

2016

IMPACTREPORT



Coalition to Abolish
Slavery & Trafficking

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Please note that in the interest of client safety and privacy, the images and names in this report do not always represent actual CAST clients.

DEAR FRIENDS



When you look out your window, what do you see? Is it the sweeping landscape of Los Angeles? Its rolling golden hills speckled green with treetops; heaven-stretched, metallic skyscrapers sparkling in the distance as the sun moves across the bright blue sky; or rows of orange-red, adobe-tiled roofs atop textured white stucco homes?

For far too many, it is a much darker horizon. That is why CAST is so essential. As you will discover as you review this report, CAST has worked tirelessly over the past year to enhance victim identification by building better, stronger and more strategic referral partnerships. We have worked to improve survivor protections and services through targeted public policy initiatives and innovative service delivery models. And, we brought survivor voices to the forefront to amplify awareness, prevention and policy discussions that better support the victims of this heinous crime.

With the help of our incredible partners, CAST is playing its part to mold a community and region where there is no longer the need to combat human trafficking. For all of us at CAST, it is a world where the beauty of Los Angeles is available to and experienced by all its residents.

Sincerely,
Sister Annkarla Costello, Board President



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of CAST is to assist persons trafficked for the purpose of forced labor or slavery-like practices and to work toward ending all instances of such human rights violations.

IMPACT STATEMENT

By 2025, CAST will create a bridge between practice and policy, meaning survivors are empowered and resilient, and working with practitioners to inform a survivor-centered policy agenda. As a result, this leads to systemic changes to models, attitudes, actions and resources to end modern slavery.

350 SURVIVORS EMPOWERED



6,194
legal
services
provided



6,782
social
services
provided



88 T-VISAs granted
41 applications for legal
residency granted

OUR STORY



A Los Angeles-based nonprofit, CAST is one of the pioneers of the US anti-trafficking movement. The organization was founded in 1998 by a group of concerned community activists that realized something needed to be done to address slavery in our own backyards.

CAST has identified and provided direct services to over 1,500 survivors and their family members, and they are the largest comprehensive direct service provider in the country. It is an internationally recognized leader and go-to resource for the media, policymakers, law enforcement and philanthropic community to access information about modern slavery.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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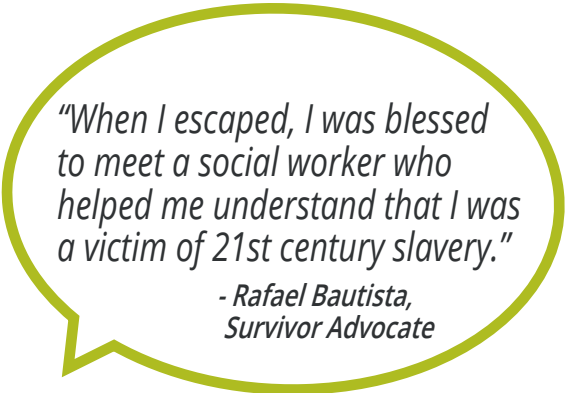
Chancee Martorell

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HOW WE SERVE EMPOWERMENT

CAST's Empowerment Programs champion comprehensive, survivor-centered services all along the continuum of a human trafficking survivor's journey.



"When I escaped, I was blessed to meet a social worker who helped me understand that I was a victim of 21st century slavery."

*- Rafael Bautista,
Survivor Advocate*

IMPACT

Over the past 24 months, CAST developed and piloted a minor and transition age youth (TAY)-targeted "Community-Based Service Delivery Model," to improve victim identification in the South Los Angeles area. With the goal of providing services before detainment and detention, this model meets survivors where they are. In partnership with Restoration Diversion Services (RDS) and Virtuous Woman Inc. (VWI), it strives to build trust with survivors through a drop-in center, coordinate trauma-informed case management and offer mentoring services. The model also includes a data collection framework to track and analyze the factors of exploitation and improve model outcomes. It has been reviewed by the Department of Children and Family Services, L.A. County Probation Department, L.A. County District Attorney, L.A. County Board of Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas and numerous law enforcement agencies.

