

IMPACT REPORT





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About

i-5 FREEDOM NETWORK

In 2013 Brenda Wells attended an Orange County anti-trafficking event and the wheels were set in motion. Two years later, in 2015, Brenda launched i-5 Freedom Network – an organization borne from her passion for the cause and her professional experience.

Brenda combined her professional experience with her knowledge on human trafficking to combat the activity from a unique vantage point. As a corporate trainer she leveraged her connections in Dale Carnegie to provide free employment training for survivors, who are at a disadvantage when it comes to finding and retaining work. What's more, her experience in and understanding of the hotel industry allowed her to formulate human trafficking prevention training tailored to the needs of the hotel industry. With an engaged Board and dedicated team, i-5 Freedom Network has become an integral part of the healing process for human trafficking survivors throughout Orange County and the surrounding area.

Our MISSION

- To provide Survivors life skills for a path forward and away from the life of human trafficking.
- To empower the hospitality industry to become heroes in the fight against human trafficking.
- To mobilize entire communities to join the fight to end human trafficking.

Our VISION

- To end human trafficking so that all may live with freedom and dignity.



Mission ACCOMPLISHED

- When ALL Survivors are Thrivers
- When ALL hotels are onboard and disrupting the cycle of human trafficking
- When ALL communities are pledged to prevention



Part One

EMPOWERING SURVIVORS: WAY2WORK PROGRAMS

PARTICIPANTS SERVED:	47
PROGRAMS:	5
NUMBER OF SESSIONS:	34
AVERAGE GROUP SIZE:	9
GRADUATES:	36
TOTAL % OF GRADUATES:	77%

"This program has so much value for trafficking survivors and service providers - I'm excited to see how it will empower other survivors and anti-trafficking organizations!"

-Way2Work Participant



WAY2WORK PROGRAMS

by the numbers

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS, 8-WEEK COURSE

PROGRAMS	PARTICIPANTS	GRADUATES	PERCENTAGE
4	37	27	73%

"The graduation rate of the Skills for Success Program is more challenging due to the longer term commitment that it requires: 8 weekly sessions, yet those who Graduate have expressed experiencing a Transformation and long term impact benefits!

HIGH IMPACT PRESENTATIONS, 2-DAY COURSE

PROGRAMS	PARTICIPANTS	GRADUATES	PERCENTAGE
1	10	9	90%

TOTALS

PROGRAMS	PARTICIPANTS	GRADUATES	PERCENTAGE
5	47	36	77%

WAY2WORK PROGRAMS

who we serve

We served 47 participants, who were referred to us by an increasing number of Anti Human Trafficking partnering organizations. We grew from 11 to 18 partners in one year.

1. Annie Cannons
2. Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition*
3. Casa Cornelia Law Center*
4. Children of the Immaculate Heart
5. Empower Her Network
6. First to Serve
7. Free to Thrive
8. Fundación de Sobrevivientes de Tráfico Humano
9. Gems Uncovered*
10. Generate Hope*
11. Kherut
12. Radiant Futures (formerly WTLC)
13. The Salvation Army
14. San Diego Youth Services*
15. Set Free Monterey Bay*
16. The W Tote
17. Two Wings
18. Waymakers

