



On the Road to Freedom



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Saying Yes to Freedom

Hey Friends,

I write to you with a great deal of gratitude for the last year and enthusiasm about what lies ahead! It's true that some parts of the past two years, particularly



Kim Westfall

Covid-19, were discouraging. At the same time, this period has opened many new doors for Uncaged. And I'm thrilled that **Uncaged has been able to say YES to these new opportunities.**

- We said YES to [Talyssa, who was being trafficked](#) by her husband, a prominent lawyer in town. She and her children are now safe and we are fighting for her ultimate freedom.
- We said YES to Annabelle, a teenager who needed a place to heal and recover from years of abuse and sexual exploitation.
- We said YES when a government agency asked our team to be part of a [sting operation](#). It freed five ladies that were about to be whisked across the border into a world of pain and abuse.
- We said YES when we were invited to pilot a program [training healthcare workers](#) to identify trafficking situations and intervene.
- We said YES to local partners when they asked us for training in how to support 35 women trapped in a cycle of slavery.

And we did a lot of celebrating this year, too!

- We celebrated Natalia, who was victorious in her court case with her trafficker. She stood

in court and powerfully [told him exactly how she felt](#).

- And we celebrated big as we made the final payment on The Sanctuary, a place that will serve thousands of survivors in the future.

2021 also came with expanded vision. We are honored to have rescued 47 survivors and cared for over 100 more who are tucked away throughout Europe in the midst of Covid-19 restrictions. We also realized that the only thing better than seeing a survivor restored is preventing someone from being trafficked in the first place. We are thrilled to have had [multiple curricula](#) translated into Romanian. Now we begin the critical process of blanketing the entire nation, and beyond, in anti-trafficking strategies.

We were able to further develop key relationships with high-ranking government officials and other anti-trafficking agencies both in Europe and the USA. These valuable partners are allowing us to go further, faster. **Quite simply: We cannot do this alone. We need an army of responders, and we see that army forming rapidly.**

Finally, we are incredibly grateful for partners like YOU. Like I said, we can't do it alone. It takes YOU and others like you who have stood up this year and said "YES! I hold the key to freedom." Together we have unlocked cages for over a hundred survivors and touched over 1,000 lives.

Let's work to impact thousands more in 2022.

Kim Westfall

Founder/CEO

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a long black quilted winter coat with a fur-lined hood and silver buttons, stands on a dirt road. The road is wet and has some snow patches. In the background, there are several two-story wooden houses with red roofs. The sky is a pale blue, suggesting a clear day. The overall scene is a rural village setting in a cold climate.

Together; we are
throwing open the
doors and scaling up
the anti-trafficking
movement around
the world.

The Road Forward

We sat down with acclaimed author and Uncaged Board Chair Stephen Mansfield, as well as psychologist, author, and Uncaged Board Member Dr. Henry Cloud, to reflect on the past year and what lies ahead.



Stephen Mansfield



Dr. Henry Cloud

SM: I'm certainly inspired by the opportunity we have to broaden our team. When I see what happens in the lives of our staff, our donors, and the wider network of people who are involved, I can't wait to

draw thousands more into the Uncaged family. Changed lives change lives, and being involved in Uncaged is transforming for everyone.

Uncaged: What is the biggest step you saw us take in combating trafficking last year?

Stephen Mansfield (SM): Paying off [The Sanctuary](#) in Romania was our great victory. Owning fully our first property paves the way for perhaps a dozen more Sanctuaries around the world. This is why I think we'll look back at 2021 as the year Uncaged unlocked transformation for thousands of lives.

Dr. Henry Cloud (HC): I agree. The practical piece of not being enslaved or held hostage is important, but making sure that our survivors are not being enslaved to trauma is critical. The Sanctuary is the place where Uncaged's model of freeing survivors from that trauma comes alive.

Uncaged: When you think about what's on the horizon for 2022, what inspires you the most?

HC: Implementing the model that Uncaged has created at scale and seeing it begin to proliferate. We have already seen tremendous impact when Uncaged has piloted the trauma-informed retreat model. We have seen hundreds of survivors begin the journey of restoration across Europe. The Sanctuary is where these two incredible interventions will come together.