HOTLINE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

CAST operates a toll-free human trafficking hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide around the clock response to victims of human trafficking. It serves as a resource to the community for referrals, technical assistance and reporting tips regarding potential human trafficking cases. The emergency response team provides immediate, short-term services to ensure the safety and well-being of victims when they first escape their trafficking situation.



1,347
HOTLINE
CALLS
received

43%
INCREASE
over FY 2015

SOCIAL SERVICES & SHELTER



18
SHELTER
RESIDENTS

CAST's intensive case management program offers a client-centered, trauma-informed approach to helping survivors along their journey to freedom and independence. The program begins with a comprehensive assessment to determine goals and necessary next steps. Services can include basic necessities, supportive counseling, medical, education, life skills training, employment, transportation and applying for state/federal benefits.

CAST's shelter provides physically and psychologically safe housing for trafficking survivors. Through a host of supportive programs and services, the shelter is designed to help clients establish independence and self-sufficiency, to build community and to expand their own supportive networks. Shelter residents are also taught skills in conflict resolution, job training, independent living and financial planning.

SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP

CAST's survivor leadership programs, the **Survivor Advisory Caucus and National Survivor Network**, bring together a community of survivors of human trafficking that are empowered to organize and advocate in order to impact policy change. Their voices on policies and public awareness have led to the development of stronger protections for victims in both California and federal anti-trafficking laws. By connecting survivors across the country, CAST is able to support and encourage survivors to realize their own leadership qualities and to value their insight, not just as survivors, but as experts in the field.



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MEMBERS



Photo credit: WH.gov

"As a collective group of survivors, we have dedicated a huge part of ourselves to the anti-trafficking movement and to respective advocacy efforts. Together, we are changing perception, fighting for justice and ultimately, over the years, we are contributing to one shared goal: to end modern slavery everywhere it exists."

*- Ima Matul,
Survivor Coordinator*

IMPACT

The accomplishments of the members of CAST's leadership programs, both individually and collectively, over the past year are tremendous. Perhaps most notably, last January nine members of the Survivor Advisory Caucus and/or National Survivor Network (NSN) were appointed by President Obama to the newly established U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. This council advises the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (PITF) and offers survivor-centered policy recommendations to both the White House and U.S. Congress on federal efforts to combat and prevent human trafficking.

Caucus/NSN members also participated in policy advocacy efforts at the federal, state and local levels, including: Congressional hearings on the long-term impact of criminalization of human trafficking survivors, state Senate hearings on behalf of CAST-sponsored criminal justice reform legislation and government oversight board meetings on lost income compensation. In addition, CAST's staff and survivor leaders were invited by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to develop the "*Survivor Professional Development Training Curriculum*," which aims to strengthen the impact survivor advocates across the country can have in the anti-trafficking movement. The training was piloted in June and is expected to launch in late 2016.

Equally impressive is the group's media advocacy. In a primetime slot at the 2016 Democratic National Convention, Survivor Coordinator Ima Matul spoke earnestly and passionately about her journey as a survivor and the need for Americans to galvanize around the anti-trafficking cause. Appearing before former-President Bill Clinton's keynote address, Ima's message was broadcast to thousands of attendees present at Philadelphia's Convention Hall, along with tens of millions across the world watching and listening on TV, radio and live streaming feeds. Caucus/NSN Members have also shared their unique experiences, impressive accomplishments and remarkable expertise through opinion editorials for CNN, expert commentary on MSNBC and featured profiles by the BBC.

LEGAL

CAST's attorneys empower survivors to assert their legal rights and choose appropriate remedies to rebuild their lives.

IMPACT

Last October, CAST founded the **Comprehensive Training and Technical Assistance (CTTA)** project, designed to provide expertise and training for service advocates on the full spectrum of legal remedies available to human trafficking victims. Through this project, CAST's CTTA team established a toll-free hotline and dedicated email account to respond to breaking requests for technical assistance from both legal and social service providers. They also coordinate working groups for the legal (392 participants) and social services (48 members) communities and host weekly (legal) and monthly (social) training calls on topics including: privilege and confidentiality, immigration relief options and intake best practices.

