

2009 Gracehaven House Annual Report



September 2009





MISSION STATEMENT

Gracehaven seeks through Christian love to provide shelter and rehabilitation to girls under the age of 18 who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and to raise awareness among young women about the issue of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) in order to educate and equip them so that they can avoid becoming victims themselves.



Report from the Executive Director

It has been a year since our first Gala; our first major fundraiser that launched us into the public eye and into the work that God has called us to. I've prepared this annual report to give all our interested contributors and volunteers an update on the accomplishments of Gracehaven this past year.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Due in part to the success of our Gala last year, we were able to hire the first employee of Gracehaven, Theresa Flores as our Director of Development. We are so fortunate to have Theresa as a speaker since she is a survivor of sex trafficking, and can address the issue from her unique perspective. Over the past year, she has spoken to audiences all over Ohio, the mid-west, nationally, and even internationally! She has spoken at UCLA, Ave Maria School, Northern Michigan University, Dublin Schools, and at the Natalie Grant Home Foundation Make a Difference Campaign Kickoff in Nashville, as well as various events in Dallas, Baltimore, New York City, and she also had an appearance on the Today Show in February of this year. She estimates that in total, she has spoken to more than 5,000 people in the past year on the issue of domestic minor sex trafficking. Many more people are aware of the work of Gracehaven now in large measure due to the work of Theresa.

In addition to her speaking duties, Theresa has done an excellent job of representing Gracehaven on the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition as well as in her meetings with various agencies in central Ohio that we will be interfacing with in the future. She is also very involved in the work of setting up the program that Gracehaven will use once we are open. She has been in communication with approximately 8 human trafficking victims via email, providing them with support.

Theresa was awarded the *Woman making a Difference Award* by the Columbus Soroptimist, and also chosen last year as one of the *20 Outstanding Women You Should Know* by SUNY 95.

WEBSITE

In preparation for Theresa's appearance on the Today Show, we changed our web address to www.gracehavenhouse.org and greatly improved the functionality of our website. People now have the capability of receiving updates to our website as a newsletter, as well as making comments on the various posts. They can also sign up to be on our email list through the website. Finally, our website continues to hold resources regarding domestic minor sex trafficking for those who are interested in getting involved fighting human trafficking.

DATABASE

In the past year, we have transitioned our database from a program on my laptop to an online database that gives us much more flexibility and functionality. Most of the tickets for the Gala were purchased through this online database, which automatically records the purchases into the database. As we approach our second Gala, we have just under 1000 people currently in our database which also consists of our email list.

LOCAL NETWORKING

One of the goals for this past year was to establish relationships with various agencies that interface with troubled youth in Franklin County and across central Ohio. In our efforts to achieve that goal, here is a sampling of some of the groups we have met with this past year:

Ohio Department of Youth Services- Chris Money
Members of the Judiciary with jurisdiction at the location of the house
Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Paul Herbert
Local law enforcement covering the location of the house
Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Columbus Police
Franklin County Juvenile Court Judge Dana Preisse
Columbus City Attorney Rick Pfeiffer
Franklin County Children's Services- Walter Torain
Franklin County Prosecutor- Ron O'Brien
U.S. Attorney- Fred Alverson
Columbus Foundation- Sidney Hargro

LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING MEETINGS

In addition to local networking meetings, Gracehaven staff have attended and/or participated in various meetings on human trafficking that have extended the awareness of the work of Gracehaven to a national level. Some of these meetings include the following:

- A Shared Hope Conference in Dallas, TX*
- A Health and Human Services Symposium in Washington, DC*
- Liberation Conference at Methodist Theological Seminary*
- Global Missions Conference in Louisville, KY*
- CMDA leaders conference in Bristol, TN*
- Home Foundation Second Annual Benefit in Nashville, TN*
- Shared Hope Conference in Arlington, VA*
- Visiting GEMS in New York City*
- Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Trafficking Conference*
- Not For Sale Aftercare meeting in San Francisco, CA*

PUBLIC POLICY

Both Theresa and Jeff were asked by State Senator Fedor to testify before the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee regarding SB 205. In December of 2008, the first Ohio legislation dealing specifically with human trafficking was passed in the form of an amendment attached to another bill. The legislation called for tougher penalties for certain trafficking crimes as well as the formation of a Commission under the State Attorney General's office to further investigate the issue of human trafficking within Ohio and make future legislative recommendations. Both Jeff and Theresa are serving on that Commission.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

In our goal to raise public awareness regarding domestic minor sex trafficking, below is a sampling of media coverage, and opportunities we've had to speak publicly regarding this issue:

