

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018

Prepared By: Leanne Rhodes

CEO REPORT

Survivors of human trafficking never cease to inspire and amaze me with their resilience after the trauma they have endured whilst being trafficked. It is a joy to work alongside these amazing individuals as they work to rebuild their lives after slavery. Our wonderful team in Romania must be thanked for their dedication and professionalism in working with survivors day in and day out. It can be heart breaking and difficult work but they continue to do it with both a smile on their face and in their hearts. Abolishment would not be the same without them.

Abolishment continued this financial year to break the systems that keep people in sex slavery by working diligently in our key areas. Here is what we achieved:

- Raising Awareness
 - Train 196 individuals with our online training course.
 - Reach 424 people in our outreach and prevention programs.
- Professional Training
 - Train 460 professionals from medical, social work and community sectors
- Capacity Building
 - We were able to create a Don't Shut Your Eyes video that was used by the European Freedom Network to reach 518,645 people on social media. This year's theme was to raise awareness about how traffickers recruit online. The video can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/HDSCTJYdO0g>.
- Restoration Care
 - We were excited to employ 3 survivors in our ROAM Living social enterprise. We also worked closely with 7 survivors as they worked to rebuild their lives after slavery.

Here at Abolishment, we will continue our work towards a world where nobody is sold for the highest bid. Thank you to all of our generous partners and donors who have joined us in the fight against modern day slavery.

Yours sincerely

Leanne Rhodes
CEO and Founder - Abolishment

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income

Donations	
- General	74,645.39
- Restoration Care	11,538.00
- Wages	10,375.73
ROAM	4,733.43
Interest	47.45
Total Income	101340.00

Expenses

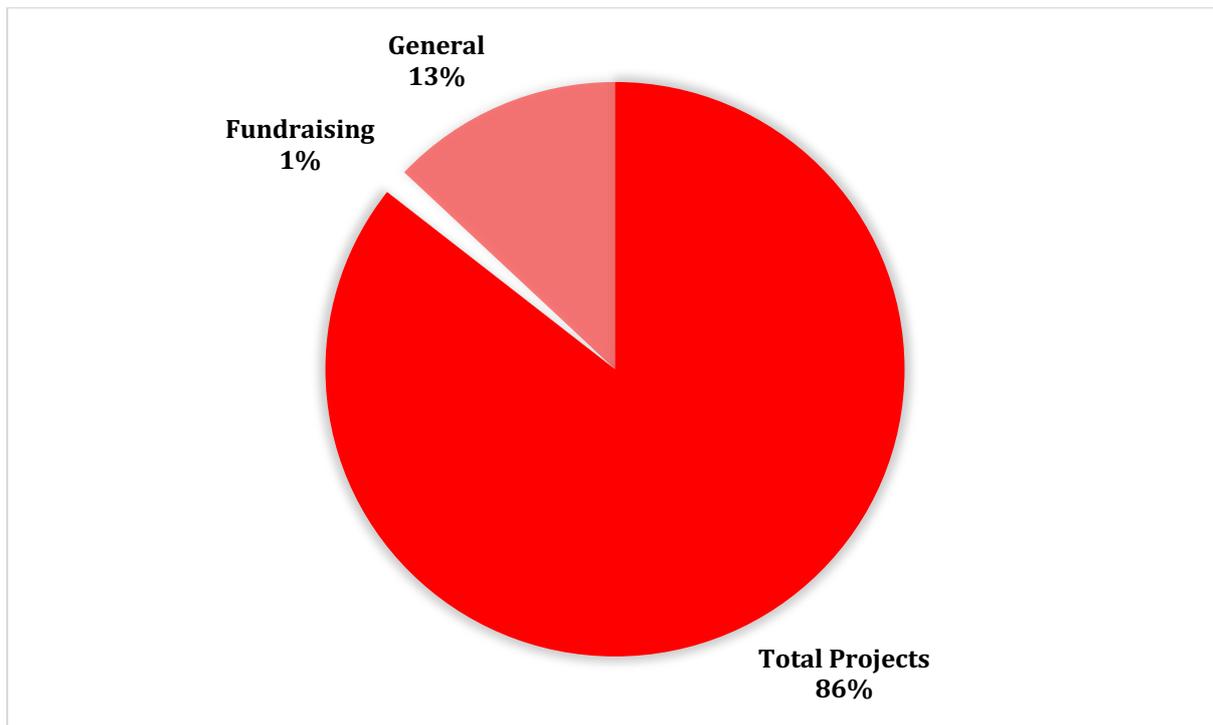
Raising Awareness	17,755.90
Professional Training	11,149.74
Capacity Building	17,715.52
Restoration Care	34,693.43
ROAM	9,350.25
Freedom Analytics	4,512.57
Total Projects	95177.41