In addition, the team developed, *"Legal Remedies for Human Trafficking Survivors,"* a 16-hour training for legal service providers that was piloted in Los Angeles in April 2016. After review by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Justice (DOJ), as well as feedback from pilot participants and partnering organizations, the curriculum will now be shared as part of at least eight in-person trainings across the U.S. and will be released as an interactive e-learning course by 2017. *"Understanding the Legal Framework for Social Service Providers,"* an 8-hour training for social service providers, has also been developed and was launched in August 2016.



363
INSTANCES
OF TA PROVIDED
since CTTA launch

"While working as a Pro Bono Attorney with CAST, I really felt supported by the CAST legal team. I had the opportunity to impact legal outcomes for individual clients, as well as work to change systemic inequalities affecting trafficking survivors."

- Kristen Terranova, CMDDB

PRO BONO

CAST's pro bono program is a key component of our work and enables human trafficking survivors to access critical legal services. Following CAST's 8-hour required training, our pro bono attorneys dedicate their time and talent assisting our in-house team with immigration advocacy, criminal victim-witness advocacy, civil litigation and cutting edge policy initiatives.



\$1M+
PRO BONO
LEGAL
SERVICES
donated



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Noah Reiner
Henna Pithia
Jill Thompson
Salvador Macias

ADVOCACY

CAST's advocacy efforts impact survivors' abilities to access life-saving services, heal from their tragic experiences and go on to become powerful voices in the anti-trafficking movement.



IMPACT

This legislative session, CAST sponsored two cutting-edge bills - *Human Trafficking Victims Affirmative Defense* (AB 1761, Weber) and *Vacating Convictions of Human Trafficking Victims* (AB 1762, Campos) - that passed the State Legislature and are expected to be signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown. The bills collectively ensure that trafficking survivors are not arrested and convicted of crimes their traffickers force them to commit and enact reforms that allow survivors who have been convicted of crimes to more easily clear their criminal records.

For too long, survivors faced not only the loss of freedom, choice and movement to their trafficker, but also, as one survivor aptly put it, the "invisible bars of criminal convictions" that create long-term barriers to housing and employment opportunities. Also, for the second year in a row, CAST shepherded a \$10 million California state budget allocation to fund California nonprofits that are providing services to survivors of human trafficking.

PUBLIC POLICY

Drawing from nearly two decades of direct experience with victims of human trafficking, CAST has initiated first-of-its-kind legislation and has won the respect and partnership of a diverse group of policy leaders. Its policy initiatives center around survivor experiences and highlight survivor advocacy. CAST not only introduces anti-trafficking legislation, but also works hard to ensure policy implementation. CAST was an original co-sponsor and/or played a lead role in advocating for the following enacted legislation:



2015
Survivors of
Human
Trafficking
Empowerment Act

2014
SB 477
Foreign Labor
Contracts:
Registration

2013
Trafficking
Victims
Protection
Reauthorization Act

2012
SB 1193
Human Trafficking:
Public Posting
Requirements

2012
SB 657
California
Transparency in
Supply Chains Act

COMMUNICATIONS

CAST's communications channels are a top resource to learn about human trafficking, comprehensive services for survivors, events, trainings and policy initiatives at the local, state and federal level. The organization is also a go-to source for journalists. CAST's staff and survivor advocates have contributed to news stories for major television outlets (*CNN* and *Al Jazeera English*), print and digital news publications (*Los Angeles Times*, *Center for Investigative Reporting* and *Christian Science Monitor*) and foreign language stations (*NBC Asian American*, *Univision* and *KSCI/LA 18*).

PARTNERSHIPS

CAST is committed to strengthening its partnerships with leading anti-trafficking organizations and coalitions around the country, as well as forging new relationships with local service providers to meet the increase in demand for social and legal services in Los Angeles County.



IMPACT

The Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Task Force (LARHTTF), a multi-agency partnership spearheaded by CAST and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), provides trauma-informed care to trafficking victims and investigates high-priority trafficking crimes.

