



# Open To Freedom

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



— A Letter From Our Founder

# We Are Open To Freedom

Dear Friends—*my fellow allies in the war against trafficking,*



First let me say thank you. Thank you for joining the cause. Many of you have joined your hearts to ours. You have supported our work financially. You have prayed. And you have encouraged us. This is not easy work and we couldn't—and certainly wouldn't want to—do it without you standing by our sides.

This is an all-consuming cause. I often say this cause has “ruined my life.” I can't go anywhere without seeing them...in the lobby of high-end hotels. On the beaches in resort towns. Walking through airports. In city squares and in front of ancient monuments, wandering the streets all over the world. Behind the windows in Red Light Districts. They look like women but when you peel away the makeup it's clear...they are just young girls.


### ***How do I know they're traffic victims/sex slaves?***

I see them approach strangers with a wink and a smile and hand them a business card. The police stand steps away 'oblivious' to the situation. I see old men taking provocative photos of them on the beach while saying inappropriate things to them. Often they appear to be drugged as they wander through the airport or sit across the aisle in 14b. Sometimes they're little girls, being escorted by 60-year-old men. It's obvious that he's not her grandpa.

Scan me





A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black short-sleeved top and a dark blue skirt, stands in a greenhouse. She is surrounded by rows of plants growing on trellises. The greenhouse has a metal frame and a clear plastic covering. The background shows a wooden building and trees under a blue sky with some clouds.

I know the signs. I'm in the 'anti-trafficking business,' yet I still feel powerless when confronted with these ugly situations.

***How do we turn the tide?***

***How do we influence governments, law enforcement, and society to act?***

***How do we save and restore these precious lives?***

Well, Uncaged has a strategy. In addition to creating a healing village called The Sanctuary, where survivors have access to everything they need to heal, we have tried and tested curriculums and anti-trafficking strategies. Our goal is to blanket one nation at a time and turn the tide one life at a time, one city at a time, and one country at a time.

We are currently working our way through Europe building a network of concerned citizens, government officials, business people, churches, and many other sectors of society.

The work is not easy, safe, or inexpensive but we think you'll agree...it's worth it. To see women and children lifted out of hell, or better yet, prevented from ever entering never gets old. We are privileged to be on the front line and **the truth is the front line can only go as far as the supply line allows.** Thanks for being our supply line.

This is our life's calling and we aren't going to quit anytime soon.

With Hope & Determination,  
*Kim Westfall*  
Founder/CEO





# The Sanctuary Is Open

## *Last year we were able to pay off the property!*

For years, we dreamed and worked together and it finally happened in 2022. The Sanctuary opened! We took many steps to see the 237 acre property in Romania transform into a safe place for survivors. Last year we were able to pay off the property thanks to the generosity of our donors. Then, we had to spruce up the facility and ensure that it was efficient, safe, and comfortable.

We were also able to refurbish The Sanctuary with new electrical and HVAC systems. We updated showers, steps, furniture, and cabinets. We improved the art therapy room, laundry room, and kitchen. We were even able to install a ropes course, develop the equine therapy area, and start renovating a container to become an on-site medical clinic.

Our outdoor facilities team received new garden equipment and a tractor to assist in log cutting and tending to our orchards and gardens. We were able to purchase a van to transport survivors and guests. We were blessed by donors who assisted in the purchase of brand-new furniture: comfy beds, couches and chairs, armoires, fluffy rugs, new bedding, and some soothing art. So much work went into making the Sanctuary a comfortable, beautiful place of peace.

In June all of these pieces came together and we welcomed our first survivors! We held our first official training at The Sanctuary and our first survivor retreat. The renovations and all the little touches our donors provided, like Comfort Kits to make survivors feel cared for, yielded such beautiful results. The survivors were overwhelmed in the best way! They said things like, *"I feel loved, I feel safe."* One survivor said, *"We can feel hope, peace, much love here. Thank you because you make this to be possible."*



# — We've Been Preparing For This!



For our precious survivors, we stocked up on gift bags filled with robes, slippers, journals, mugs, and personal items to welcome them. We want survivors to know we have been *waiting*, and *preparing* for them. We see them.

