

# 2020 IMPACT REPORT



**BUSINESS  
NOT  
AS USUAL**



...CALL IN PROGRESS



“

The future needs our  
collective movement.”

Kay Buck, Cast CEO

Dear Friends,

2020 has been Cast's most challenging year yet but it has brought the truth to light. The extent of systemic oppression in our society has exposed what we have always known: that racial, economic, and gender inequalities fuel human trafficking and rob survivors of justice.

COVID-19 has forced human trafficking survivors into crisis and magnified disparities. Survivors of human trafficking are vulnerable to these shocks - nearly half lost their jobs, healthcare, and homes, further jeopardizing their safety and stability. By September 2020, Cast had responded to 185% more urgent human trafficking cases than in 2019.

**Business has not been as usual.**

This pivotal moment called for resilience and innovation. We quickly adapted by making all but our housing program virtual and working nonstop to meet survivors' escalating needs. We moved our emergency housing to a hotel as cases rose to an all-time high, and our frontline staff stopped at nothing to keep survivors safe and healthy.

The future needs our collective movement driven by our shared values of **Equity. Justice. Humanity.** I hope you will stand with us.

Ever forward,



Kay Buck  
CEO

# MISSION

Our mission is to end modern slavery through education, advocacy, and empowering survivors of human trafficking.

**1,664**  
survivors and  
family members  
served

**88%**  
of graduated  
clients are employed  
or attending school

**185%**

increase in  
emergency  
responses

# CAST PROGRAMS

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\*Jan - Sep 2020 vs 2019

[STILL]

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## GOING WHERE SURVIVORS NEED US

Cast's 24-hour hotline provides a real-time, in-person response to escaping victims of human trafficking. Within 30 minutes of receiving a call, our Emergency Response teams meet victims where they are, supply them with a warm meal and backpack full of hygiene items, and immediately coordinate shelter and safety plans.

During the pandemic, our Emergency Response program had a drastic shift. The percentage of emergency response cases skyrocketed to **185%** in just 2020 alone, underscoring the necessity and urgency of our services. As social distancing and stay-at-home orders introduced formidable challenges, we leaned on innovative practices and technology to adapt our services. Now, emergency response is coordinated virtually - from picking up survivors through rideshare apps to providing essential emotional and mental health support through video conferencing. We've proven how we can be effective while maintaining the safety of our staff and clients.







# WE ARE FIRST RESPONDERS



# DIGNITY HEALTH — SURVIVOR ADVOCATE

## WHERE SURVIVORS NEED US MOST

A report found that while 64% of human trafficking victims had accessed healthcare at least once, 97% were never provided with information or intervention from hospital staff. Cast's Survivor Advocate program, a first-of-its-kind collaboration with Dignity Health hospitals and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, is addressing this major missed opportunity to identify victims.

Almost every day, Cast Survivor Advocate, Christine, responds to calls from hospital staff who suspect their patients are human trafficking victims. So begins a potentially life-changing journey, where the victim is given emotional support and access to vital services. Through her presence in hospitals, Christine is teaching medical staff how to identify signs of human trafficking and ask patients the right questions. Patients who were once returning to their traffickers are now being identified with proper interventions to recover and build new lives.





**Over 3,300**  
people trained on  
how to identify and  
care for victims in  
health settings

**102 survivors**  
identified and  
reached through  
this program

**“If you did not show up in  
the emergency department,  
I would have ended up back  
on the street and back in  
trafficking again.”**

**Luz, Cast Survivor**



# EMERGENCY SHELTER TO PROJECT SAFE HAVEN

## SHELTER DURING A PANDEMIC

As Cast moved swiftly to make our services virtual, one program could not: shelter. Our frontline staff kept our two shelters open by quickly pivoting and mandating strict safety and hygiene guidelines. While the pandemic forced us into uncharted territory, it has proven how strong our programs are.

Take our emergency shelter, Hummingbird Haven. Opened in 2018, our emergency shelter served 15 survivors at a time who were homeless and in need of mental health services. When the gravity of the pandemic struck, we moved the program from a residential property to a hotel in partnership with the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles. This move more than doubled the number of beds at our emergency shelter from 15 to 40, and gave Cast an unexpected opportunity to provide housing to male survivors and families for the first time.



“

During COVID-19, Cast has been an integral part of the City's ability to keep human trafficking victims safe. They have stepped up their already exceptional service provision in a way that is unparalleled.”

**Chanel Smith**

Los Angeles Housing &  
Community Investment Department

**90%**  
**of emergency shelter clients**  
**are African-American**

**...AND**  
**GROWING**

In another first time accomplishment for Cast, we are now providing 'rapid rehousing' for survivors – including rent and moving costs, and dedicated staff to ensure survivors are placed in safe, permanent housing. This is a significant step forward as survivors tell us that permanent housing is the number one barrier to rebuilding their lives.

# CASE MANAGEMENT

## FROM CRISIS TO THRIVING

At Cast, we use a trauma-informed and victim-centered approach to case management. We see each client as an individual and support them to identify long-term goals so that they can sustainably move on from their trafficking experience. Some take months to reach their goals and some take years. No matter how long it takes, we are here every step of the way.