Since its launch in October 2015, its partner agencies have been actively collaborating on emerging cases, developing protocols for advancing task force objectives and implementing best practices in addressing the pervasiveness of human trafficking in Los Angeles County. Through this work, over 130 new cases of human trafficking have been discovered and nearly 100 survivors have accessed services.

IMPACT

Designed to identify foreign national survivors of trafficking in Los Angeles, CAST worked with filmmakers (and hotline volunteers), Andrea Savo and Florencia Krochik, to develop "Open Your Eyes," a multi-lingual PSA designed to help people recognize the signs of human trafficking and encourage them to call CAST's 24/7 hotline.

The PSA is available in English, Spanish, Thai, Korean, Mandarin and Tagalog and has aired on various foreign language TV, radio and digital stations. The PSA also won "Best PSA" at the Garden State Film Festival in New Jersey.



OUTREACH

CAST's partnerships team hosted, attended and shared invaluable resources at numerous community events and trainings throughout the year. They also developed new tools to help educate people on the issue of human trafficking and improve victim identification.

"It is important that we collaborate and create strong partnerships - locally and statewide - to ensure that California combats human trafficking on all fronts, especially when it comes to protecting our most vulnerable."

*- Miguel Santiago,
California State Assembly
Majority Whip*



2,856
**PARTNERS &
INDIVIDUALS**
trained

77
**OUTREACH & PUBLIC
AWARENESS EVENTS**
conducted

WHO WE SERVE

ADRIANA



At 19, Adriana was recruited by a trafficker to perform in a strip club. He also began to force her to engage in prostitution. The trafficker took all her earnings and used threats and violence to keep her working. He would also become violent if she refused to have sex with him. Adriana finally escaped and reported him to police.

In its capacity as a victim witness advocate, CAST supported Adriana in testifying against her trafficker in a criminal case in Los Angeles Superior Court. CAST also assisted Adriana with the dismissal of her prostitution charges and is helping her seek reimbursement of medical expenses through the California Victim Compensation Program. With the support of her parents and assistance from CAST, Adriana has been able to return to school and start rebuilding her life.



CARLOS

Carlos was 17 when he decided to come to the U.S. to help support his family. He didn't have any money, but a friend introduced him to a coyote who said that he could pay off his debt in the U.S. with only a few days work. He was told he would be picking strawberries, but when he crossed the border, he was taken deep into the mountains and forced to cultivate marijuana. One day while he was out working, the police arrived. He told the police the truth about the marijuana, but not about the men forcing him to work. He was arrested and taken to a juvenile detention center.

CAST learned about his case and contacted his public defender. CAST assisted Carlos in getting a T visa for himself and his family members. He is now a legal permanent resident and is working on becoming a citizen.

SARI



Sari left her husband and two children in hopes that a job with a diplomat and his family in the U.S. would help her support her family. When she arrived in Los Angeles, her passport was taken away and she was forced to work 16-hour days, seven days a week. She was rarely paid the \$50 per month she was promised, and instead endured constant verbal and psychological abuse, including threats against her family back in Indonesia.

When Sari finally escaped, she was brought to CAST. She moved into CAST's shelter, enrolled in ESL classes to improve her English and eventually obtained employment at a local restaurant, as well as occasional housekeeping jobs. With the money she saved, Sari was able to move into a place of her own once she graduated from the program. She is now working with CAST to bring her family to live with her in Los Angeles.



JENNY

Jenny was 18 when her aunt introduced her to Michelle. Michelle invited Jenny to come along to Los Angeles over spring break to pick up her son and bring him back home before school started. Once in Los Angeles, Jenny was immediately introduced to a pimp who forced her into prostitution. Jenny took Michelle's phone while she was not looking and sent a text message to her mother begging for help. Jenny's mother went to her local church requesting assistance. One of her local church members informed her of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC).

The NHTRC reported the request to law enforcement in Los Angeles who was able to locate Jenny and bring her to safety. CAST was called out to provide immediate emergency assistance, including housing, food and medical services until her mother arrived in Los Angeles to help her return home.

BY THE NUMBERS

CAST serves all survivors of human trafficking, regardless of gender, age, nationality or type of trafficking experience. This year, CAST gave special focus to ensuring its current clients achieved independence.