Fundraising	1,603.32
General	14,429.56
Total Admin	16,032.88

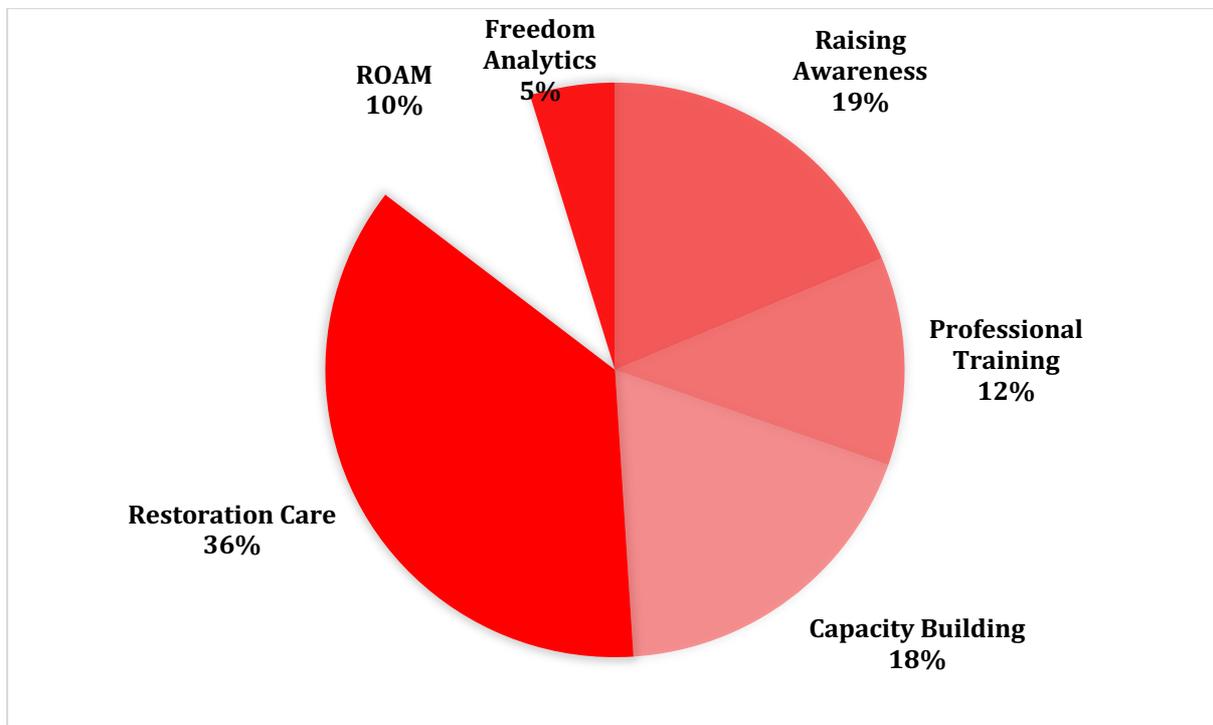
Total	111,210.29
--------------	-------------------

Total Profit/Loss	-9870.29
--------------------------	-----------------

TOTAL PROJECTS BREAKDOWN 2017/2018



PROGRAM EXPENSES BREAKDOWN 2017/2018



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

ART, THE FOOD FOR OUR SOUL



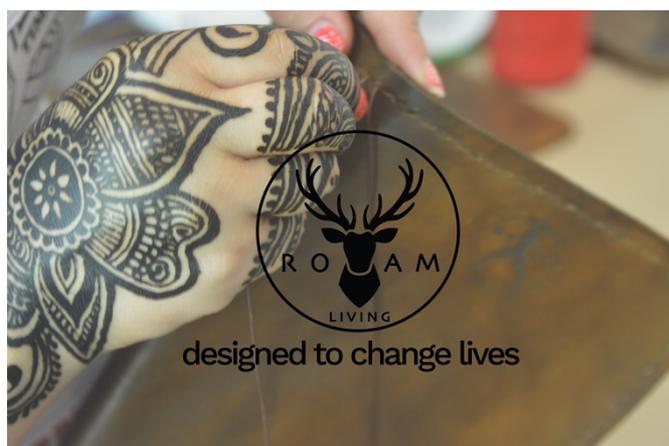
For the past week, our Abolition office turned into an art workshop, thanks to our dear friend, Dr. Michelle Sanders. Coming all the way from Australia, to pour into our hearts the love for art, to refresh our souls and teach us how to paint, Michelle blessed us beyond words.