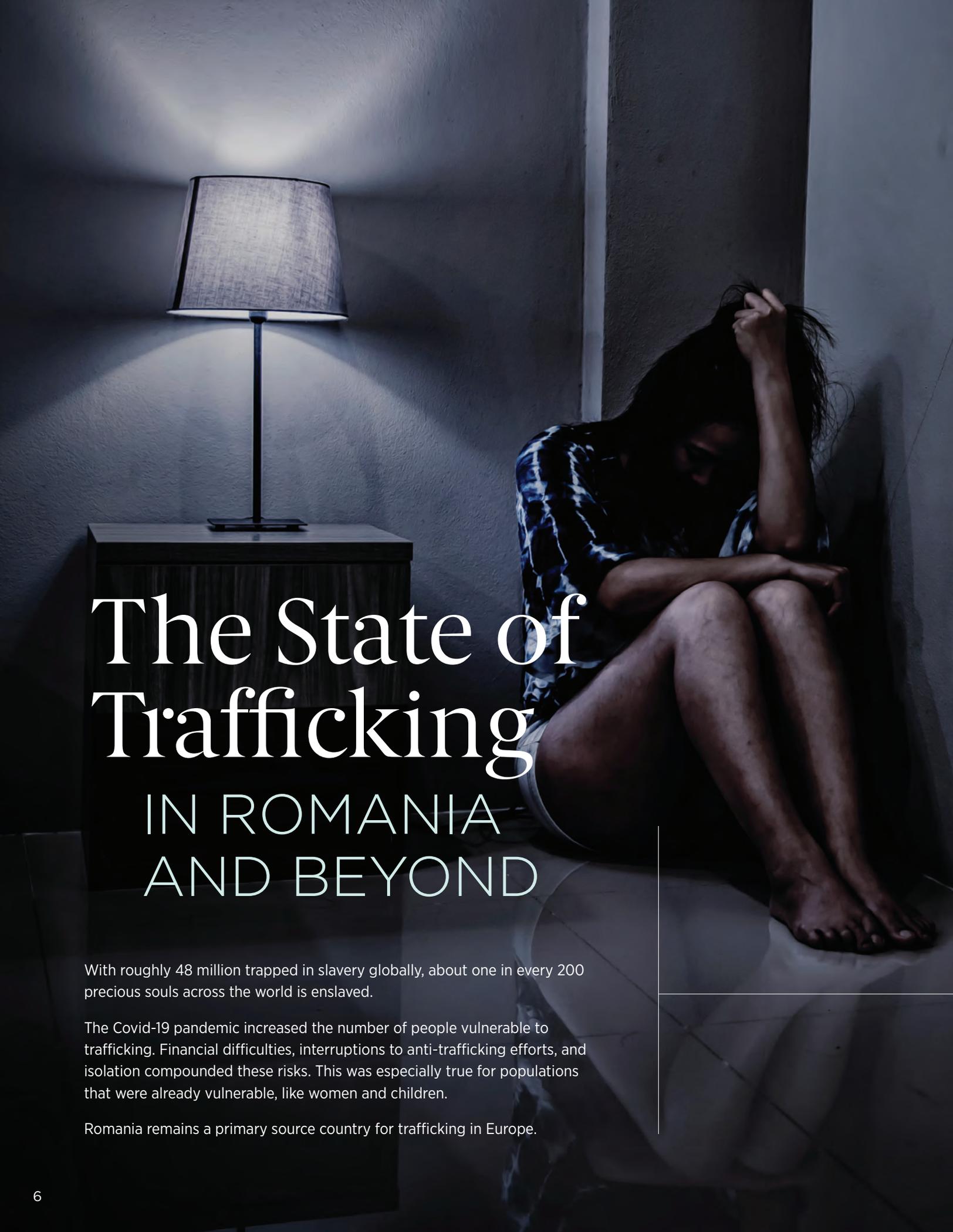
Uncaged: What encouragement would you give to those who are already in this Uncaged family?

SM: We are all made to devote ourselves to great causes. Liberating the 48 million trafficking victims is certainly among the highest causes I can imagine.

“Owning fully our first property paves the way for perhaps a dozen more Sanctuaries around the world.”

An aerial photograph of a dirt road winding through a dense forest of evergreen trees. A blue car is driving on the road. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Mobilizing a network of brave warriors across Europe, we are locating survivors and guiding them onto the road of their healing journey.



The State of Trafficking

IN ROMANIA AND BEYOND

With roughly 48 million trapped in slavery globally, about one in every 200 precious souls across the world is enslaved.

The Covid-19 pandemic increased the number of people vulnerable to trafficking. Financial difficulties, interruptions to anti-trafficking efforts, and isolation compounded these risks. This was especially true for populations that were already vulnerable, like women and children.

Romania remains a primary source country for trafficking in Europe.

70% of people trafficked worldwide are women and children.

80% of women and children in Romania are at risk.

1/3 of all enslaved people are children.

50% of enslaved people are trafficked for sexual exploitation.