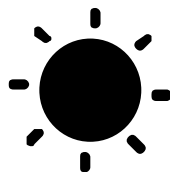
FREE

65 FY 2016
157 FY 2015
99 FY 2014



MOVING FORWARD

194 FY 2016
177 FY 2015
83 FY 2014



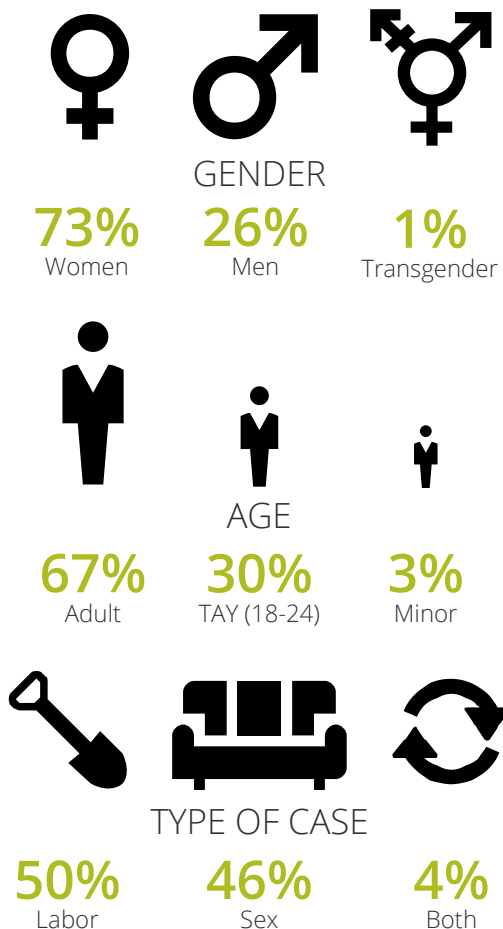
THRIVING

91 FY 2016
63 FY 2015
172 FY 2014

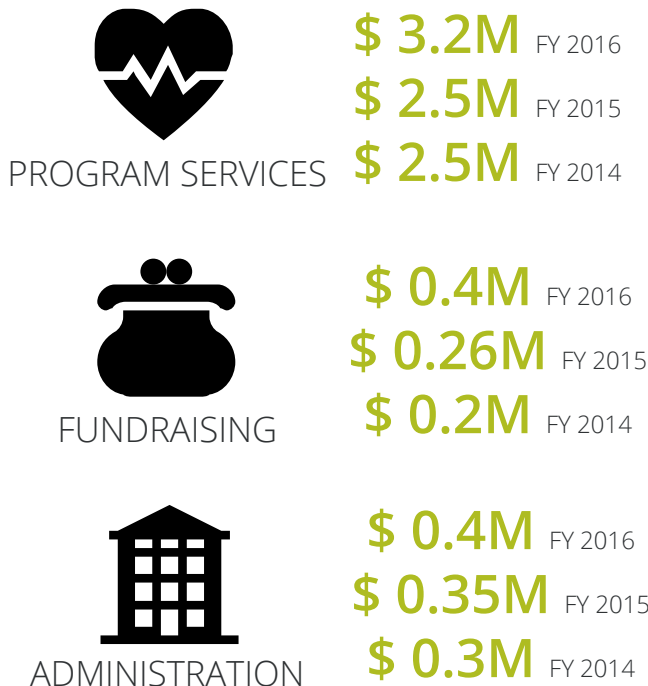


35
countries of
client origin

Albania	Jamaica
Belarus	Kenya
Belize	Latvia
Brazil	Mexico
Cambodia	Morocco
Cameroon	Nicaragua
Canada	North Korea
Chile	Peru
China	Philippines
Colombia	Russia
El Salvador	South Korea
Eritrea	Taiwan
Ethiopia	Thailand
Guatemala	Togo
Honduras	Uganda
India	United Kingdom
Indonesia	United States
Italy	



ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES



CELEBRATING FREEDOM



Visionary Leadership Award
Mark Ridley-Thomas
Los Angeles County Supervisor

Founders Award
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
& Mount Saint Mary's University



On May 10, 2016, CAST held its 18th annual, From Slavery to Freedom Gala – **“Building Bridges to Freedom,”** at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

One of the many highlights of the evening was the three survivor-written performances. The monologues were performed by actors Roland Ruiz, Liz Femi and members of CAST's Survivor Advisory Caucus.

