



Second Quarter Report 2013

Sometimes reality sneaks up on us and surprises us when we least expect it. That has been the case the past several weeks, and especially in light of the 4th of July celebration. I'm not sure the awareness of what freedom really is has gripped me as much as it has this year. I'm suddenly aware of how blessed I am to have the ability to make choices, have a voice, and take care of myself. I'm surrounded daily by girls that have been robbed of the simplest of freedoms, and yet I take them for granted.

It's estimated that there are anywhere from 12-27 million people in modern day slavery, more than any other time in history. Over half, it's estimated, are being exploited for commercial sex industry. And, the big shocker is that it's not just happening overseas. Often, the victims are hidden in plain sight, attending public schools, living next door, and worshipping with us on Sundays.

So, I guess the question is what are we willing to do to assure these girls get the same freedoms we do? How do we give them back their choice and their voice? *Lindsey Ellis Program Director: The Covering House*

Clinical

Clients

The group therapy program started focusing on effective coping skills for when the client has an external or internal trigger that causes the trauma to resurface. We are also completing the development of an initial assessment in response to the meeting that was held by the chief deputy officer at family courts.

May 20th we officially launched our supportive adult program. It is designed to provide parents and care givers with information about complex trauma and also provides a support system for them.

The Covering House is now repeatedly being asked to consult with other residential facilities who house trouble kids. Staff at these facilities is identifying cases of sexual trafficking victims. Epworth has identified 6 cases, Edgewood has one case, Good Shepherd has one case, and Every Child's Hope has 2 cases. Either the case manager from Division of Social Services has requested our help with these clients or the staff at the facility itself has contacted us about providing services.

We added 2 clients from art camp and received another call from a father whose daughter is in need of our services. We have been surprised at the number of children who are falling victim to this problem that are still living at home.

Presentations

We attended a Community Resource Fair in June sponsored by Children's Division. We were able to make with connections with several organizations, as well as families needing services.

On June 12, our Program Director, Lindsey Ellis, presented at Hopewell Community Center. They are a private social service provider and are seeing several trafficking cases. They also asked if we would be interested in offering a transgender group for trafficking victims.

On June 20, we met with the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis Illinois and Crisis Nursery. We presented an overview of our program and they shared with us about cases they are seeing. They have also asked us to meet with their girls and inform them about trafficking and provide steps to how they can protect themselves.

Programming

In both our Clinical Groups and our Supportive Adults Program, we are seeing a supportive, trusting atmosphere, and the clients are surpassing our expectations.

We have also been meeting and brainstorming to bring the holistic approach to our program. Education, life skills, recreation, clinical, etc. will work together to the program as a whole.

Life Skills

Our girls have been meeting every Monday evening for our life skill class on health and wellness. Laura Gardner, Director of Life-Skills has focused on sleep and hydration, feminine hygiene, gynecology and wellness, hair, skin and nail care, illness and how to care for yourself when sick, and sexually transmitted infections and critical first responses to rape.

In June, we launched our first annual Art Camp. This event was a huge success with the girls asking for us to provide another opportunity over the summer. Every day lunch was served to the girls by different women's groups. They learned about drama, photography, poetry, and music therapy. From the camp, we added 2 more clients and the Courtney Fender, the music therapist, has agreed to provide her services to us gratis.

Tutoring

The Covering House has officially started tutoring services for our clients.

Education and Awareness

Volunteer Development

Our volunteer base continues to grow. We trained another 15 people this past quarter which brings our volunteer number to 34.

Presentations

During the 2nd quarter we had 14 speaking engagements to community groups, women's groups, churches and NGO's. We want to continue to educate people about the issue of sex trafficking of children in our area and how The Covering House is helping those in need.

Raising Funds

Raising funds is an ongoing pursuit. Currently, TCH has received 7 of the 11 grants, which we applied, from foundations. We are continuing to raise support from individual donors and are finalizing the plans for our 3rd annual Race for Refuge which is on August 29, 2013 in Tower Grove Park.

Future Services

Long-Term Therapeutic Home

We are currently in the process of filing our zoning application and necessary paperwork for approval by Jefferson County to establish our long term therapeutic home. This home would house eight girls and provide many opportunities for therapy. It sits on 47 acres and the owner is leasing it to us for \$1.00 per year. We still need to present our case for the home and receive approval by the zoning board and county council. We should know by the end of September if our application is approved.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

Dedee Lhamon Executive Director