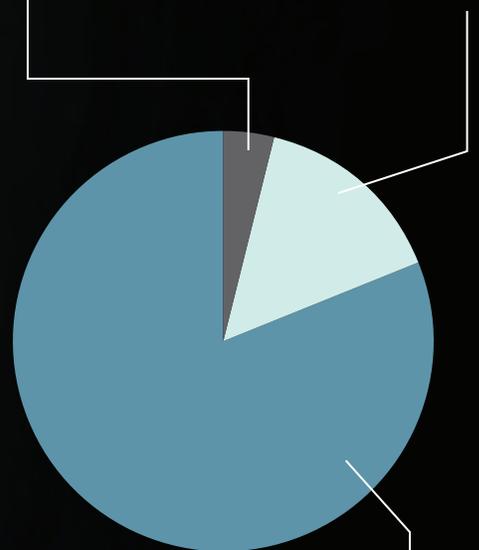
72% of identified survivors from Romania were sold for sexual exploitation.

85% decrease in employment access in Romania creates greater vulnerability to trafficking.

UNCAGED 2021 AUDITED FINANCIALS:

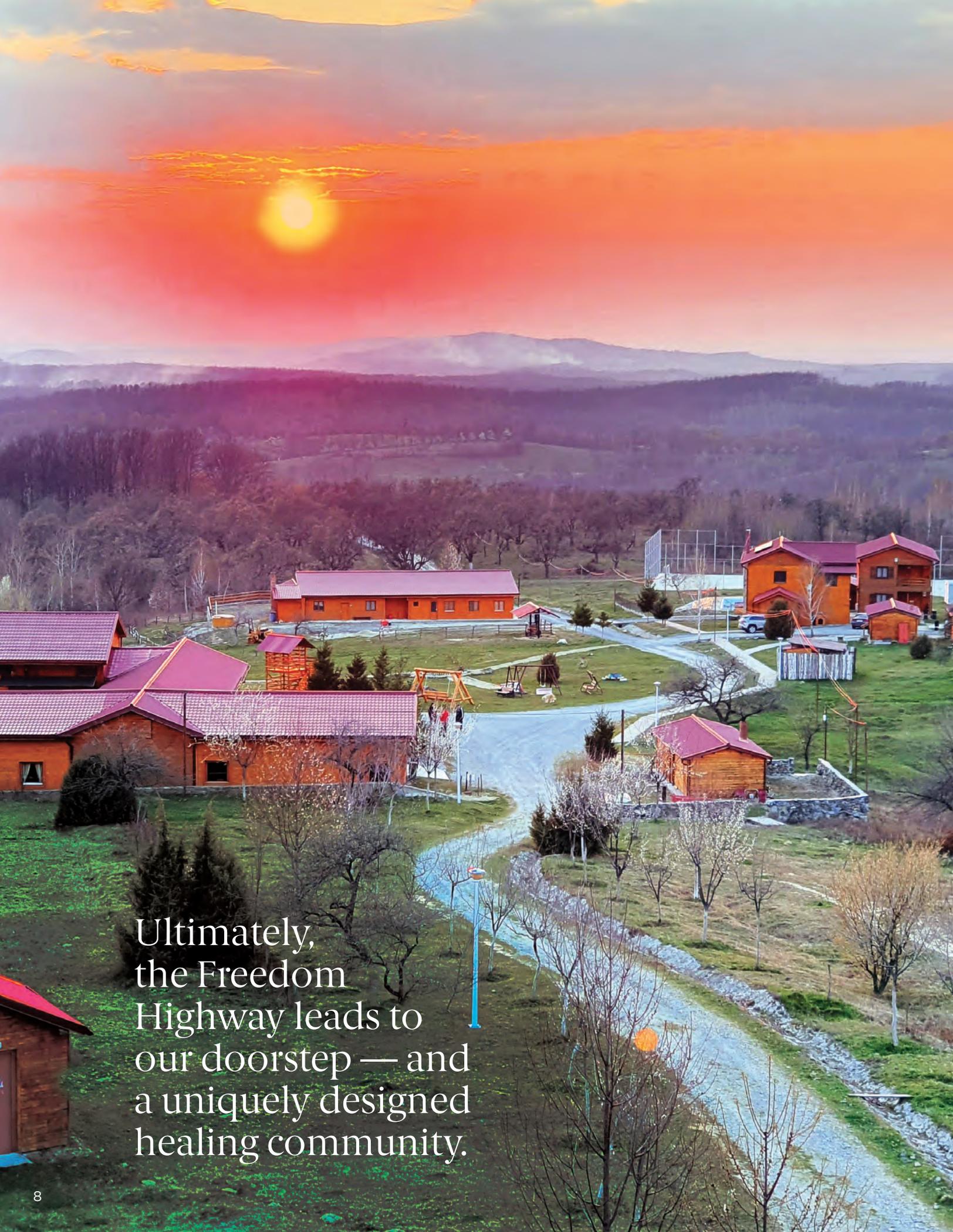
ADMINISTRATIVE: 4%

DEVELOPMENT: 15%



PROGRAM: 81%

All statistics come from the Department of Homeland Security's *2021 Trafficking Report*, the United Nations' *2020 Global Trafficking in Persons Report* and the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings' (GRETA) *2021 Evaluation of Romania*.