They provided the audience with a glimpse into the personal experiences of CAST's diverse group of survivors.

Through the generosity and support of sponsors and attendees, CAST was able to raise over \$400,000 to invest in rebuilding the lives of an unprecedented number of survivors of modern slavery in Los Angeles.



Courage Award

Beth Jacobs

Trafficking Survivor & Anti-Slavery Advocate

GALA SPONSORS

DIAMOND

Paul Mitchell Schools

PLATINUM

Anita Hirsh

Butch Schuman

Will & Jada Smith Family Foundation

GOLD

Anita's Mexican Food Corp.

Lorna Auerbach/Chasca Films

Steven Hirsh/Cooper Design Space

FIDM

inher circle

Mount Saint Mary's University

N:Philanthropy

Sisters of Saint Joseph of

Carondelet

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

Vera R. Campbell Foundation

SILVER

Geoff Anenberg

Banyan Tree Asset Management, LLC

Bistro Studios

Tom Blumenthal

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MEDIA SPONSOR Los Angeles Magazine

SPECIAL THANKS

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who supported us throughout the year. We would like to give special thanks for the major gifts made by the following supporters:

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The Ronald Newburg Foundation, Inc.
The SAM Initiative
The Weingart Foundation
Tom Blumenthal
Truist
Union Bank
Vanguard Charitable
Vera R. Campbell Foundation
Wells Fargo Community Support
Campaign
Will & Jada Smith Family Foundation
William C. Allen

"As a strong advocate for the victims of modern slavery, CAST provides those in need with intensive case management, health care and comprehensive counseling services. CAST has assisted me in identifying ways the federal government can better assist trafficking victims and I look forward to working with CAST moving forward."

Ed Royce, U.S. Representative

"It is disheartening to know that human trafficking occurs so frequently and so close to home. By working with advocacy groups like CAST, we must find ways to improve how our government assists victims of human trafficking and prevent future cases. I believe no one should be subjected to such deplorable treatment in the United States."

Ted Leiu, U.S. Representative

"The unfortunate reality is that despite our progress, slavery and human trafficking continue to take place at an alarming rate and victims often have nowhere to go and no one to turn to. CAST is making a real difference in the lives of the most vulnerable members of our society, and I'm extremely grateful for their unwavering commitment to ending these injustices once and for all."

Kevin de León, California Senate Pro Tempore

"Amy and I are witnesses to the profound impact that CAST has made in the fight against human trafficking — and the difference they make in the lives of survivors. We will always stand with them in the mission to end the scourge of slavery in our world."

Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles Mayor

"For more than 18 years, CAST has been reviving and resurrecting the lives of men, women and children trapped in the darkness and despair of modern slavery. CAST's survivor-based advocacy work and program services have become a model for how local communities can address, combat and one day, end the trafficking of our fellow beings."

Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Supervisor - Second District

"CAST has been a critical and effective steadfast organization on behalf of survivors of human trafficking. Their advocacy and partnership helped LA County establish the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Integrated Leadership Team which engages in the prevention, intervention, deterrence, enforcement and prosecution of these reprehensible crimes."

Sheila Kuehl, Los Angeles County Supervisor - Third District

"The battle to end human trafficking requires an unwavering determination and dedication to duty by those engaged in the fight against what has appropriately been called "modern day slavery." CAST has been a partner on the Sheriff's Department's LA Regional Human Trafficking Task Force, and their continued devotion to assisting and supporting survivors throughout Los Angeles County has been critical as these exploited and vulnerable victims begin to heal and move forward with their lives."

Jim McDonnell, Los Angeles County Sheriff

Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST)
is a 501c3 non-profit organization (EIN 10-0008533).
Donations can be made online or by making a check
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