*New partnering organizations

WAY2WORK PROGRAMS

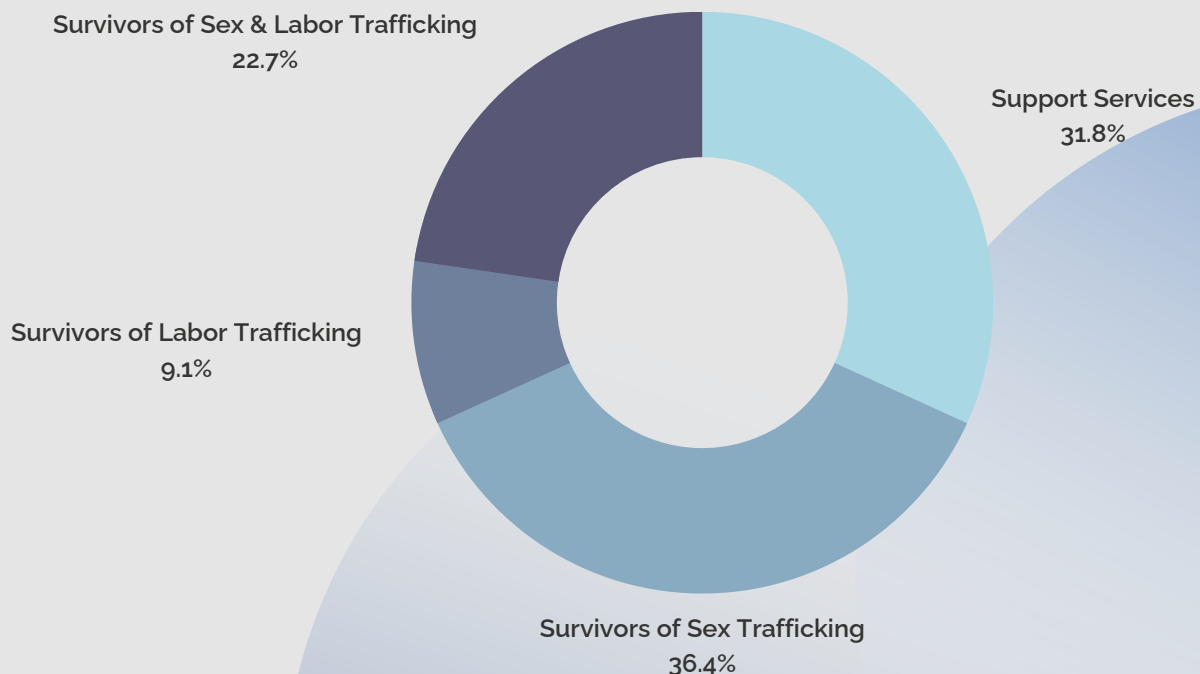
who we serve

Our programs bring together survivors and support services providers participating together in a simulated working environment.

This gives Survivors an opportunity to see positive role models and to “work together” with directors and case managers from other anti human trafficking organizations who provide them with affirmation and encouragement.

Support services providers have expressed increased empathy and admiration towards survivors who they serve as an additional benefit from our program.

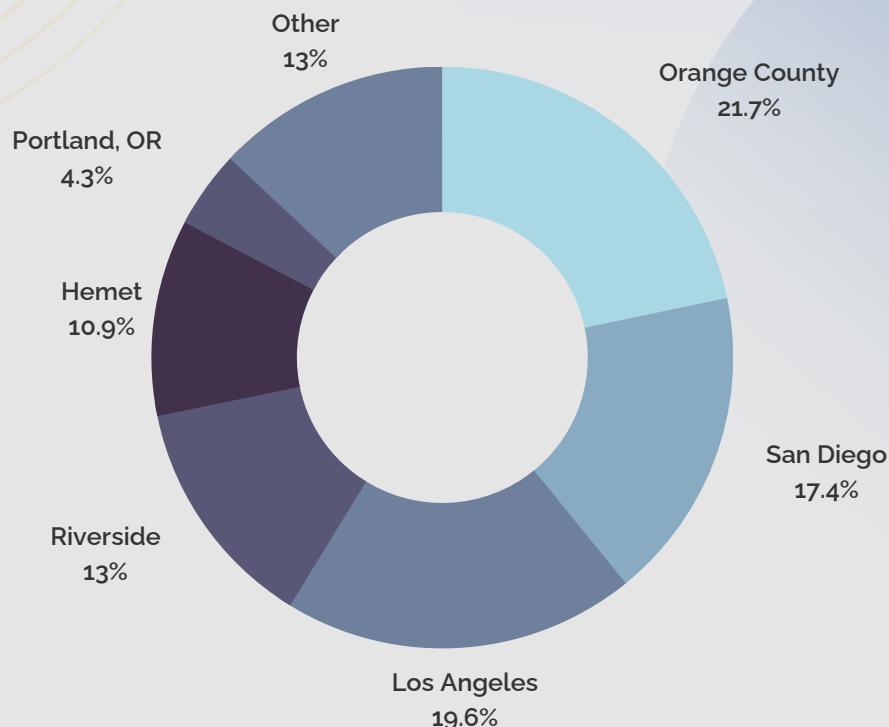
PARTICIPANTS BACKGROUND:



