

Safety Compass

We are excited to be sharing our first monthly newsletter!

#1 - January 2017



Mission

Our mission is to offer support for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and sex-trafficking, navigating the criminal and social justice systems in the mid-Willamette valley, Oregon.

We offer in-person support for survivors, online support for families of missing and chronically exploited youth and adults, specialized training for professionals and community members, and advocacy during law enforcement interviews. We believe that public education increases awareness, resulting in increased victim identification and better intervention outcomes. We are committed to collaboration with law enforcement and social services providers, believing collaboration is the most effective method to achieving criminal and social justice.

Safety Compass is a culturally specific advocacy service for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation in Marion and Clackamas County, Oregon.

All services are FREE and confidential.



Interested in supporting Safety Compass?

Are you looking to get involved? We are always looking for volunteers and would love to discuss volunteer opportunities with you. There are many different ways to help and something for everyone. Email: safetycompassvolunteer@gmail.com to learn more!

A Letter from our Executive Director

Wow, what a difference a year makes... As I sit back and reflect on 2016, the Safety Compass inaugural year, I am profoundly humbled at the growth, and rich blessings we have experienced as an organization, thanks to all of you.

In our first calendar year of formal existence we took a rural grassroots effort that operated from my kitchen table, and turned it into a best practices model of culturally specific advocacy, emergency response, and case management for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and young adults in the Willamette Valley. Through partnerships with other reputable organizations including Liberty House and the Marion County District Attorney's Office, we were able to help establish a CSEC sub-committee within Marion County's Child Abuse Response Team. We built a partnership with Horses of Hope to provide Equine Assisted Advocacy and Skills Training for survivors at a world class stable in South Salem. We co-wrote, and were awarded a large 3-year federal grant from the Office for Victims of Crime (VOCA) in collaboration with the Center for Hope and Safety. This amazing partnership will allow us to seamlessly house adult survivors of this crime, within a trauma informed housing model. We built and formalized a partnership with A Village for One to do community based mental health with our program's participants. We created and implemented an 8-week support group curriculum. We maintained and enhanced a wonderful working relationship with Compassion First (CF), who has been our largest fiscal sponsor organization, and we trained their staff and volunteers. We simply cannot overstate our gratitude for the mentorship and encouragement of CF, as they have been a large force behind our growth this year.

At the heart of all this effort is our prioritization of direct service support for survivors healing from the aftermath of the trauma of commercial sexual exploitation. This year Safety Compass was also able to serve many survivors, both in-person and over the phone. Our numbers have given us a tangible argument for the dire need for this kind of services in this region. This year (calculated since April, the month we officially became a non-profit), we were privileged to serve 29 unique and valuable survivors in a crisis intervention AND on-going case management capacity. A total of 1, 495 direct service/crisis-contacts were made with these survivors. We had 7,230 non-crises related contacts, performed outreach to 47 organizations, and trained 475 people.

We met one young woman who stated; "I heard about advocates years ago, and was always hoping I might be able to have my own. I'm so glad you finally came for me". We met another teen who had been trafficked across the United States and said that she didn't think she would ever be able to make any friends because she had so much anxiety around meeting people, for fear that they might kidnap her. When we first began working with her it was almost impossible for her to even venture out to attend school. Now this young lady is enthusiastic about working with her advocate and session instructor during equine assisted therapy each week and speaks regularly about how horses have allowed her a reason to want to brave the outside world, and how these safe interactions give her hope that she might be able to make human friendships one day.

None of this would be possible without you. Our Board gave countless hours this year to do the exhaustive work of formalizing our 501c3 status. Our volunteers gave selflessly behind the scenes to make sure survivors received birthday presents and Christmas gifts. Our donors helped lift the Safety Compass vision off the ground and gave it wings so that victims of this terrible crime could receive the healing support they deserve. We are so incredibly grateful for your support. On behalf of the amazing survivors we serve, thank you for joining us in this journey to restore and heal this community one child at a time. We cannot wait to see what 2017 has in store for us.

With a grateful heart,

Esther Nelson



The Year in Review...



WHAT A YEAR! In 2016, we...

- Established 501(c)(3) status
- Participated in Operation Cross Country 10
- Created and implemented 8-week curriculum and support group for survivors
- Formed a partnership with Horses of Hope to offer equine assisted advocacy to survivors
- Trained all Major Crime Detectives Clackamas County
- Co-facilitated detective's academy training with Guardian Group
- Held first volunteer training for new Safety Compass Navigators
- Established and co-chaired Marion County's CSEC Sub Committee to the Child Abuse Response Team (CART)
- Were added to CSEC Sub-committee of Clackamas County
- Wrote for and was awarded competitive three year Victims of Crime Act grant in collaboration with The Center for Hope and Safety (CHS)
- Secured public office space in collaboration with Village for One starting February 2017!

A BIG Thank You to...

- All of our volunteers. We could not do this without you!
- Our donors. We have been able to do some pretty amazing things this past year and it is your support that keeps us going. Thank you!
- The Safety Compass Board Members!
- Special thanks to our largest fiscal sponsor, Compassion First for making this last year possible!



Safety Compass Necklace Fundraising

Your support has generated enough funding to pay for equine-assisted therapy sessions for survivors in 2017.

THANK YOU!!!

Look for this fundraiser next holiday season!