

Annual
→ **Report**
2023



THE COLLABORATIVE IMPACT OF YOUR INVESTMENT

Since our beginning, StolenYouth has put collaboration at the forefront of our work to end child sexual exploitation in Washington state, and that has made all the difference.

As we reflect on the progress made in 2023, we see a different landscape than the one that existed when we were founded. The work that our supporters and donors have made possible has helped develop an entire ecosystem that didn't exist 12 years ago, tackling an issue that fundamentally damages all of us by its very existence.

StolenYouth works with trusted partners who are driving prevention and early intervention, building the capacity to serve more individuals, and creating coalitions to make statewide change. We provide critical emergency assistance to survivors through The Ginny Fund and the means to build fulfilling lives with the Empowerment Fund.

Collaboration has created a strong infrastructure on which to expand as we address the systems that allow child sex trafficking to flourish. We invite you to dive deep into this report on our work, values, and impact in 2023.

Some of you reading have been with StolenYouth from the very beginning, and we deeply appreciate your steadfast dedication to protecting our state's children. If you're new to StolenYouth, thank you for joining the work and helping to protect our youth. Together we are saving lives.

Gratefully,



KARA HURST
Board Chair

OUR MISSION

To end child sex
trafficking in
Washington state

OUR PILLARS

Prevent child sex trafficking
before it occurs

Connect victims to
resources and services

Empower positive and
productive lives

KIDS KNOW SO MUCH MORE ABOUT THE WORLD THESE DAYS...DON'T THEY?

During a StolenYouth funded *UnBroken* training in a local school, Scarlet Road's youth advocate was explaining laws that protect minors from exploitation. Dikembe* raised his hand and earnestly asked the advocate:

**“So you're saying if a 15-year-old got asked by a 35-year-old to do sexual stuff, the 15-year-old could report that?
*How come no one told me this before?”***

Through StolenYouth's support, someone **is** telling kids about how to avoid exploitation. Scarlet Road's *UnBroken* training is opening doors and bringing life-changing prevention education to Dikembe and hundreds of others.

Our Collaborative Work

Through targeted grants to trusted partner organizations, StolenYouth provided leverage across nine organizations in three domains: prevention and early intervention, capacity building, and coalition building. And through our mini-grants, we funded emergency needs for 58 survivors and helped 10 survivors meet educational and career goals.

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION: UNBROKEN

Scarlet Road operates the only crisis line and drop-in center specifically for victims of sexual exploitation on the Kitsap Peninsula. With a survivor-designed locally relevant prevention curriculum, UnBroken, they equip middle- and high school aged youth to recognize and safely avoid sexual exploitation. The training has led to early identification of many sexually exploited youth, interrupting their dangerous path. With StolenYouth's help, Scarlet Road offered training to 1100+ youth in private, public, and alternative schools, including the Kitsap County Juvenile Detention Center.



CAPACITY BUILDING: YOUTH ADVOCATE

The Organization for Prostitution Survivors (OPS) provides survivor-led advocacy and services for all survivors of commercial sexual exploitation who have ever identified as female, including youth and adults. With StolenYouth's help, OPS provided intensive services to 20 youth, providing housing, emotional support, help accessing community resources, medical and legal advocacy, therapeutic referrals, recovery support, and more. With a waitlist of young people needing help, StolenYouth increased OPS's capacity to serve more youth directly and through new drop-in days, outreach, and events. Thanks to StolenYouth, OPS is able to help children as young as 11 years old, the only local agency equipped to do so.



PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION: THRIVE

Since 1991, Cocoon House has been the only agency exclusively serving homeless young people in Snohomish County. Although there is little data on the number of commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) in Snohomish County, Cocoon House estimates that at least 15% of the youth they encounter through their outreach team have experienced exploitation. With scarce resources for sex trafficked youth, Cocoon House provides a coordinated community response through their THRIVE program and is actively compiling data to document the need for more services. StolenYouth provided vital funding to support the program which served 30 youth during the grant period, securing permanent housing for street-dependent youth and connecting vulnerable young people to healthcare and crisis intervention services.



StolenYouth funds education and outreach because they are key to both preventing child sex trafficking and to early intervention that identifies and connects youth who are being exploited to services.