The ART AND SOUL program, was more than a relaxing therapy for our human trafficking survivors; it gave them the chance to a different kind of freedom: the freedom to express their

feelings, to see life in colors, the freedom to let their souls grow and believe again in their dreams. Michelle taught us that art is not always about pretty things, but also about who we are and what happened to us. She inspired us to show our true colors, without borders or restrictions and paint all the pain, depression, fear or trauma away. The sessions were very entertaining and relaxing at once, and each girl went through a journey of discovering what it feels like to create something for the first time. For some of them, these moments were the catalyst for a new passion, of painting, for some it was the assurance that they matter and that something beautiful can come out of their hands. Painting gave them the power to see glimpses of light in all the darkness they experienced and to feel proud of themselves. They went through a transformation: it was like art washed away from the soul all the misery, brokenness and damage. Through her teachings, Michele managed to open the door for these girls, to a new world, of healing. Seeing them smiling and joyful after each session, was a step forward towards change and restoring their own souls. They learned how to get lost in art and rediscover themselves by creating something beautiful out from the ruins of their lives.

The painting project was a challenging experience for the survivors of human trafficking, because some of the girls have never painted before. But Michelle's encouraging words and wise advice made the process a whole lot easier, so that each person that participated managed to become a little artist. With a brush in their hands, they beautifully painted the canvas, without even realizing that all that time they actually fed their souls and painted the empty spaces in their hearts. It's fair to say that we cannot wait for next year, to repeat this refreshing and restoring experience again.

ROAM LIVING INTENTIONALLY CREATES JOBS FOR SURVIVORS



In 2017, Abolishion launched a social enterprise called ROAM Living. ROAM makes high quality leather products of distinction and seeks to intentionally create jobs for survivors of human trafficking. We make leather laptop and notebook covers as well as key chains and luggage tags.

'We started ROAM last year with lots of work on product design and trialling our products in various markets,' said Leanne Rhodes, CEO and founder of Abolishion. 'We're not 100% there yet but

we have seen what the impact of having a job has on survivors.'

'If I had to choose between running a shelter for survivors, a drop in centre or running a business to employ them, I would choose the business as the first choice, knowing what I know now. Obviously, all aspects are important, but I have been amazed at the healing that comes from doing work that matters and being able to make decisions for your own life instead of living on hand outs.'

'The facts are that if we provide housing and no way to earn an income then survivors will never become independent, which is what it really means to be free. I've seen first hand how having a job increases their dignity, and sense of self worth as well as the financial means to make decisions for themselves.'

ROAM is not just about employment, we are employment that cares. Each job also provides ongoing education, time off to do much needed counselling, therapy and time to attend the medical and legal appointments that survivors so often have to face. We are also an understanding work environment that knows that the survivor may have an emotional outburst now and then or may be displaying unusual behaviour as a result of their trafficking trauma.

Many survivors often struggle to settle into employment after their ordeal of being trafficked. It is quite common that they will either lose or leave their first four or five jobs because of behavioural or trauma issues. We work to create a working environment that can deal with these issues whilst also encouraging self esteem and healing. Our dream is that one day survivors will run every aspect of the business.

You can purchase our products at roamliving.com.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS LEARN HOW TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Abolishment in partnership with Colegiului Medicilor Bihor were pleased to hold a conference on the Intersection of Human Trafficking and the Medical Sector on Tuesday May 15 at the Hilton Doubletree in Oradea. The event was attended by 157 medical professionals as well as notable medical speakers.

Dr. Katherine Welch from Relentless was the keynote speaker of the event,

bringing years of experience on trauma and sexual health of prostituted women and men.

"Nearly 80% of the victims get to the doctor while they are still trafficked. These are opportunities to be identified," says Katherine Welch, founder of Relentless.

"When she gets to the doctor's office she can open up and be able to become aware of the medical background familiar with the existence of this phenomenon that, in fact, this young or teenager needs help and support," says Dr. Carmen Pantiş, President of the College of Physicians Bihor.

Although victims suffer physical and mental trauma, there are situations where they return to traffickers.

"Traffickers will come and promise a better life, working every dream that you have. They will promise to fulfil them. Everyone wants love, everyone wants to feel special, and that's what makes victims and traffickers," Leanne Rhodes, President of the Abolishment Association Oradea.

There are other methods of recruitment.

"Another technique is to offer false jobs, and last year there were 35 people who were recruited online through social networks," explains Abolishment President Oradea.

Leanne Rhodes, an Australian, has lived in Oradea for 4 years, where she established Abolishment Romania. Abolishment has opened a centre dedicated to victims of trafficking in human beings - there are 80,000 in all of Romania, the Australian argues. But not all cases come to the attention of the authorities: Last year, the National Agency against Trafficking in Human Beings reported 662 people. "We have a shelter where people are victims of trafficking, we have a center where they have new working skills and a place to work. Because often girls who have escaped traffickers fail to keep their first 4-5 jobs," says Leanne Rhodes.

"Although it is not what she prefers, it often happens as blackmail and threats or is too much pressure for her to cope," says Nadia Pal, founding member of the Abolishment Oradea Association. Last year, in Bihor, 16 victims of trafficking in human beings were identified, and from the beginning of this year - 11 persons, including minors.

This article was adapted from: [Digi 24 Bihor article](#)