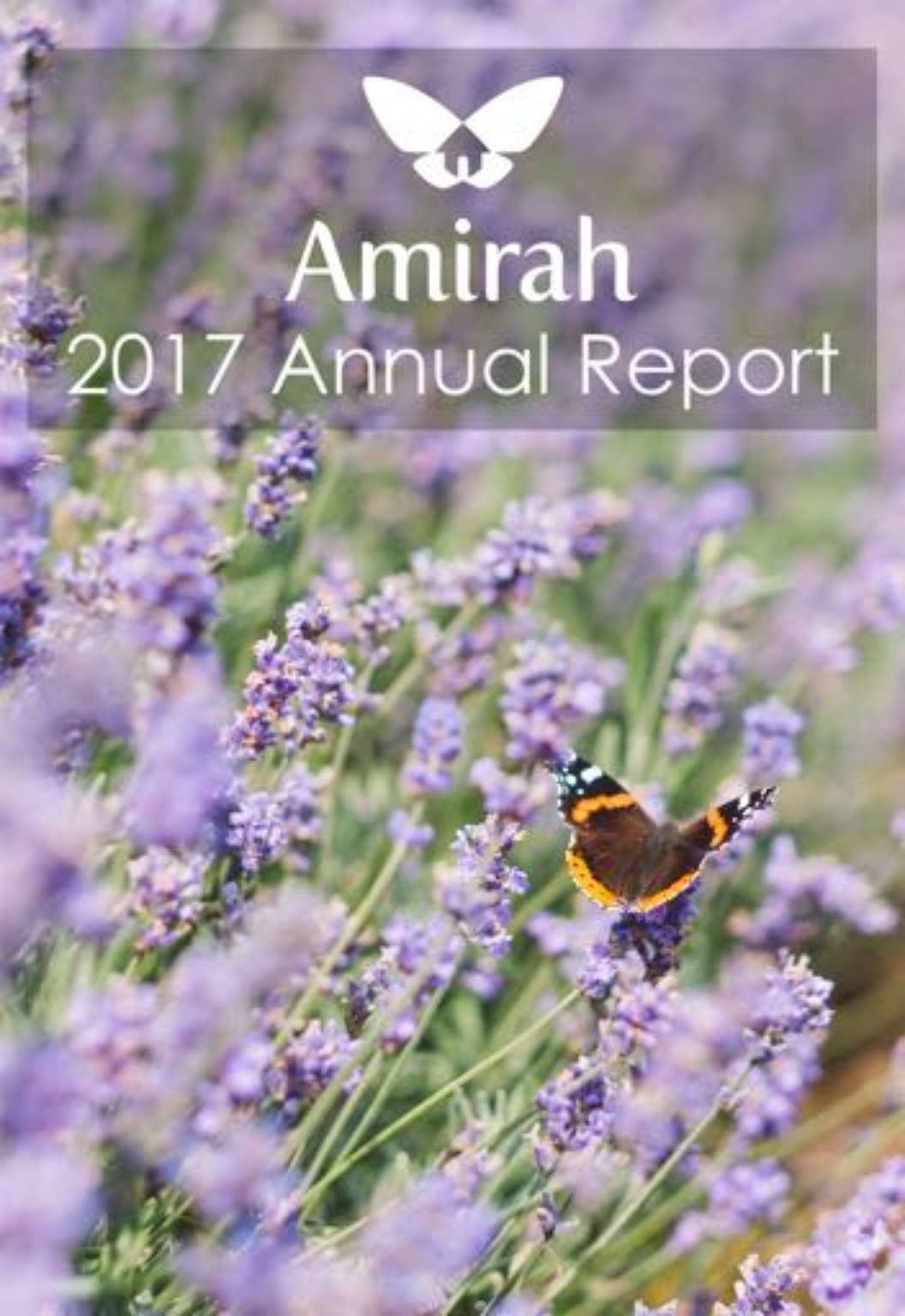
Amirah

2017 Annual Report



Amirah Mission Statement

Amirah exists to provide a refuge for those seeking to break free from exploitation and heal in community on their journey toward lasting hope.

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Amirah Community:

When I sit back and think about 2017, the words DEEP and LASTING come to mind. We knew at the start of the year that we would see the first graduates of the Amirah program. We had three amazing women, all on different, individual journeys of liberation and healing move from victim to survivor to a woman who is ready to thrive in life.

The word DEEP comes to mind because of the work that I have seen each of these women do. We have heard from every woman that has come into the Amirah safe home that she has never experienced a program like this before. They each know that we will not leave a stone unturned in their lives, and that we will no longer numb the pain and the past, but we will face it with them and walk through the pain into a place of healing and peace.

These women are quite possibly the strongest, most resilient women I have ever met. They truly face darkness each day, but they do it with support. They go DEEP in order to LAST for life. They do this because they know now they will never be alone. Thank you for walking with them.

