

Safety Compass



Newsletter #2

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

Hello friends and supporters. Happy summer! I hope you are all able to enjoy this incredible sunny weather and I invite you to take a moment to savor your freedom. Every day Safety Compass advocates step from the light of our places of safety and freedom into the darkness of the world of sex-trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation to meet survivors where they are at, offer hope and encouragement, safety planning, and life-saving resources.

We have been very busy on the front lines of this work since our last newsletter, with exciting expansions on numerous fronts. I am thrilled to be able to share the news of our new Salem, OR office space. This will be our organization headquarters and is already providing survivors a welcoming open door in Marion County, where they can come in, hang out, and access our clothing closet and basic toiletries. The greatest thing about this open door is that it affords us a safe space to have life affirming conversations with youth and young adults who often don't have anyone else in their life earnestly listening to them. We are so honored to be listeners.

I also have a number of other exciting updates to share. We have started a Diversion program through Community Court and expanded our 24-hr call-out capacity in Clackamas County. Since our last newsletter we have trained more than 1,000 professionals from the medical, criminal justice, and social service systems in Oregon. We have provided case consultation on commercial sexual exploitation cases around the country. We have brought children home from states in every corner of the United States, and intervened along-side law enforcement in stings that kept children from ever having to turn their first "trick". We have bolstered an incredible working partnership with ally agency A Village for One, so that all of the survivors we serve can be offered expert level, culturally responsive, out-patient mental health services. We have been the grateful beneficiaries of a number of generous financial contributions from the Oregon Community Foundation, The FBI Citizen's Academy Alumni Association, Grace Community Church, Damsel in Defense, Corporate Division, as well as gifts from individual and corporate donors. We continue to exist in large part due to the incredible partnerships we have with Compassion First (Beaverton, OR and Indonesia) and the Center for Hope and Safety (Salem, OR). These partnerships and contributions have enabled us to hire staff, provide emergency hotel rooms for sex-trafficking victims running for their lives from traffickers, purchase bus fare to bring teens home from cities where they've been taken and exploited, and food for children who haven't even been able to eat, due to pimp-control they were experiencing. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and on behalf of the survivors we serve. We could not do this without you.

Please continue to follow us and share in our unfolding as we grow deeper roots in both Clackamas and Marion counties, and reach to serve survivors in neighboring counties and underserved communities. We are ever grateful to have your support and could not do this work without you. We look forward to seeing how Love works and Hope grows throughout the rest of 2017 and we look forward to reconnecting with you in this manner in the New Year.

With Hope,
Esther Nelson

What We've Been Up To...



OUR NEW OFFICE!

We have just opened our new office in Salem. This allows us space to meet with survivors, provide case management, and meet with community partners to further our collaborative efforts on this issue.

Thank you to all of those who helped us get settled!

STAFF UPDATES

We are so excited to welcome Allie Martin & Kelli Russell to the Safety Compass Team!

Allie Martin, Navigator

A graduate of Willamette University, Allie has a degree in Psychology and Spanish. When Allie is not busy supporting survivors of commercial sexual exploitation through her role at SC, she works in another capacity as the Program Coordinator at Horses of Hope, Equine Assisted Therapy Program. We are thrilled to bring Allie onto our staff team, as she brings such a creative perspective in working with youth. When asked what her favorite thing about being a Navigator with SC is, Allie stated; "that I get to witness the incredible resilience and strength of the people that we work with. I also take pride in working alongside volunteers and other staff who have a passion and commitment to making the community a safer and more connected environment, helping to provide resources to those who may not feel like they have any help or support".

Kelli Russell - Operations Manager

Kelli holds a Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Portland State University where she continues to teach as adjunct faculty. She joins the SC team, bringing with her years of experience working with at-risk youth in residential and custody settings. She has worked with Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) as a juvenile detention officer, and at Shared Hope International. Kelli has worked closely with law enforcement and community based social service partners and exemplifies Safety Compass' prioritization of collaboration. Kelli has created and delivered trainings to law enforcement, juvenile court, social service agencies and advocates on the issue of CSEC throughout the United States. When asked what she enjoys the most about being a part of Safety Compass, Kelli says "To be part of an amazing team working collaboratively with community partners to better serve survivors."

SHOUT OUT!

We could not do the work we do without the support of our donors. Safety Compass has been so fortunate to have been the beneficiary of some incredible fundraisers since our last newsletter.

The **FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association** chose Safety Compass as a beneficiary of their annual Bowl-a-thon and raffle. In addition to being a ton of fun, it was a HUGE success! Thank you!

Grace Community Church organized the Fearless 5k with Safety Compass as the beneficiary. It was a beautiful day at Dallas City Park and the lunch that followed was amazing. We can't thank you enough!

To all of our donors.
Thank you!