Ultimately,
the Freedom
Highway leads to
our doorstep — and
a uniquely designed
healing community.

The Sanctuary:

A HUB OF RESTORATION AND PREVENTION

The first Sanctuary in Romania is paid off! We are celebrating big with you. The Sanctuary is serving as a hub of anti-trafficking work and will soon be fully running to unlock transformation for survivors.

We are inspired by your generosity and the ways you have taken on this vision. “When we found The Sanctuary, the property was perfect. The buildings were almost exactly what designers had envisioned for Uncaged,” shares one donor who helped make this victory a reality. “It was here, already built and ready. It was clear that God had brought it together.”

We couldn't agree more. This enormous achievement is all thanks to people like you!

The Sanctuary Hosts Anti-Trafficking Coalition

The Sanctuary came alive last year! In 2021, we hosted a series of strategic gatherings of Romanians on the property. During one of them, [30 people came together](#) to create an anti-trafficking strategy for all of Europe.

One committed Romanian said during their visit, “Alongside survivors, we will be a voice. We will be hands. We will be advocates.”

Through events like these at The Sanctuary and beyond, we were able to train 1,605 people to fight trafficking.

Training Aftercare Providers at The Sanctuary

Using The Sanctuary as a base, we have come alongside a local organization supporting a group of women currently being trafficked. The 35 women and children are caught in a cycle of generational exploitation. They are young — between the ages of 12 and 25.

After one of our trauma-informed trainings, the director shared, “We noticed our team members needed more specialized skills and techniques around trauma. Through Uncaged, our staff is now able to follow best practices. It is already making a huge difference.”

Partners Join Together to Prepare The Sanctuary

We saw incredible upgrades happen at The Sanctuary that will enable us to give survivors the best aftercare in the world. Thanks to the generosity of a partner, one of our biggest needs was met when we were able to install heating and air conditioning. Now, survivors will live in optimal comfort. They will be able to focus on healing, not the heat or cold. Thanks to the change, we can now use The Sanctuary all year round.

We are continuing to make key upgrades like these that will empower survivors to heal. Soon, we will be ready to welcome survivors to The Sanctuary!

A Shoe Is a Small Price to Pay

FROM THE FIELD:

EUROPEAN
DIRECTOR
BENJAMIN
"BENI" LUP



Beni Lup

I have been [fighting against human trafficking](#) for over two decades, but this past December was the first time I ever had to do it barefoot. A survivor had contacted our team, and her greatest desire was to be free for Christmas. I immediately coordinated with trusted contacts in law enforcement to make her dream come true. A day later, we took off to the remote and brutal terrain where she was being held. It wasn't until we had her safely in our vehicles that I realized I had lost a shoe somewhere along the way.

A shoe is a small price to pay for the liberation of a human being. That's why last year I focused on activating a vast network of people beyond The Sanctuary who want to serve survivors and end trafficking. We forged connections with officials who encounter survivors and people being trafficked, making sure they know where to send these precious souls. In my role as European Director, I've met with everyone from government officials and attorneys to grandmothers who are saying, "Help me do better. Teach me how to come alongside survivors."

This is how we join forces and create a global movement to end trafficking. We are empowering an army that is ready to rise up and be the key to freedom for those who are in chains!



Building The Freedom Highway

The Freedom Highway is our name for the network of professionals, officials, churches, and citizens who have connected with our team asking to play a role in bringing survivors to safety and restoration. On March 6, 2021, 300 individuals met in Western Europe, each pledging to support this [Freedom Highway](#).

[Antonia](#) is just one of the many abolitionists who make up this network. She left Romania 16 years ago to make a life in Western Europe. She had no idea how many Romanian survivors lived in her country until a mutual friend introduced her to our team. She immediately got involved.

“These are my compatriots,” she said. “I want to help them get out of trauma because I know what it feels like to suffer. I want to help them live again.”