## *We know their names.*

We began filling "The Sanctuary Closet." When survivors arrive they often only have the worn out clothes on their backs. The closet is stocked with beautiful clothes, shoes, and pajamas. Again, they feel welcome, safe, secure, and cared for; they are clothed in dignity and strength.



**She is clothed with strength and  
dignity, and she laughs without  
fear of the future.**

Proverbs 31:25





# Doors Are Swinging Wide Open

Our Chief Clinical Officer, Dr. Vanessa Snyder, and our team have created a holistic, integrated program that allows deep healing for our survivors. We utilize experiential modalities like our low elements ropes course, equine therapy, and physical fitness activities to help survivors rebuild trust and confidence with themselves and each other. Process groups and individual counseling are implemented to facilitate healing of trauma symptoms, regulate emotional experiences, and teach healthy coping skills. Vocational training maps have been structured and personalized.

Our staff completed in-depth training and preparation for the implementation of our survivor retreats and our stabilization program. Training includes topics such as survivor-centered care, psychological first aid, group process, evidence based trauma informed interventions, and organizational trauma. We hired four new team members, allowing us to provide 24 hour care and support. Our program director and clinical team are able to walk alongside women and children as they transition from a life of slavery to a life of freedom.

We are grateful for unexpected doors that have opened! We finalized our accreditation and licensing of The Sanctuary. This was required in order to offer social services, trauma informed retreats and programs. We also received licensing as a center for the assistance and protection of victims of human trafficking. This will allow us to provide legal support and protection for survivors who will testify against their traffickers. We are currently working towards licensing for care of minors.



# Open To More Training

In recent years our team has been involved in training hundreds of people of all ages around the globe— from Romania to the U.S. with stops in:



*Moldova,  
Spain, Poland,  
Bulgaria,  
Greece,  
Germany,  
Italy, Ukraine,  
Belgium,  
Lithuania, and  
West Africa!*

This year we had the opportunity to train people at universities, ally organizations, government officials and border patrol, pastors, school teachers and students, therapists, and more. We are training them to identify potential victims and how to facilitate rescue intervention. Our Chief Clinical Officer, Dr. Vanessa Snyder, then follows up with teaching and training on trauma-informed care.

Prevention training is how we cut the head off the snake. We believe one of the most important audiences we can engage with is school-age children. Over 78% of victims found in the EU are Romanian. 86% of victims found in UK brothels are Romanian. We must ensure that the next generation is informed so that this will not happen to them.

Innocent people are simply being tricked and deceived into all sorts of horrific things. Education is a simple and effective solution. Our relationships with community leaders have strengthened and we now have an opportunity to train in 500 schools which translates into 250,000 students. Thank you for supporting us as we have built this foundation. We are open to more training!





## Featured Allies

### Convoy Of Hope



In response to the crisis in Ukraine, we collaborated with **Convoy of Hope**, who generously supplied several shipping containers packed with humanitarian aid, enabling us to distribute clothing, food, and essential supplies to Ukrainian refugees in Romania and Moldova. Each person that received aid also received training on how to protect themselves from being trafficked.

### Biblica



The network is growing! One donor and ally organization, **Biblica**, equipped us with Bibles and audio versions of the Scriptures in local languages. We were able to bring another survivor to The Sanctuary before Christmas. We told Amelia we had been praying for her and preparing for her for a long time. She expressed the desire to know the Bible but couldn't read well enough. Our team told us she listened to the audio version we gave her non-stop!

## Open To More Allies In The Fight

### *The Local Community*

We built strong community connections this year. From business people to the church to the legal and medical community, we've seen doors open. An incredible Romanian businessman built our cabinets for only the cost of the supplies. A local businessman gave us access to his storage facility for free to house aid supplies for Ukrainian refugees.