- 3 different spots on Channel 4 news*
- 2 articles in the Columbus Dispatch*
- An article in the July Columbus Monthly*
- An article in Today's Christian Doctor*
(Goes out to 16,000 physicians and dentists nationally)
- Speaking at Taylor University in Upland IN*
- Speaking at Cedarville College*
- Speaking at the Kenton Ohio Missionary & Alliance Church*
- Speaking at the Dublin Rotary*

FUNDRAISING

This spring, Gracehaven contracted with Sandy Morckel of Premiere Consulting to undertake a fundraising feasibility study for the purpose of establishing a baseline regarding the ability of Gracehaven to raise funds sufficient to perform our mission, even in a difficult economy. The results of the study were quite positive with an overwhelmingly positive view of the organization within the community. Sandy made the recommendation that Gracehaven proceed with undertaking a project to raise \$1.6 million that will cover the cost of a new house, renovation, as well as 2 years of operating expenses for Gracehaven.

As a result of that recommendation, the Gracehaven Board of Directors has decided to retain the services of The Suddes Group to help us undertake this fundraising project. Our goal is to raise \$1.6 million over the next 100 days, with our kickoff occurring at the Gala.

HOUSE

After working for several months with a local Savings and Loan that had repossessed a house in the vicinity where we wanted to locate Gracehaven, the Board of Directors decided to proceed with the purchase of the house that will serve as the future home of Gracehaven at a price of \$200,000. The house is approximately 4100 square foot in size and sits on 9.5 acres of land NW of Columbus. It will require renovation in order to convert it from a 4-bedroom home, to a 5-bedroom home and bring it up to code so that we will be able to obtain a state license.

CLIENTS

In spite of the fact that Gracehaven has not yet officially opened, due to our success in raising awareness regarding the issue of domestic minor sex trafficking, we have already been in contact with 5 victims of DMST. It has been an educational experience for us in that we've learned firsthand of the complete lack of resources in central Ohio for these girls. We were fortunate to be able to save 1 girl from the clutches of a very controlling pimp and to get her out of state to a facility that will be able to help her. We are still in contact with the other 4 girls... waiting for them to be ready to take the necessary steps to get the help they need.

CASEWORKER POSITION

Because of our encounters with clients over the past several months, we have experienced the need for a trained caseworker who will be able to help future clients interact with various service providers in central Ohio. Gracehaven has been awarded a grant that will cover the cost of a full time social worker to fill this position for the next 17 months. We plan to hire for this position by the end of September.

Board of Directors

BOARD CHAIR - BEV DELASHMUTT

Bev comes to the Board with a passion for helping victims of sex trafficking in Central Ohio get off the streets and put the pieces of their lives back together. She has been a pastoral counselor at Xenos Christian Fellowship for 28 years. Her husband, Gary DeLashmutt, is one of the founding leaders of Xenos and together they have done church work for 32 years. Through her ministry at Xenos, Bev has provided excellent leadership in connecting Gracehaven with officials and other organizations within central Ohio that are critical in the fight against sex trafficking.



VICE-CHAIR - DEBORAH SIMMONS

Deborah brings to the Gracehaven board her past business experience in organizational and leadership development along with her board experience with the Dublin Counseling Center. Coupled with her passion for helping young girls who are victims of sex trafficking, Deborah has been critical in the development of the rehabilitation program that Gracehaven will be using as a pilot program for other shelters around the country.

TREASURER - ALAN BURKHOLDER

Alan is a CPA, and also serves as the Controller for Xenos Christian Fellowship. His expertise in financial matters brings high level of accountability for Gracehaven so that it's many donors and funding organizations can know that their money is being used in as efficient a manner as possible to serve the needs of sex trafficking victims in central Ohio.



SECRETARY - MARIAN GUZZO

Marian, originally from Avon Lake, Ohio, is currently the office manager of a dental practice in Columbus, Ohio. She has been involved in ministry and leadership at Xenos Christian Fellowship for almost 30 years. Marian and her husband Joe, have been married since 1979 and have three grown children. She supports the Gracehaven working board with her administrative skills.

CLIFF TREYENS

Cliff serves as head of public relations for Gracehaven, and brings a vast amount of experience in the public arena including 11 years working on newspapers in Pennsylvania, Mississippi and Ohio during which time he was part of a team that won the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Public Service for coverage of public education issues. He also worked seven years in politics as communications director for former Mississippi Governor Ray Mabus and former Ohio House Speaker Vern Riffe. Cliff has long been committed to helping children through his church, Xenos Christian Fellowship, by teaching and writing curriculum for the children's program and operating an adoption ministry.