Amplifying Anti-Trafficking Efforts

Last year, we connected with leaders in trafficking prevention and survivor identification. Thanks to these deepening partnerships, we translated two world-class anti-trafficking curricula into Romanian.

- [S.P.E.A.K. Up](#) is a curriculum designed for school-age children and educators. It will help protect vulnerable children in Romania, where 50% of survivors are minors. The program teaches kids how to recognize the ploys of traffickers and trains educators how to spot signs of trafficking in children.
- [Global Strategic Operatives](#), or GSO, have shared their model for activating healthcare providers to identify people being trafficked. GSO has invited us to pilot their program within Romania and Moldova. Up to 88% of enslaved people seek medical care while being trafficked.



Antonia

These materials are ready! Now we are able to roll them out across Romania, using The Sanctuary as a base for programming.

Supporting Rescue Operations

We exist to unlock transformation for survivors. In order to do that, we have come alongside local law enforcement so they know where to send trafficking survivors. As a result, our team was pulled into strategic rescue operations in 2021. We participated in the rescue of 47 survivors last year.

One of these operations [took down an online pornography network](#). It had 400,000 users. Upon further investigation, we learned it was the same ring that exploited Oceana, a child survivor now in our care.





Unlocking Transformation

AND EMPOWERING SURVIVORS

**FROM
THE FIELD:**
*CHIEF CLINICAL
OFFICER
DR. VANESSA
SNYDER*



Dr. Vanessa Snyder

In my role as Chief Clinical Officer, I have the distinct honor of co-creating a safe environment and equipping others to heal. We must release survivors from the trauma of trafficking so that they can say *YES* to building a life of lasting freedom.

We have already piloted [key elements of our process](#), and it is breathtaking to watch survivors thrive! Once The Sanctuary is running at full capacity, each survivor will start her journey there. She will receive several weeks of wraparound care to stabilize her. Then, we will match each survivor with a loving family that we have trained and hand-selected. Throughout the following two years, survivors will return to The Sanctuary for a series of trauma healing retreats.

We have already seen the retreats and the host family model in action. Even better, we have begun to replicate our model by sharing best practices in trauma-informed care with others in Romania.

Thank you for being the key that allows us to unlock transformation for survivors far and wide.

Overcoming Roadblocks

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we adapted our approach to support survivors across Europe while they waited to come to The Sanctuary. In March, [we had identified 58](#) such survivors. By the end of 2021, that number was over 100.

Through trained members of our Freedom Highway, survivors received support in accessing medical treatment, legal counsel, and emergency care. Ramona is one of these survivors. She escaped in early spring after being trafficked for two years. She was able to aid the police in an investigation of her trafficker. As a result, 28 other survivors were freed! With our team's support, she learned culinary skills and recently secured a job as a pastry chef.

We have been working to keep [survivors like Ramona](#) stable and ready to come to The Sanctuary as soon as travel restrictions ease.



MARIA'S STORY:

"My past has been washed clean."

[Maria was 34](#) when we rescued her from Western Europe after being trafficked for three years. Slavery had marked her with a broken body and a life of fear. When we met her she was overwhelmed by any sign of kindness after being subjected to cruelty for so long.

"Everything is new," Maria cried. She was leaving her host family to live independently and was filled with hope. She had spent the last two years with a host family healing and preparing to launch out into a new life. "My past has been washed clean," she told us. "My present is beautiful."

After spending years back in her home country with one of our hand-selected host families, she slowly regained her health and her smile returned. She learned to cook, sew, and be in loving relationships again. She cried the day she left the family that had loved and sheltered her, but she was also excited to explore a bright future.

"I have freedom! I have skills! I have a new family," she exclaimed. "My broken life has been restored! My nightmares are gone! I wake up and hear music in my ears! I look at people with confidence. I can do work that I like to do and make my own money! I can dream big and nothing can stop me!"

This is what holistic, wraparound transformation looks like for survivors. Maria is free. Her whole being has been healed and released from the cage of trauma. She has experienced loving relationships and therapy. She has a skill that can sustain her for life. This is what The Sanctuary will empower for hundreds, even thousands more.

"My broken life has been restored! My nightmares are gone! I wake up and hear music in my ears!"

Your support made Maria's story possible. Now, [let's unlock transformation](#) like this for countless more precious souls.

SURVIVOR UPDATE: SNOWY

You may remember Snowy, one of the first child survivors we rescued. A few short years ago, she was terrified, traumatized, and broken. Ever since coming into our care, she has been thriving! This year, Snowy [won a national championship](#) for her skills in playing piano. Her four siblings, who we rescued about a year into caring for Snowy, are flourishing, too. Celebrate her continued restoration with us! Your support has been the key.



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