



**Amirah**

**2016**  
***Annual Report***

# From Amirah's Executive Director

Dear Amirah Community:

2016 has come and gone, and while I sit back and reflect on all that happened, I am left with a deep sense of gratitude.

*Gratitude for each woman we have seen in 2016:*

They come in with complex trauma, substance abuse, mental health disorders, and a world of pain that I will never fully understand - but they come in. They choose to face these mountains each day. **They are the strongest women that I will ever meet,** and I am beyond grateful that I get to walk with them for this time in their lives.

*Gratitude for the dozens of volunteers who have sacrificed their time each week and month for these women who are journeying from exploitation to liberation:*

**The volunteers of Amirah make the work we do a possibility.** They sacrifice at least four hours every month where they drive women to appointments, help with basic cleaning of the home, cook a meal and simply offer the ministry of presence so that the staff can go home for the day and weekends. No one will ever truly know how much you mean to us, but to our volunteers, you are our champions!

*Gratitude for the staff who have grown and learned so much in this past year:*

**No one warns you about this, but working with survivors of sex trafficking may be some of the hardest, most complex work out there.** I am grateful for the staff that has taken on this challenge, doing so by laying down their lives and responding to anger with love. These women that I get to work with are quite possibly some of the hardest workers I know, and I have seen them show sacrificial, unconditional love day in and day out. I am grateful to be working alongside them.

*Gratitude for the community that supports us and helped us to find sustainability:*

In 2016, **we doubled our monthly supporters and almost hit the mark to triple them.** This helped us to grow and expand our program while we continued to grow and learn in this work. We saw more people join us in this movement in 2016 than in 2015 and surpassed our fundraising goal. We saw people give sacrificially so that each woman would have a chance at a new life.

As you read through this report, I hope that you will see a year of growth, learning, and sustainability. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this all possible. We truly would not be here today without you.

With Hope -

Stephanie Clark  
Executive Director  
#HopeLivesHere



# ***From Amirah's Chair of the Board***

To the marvelous Amirah community of supporters—

Hope. Transformation. Health. Wholeness. Value. These are just some of the meaningful qualities that convey what Amirah wants and works to instill in each woman who participates in its program of whole-person care for women survivors of sex trafficking. It is ironic—and tragic—that as awareness of the global reality of the trafficking and exploitation of persons grows—significantly of women and children—there is no slowing or diminishing of that reality. Sex trafficking, in particular, is a thriving, multi-billion dollar business across countries, continents and socio-economic classes. It is global and it is local—including here, on Boston's North Shore.

Amirah's safe home provides beds and care for eight women—that's eight of the total of 17 beds available throughout New England. For people with a heart for mitigating the brutality and devaluing of trafficking, Amirah's vision and program are unique and essential. There is nothing else like it in our region, offering a realistic hope of lasting restoration of health in a woman's emotional, physical, psychological, social, spiritual, and vocational wellbeing.

Under the dynamic and bold leadership of Executive Director Stephanie Clark and Program Director Heather Thornburg and their staffs, Amirah is changing lives for good: for the good of the women and of the community. In fact, this kind of work is always a community effort, depending on partners in the medical, law enforcement and Homeland Security areas, as well as the investment of time, talent and treasure from scores of volunteers and donors. There's no doubt that providing health and hope to survivors of sex trafficking takes a village!

All of us connected in even the slightest way with Amirah are fully aware that without the multi-faceted support of Amirah's community there would be no Amirah. To fight the scourge and horror of trafficking in any community requires the community's vigilance and effort. Our community is making a heroic effort, and we can never adequately express our appreciation.

Amirah's hope is to serve a growing number of women—some day, through multiple programs. We hope and pray you will continue with us on this adventure, involved and investing in the meaningful work of returning a sense of value, independence and productivity to women who've been exploited and beaten down. To borrow a phrase, together we can do this!

