed to three technical assistance tasks, including the production of a T Visa Practice Advisory, and engaged with nine strategic partners. FNUSA's training and technical assistance efforts reached more than 890 participants in 2016.

IMPACT

On April 4-5, 2016, 325 attendees gathered in Chicago, IL to join us for "Bridging the Gap: Building a Movement through Partnership, Prevention, Protection and Prosecution." The conference focused on intersectionality, embracing the complexity of human trafficking to forge partnerships across movements and disciplines, to take trafficking out of its silo to explore its root causes and best practice interventions. The conference not only provided the immediate impact of training hundreds of service providers, law enforcement agents and public officials, but also laid the foundation for the development of better policies and programs. One clear example is the provision of housing for trafficking survivors in Illinois. Megan Mahoney, of FNUSA member Heartland Alliance, hosted a session titled "Housing First: Connecting Survivors to a Safe, Permanent Place to Call Home." She invited panelists from the Chicago Housing Authority and HUD. The panel inspired a renewed commitment to improving housing access for trafficking survivors in Illinois. In July, the Chicago Housing Authority announced that it has set aside 60 housing vouchers for trafficking survivors over the next three years. In August, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority announced a new grant to provide approximately \$2M for transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. Housing is a critical and persistent challenge for trafficking survivors. These new programs will address the needs of hundreds of survivors in Illinois and provide a critical model for communities around the country.

2016 Accomplishments

OBJECTIVE 4

To improve services and responses to trafficking survivors through supporting the human rights-based human trafficking movement.

The human rights-based approach prioritizes the survivor's self-determination and choice through non-judgmental services and support, includes survivors as equal partners, challenges all forms of trafficking, and addresses root causes to prevent future exploitation. Collaboration and partnership support organizations across the US in elevating this approach and developing best practices for implementation.

EFFORTS

In April 2016, FNUSA's Members and Steering Committee approved a new membership structure and a reaffirmed commitment to engaging more comprehensively with survivors. In July 2016, the new [membership structure and application materials*](#) were released, which make two major changes to FNUSA's membership structure. First, new members will join FNUSA as Associate Members for their initial year, during which they will be required to attend the annual conference, participate in at least one committee and attend the annual Member Meeting, but will not be eligible to hold leadership positions or have a vote in FNUSA decisions. Associate Members will then be invited to submit a short application to become Full Members at the conclusion of their first year. Second, FNUSA added a new category of Allies for organizations that would like to partner with FNUSA but are not qualified for, or interested in, Associate Membership, such as organizations involved in related fields such as immigration, child welfare, juvenile justice, runaway and homeless youth, domestic violence and labor rights work.

IMPACT

FNUSA added 14 new members, increasing the diversity of the geographical representation of the network, as well as adding new expertise and experience. This strength and diversity informs and guides the policy and training and technical assistance efforts, serves as the foundation of our intersectional work to address root causes and ensures that individual member organizations can provide support that is beyond their organizational capacity to survivors in need.



CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

LOVED THE APP

"I loved all of the breakout sessions. I had a really hard time choosing which ones to go to, but I also loved the app where we could schedule everything so we always knew where we should be going."

ENGAGING CONVERSATIONS

"Engaging conversations about trafficking. In particular, I appreciate that the issue of labor trafficking was repeatedly mentioned. That tends to get lost in most other trafficking conferences I have been to."

CONTINUED COMMITMENT

"Variety of session options and continued commitment to human rights-based approach in terms of trafficking."

BALANCED

"Wonderful skill building training sessions, well balanced with big picture aspects of anti-trafficking work."



FNUSA: A NETWORK OF SUPPORT

Lin* came to the US from a developing country seeking a better opportunity for success. Unfortunately, she struggled to find safe, fair employment. She was given bad advice by lawyers and did not find the services she needed. Traffickers took advantage of her poverty, immigration status and isolation. She was trafficked across multiple states and forced to engage in unlawful acts that resulted in criminal charges in multiple jurisdictions. But Lin endured and finally found a provider who cared – a Freedom Network USA member who is assisting Lin in applying for a T Visa, finding safe housing and employment and building a network of support. Lin has benefitted from the assistance of multiple FNUSA members from across the country, coordinated by her Case Manager, in order to address the specific court rules and requirements for each jurisdiction in which Lin's criminal records exist.



*Name and identifying information have been changed to protect client confidentiality.

DONORS

Freedom Network USA is grateful for the continuing support of our foundation donors. Their generous support has allowed for the addition of the new Executive Director, increasing our capacity to engage in successful advocacy and visibility in Washington D.C., and grow our membership and impact in 2016 and beyond.

FOUNDATIONS

NEO Philanthropy/Oak Foundation
Foundation for a Just Society

INDIVIDUALS

Freedom Network USA is humbled by the support of our inaugural individual donors.

