



First Quarter Report 2013

Three years ago, I received a call from a mother in North County St. Louis looking for services and a safe home for her 13 year old daughter who I will call Beth. Beth was rescued, after nine months, from the nightmare of being sexually trafficked up and down I270. At this time The Covering House was not in a place to provide services to this young girl. I provided her mother with some resources and over the years have kept in touch with her. Beth ended up in Atlanta in a home, ran from the home, tried to take her own life, was rescued again and then placed in a psychiatric hospital. Once released, she found herself being trafficked again. Two weeks ago, we received a call from an agency out of Washington State, Shared Hope International, who wanted to refer a girl to us for services. It is Beth! This referral brought tears to my eyes. I was so saddened three years ago when we couldn't help her, but now we are going to get an opportunity.

As a key partner with The Covering House, I want to make sure you are receiving regular updates about our clients, programs, and services.

Clinical

Clients

Out-Client Services started the third week of January. We currently have 6 clients with potentially 4 more once assessments are completed. Of these 6 clients, 2 are 13 years old.

We have received referrals from several sources such as Family Courts, Every Child's Hope, Shared Hope International, Covenant House, and parents.

Three of the girls were lured into this via the internet, one was homeless, one sold by her "boyfriend" to pay off his debts, and one by family member.

Each girl is receiving individual counseling from a licensed therapist and will be starting group therapy this week with a licensed therapist.

Supportive Adults Program

The Supportive Adult Program is a 6 week class focusing on Complex Trauma and the effects it has on the girls. This program is designed for parents, step parents, teachers, doctors and law enforcement. As the girls attend group therapy, the supportive adults will receive training along with "cheat sheets" of discussion questions to prepare them for questions, thoughts, feelings, etc. the girls might be experiencing.

Parents will also learn how to communicate with law enforcement, school administrators, doctors, etc. This program will launch sometime in late April early May.

Life Skills

The Covering House provides Life Skills group sessions. Classes are comprised of a mixture of existing community programs as well as programs created by The Covering House to fit the unique need of our clients. Some classes are:

- Healthy Living and Wellness
- Financial Management
- Growing Together
- Discovering You
- Photography-Poetry
- Outdoor Exploration
- Personal Development (will be finalized in September)

The week of June 17-21, The Covering House will host an Arts Camp. Each day a different type of artistic expression will be introduced such as drama, photography, music therapy, painting, and dance. We recognize that not only are the arts fun but also therapeutic for girls who have complex trauma.

Partnerships and Collaborations

The Covering House is collaborating and/or partnering with various agencies such as:

- Every Child's Hope
- Covenant House
- Epworth
- Missouri Alliance
- Children's Foundation Mid America
- Division of Social Services
- Family Courts
- Cardinal Glennon
- Children's Hospital Dieticians
- Universities and Colleges
- Rescue and Restore
- Amy Cunningham; FBI
- U.S. Attorney St. Louis area; Noelle Collins
- Assistant U.S. Attorney Southern Illinois: Monica Stump
- Shared Hope International

Education and Awareness

Speaking Engagements

The Covering House has been actively speaking at various organizations, churches, businesses and universities. We average 3 speaking engagements a week.

Volunteers

Over the course of the past 2 months, we have trained 19 volunteers. These volunteers help us with administrative duties, fundraising events and inventory of items.

Forms of Communication

Currently, The Covering House communicates our progress via Facebook, Twitter, monthly newsletter, a monthly blog, the website, and email. Our financial supporters and in-kind donors receive a letter of thanks with each donation that also serves as a tax letter.

Raising Funds

Raising funds is an ongoing pursuit. We have developed a sponsorship program for our girls. To date, we have 5 out of our 6 girls sponsored for the next year. We have received 4 grants and have 3 pending. In April one of our largest fundraising events, Art Creates Refuge will be held.

Future Services

Tutoring

By the end of May, The Covering House will offer tutoring in the areas of reading and math.

Long-Term Therapeutic Home

As we have met with law enforcement, social service organizations and the courts, we've learned that a home for these girls is still the greatest need. We are researching the best place for the home which will be allowed by zoning as well as keep our girls emotionally and physically safe. **Getting a home for the girls is still the greatest priority for us.**

Thank you for your support, encouragement and partnership with us. We recognize that there are many worthy organizations to where you could give your support. We are deeply grateful that you chose us.

On behalf of these young girls that you are helping, thank you.

Dedee Lhamon Executive Director