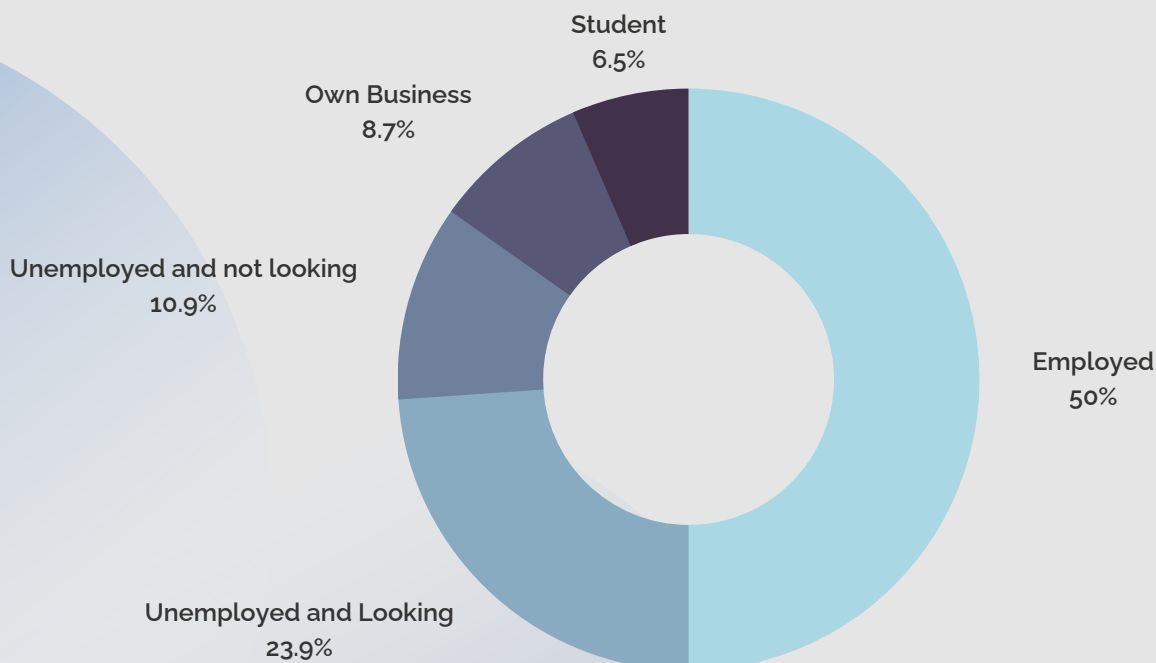
WAY2WORK PROGRAMS

who we serve

PARTICIPANT'S LOCATION:



PARTICIPANTS EMPLOYMENT STATUS:



WAY2WORK PROGRAMS

results & responses

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

Provides interpersonal communication skills to improve confidence upon completion of the Skills for Success course:

- 57% of participants rated their self confidence between 3-6 out of 10 upon the start of our program.
- 100% Participants expressed they had an increase in confidence as a result of the program.



- 100% of participants strongly agreed that their people skills improved as a result of this program.
- 82% of participants strongly agreed their confidence increased as a result of this training

**We asked our participants why they enrolled.
Here's a few of their responses.**

- I will be confident to lead my life and take decisions that I can feel proud of
- It will make me more positive, strong, and independent
- It will benefit me to help my areas of weakness in order to better serve participants whom I work with.
- To be a more confident, relatable speaker. I want to expand my audience base.
- I would like to grow in my leadership skills as a survivor leader.
- To gain and improve my skill set with tools that will help me in challenging times at work and in my personal life

WAY2WORK PROGRAMS

results & responses

HIGH IMPACT PRESENTATIONS COURSE

Provides professional communication, public speaking and leadership skills to increase success in the workforce upon completion of the course:

- 100% of our participants reported improved Confidence and Presentations skills as a result of this workshop.



- 100% of our graduates strongly agree that they will recommend our courses to others!



WAY2WORK PROGRAMS

results & responses

In their words

"The best part of the program was learning new skills. Now I can speak without notes & be more connected to my audience & have more fun with it."

"I have become a positive thinker and confident with myself. I feel there is a possibility and I just need to keep a good attitude at life. I am grateful for the tools which I will be practicing each day to continue to achieve success and build healthy relationships,"

"I could tell there were a lot of well thought out plans for each of the individual participants. It allowed me to reflect on my own coaching and what it was that I was being specifically taught. You can tell the facilitators cared, and that's important."

"This course not only taught me new skills to use during the hard conversations I was having with the CEO and leadership team, but it renewed my faith in good leadership and in my ability to heal from the burn out. I have not completely recovered yet, but this course gave me a great jumping off point. Thank you!"