Erin Albright

Franca Baroni

William Bernstein

Darla Bjork

Alison Boak

Blair Brettschneider

Jean Bruggeman

Florence Burke

Amy Fleischauer

Julie Goddard

Janlori Goldman

Barbara Hammer

Bonnie and Allan Johnson

Karin Kirchoff

Helene Levin

Megan Mahoney

Kathleen Morris

Jacqueline Murray

Sam Neel

Lauren Pessa

Leah Chen Price

Stephanie Richard

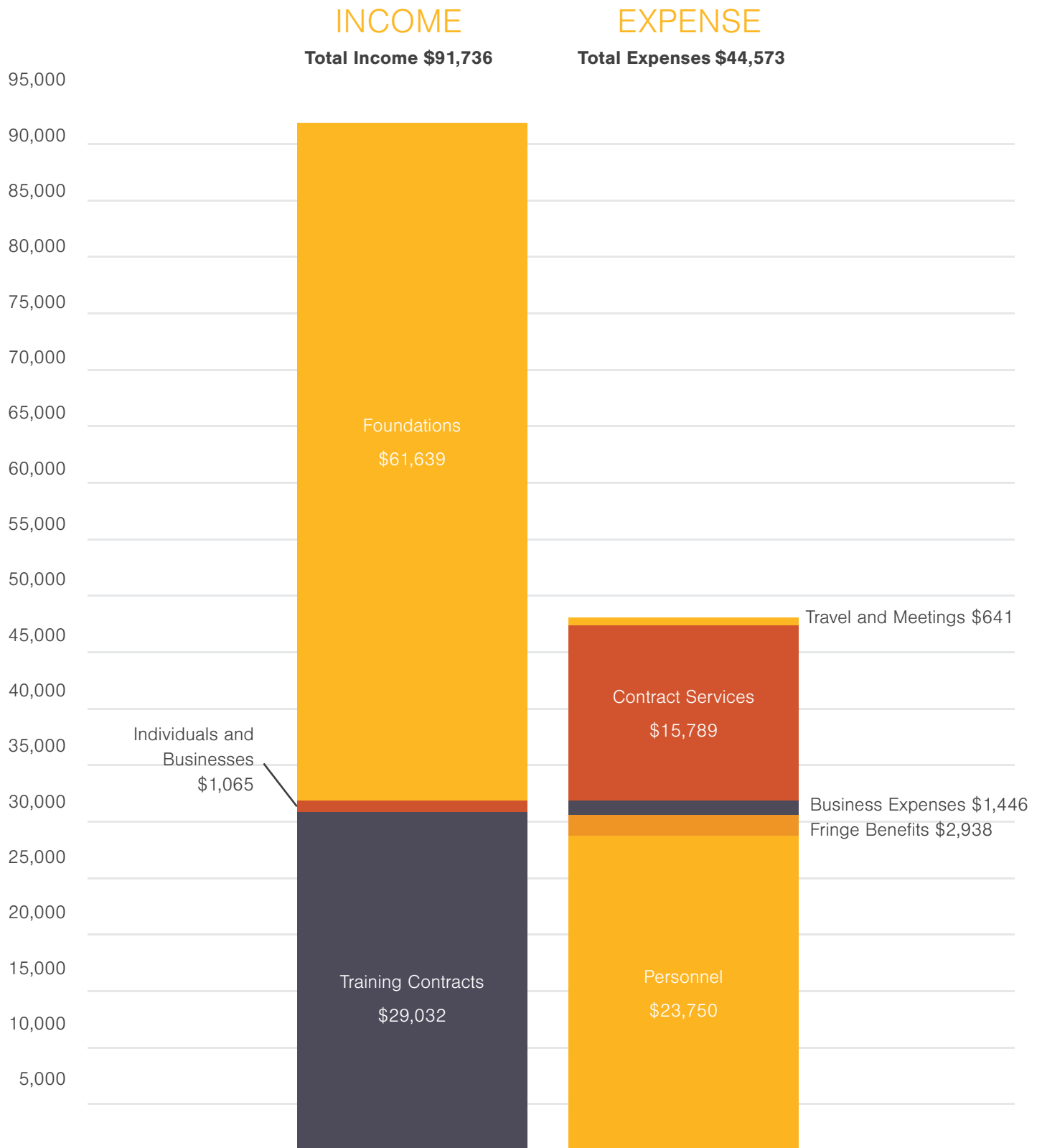
Melinda Smith

Suzanne Tomatore

Daniel Werner

Financial Overview

NOTE: Due to the organizational transition, this graphic reflects the financial activities for October 1 - December 31 only. For the period of January 1 - September 30, Freedom Network USA operated under the fiscal sponsorship of Mosaic Family Services, and all financial activities are reflected in their financial reports.



Members

ARIZONA

International Rescue Committee

CALIFORNIA

Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach

Cindy Liou, Kids in Need of Defense

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking

Elisabet Medina, San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center

International Rescue Committee

Legal Aid at Work

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

Opening Doors

Susie Baldwin, HEAL Trafficking

The Katharine and George Alexander Law Center

CONNECTICUT

International Institute of Connecticut

COLORADO

Patricia Medige, Attorney

FLORIDA

Americans for Immigrant Justice

Coalition of Immokalee Workers

International Rescue Committee

The Lifeboat Project

VIDA Legal Assistance

GEORGIA

Southern Poverty Law Center

Immigrant Justice Project

Tapestri

ILLINOIS

Heartland Human Care Services

International Organization for Adolescents

LAF

National Immigrant Justice Center

MARYLAND

UMD Safe Center

MASSACHUSETTS

Hanni Stoklasa, HEAL Trafficking

MICHIGAN

YWCA Kalamazoo

MINNESOTA

International Institute of Minnesota

MISSOURI

International Institute of St. Louis

NEW HAMPSHIRE

YWCA New Hampshire



Members

NEW YORK

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
City Bar Justice Center, Immigrant Women and Children Project
Florence Burke, FB Consulting
International Institute of Buffalo
International Organization for Adolescents
Kristin Heffernan, The College at Brockport
My Sisters' Place
Safe Horizon
Sex Workers Project, Urban Justice Center
Womankind
Worker Justice Center of New York

OHIO

Advocating Opportunity

TEXAS

American Gateways
Mosaic Family Services

UTAH

Annie Fukushima, University of Utah

VERMONT

Give Way to Freedom

WASHINGTON

API Chaya
International Rescue Committee:
Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ayuda
Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center
Janie Chuang, American University
Susan French, Consultant
Tiffany Williams Goetzinger