PAUL BOYER

Paul Boyer is a marketing and management consultant, owner of Justin-Paul LLC. Upon graduation from the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University, he worked 18 years at Accenture, a global consultancy. Paul now limits his work to part time, which has enabled him to pursue various opportunities for community involvement and Christian ministry. Paul and his family are part of Xenos Christian Fellowship in Columbus, where he and his wife, Sally, co-lead a Home Group of about 35 adults. In addition, Paul leads a weekly men's Bible study in his neighborhood comprised of about 25 men from different churches. Paul has been involved in a number of ministries in recent years including Central Ohio Youth for Christ, Friends of the Homeless and the Columbus Stewardship Foundation. Paul and Sally provide support to several local Christian ministries, and also support missionary work in Cambodia. Paul is also an active in his community, volunteering in the Upper Arlington schools, assisting with little league coaching and serving as Commissioner for a basketball league of 800 youth. Paul and Sally were married in 1989 and are the parents of three sons.



CARLA NOVAK ESQ

Carla Novak (Cannon) is an attorney for the Industrial Commission of Ohio. She has experience in fundraising in the political arena serving as the volunteer coordinator and fundraising chairperson for local political candidates. She is also a member of the Ohio State Bar Association's Ethics Committee. Carla has the resources to assist Gracehaven on legal matters and she has the enthusiasm for raising funds to save these girls. Carla's loving husband Mike supports Carla and the cause in any way that he is able or asked.



KRISTIE ALLEN

By profession, I am a Realtor and a Teacher but my passion is to help educate people about sex trafficking and to help victims of trafficking. I have been a member of Vineyard Columbus for 11 years now and have been deeply involved with a ministry called "New Name" which focuses on reaching out to strip clubs, raising awareness about trafficking and to come alongside Gracehaven to help meet their needs. I first heard about trafficking, about 6 years ago and my heart broke. I knew I had to do something about this issue. The Lord has opened so many doors for me to speak at various events, educate others on this issue, partner with various organizations to help victims and just be available if a victim needs help. This is my sacrifice to the Lord... a broken heart and it is Him that has called me to this ministry.

Advisory Board Members

TOM SIMON

JUDGE EVERETT KRUEGER (KIP)

WAYNE SIMMONS

DAVID ERVIN

CAROLE HARVEY

KATHLEEN DAVIS

Gracehaven Team



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - JEFFREY BARROWS

Dr. Jeffrey Barrows is the Founder of Gracehaven. As an Obstetrician/Gynecologist on staff with the Christian Medical Association, in 2005 he was asked by the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to research the health consequences of human trafficking. Since 2005, Dr Barrows has submitted an annual report on the health consequences of human trafficking to the Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. This research resulted in the publication of an article entitled "Human Trafficking and the Healthcare Professional" in the May 2008 issue of the Southern Medical Journal.

Since December of 2005, Dr. Barrows' work against human trafficking has also included teaching healthcare professionals to recognize potential human trafficking victims through public speaking and by producing the first online CME program regarding human trafficking specifically directed towards healthcare professionals. In 2006, he completed a consultation on the health needs of trafficking victims in Sierra Leone and Liberia for the State Department. Since 2008, he has focused his anti-trafficking efforts to creating Gracehaven, a non-profit organization creating a shelter for adolescent girls who have been commercially sexually exploited in central Ohio.



DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT - THERESA FLORES

Theresa Flores is a survivor of domestic sex trafficking when she was a teenager living in the Detroit area. She has written about her story in her book, "*The Sacred Bath: An American Teens story of Modern Day Slavery.*" Ms. Flores lives in Central Ohio and is the single mother of three beautiful children. Theresa has been a licensed Social Worker for nearly twenty years and received her Master's in Counseling Education from University of Dayton as a Human Development Specialist. She is a spokeswoman for Gracehaven House. She is featured by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Museum in a traveling exhibit entitled, *Invisible Slavery*. She lectures internationally on human trafficking, multi-cultural and parenting issues and has been seen on ONN, ABC and FOX 28.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT - KATIE TALBOTT

Katie Talbott is a graduate of Kent State University and holds a degree in Visual Communication Design. Her heart for women prompted her to become an advocate for survivors with the Sexual Assault Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO) and it was through SARNCO that she first learned about human trafficking and Gracehaven. Katie is a member of Vineyard Columbus, and willingly offers her creative and administrative gifts that the Lord has blessed her with.