

2012/2013 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

I still remember the day I met trafficking survivors for the first time. I walked into a shelter in Romania and was welcomed by 17 young girls, the oldest 23, the youngest only 14. It was surreal to think what they had been through. I was expecting them to be tough and hard, no wanting to talk to me. But instead, I found a group of warm, friendly girls who had seem to regressed back to a younger age when things were safer in order to cope. They wanted to play games, have lots of hugs, one even falling asleep on my shoulder.

There was one girl who sat alone. She just rocked back and forward staring into space. Over a period of three days she began to inch closer to me. She wanted attention but didn't want it at the same time. Eventually she grabbed my hand and held it. It was a special moment. We were now friends. She continued holding my hand for the next hour, every now and again giving it a squeeze and holding my hand to her heart. Tears would well up in her eyes as she looked into mine. We didn't speak the same language but we communicated things that simply couldn't be said in words. That moment was a time of healing for her but for me it was a defining moment that would change my life forever. It was the drive behind setting up Abolishion. Something had to be done.

After spending time researching and meeting with other organisations I began to understand where the gaps were in fighting trafficking, particularly in Europe. I could see that if we really wanted to stop trafficking then we needed to look at the systemic things that allow it to exist. Hence our mission statement: "Breaking the systems that keep people in sexual slavery".

Abolishion has only been in existence for 6 months but already we are starting to see things happen in the fight against human trafficking. These 6 months have largely been a planning and strategising time to get ready for an influential future. My hope is that, as you read this report, you will catch the vision and join us as we strive for a world where nobody is sold for the highest bid.

Leanne Rhodes, CEO and Founder

THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

ESTABLISHMENT

Establishing a non profit is a lot of work but we were pleased to set up Abolishion as a non profit registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (<http://www.acnc.gov.au>). Later in the year we also established ourselves as a formal charity.

WEBSITE LAUNCH

In January we officially launched our website. Our aim was to raise awareness about human trafficking and inform people about what they could do. Response was overwhelming as people connected with the vision of Abolishion and started to get informed about trafficking. Not long after our launch, two businesses approached us, wanting to donate to our work.

RAISING AWARENESS

It is surprising how many people still do not know about human trafficking. That's why we set out to educate as many as we can about trafficking and what can be done.

In April, our CEO spoke in Spain at the NLI EMERGE conference for women about human trafficking. These 75 women connected emotionally with the plight of their sisters and were eager to discuss how they could be involved in the fight.

In May, we ran an event in Melbourne at Palace Cinemas in South Yarra. At this event, attended by 69 people, we screened the movie Nefarious and followed this up with a presentation on human trafficking. There were many eyes well up with tears as our CEO told stories of girls she had met. The reality of trafficking was beginning to sink in.

In June, we saw Abolishion being presented with a donation of \$2,000 on National television. Footballer and media personality, Nathan Brown, decided to donate his match earnings to Abolishion and announced this on the Sunday Footy Show. Nathan and his wife Kristine had connected with the work of Abolishion and were keen to do all they could to raise awareness. Needless to say, we were extremely grateful for their ongoing support.

Whilst raising awareness and speaking out about human trafficking, our CEO has been privileged to hear the stories of women who have been trafficked. As she speaks, women have begun to come forward and share their own stories of pain, escape and restoration. We always keep their identities secret but it is an honour to share their tears as they tell their stories. We know this is a healing time for them as they courageously share their hurts, disappointment and hope.

SHELTER PLANS

In 2012, there were 43 girls rescued from trafficking in the Bihor area of Romania. Unfortunately there were not any local services that could provide long term accommodation for these survivors. This puts these survivors at a 90% risk of being re-trafficked as they often have no choice but to return to the place they were trafficked from.

This statistic alone, is enough for us to see a gap in the fight against trafficking. We have been working this year to build solid working relationships with government and local organisations to see a shelter established in this area. We have been having many meetings and doing our research to understand what is necessary to set up a shelter and to ascertain the best model for these survivors. It's a big project but we are excited to see lives restored and the statistic of re-trafficking proven wrong in this region.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30/06/2013

Asset	\$
Current Asset	
Westpac 440962	3,976.34
Westpac 440970	50.00
Total Assets	4,026.34
Liability	
Current Liabilities	0.00
Total Liabilities	0.00
Net Assets	4,026.34
Equity	
Current year earnings	4,026.34
Total Equity	4,026.34

PROFIT AND LOSS

For the period 01/07/2012 to 30/06/2013

Income	\$
Donations – General	1,701.27
Donations – Restoration Homes	1,880.10
Fundraising Event	1,500.00
Total Income	5,081.37
Expenses	
Fundraising	1,061.98
Total Expenses	1,061.98
Operating Profit	4019.39
Other Income	
Interest	6.95
Net Profit	4,026.34

ABOLISHION LEADERSHIP

The Board of Directors for Abolishion for the 2012/2013 financial year were:

- Leanne Rhodes – Chairman, Founder and CEO
- Mary Lynch – Treasurer
- Nicholas Mackay – Secretary
- Dr. Michelle Sanders
- Dr. John Prince
- Linda Rayment

THE YEAR AHEAD

Now that we are set up as an organisation, we are looking forward to focusing on projects that will break the systems that keep people in sexual slavery.

In October this year we are looking to run professional training with social workers, schools workers and community leaders in the area of Bihor, Romania. We will be working with local NGO People to People and ANITP (National Agency Against Trafficking In Persons), the governmental body for anti-trafficking work in Romania. We aim to train the participants in a general understanding of trafficking, how to identify trafficking in their community, how to run prevention programs and where to access help for victims.

We are continuing to do the groundwork and build solid partnerships to establish a shelter in the Bihor district on Romania. We already are aware of the need. In 2012, 43 girls were rescued from traffickers and returned to this district. Unfortunately no local services were able to provide long term accommodation for them, putting them at risk of being re-trafficked. These girls need a place where they can heal and restore.

We want to expand our website with an online interactive program that can be used by people to educate themselves about trafficking, raise further awareness and get involved in the fight.

We will continue on in the fight against human trafficking. We want a world where nobody is sold for the highest bid. Will you join us?

CONTACT US

www.abolishion.org

info@abolishion.org

Abolishion
PO Box 406
Flinders Lane VIC 8009
Australia

ABN: 83190789757