Part Two

EMPOWERING SURVIVORS: NEW SURVIVOR PROGRAMS

Way2Work Plus

Way2Work Plus continued and expanded this year. Through a generous grant, 16 participants have received one or more of the following::

- A new computer;
- A one-on-one consultation with our Stylist consultant, to advise them on their professional style and help them select a new business outfit;
- A gas gift card, to help them cope with the increased gas prices so they can go to their job location or job interviews.

Inspiration Café

"Inspiration Cafe" is the name of our newly formed online support groups for our English and Spanish speaking Alumni, where graduates of our programs reconnect once a month, meet other graduates, discuss topics of interest, find support and enjoy time with people who understand.

We are honored to open this space where our graduates can turn to for support and guidance; This is also a platform for them to be the spotlight as the "Guest speaker" of the session, on a topic they have experience with, further developing their confidence, leadership and public speaking skills.

New Survivor Programs Impact Snapshot

11

COMPUTERS
DONATED

8

STYLED & NEW
WARDROBE

5

GAS CARDS
GIVEN

12

INSPIRATION CAFÉ
PARTICIPANTS

NEW SURVIVOR PROGRAMS

in their words

"I am a survivor, a mother and a leader in my community. I am currently working as a Program Coordinator for a non-profit. Joining the i-5 Freedom Network helped me grow and pursue my dream of becoming an advocate for survivors just like me."

"Gas prices are insane nowadays. I am usually on an empty tank and I have submitted my gas application. I can't thank y'all enough for this. I have been struggling with putting in gas or sometimes getting something to eat. This is much appreciated!"

"I have NO other circle. The circle I had was traumatic, full of drama. I realize I have no one to talk to about the things that I am going through."

"My laptop broke, I am unable to afford one right now. Although my job does let me borrow the work laptop, I would love my own laptop again. I can not thank you enough for your generosity. With my entire heart, thank you very much for this laptop."

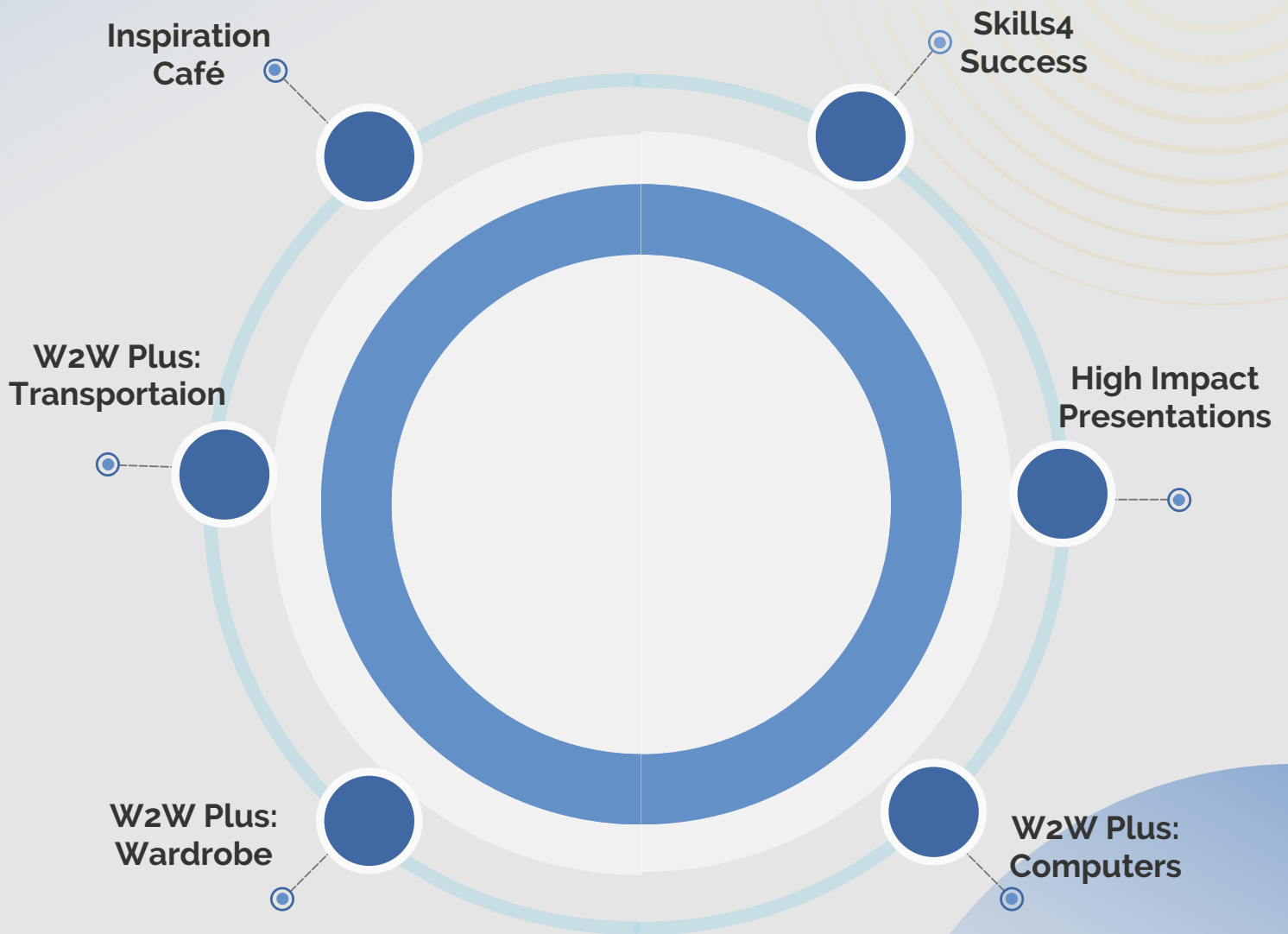
"Thanks for introducing Sandra (our stylist consultant) to my life. She is incredible and truly a fashionista!"