CAPACITY BUILDING: ESSENTIAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

As one of our area's most critical youth-serving organizations, YouthCare works to end youth homelessness. One of the highest risk factors for child sexual exploitation is housing insecurity and homelessness. YouthCare steps in through their Specialized Services Program, which helped 110 young people with StolenYouth's support. In 2023, YouthCare's program was able to add a Clinical Mental Health Therapist to their team with experience working with sexually exploited youth. The program works closely with the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) and the King County Juvenile Detention Center to identify youth at risk of exploitation and make individualized care plans to prevent harm. By providing dedicated personnel funding for YouthCare's program, StolenYouth both helped strengthen the program itself and freed up resources that were channeled into directly meeting young people's needs.



PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION: CSE-IT SCREENING

In addition to funding work through our longterm partners, StolenYouth embarked on a new training initiative with Seattle Children's Hospital and the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic to increase access to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT), enabling training and identifying children at high risk of exploitation. Children's exceeded their goals for training screeners using the CSE-IT tool, and 42% of children screened were identified as at high risk. Identification is crucial to referring children for community services to protect them from ongoing and future exploitation.



Seattle Children's

COALITION BUILDING: WASE FORWARD

Working through the WASE Forward (Washington Against Sexual Exploitation) initiative, BEST (Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking) joined with 25 partner organizations to educate state lawmakers, key stakeholders, and the general public about the dire need for survivor services. WASE Forward successfully lobbied for Senate Bill 5114, a survivor-led initiative that secured \$5.7 million in funding for survivor services over two years. These services provide critical early intervention for youth to exit the sex trade and live a life free of abuse and exploitation. One of the biggest barriers for survivors to be able to leave their traffickers is having a safe place to go and supportive services such as healthcare, counseling, substance abuse cessation, and employment services. The bill also ensures services for survivors across the state, helping to fill a gap in eastern Washington.



After one hearing in Olympia, the members from the WASE Forward leadership team and our partner organizations were approached by a youth who wanted options to exit the sex trade. She had attended the hearing with a friend who was opposing the bill. But after hearing about what the service providers in our networks do, and the services that would be offered in the bill, she approached the survivors in our group and asked for help. The client assistance providers who were present at the hearing rallied around her, and before the end of that day this young woman was able to be connected with the resources she needed to exit the sex trade.

CAPACITY BUILDING: YOUTH ADVOCATE

In Seattle, REST (Real Escape from the Sex Trade) welcomes any survivor to their door. REST surrounded 20 young people with love, support, empowerment, and long term caring relationships that allowed these survivors to identify and move toward life goals like finding a job, accessing therapy, maintaining sobriety, obtaining regular medical care, and enjoying stable housing. REST's advocates created individualized service plans for clients like Maria*, who is loving her job, got her protection order finalized against her ex, and is overall making strides to achieve goals like finishing her certification for caregiving, saving up for a car, and securing housing. She is focused, driven, and dedicated to improving herself.

REST

CAPACITY BUILDING: TASK FORCE TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Across Washington state, multiple CSEC Task Forces bring together law enforcement, the courts, nonprofits, advocates, and more to coordinate the work of preventing child sex trafficking and providing services that help survivors. Critical support for those task forces is one way that the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ) works to protect children in Washington. Through funding from SY, CCYJ was able to plan and provide a day-long workshop for Task Force leaders from across the state to learn about survivor inclusion and to collectively build the capacity to use new tools and strategies within their respective task forces. CCYJ was also able to bring on a Fellow from the Survivor Alliance who provided training and technical assistance to the 12 Washington CSEC Task Forces, helping reshape approaches to meeting the needs of survivors.



CAPACITY AND COALITION BUILDING: YOUTH ADVOCATE AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Foundation for Youth Resiliency and Engagement is an organization formed in 2020 in Okanogan County. StolenYouth has partnered with FYRE for several years, helping build this fledgling organization's capacity to both serve youth directly and to build awareness in their community. With StolenYouth's help, 25 young people found compassion and support with FYRE's dedicated advocates, and FYRE is making inroads to creating a culturally informed community response plan in concert with law enforcement, juvenile detention centers, the county's youth homelessness coalition, local school counselors, tribal youth development groups, and the Washington State Office of Superintendent and Public Instruction. Groundwork made possible by StolenYouth has led community workers to increasingly see FYRE as a valuable resource for Okanogan County on the topic of child sex trafficking.