We connected with a local leader who asked if The Sanctuary could host a retreat for his law firm team. Afterward, he said, *"they're all impressed in the work you do, the quality and level of care you plan to provide for survivors. My firm wants to take all the cases you have for survivors in Europe."*

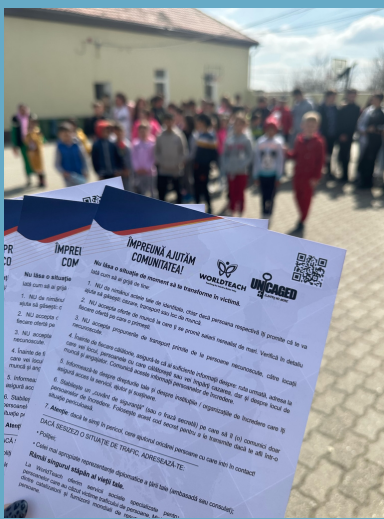




# Featured Allies

A local pastor connected us with an eye doctor to see Annabelle, a survivor that urgently needed care. Not only did he provide care for her at no cost but the owner of the clinic heard about what we do and said, *“consider us as your partners in every case where you need glasses.”*

Several survivors at The Sanctuary complained of pain and so our team reached out to a local hospital manager. He agreed to see the girls himself and when our team asked him about payment, he refused. *“People in the hospital have been talking about what you’re doing up there,”* he said. *“I’m honored to help.”*



We are thankful for our friends at **Millennium Relief and Development Services**, who help those in Canada bring hope to hopeless places. John Archer of Millenium visited us in Romania this year. He spent time at The Sanctuary and touring around beautiful Western Romania with Beni Lup, our European Director. John said being there had him *“meditating on the wonderful beautiful biblical words of refuge, shelter, and, of course, sanctuary.”*





## Open To Expanding Needs & New Opportunities

We all remember the day the war broke out in Ukraine. When Uncaged started our work in Romania we had no idea that Romania's neighbor to the north would be engaged in a war. In February of 2022, we all watched as hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians—women, children, the disabled, and the elderly poured across the borders. They were hungry, tired, and afraid. They didn't speak the Romanian language.

On the first day of the war, our European Director, Beni Lup, received a call from a high-ranking Romanian government official. The official said, *"I am concerned about how this war is going to affect human trafficking."* Our team agreed that it was going to be a significant threat. We rushed to the border and immediately saw lineups of cars driven by traffickers. We saw the women and children and we knew they were being victimized. The traffickers were sitting in their cars awaiting them, all too happy to *"help"* by offering rides to *"anywhere they wanted to go."* You can just imagine the rest of the story.

Beni and the team immediately implemented protocols that pushed the traffickers away from the border. They began identifying *"safe rides"* and other ways of tracking the refugees as they traveled to different points in Romania and throughout Europe. We plastered all 8 borders in Romania and 3 in Moldova with signage explaining how people could protect themselves, their families, and communities from being trafficked. We were able to train border patrol and local concerned citizens at several borders on how to prevent trafficking by identifying and reporting potential victims.





Shortly after we implemented the Interceptor Program to help border patrol and local people know how to identify traffickers, we heard an incredible story. One lady who took the training had a bad feeling about three vans she saw crossing the border into Romania. She pulled the vans over and discovered the vans were full of sleeping children. They were all orphans who had been drugged. The vans were being driven by traffickers attempting to bring children across the border. The traffickers were apprehended and the children are safe!

We are convinced that these simple and effective protocols have prevented thousands of people from being trafficked. These measures continue to be in effect over a year later.



## Open To New Frontiers

We have been building relationships with governments and non-profit organizations in Moldova, Ukraine, and other Eastern European nations. We have the right networks and connections in these countries to expand the work and blanket these nations in anti-trafficking efforts. Our efforts are blowing past borders.

In the fall of 2022, we received information about hundreds of vulnerable and traumatized children in Romania and Ukraine. Our team is creating robust programs that will support children as they heal from their trauma. Currently, we are providing food, clothing, shoes, vitamins, anti-trafficking training and other basic needs.



# Survivor Updates



Snowy

Many of you have been following Snowy's story since the beginning. She was freed from exploitation in 2019. Trafficked for three years, she was riddled with lice and disease when she found freedom. We were able to rescue four of her siblings the next year and reunite them. All the children had been abused and likely sold for sex.