With Hope -
Stephanie Clark
Executive Director

Letter from Chair of the Board

At the beginning of 2017, the Board of Directors of Amirah drafted three goals for the year. First, we wanted to establish Amirah as the state-of-the-art program for other organizations seeking to build safe houses for women who have been sex trafficked. We recognize that this is a long-term and continually evolving goal, but in 2017 we chose to take an intentional step toward it. Second, we wanted to build on the strong financial foundation that had been laid in 2016. Third, we wanted to work toward expanding our services either in breadth or location.

We are happy to report that our work in 2017 was successful in all three areas. Our safe home program, which has been through refinement and improvement, is operating at a very high level. We are so proud of the quality and commitment of our staff who run and support the women and the operation of our safe home. Women's lives are being changed! And Amirah is now the sought-after expert for others seeking to build safe homes - meaning that even more women's lives will be changed.

God once again blessed Amirah financially in 2017 and this year we sought to steward those resources well - not only for sustainability but also for future growth. As you will see in this report, we ended the year in a strong financial position which will enable us to extend our services in 2018. To this end, we made the decision to launch our "Ending the Game" initiative to help women who have been sex trafficked, but do not need the services of a safe home. We also actively began the process of creating either a new safe home or an emergency shelter in other parts of New England.

Truly, Amirah is at a very strong place and we have you, our donors, to thank for walking alongside us and supporting our efforts. As a Board, we have seen God's hand directly at work in this ministry and we are thankful to have partners like you working with us.

Greg Smith
Chairman of the Board

Journeys of Liberation

In 2017, we were privileged to serve 23 women through our home and other after care opportunities.

The numbers below are from the women who have entered our safe home program in 2017. These numbers reflect more than just blood, sweat, and tears, they reflect **HOPE** living in a woman once again. They show that light does indeed shine into darkness. They show that each woman is not alone in her journey, she is walking this tough road with you.

Spiritual Trauma Recovery:
275 Meetings

Physical Trauma Recovery:
350 Meetings

Social Trauma Recovery:
526 Meetings

Whole Person Care Recovery

Mental Trauma Recovery:
497 Meetings

Vocational Trauma Recovery:
4,380 Hours

Emotional Trauma Recovery:
371 Meetings

Why Whole Person Care Matters

Every victim of sex trafficking has experienced complex trauma. The results of complex trauma in the life of survivors can be seen in their difficulty to regulate emotions and impulses. What this looks like to an average person is a woman who is just another drug addict. She is harsh and often mean. She can't sit still, and has to take frequent smoke breaks.

The reason we believe wholeheartedly in the Whole Person Care approach is because of the effects of complex trauma. If we only provided a bed for her, she would still blow up in the face of another person who looks at her the wrong way. If we only worked on her mental health, she would still have extreme shame and be unable to hold onto a job for longer than a few weeks.

Whole Person Care matters because it leaves no stone unturned. As she does this work, we watch her entire life be restored. While every woman comes to us with her own personal goals, our goals for them are:

- Physical – Stabilization in physical self over time
- Mental – Function fully in present reality
- Emotional – Regulate emotions & work through trauma
- Social – Learn communication skills
- Vocational – Discover life-affirming path
- Spiritual – Understand and believe in forgiveness, breaking the cycle of shame

As you can imagine, this kind of work does not happen overnight. This is why our program is meant to be long-term (around 2-years), because we do not believe that bandaids will help complex trauma.

The Story of Jessie

When we think of Jessie, we think of a lot of firsts. Jessie was the first woman to come into the safe home when it opened in October of 2015. She went through a lot of firsts with the staff - first flat tire, first time getting health insurance, first time having to educate a doctor on what a sex trafficking victim is.

Despite all of the stumbles along the way, Jessie was committed and showed resiliency. She pushed through depression, she worked hard each day to prove to us and herself that she wanted her life back. She stepped boldly into a leadership role in the home with the other women. We are proud of every woman that comes into the Amirah home, but there is something about having your first one graduate.

In December of 2017, Jessie stepped forward and received her graduation certificate from Amirah. She continues to be a part of the Amirah community, like every woman who goes through the program is. She is now working with Rebecca Bender Ministries being trained by survivors to become a Survivor Leader.

We use the phrase often that we watch a woman transform from the slave she used to be to the woman she was created to be. For Jessie, we are watching and supporting her as she continues on her journey of liberation, and are excited for the day when she steps out as the leader that she was created to be!

From left: Stephanie Clark (Executive Director), Jessie (Survivor Graduate), Heather Thornburg (Program Director), Sarah Moscho (Program Clinician)

Why Community Matters

We say this often, that we would not be here today without the support of the Amirah Community. But what do we mean by the Amirah Community?

John 15:13 is the motivation behind us each day, that we would show each woman what true love is by laying our lives down for her. The Amirah Community comes alongside us in doing the same thing.

The Amirah Community is filled with volunteers who give their time selflessly every day to these women and to the work of providing aftercare.

The Amirah Community is filled with amazing donors who invest their money in the lives of women who are journeying from exploitation to liberation. They understand this journey is messy, but they believe in the deep work that is being done.