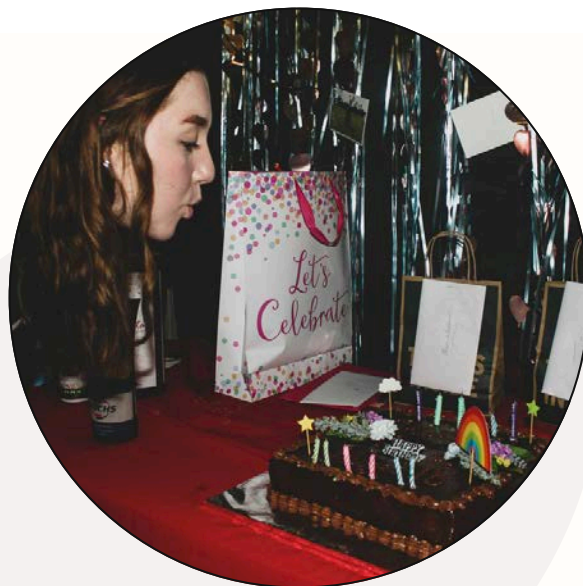
“Being backed by Stolen Youth CSEC dollars for the past two years allowed us to put in a lot of groundwork to fully understand CSEC in our community and envision a wraparound care coordination system for survivors in our community.”

MADYLIN SANDOVAL
CO-FOUNDER AND CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FYRE

meet Monica

In October 2021, an advocate from OPS started working with then 16-year-old Monica, who had been in foster care since before kindergarten. Monica's biological family was heavily immersed in a life of drug and sex trafficking, yet in a quest for love and belonging, Monica ran away from foster care and back to them, over and over again. Stolen Youth's ongoing funding support of the advocate at OPS enabled her to be a consistent, non-judgmental presence for Monica as she continued to experience being trafficked and traumatized, dropping in and out of touch.*

By 2023, they had built a trusting and stable relationship that allowed Monica to start believing that her life could become something more than survival. When Monica turned 18, OPS threw her a birthday party



complete with pizza, cake, and gifts, celebrating her passage into adulthood with an experience she'd never had as a child. Starting a new job and living in her first apartment, Stolen Youth stepped in at OPS' request with a Ginny Fund housing grant to bridge the gap until she could receive her first paycheck. We are so grateful to OPS for showing up for Monica and caring for her in the way she deserves.

We believe in the unique power of relationships to foster healing, which is why Stolen Youth invests significantly in advocates who walk alongside survivors.

CHANGED LIVES: THE EMPOWERMENT FUND

Empowerment: the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights.

The Empowerment Fund was created in partnership with the Robins Nest Family Foundation to support survivors of sex trafficking & exploitation as they change the circumstances of their lives.

An education or job training is key to a survivor fully escaping "the life." That's why Empowerment Fund grants are specifically for education & career-related costs. We believe in survivors & their unlimited potential.

In 2023, the Empowerment Fund helped two survivors get training that led to employment in medical fields, and another was able to achieve professional certification in peer counseling. Several other survivors are pursuing undergraduate and graduate education in psychology, turning their lived experiences into opportunities to help others. What all our Empowerment Fund grantees have in common is a commitment to building positive and powerful new lives for themselves and their families.



"I wanted to say thank you SO much. It's really kind of overwhelming to have this opportunity. No one I know has ever gotten this kind of opportunity. I feel like one of those PowerBall winner people. Thank you!"
~ Empowerment Fund Scholar

SURVIVOR SUPPORT: THE GINNY FUND

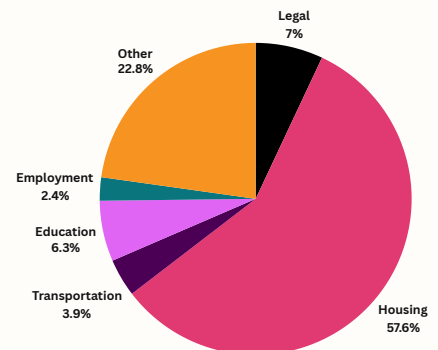
StolenYouth's Ginny Meisenbach Survivor Support Fund (The Ginny Fund) was created in 2017 in memory of our beloved co-founder Ginny Meisenbach, to carry on her practice of supporting individual survivors through small but impactful grants.