Last year, a member of our team was at the Ukrainian border and ran into Snowy and her adopted family. They were helping to care for refugees as they crossed into Romania. They were serving tea and cookies and talking with the refugees. As Snowy and her siblings continue their journeys of healing, they are pouring into the lives of other women and children in need!



Oceana

Oceana first came to us in 2019 when she was five. A social worker discovered her under a cardboard box, forced to beg in a country far from home. We've asked you to pray for some serious health issues due to the trauma she suffered.

She was placed with a loving family and was able to attend school, overjoyed to be a kid again and sing along with songs on the radio. Recently, we were able to connect with Oceana and were so happy to see that she is progressing in school and in relationships with other children. She has a long way to go, but is on the way to a full, sustainable life.



## Alexandra

She arrived looking sad and overwhelmed at The Sanctuary. Alexandra was to be a participant in our first trauma-informed retreat. But before the program was to begin, she told our team she wanted to go home. She just couldn't face her trauma.

She needed to be able to make that choice but we wanted her to know she was loved. We gave her a Comfort Kit and told her it was a joy to meet her. *"We hope we will see you again,"* we said as she got into the van.

Our European Director went to tell her goodbye and to take care of herself. *"Can you?"* he asked. Through her tears, she responded, *"No, I can't."* She didn't yet have the tools she needed to care of herself. We were able to talk with her and pray with her. A few minutes later, she stepped out of the van and into the beginning of healing.

Over the week we saw a transformation begin in Alexandra. She arrived full of fear. Shoulders slouched. Eyes downcast. Curled up in a ball. She literally winced with fear when people walked by her.

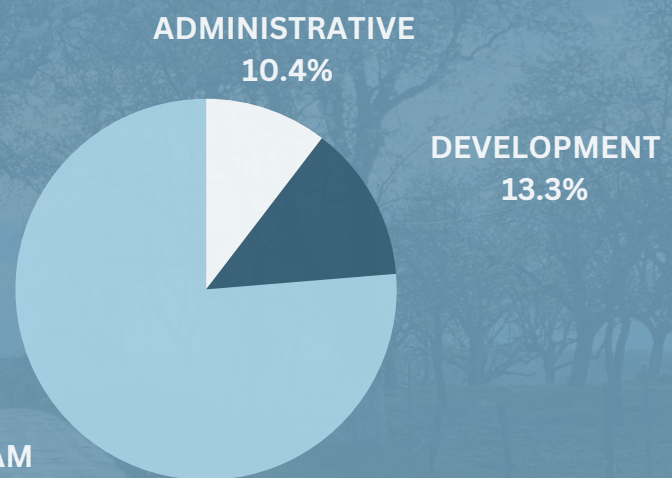
By the end of the week she was standing tall with a bright smile on her face. **It was the beginning of the road to healing.** Unlocking the cage means helping survivors like Alexandra confront new ideas, and understand their strength and resilience. It is a long road but it begins with first steps like these.

*Alexandra's Artwork*





# UNCAGED 2022 AUDITED FINANCIALS



**PROGRAM**  
76.3%

**ADMINISTRATIVE**  
10.4%

**DEVELOPMENT**  
13.3%

Program = \$1,136,697  
Administrative = \$154,828  
Development = \$197,404  
TOTAL 2022 Expenses = \$1,488,929

## BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Westfall- Founder/CEO  
Stephen Mansfield - Chairman of the Board  
Dr. Henry Cloud  
Tori Cloud- Secretary/Treasurer  
Amanda Huston





Over 800 people have been rescued by members of our team since 2004.



Risk to youth has increased in Romania since the pandemic. Online recruitment by traffickers and abuse of girls as young as 12 are on the rise.



The number of people caught in modern slavery shot up by 10 million in the last 5 years, according to the UN, due to the global pandemic, armed conflict, and climate change.



A large proportion of all trafficking cases are not detected and recorded in Romania. The estimated number of victims is 50% higher than observed.



In the last year, more than 2 million people have crossed the border from the Ukraine to Romania.







Uncaged adheres to a strict policy of never revealing the identity of a traffic survivor. To ensure that we never re-exploit a survivor, all images and names have been changed.



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