



# Cast

COALITION TO ABOLISH  
SLAVERY & TRAFFICKING

# 2019

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Dear Friends,



This has been an extraordinary year for Cast. We are facing seemingly insurmountable barriers, including federal policy changes that harm survivors and an unprecedented climate of fear that have made identifying and protecting trafficking victims much harder. In response, we have doubled down to meet the needs of more survivors and successfully advocated for cutting-edge policy change despite the harsh climate.

Our accomplishments are possible because we have supporters like you doing everything to help us protect the rights of survivors, and investing in our programs that drive an end to human trafficking. Rising above the challenges and prioritizing survivors, we are creating new and successful program models to address homelessness and promote the health of survivors. We are developing and leveraging powerful partnerships to create more equitable policies, while maintaining a solid financial foundation to weather these uncharted times.

As you read this report, you will see transformation and hope in the face of adversity. Because of your commitment to Cast, we are transforming the lives of hundreds of human trafficking survivors – and driving social change so that freedom prevails.

With Gratitude and Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KBuck'.

Kay Buck  
CEO

**1,518** SURVIVORS  
AND FAMILY  
MEMBERS  
SERVED

2

**15%** INCREASE  
IN CLIENTS  
SERVED  
FROM 2018

**300** SURVIVORS  
LEADING  
SYSTEMIC  
CHANGE

To the supporters that have changed my life,

I have not met you but I want to thank you. At Cast I found my home – and my strength. Now that I know what that feels like, I will never allow myself to experience anything less. For that, I am so grateful.

Living in Ethiopia, I signed up with a foreign work recruiter to escape my abusive husband and a job that was leading nowhere. Feeling renewed hope, I was placed as domestic help for a woman in the Saudi royal family who forced me to work around the clock. Every day, she physically and verbally abused me until my face was black and blue and my sense of hope was lost. In a rare moment when I wasn't being watched, I escaped in the middle of the night. I was terrified.

I was homeless for nearly a month, wandering the streets of Los Angeles. One day, a stranger approached me and called Cast's hotline. Within the hour, I was in a car with a Cast social worker and attorney. I will never forget that day. For the first time in months, I slept soundly. Cast's shelter was truly my haven- and a place where I planned my future. I felt valued and a part of a community.

Today I am living in my own apartment with a friend, another survivor, whom I met at Cast. Nearly every day I drive by the shelter on my way to work and am reminded of the life-changing impact Cast made in my life. Cast will always be my first home - a sanctuary from all I endured. A sanctuary that you made possible. Because of you, I am free.

Thank you from my heart,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aida". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'A' being particularly large and stylized.

Aida  
Cast Graduate



# MISSION

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (Cast) is ending human trafficking through education, advocacy and empowering survivors.

## BRIDGING PRACTICE TO POLICY

Creating an innovative bridge between practice and policy, Cast provides evidence-driven, comprehensive services to human trafficking survivors, empowering them to become partners and leaders in the field, which leads to systemic changes in attitudes, laws, and policies.



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RESPONSE**

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“

Cast provides help for a person who is caught up in trafficking, who is seeking to escape and not just to escape, but then to find her dreams and to build a way of contributing to the city and to this country and to this world. At the same time, it doesn't ignore the global issues and the macro issues and the changes we need from policy makers at the local, state, national and international level. To do both is a pretty unique thing for an organization and to do both in such an excellent way is almost unheard of.

”

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**ERIC GARCETTI, MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES**



**TRAINING AND  
TECHNICAL  
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**GOING  
WHERE  
WE'RE  
NEEDED**

6

Over 240  
languages available  
on our hotline

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

24/7  
response

Soon after Jayla started dating a man who she thought cared for her, he began forcing her to engage in commercial sex. He beat her viciously when she refused and controlled her money. Jayla desperately wanted to escape but she didn't know how, and she was afraid of what he would do to her.