**100%**  
**of Cast graduates**  
**have access to**  
**safe housing**

**88%**  
**of Cast graduates**  
**are employed or**  
**attending school**

# Ashley is one of the 1,664 survivors of human trafficking who Cast supported this year

Ashley is a survivor of both labor and sex trafficking. She came to Cast through the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Taskforce, co-led by Cast and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. When she escaped from her trafficker, a Cast case manager met Ashley and immediately helped her get into safe housing. Within weeks, she was connected to public benefits, job training, English classes, and mental health support services that laid the groundwork towards a self-sufficient and empowered life. By the time she graduated from Cast, Ashley had become a certified daycare teacher, started her own house cleaning business, and reunified with her three children.

**100%**  
**of Cast graduates**  
**have access to**  
**healthcare**

# LEGAL SERVICES

## STILL FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE 20 YEARS LATER

2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TPVA), the first federal law designed to prevent and address human trafficking. Among other things, it created the 'T visa', which allows foreign national survivors of human trafficking and their immediate family to remain in the US for up to four years. Cast staff attorneys work tirelessly to win these visas for our clients - just one of a host of legal services we offer that touch every aspect of survivors' lives. Over the years, nearly all our clients who applied for a T visa were successful. However, changes in immigration policy have made acquiring T visas increasingly difficult. As a result, many survivors have become even more vulnerable to re-exploitation. Despite the obstacles, we continue to fight for the rights of human trafficking survivors in our justice system, making sure they are protected and free to live their lives.



# TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The TVPA covers the entire US and Cast is reaching survivors nationally through our Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) program. The TTA team provide free individual assistance on specific cases, as well as training, to attorneys and social service providers serving human trafficking survivors across the US - exponentially increasing the number of survivors we serve. This past year, TTA supported service providers in 39 states.

**98%**  
**T visa**  
**applications**  
**successful**



**100%**  
**Green Card**  
**applications**  
**successful**

# T VISAS ARE LIFE-CHANGING

Jin was trafficked all over the world by people connected to the government and law enforcement in her home country. They used violence - and the threat of it - against her and her family to force her to engage in commercial sex. After two years of this, Jin found herself in the United States, not knowing anyone. Thankfully, Jin saw Cast's 24-hour hotline. Our emergency response team met her the same night and gave her the support she needed to escape her traffickers. From there, Jin went to Cast's shelter and began meeting with a Cast case manager and an attorney. With extra support from pro bono lawyers, our attorneys and Jin collaborated in reporting her traffickers to law enforcement and applying for a T visa for her. Jin's story demonstrates Cast's life-changing 'continuum of care'. Not only did Jin get her visa but she now has stable housing and her own family. We are glad to be a part of Jin's success and we are so proud of her.

# SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP

## BEING THERE FOR SURVIVORS

The pandemic drastically impacted survivors, including those who have become anti-trafficking advocates in Cast's Survivor Leadership Program. Because of the pandemic, survivors faced extreme challenges in meeting their basic needs. The Survivor Leadership program stepped up in new ways to be the community survivors can lean on, providing crisis support to survivors hit hardest by the pandemic with direct assistance such as rental assistance and food aid.

### SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP STATISTICS

**1**  
**mission**

**40**  
**different**  
**countries**

**308**  
**members**

# THE FUTURE OF OUR MOVEMENT

“ It is our duty to dismantle systems of oppression and anti-Blackness wherever they manifest - in our communities, institutions and in our work. We seek and demand true, honest meaningful reflection, action and change, both for the survivor community and the greater anti-trafficking community. ”

Survivor Leadership Program Team

# POLICY

## CHANGING THE FUTURE

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

Cast has remained steadfast in our mission to advocate for groundbreaking policy that is informed by the survivors we serve. With our vision to bridge our practice of empowering survivors with systemic and transformative change, Cast led the charge for a new California state law to compensate human trafficking survivors for years of lost income as a result of commercial exploitation. California is the first state in the nation to recognize the specific commercial exploitation found in sex and labor trafficking crimes and to compensate survivors through its crime victims fund.





**\$65,000**  
in compensation  
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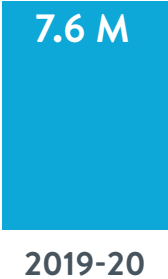
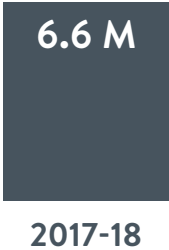
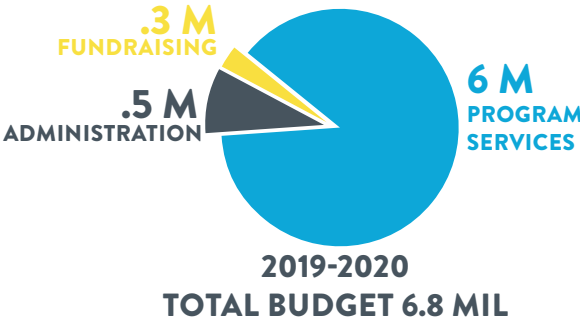
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*\*Numbers subject to change based on final audit.*



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