"i-5 Freedom Network facilitated six paid speaking opportunities for Survivor leaders and Lived Experience Experts including:

- *Loitering for the Purpose of Engaging in Prostitution, a Zonta Club Santa Clarita Valley Event*
- *Superbowl Community and Business Safety Event, an i-5 Freedom Network Event*
- *It's Happening Here, Now What? a Susan Samueli Foundation Event*
- *Through their Eyes, a Susan Samueli Foundation and i-5 Freedom Network Event*
- *Philanthropy and Anti-Trafficking Organizations, a Susan Samueli Foundation Event*
- *Human Trafficking Training for Homeless Services Staff, a City of Long Beach Event*
- *Human Trafficking Town Hall, an i-5 Freedom Network and City of San Clemente Event*

NEW SURVIVOR PROGRAMS

full circle support



FULL CIRCLE SUPPORT

Because of a generous community grant, we were able to expand the scope of our support, and add new programs that will give each Survivor a way to thrive while they work to change

Part Three

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- Brenda Wells, Founder and Executive Director of i-5 Freedom Network was a key contributor in the four-part Susan Samueli Foundation Event,
- i-5 Freedom Network was featured in the Unite US- California Partner Spotlight Event.
- i-5 Freedom Network was a guest on the Anti-Human Trafficking Spanish podcast "Terminando con la Trata." (Ending Human Trafficking), a podcast heard in the US and in over 50 countries!
- i-5 Freedom Network organized and hosted a special San Clemente Town Hall Event to address Human Trafficking in our area that was attended by more than 60 members of the community.
- i-5 Freedom Network organized and hosted a local soiree event to bring our work and awareness to the local community

HOTEL READINESS

- i-5 Freedom Network hosted a Community and Safety Event training countering increased activity of human trafficking during local Superbowl events
- i-5 Freedom Network and 13 local anti-trafficking organizations, joined resources to combat human trafficking during the 2022 Super Bowl.
- A volunteer team of 11 spent a collective 50+ hours delivering printed resources to 65 different hotels and motels.
- i-5 Freedom Network launched "The Levi Project", a new training and awareness initiative for responding to possible trafficking incidences.
- i-5 Freedom Network initiated and developed a compliance and rating program for local hotels to award proactive efforts to eliminate human trafficking in the hospitality industry.

To Our Supporters



As always, no matter how important our mission is, or how dedicated we are to our vision, all our time, our work and our impact wouldn't be possible without you.

You are the ones who are making the impact; We are the ones who are dedicated to making your impact matter.

From all of us at i-5 Freedom Network, *thank you!*



I may only be *one* person,
but I can be one person
who makes a *difference*.

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