The Amirah Community is hundreds of people who pray for strength and protection for us each day. This work is the essence of bringing light into darkness. It is complex, it is difficult, it is tiring - but we are renewed each day because of the prayers of the Amirah Community.

In the pages that follow, you will see the story of community unfold. From all of us here at Amirah, we want to say with all of our hearts, "THANK YOU!!!" These women are never alone because of you.

2017 Amirah Volunteers

In 2017, we had over **3,740 volunteer hours** in total. This spans from volunteering directly in the safe home with the women to helping us in our office along with a variety of other ways.

"Amirah has been such a blessing in my life. It is such a privilege to get to know these women & serve them. These women are so courageous, strong, intelligent, & kind. I learn so much from each of them every time I'm here. I volunteer at Amirah because I love these women & love supporting them through these milestones." - Volunteer GP

"Volunteering at Amirah has consistently pushed me to better practice patience & extend grace; not only towards the women, but to other folks in my life as well. They are strong, intelligent, inspiring, witty, talented. Seeing the work these ladies put into bettering their lives & coming into their own is beyond inspirational. It makes me proud to know them & I am honored to be able to stand by them not only as a volunteer, but also as a friend."
- Volunteer TK

"Volunteering as a married couple is a unique opportunity to live out your mission & purpose in the world as a united force. There are few environments where you can fight for justice together & tangibly be a positive presence in others' lives at the same time. As we delve deeper into the lives of these women, our hearts reach out together, making us thankful to share the rich experience with each other. It makes us realize the need to channel energy & focus outward in a broken world & makes us more thankful for what we have in each other. - Volunteers AS & SS

2017 Hike 4 Hope

Hike a mountain for a day, give her hope for a lifetime.

On August 19th, 2017, 48 people from the Amirah Community hiked up Mount Washington (the tallest mountain in New England) in support of the women of Amirah. This was our second annual Hike 4 Hope. Along with the 48 people in the community, two survivors from Amirah made it to the top, all 6,288 feet!

Hike 4 hope has become one of our favorite community efforts to support the women of Amirah raising awareness and funds for them. Each woman at Amirah climbs her own personal mountain of recovery each day; it seems only fitting that we support them by climbing a mountain for them!

Thank you to the 48 hikers for raising $25,000 for these women!

2017 Voices of Hope

One of the highlights of our year is our annual Voices of Hope brunch. This year, over $50,000 was raised to support the women of Amirah. We heard from Heather Thornburg, the Program Director of Amirah, on what it is like for one day in the life of a survivor as she works through her program. We also heard from a survivor on why she has hope today because of Amirah.

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2017 Financials

Our financial statements for 2017 are listed below. Amirah offers these as part of our commitment to steward well while simultaneously achieving a level of transparency that we believe the community of Amirah deserves.

Revenue

Contributions Unrestricted	$290,728
Special Events	$81,171
Contributions Temp Restricted	$84,883
Other Types of Revenue	$2,705
Total Revenue	$459,487

Expense

Program Costs	$210,658
Administrative Costs	$106,573
Development Costs	$76,861
Depreciation	$6,933
Total Expenses	$401,025

Increase in Net Assets $58,462

Total Amount in In-Kind Donations $30,644

Why This Work Matters

We are often asked why we do this work. It is true that working in the field of trauma-recovery is probably some of the hardest work that exists right now. There are many days that we want to throw in the towel, but then we remember why this work matters so much.

The truth is that it matters to us, because this is exactly what Jesus would have been doing. He told the story once of a shepherd who was missing one sheep out of the 99 that were in his flock. The shepherd left everything and went out to find the one sheep that was missing.

He went after the one.

He went after the one because every single life matters to the shepherd. It is not enough just to take care of the 99, it has to be every life that is in His care.

And so, we go after the one.

As of the end of 2017, we have seen the survivors of Amirah **accomplish over 13,000 hours of trauma-recovery work on their journeys from exploitation to liberation.**

13,000 hours of trauma-recovery work. Not only do we go after the one, but we make sure that a deep, lasting impact is happening in their lives.

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2018, Here We Come

As we launch into 2018, we are thrilled to work towards expansion and reaching more women to help them start journeys of liberation.

Cheri Crider, our Office Manager, has moved to a full-time position with us and will begin to lead Outreach Groups within the community. These groups will connect directly with survivors that are still out in the community, but may not be ready for coming into the Amirah safe home for a variety of reasons. It allows us to connect with them and be a touch point for them as they discover their own journeys of liberation.

But then what happens after that? Especially if this amazing home where trauma-recovery work is being done is full? And so, Amirah Boston, it is time to become Amirah New England. We are ready for our legacy to go from being an amazing safe home to exploring what does it really look like for us to become a network of homes throughout New England. We are ready to make in an impact in the lives of so many more women helping them to start journeys of liberation.

This is our legacy, this is where we are headed. We are so excited for 2018, 2019 and the many years ahead. Thank you for coming with us on this journey!

Amirah

From exploitation to liberation.

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