With appreciation—

Nancy Mering  
Chair,  
Amirah Board of Directors

# *The Problem: Trafficking in 2016*

In 2016, we had 57 victims of sex trafficking referred to us through our referral partners.

Total cases of trafficking via Natl Trafficking Hotline in Massachusetts since 2007 (as of Oct. 2016):

**Total Calls: 1,599**

**Total Cases: 370**

**Total Victims: 733**

Total Cases in Massachusetts identified via Hotline in 2016 (as of Oct. 2016): 69

"In Boston it's estimated that more than 10,000 ads selling people for sex are posted online every month, with each ad receiving an average of 46 responses, according to research by Demand Abolition. This indicates that there is a strong demand for paid sex in the area—demand that is fueling the local trafficking economy."

(<http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/press-releases/2016/2016-04-19-anti-human-trafficking.html>)

# The Need for Services

Massachusetts Interagency Human Trafficking Policy Task Force Report, 2013:

"Currently, services for victims are **the biggest human trafficking related need** in Massachusetts. There are a very limited number of organizations that support and lack of financial resources to assist survivors of trafficking as they work to rebuild."

"The [Victim Services] subcommittee noted that successful trafficking programs nationwide exhibit certain hallmark characteristics. In particular, the subcommittee identified the need for **comprehensive, holistic, survivor-led services with long-term support over a period of years**. Additionally, the subcommittee found that such services must be individualized to take into account the survivor's unique circumstances and particular vulnerabilities. By developing a service plan, shaped by the survivor's goals and talents, services are more likely to be successful. While a number of trafficking-specific organizations exist in Massachusetts, **the chronic lack of funding prevents agencies from building effective safety nets for survivors.**"

"Comprehensive Trauma Informed Evidence Based Programming. This approach is necessary and effective to ensure survivors successfully exit trafficking without re-victimization. Programs must meet a survivor's need for emergency services (e.g., basic needs, emergency shelter, safety planning), transitional services (e.g., transitional housing, skills building, legal services), and long-term services (e.g., family reunification, job placement, leadership building). Services must be consistent and continuous over the long-term addressing the reality that survivor's needs change over time."

U.S Advisory Council on Human Trafficking Annual Report 2016

(council consists solely of survivors)

<https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/263434.pdf>

"Survivors of human trafficking are exposed to severe levels of trauma in their trafficking situations. When a survivor escapes, the individual needs to receive a range of services to help cross the bridge from victim to survivor. These services should be comprehensive and focused on the **whole individual**, not only on the physical wellbeing, but also on the psychological, emotional, and holistic wellbeing. These services should include, but not be limited to medical, dental, vision, mental health, housing, family, job training and placement, substance abuse, and family reunification. These services should be individualized and sensitive to cultural and religious beliefs.

Additionally, **the housing needs of survivors of human trafficking are immense**. Survivors need access to emergency, transitional, and long-term housing to establish a **safe place** to live, far away from their traffickers if needed, especially if they are escaping from their trafficker. Survivors of human trafficking need services that empower social justice and inclusion and provide the tools needed to succeed."



# *Amirah's Wholistic Trauma Recovery*

In 2016, we had six women who were able to come into the Amirah home and program. We offer whole person care recovery for every woman that comes into the Amirah program. Each program is trauma-informed and individualized for the woman's needs and specific recovery work.

We are amazed at the work that each woman was able to do in 2016. Every day she wakes up to a mountain she has to climb, but these women chose to do that. The road from exploitation to liberation is not an easy one, but each woman knows that she does not walk this road alone. She is on this journey with you.