The journey of a survivor is never linear and can be easily derailed by even the smallest of life's setbacks. A Ginny Fund grant can make a profound difference by preventing a survivor from being evicted, fixing a car that a survivor relies on to get to work or take their children to school, providing necessary medical and dental


care, or paying legal fees for survivors who are trying to put their lives back together.

Thanks to our donors, StolenYouth is able to work with advocates, case workers, and law enforcement on behalf of survivors, often collaborating across multiple agencies to create a safety net of emergency funding around an individual.




A SNAPSHOT OF
Collaboration
2023

1500+


youth completed trafficking prevention and awareness education in Kitsap County 




12

CSEC Task Forces across Washington received training and support 

51

new CSE-IT screeners trained 

40

listening sessions and meetings with lawmakers held 




144


LGBTQIA+ youth served 




379

youth received services from an advocate 


\$5.7 M

designated for survivor services by SB 5114, signed into law by Governor Inslee on May 4, 2023 


300+

service providers, advocates, and physicians trained in Snohomish County 

\$31,534





granted through the Empowerment Fund for education and career goals 

\$28,601

granted through the Ginny Fund for emergency needs 

Our Mission & Focus Areas

STOLENYOUTH'S MISSION IS TO END CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING IN WASHINGTON STATE.

-  We believe in a legal system that protects vulnerable children who cannot consent to their own exploitation, advocating for policies, laws, and organizations designed to shield youth vulnerable to sex trafficking.
-  We aspire to disrupt the entire system of exploitation through a comprehensive coalition model that unites direct service providers, supports policy development, engages in advocacy, empowers education, and drives community awareness initiatives.
-  Through our survivor support programs, education and training initiatives, we address critical needs of child sexual exploitation, from prevention and demand reduction to survivor support services.
-  We strive to create a just society where all youth are safe, secure, loved, educated, and have opportunities for a bright future.

StolenYouth is dedicated to ending child sex trafficking in Washington state by disrupting systems of exploitation and empowering survivors on their healing journeys. We support direct service providers, influence policy development, engage in advocacy, catalyze community awareness, and foster collaborations with industry experts. These efforts increase funding for education and job training programs, support trafficking survivor advocates, and enhance our data collection systems.

King County faces significant challenges with child sex trafficking, with an estimated 500-700 children and youth trafficked each year. The problem is intensified by issues of racism and inequality, as 45% of all child sex trafficking victims are black, and 92% of sex buyers in King County are white men. StolenYouth addresses these challenges through a comprehensive approach that includes direct services, advocacy, education, and community engagement. Our signature programs, the Ginny Fund and Empowerment Fund, provide critical financial support for survivors' education and urgent needs, fostering long-term empowerment and recovery.

No child should be bought or sold for sex and every victim of sexual exploitation deserves compassion, access to services, and a way out of "the life."

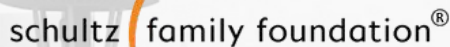
Not On Our Watch 2023

New Advances, Better Chances



Thank you to our
generous event sponsors

StolenYouth successfully raised more than \$575,000 at NOOW 2023. These critical funds enabled us to leverage the latest research, technology, and our vast network of human service providers to disrupt the industry, identify victims, offer escape routes to survivors, and educate vulnerable communities. At the luncheon, we were reminded that when we stand together, we can and do make a difference. There is great power in collaboration, and this fight will take all of us working together to create lasting change. We are deeply grateful to all the donors and sponsors of the luncheon for their generous support and commitment to our cause.



Heartsprung Fund WA

Paula and Bill Clapp



The Meisenbach Foundation

Libby Miller



Patty and Steve Fleischmann

Leslie and Peter Strong

Nancy and Gordon Kritzer



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Gifts are gratefully welcomed on our website,
by check mailed to our address, or via stock