One day, Jayla was at a county office while he waited downstairs. When a social worker suspected Jayla might be a trafficking victim she called Cast's hotline, and a Cast attorney and social worker came immediately to meet her. After speaking to her briefly, it was clear that she was being trafficked and in great physical danger. The team led her safely out of the building and brought her straight to Cast's Emergency Shelter where she was given essential items as well as counselling and support. Today, Jayla is free, safe and continuing to receive supportive services from Cast to help her recover from her traumatic experience.

365  
days a year

# MAKING A HOME BUILDING COMMUNITY



**80%**

of survivors were  
homeless when  
they entered  
Cast's shelters.

**90%**

of clients have  
permanent housing  
when they graduate  
from Cast.

# HOUSING

With Los Angeles in the throes of a worsening housing crisis, Cast's shelter services are more important than ever. By combining safe housing with support services, we ensure trafficking survivors get off the streets and onto the path to an independent life.

We are proud to celebrate the first anniversary of our new emergency shelter, which has more than doubled our capacity to house survivors. This expansion was made possible with our partnership with Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department.



# 100%

of clients have safe housing when they graduate from Cast.



# CASE MANAGEMENT

Britney was 20 when she was forced into commercial sex by an acquaintance she thought she could trust. Facing repeated verbal and physical abuse, Britney lost hope of any escape. Six months later, she was arrested and her public defender connected her with Cast.

At Cast, Britney had a dedicated case manager to help her re-establish her foundation of a healthy and independent life with stable housing, mental health treatment for her trauma and a plan for financial stability.

With aspirations to own her own business, Britney had a plan to pursue a career in real estate. Cast provided her with the necessary study materials to pass the California Real Estate exam in July 2019 and is one year away from attaining her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Today, Britney stands confident with her license in hand, a newly-furnished apartment, and a rekindled relationship with her family.



90%

of clients are in  
school or employed  
when they  
graduate  
from Cast.



**OVER  
90%**

of the youth Cast has  
served were in the  
foster care system.

**FINDING  
RESILIENCE**

# LEGAL SERVICES

Growing up in Honduras, Carlos listened eagerly when his uncle talked about job opportunities and promises of a better future in the U.S. When a labor recruiter came to town and spoke of a \$3,000/month job opportunity that included housing and transportation, Carlos signed up for his services. It was more money than Carlos had ever imagined earning. Soon after, Carlos took out a loan to cover the \$7,000 in fees, confident he could pay it back quickly.

Once in Los Angeles, Carlos faced a harsh reality. He was forced to work seven days a week, with almost no breaks. Carlos lived in a small back house on the traffickers' property crammed with other workers. He never earned anywhere near \$3,000 and when he complained, the traffickers threatened to either call ICE or to harm his family back in Honduras. The workers were forced to lie to the labor commission officers who visited the farm, but one of Carlos's coworkers managed to deliver a covert message.

When the officers returned, accompanied by the FBI, Carlos was freed and connected to Cast. With the support of pro bono counsel, Cast attorneys brought Carlos's traffickers to justice. Cast also secured a T visa for Carlos and helped him reunite with his wife and daughter. By May 2020, Carlos hopes to achieve his dream of becoming a lawful permanent resident of the U.S.

A black and white photograph of the Statue of Liberty's head and crown, with the torch visible on the left. The image is used as a background for the slide.

**BREAKING  
FREE**

**90%**

Cast won 90%  
of T visa applications  
for survivors, despite the  
**government approving 52%**  
**fewer nationwide.**







# OUR COMMITMENT

At Cast, we refuse to accept that trafficking is inevitable. While we will always provide core services to every survivor we meet, our role is more than helping victims heal.

Together with survivor leaders and partners, we are pushing for big changes—more funding to support survivors, better systems to identify and root out trafficking, greater protections for survivors who want to bring their traffickers to justice, and training and technical assistance for frontline professionals who encounter trafficking. Using evidence-based, data-driven solutions, we are making real change.

# INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Cast is at the cutting edge of service provision, developing new program models informed by the needs and experiences survivors have shared with us. By building trust with survivors, we learn from them to adapt models that better meet their needs. This is what evidence-driven practice means.



## Labor Trafficking Cases 2008-2018: Data Analysis Report

Philip Gnaedig, MSW, CAST  
Barbara Kaleff, NERA Economic Consulting  
Elizabeth Newlon, PhD, NERA Economic Consulting



*Cast was selected by the Little Hoover Commission to present testimony on our latest report which captures 10 years of labor trafficking data. A collaborative with the Los Angeles County Regional Task Force and Nera Economic Consulting, the report provides a deeper understanding of human trafficking and recommends effective strategies for California to prioritize labor and sex trafficking equally.*



# Dignity Health

California Hospital Medical Center

LEAVEY TRAUMA CENTER

J THOMAS MCCARTHY EMERGENCY CENTER

LOKER DIAGNOSTIC & TREATMENT CENTER

**National  
Award-Winning  
Partnership**



*This year, Cast was awarded the Thomas J. Moran Mutual of America Community Partnership Award for its partnership with Dignity Health and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The Survivor Advocate Program is a first-of-its-kind model that employs a full-time survivor advocate in hospitals to increase the identification of trafficking survivors.*



# PASSED!

NSN successfully advocated for AB 865, a law requiring training for families on identifying and reducing harm to commercially sexually-exploited youth in foster care.

## ADVOCATING FROM EXPERIENCE

# SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP

Through Resilient Voices and the National Survivor Network (NSN), Cast works with more than 300 survivors across 40 states, recognizing them as experts, and prepares them to change law and policy.

This year, the NSN launched its first ever Policy Academy in Los Angeles, an innovative two-day intensive training that provided survivors from across the nation with new skills and tools to become leaders in policy change.

The NSN also actively participated in the nationwide campaign to grant clemency to Cyntoia Brown, who was sentenced to life at the age of 16 for shooting her sex buyer in self-defense. The campaign and Survivors March on Nashville were successful – after having served 15 years in prison, Cyntoia was released in August 2019.





**MORE  
IMPACT  
THAN  
EVER  
BEFORE**

With **\$10MIL**  
secured for other  
anti-trafficking  
organizations across  
the state, nearly  
**12,000 survivors** are  
now supported.

**PASSED**

# POLICY

## Bill AB 629

Trafficking survivors receive compensation for lost income.

**PASSED**

## Bill SB 630

Human Trafficking hotline is required posted in every CA workplace.

**PASSED**

## Bill SB 823

Clearing misguided criminal records for trafficking survivors.

**PASSED**

## Bill AB 1735

Protect survivors from their traffickers during criminal cases.

**PASSED**

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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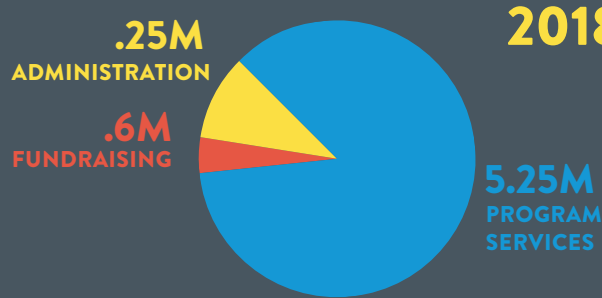
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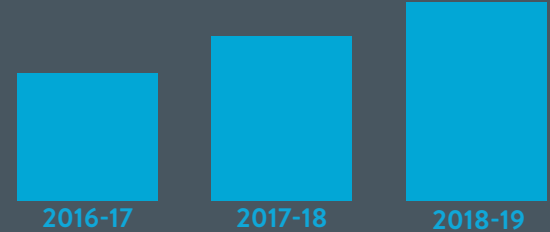
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# FINANCIAL

*As Cast's budget continues to steadily grow, 86% of our funding is directed towards program services.*



## 3 YEAR CUMULATIVE GROWTH



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# Cast

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SLAVERY & TRAFFICKING



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