**1. Physical Recovery** – These numbers include appointments to their doctors, specialists, but also physical activities like rock climbing and working out at the gym:

471 Individual Meetings & Activities

**2. Spiritual Recovery** – These numbers include meetings with spiritual mentors as well as various faith services that the woman chose to explore and attend:

147 Individual Meetings & Activities

**3. Emotional Recovery** – These numbers include involvement in groups and various emotional recovery therapies that we have been able to connect each woman to:

289 Groups & Meetings

**4. Psychological Recovery** – These numbers include a variety of therapies and counseling appointments that revolve around their trauma recovery as well as their addiction recovery work:

915 Individual Therapies & Appointments

**5. Social Recovery** – These numbers include fun activities that we are able to connect the women to like museum trips or apple picking as well as relationship-building outings with volunteers:

623 Activities + Interaction with over 50 volunteers

**6. Vocational Recovery** – These numbers reflect the hours that each woman has been able to put in whether in vocational training, employment, life skill building, financial mentoring, or educational goals:

2,066 Hours of Vocational Recovery

**In 2016, we watched women make huge strides in their journeys of liberation, meeting some incredible milestones.**

One woman celebrated 1-year of sobriety in our safe home.

One woman stood up in court and spoke out against her trafficker.

One woman put a significant legal matter behind her, showing the court that she was starting a new life.

One woman successfully completed an intense job-training program.

One woman found faith and is now an active part of her church, developing friendships and a community of support.

One woman overcame a significant medical problem that was related to her trafficking.

## *From Amirah's Survivors*

"If I could tell the world one thing about who I am now, I would say that I don't regret anything it took to get me to Amirah. Because since getting here, I've become a better person who is strong on the inside. And I know now my past doesn't define me."

"When I got to Amirah, I wasn't one of the easiest people to be around because of the walls I was keeping up around me. But I've learned to have more compassion for others and that my problems and fears are not the biggest. There are others who can understand me, and it's possible to have true friendships. That's one of my biggest accomplishments."

"Not only has Amirah helped me get things in order like my mental & physical health. They've given me hope, and made my future look a lot brighter."

"If I could say one thing to someone at Amirah who supports me it would be thank you for being here for me. You don't know how much I appreciate you caring about my needs, and how much your support has changed the way I look at people for the better."



## Our Volunteers

*"Volunteering with Amirah has taught me that people are all beautiful and also not so different from one another, despite their polarized backgrounds. With honest vulnerability, and the courage to choose joy, authentic love can be born."*

*- Emily*

*"Being an Amirah Volunteer has stretched me to be more gracious and able to relate and connect with people no matter what their background is. I am thankful for the opportunity Amirah volunteering gives me to love these very special women" - Winnie*

**Amirah celebrates over 4,570  
volunteer hours in 2016. Thank you  
for making our mission a reality.**

## ***The Amirah Community Supported Us in Some Amazing Ways in 2016...***



### ***Voices of Hope in April***



### ***Hike 4 Hope in August***



### ***Anniversary Month Virtual 5K in October***

Stephanie Clark, Executive Director, holding the Official Congratulations from the State on celebrating 1-year of our safe home being opened.



In-kind donation of more than 1200 rolls of toilet paper from a kids group at a local church.

Amirah's amazing Gratitude Team, helping us get our mailings out to donors.



# 2016 Financials

Our financial statements for 2016 are listed below. Amirah offers these statements as part of a commitment to steward our resources well while simultaneously achieving a level of transparency our organization has never before attained.

## Revenue

Contributions Unrestricted.....	\$310,167
Fundraising.....	\$66,210
Contributions Temp Restricted.....	\$4,622
Other Types of Revenue.....	\$1,029

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Total Revenue \$382,028

## Expense

Payroll Expenses.....	\$231,202
Program.....	\$39,988
Development Costs.....	\$17,106
Administrative Costs.....	\$12,723
Insurance.....	\$10,440
Accounting Fees.....	\$7,486
Depreciation.....	\$6,034
Online Donation Database.....	\$4,568

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Total Expense \$329,540

Increase in Net Assets \$52,488

Total Amount in In-Kind Donations.....\$26,304\*

\*This includes the incredible generosity of a brand new heating system donated to us by local businesses.





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