

freekind™

YOUR IMPACT IN 2022

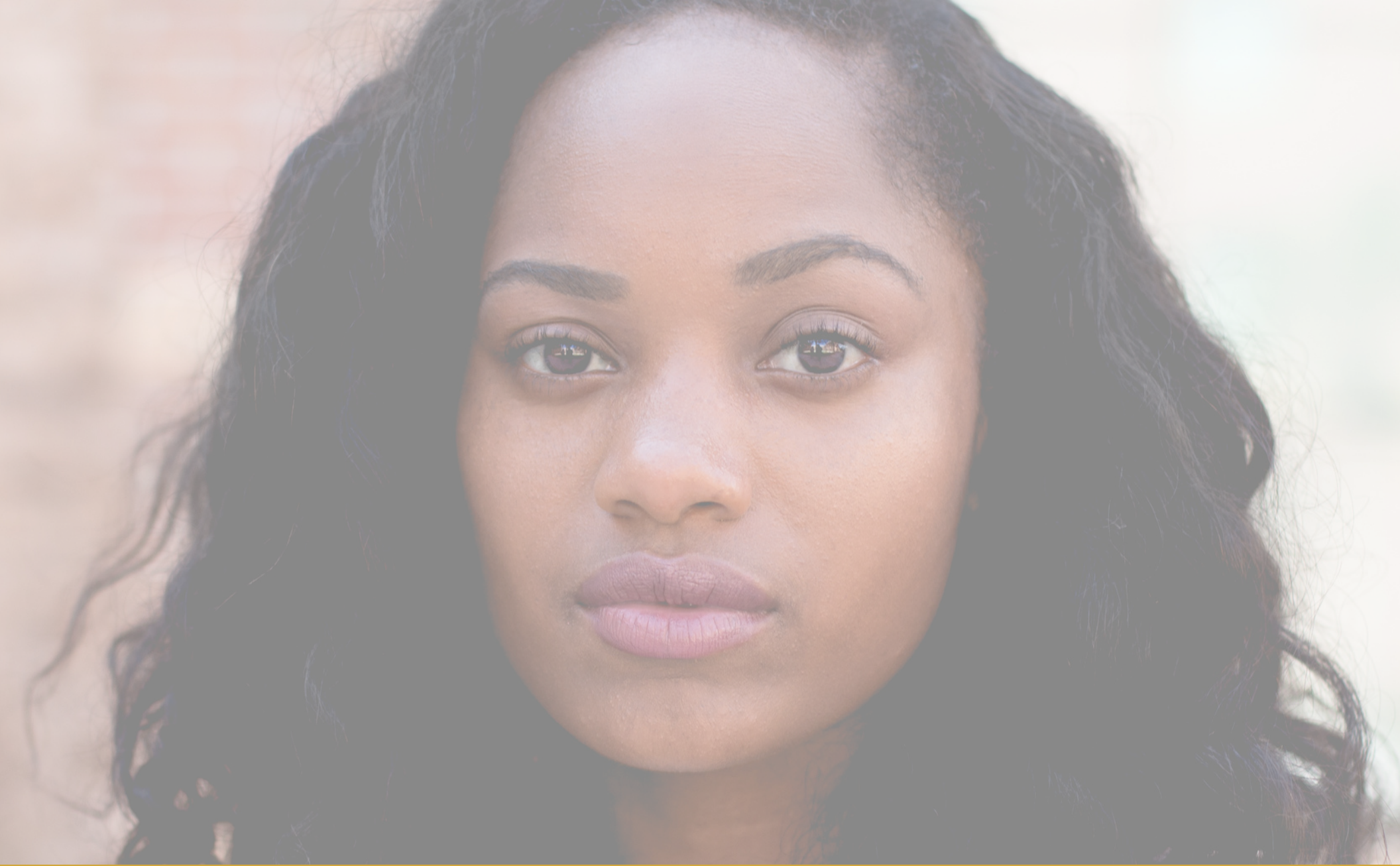


“

Wealth isn't always measured in dollar signs.
We each have time, talent, and creativity, all of
which can be powerful forces for positive change.
Share your blessings in whatever form they come
and to whatever level you have been blessed.

JON M. HUNTSMAN

”



FreeKind is dedicated to providing survivors of human trafficking the support they need to recover from the trauma they've experienced.



A Message from Our Executive Director

You did it! You made 2022 the most fantastic year yet for Freekind, and the success is even sweeter since 2022 marked our 10th anniversary as a nonprofit. Because of you, we have equipped more professionals and community members with tools to disrupt trafficking; reached more schools and youth organizations with prevention education; and helped more survivors to experience freedom, hope, and belonging. Now that's what I call unleashing the power of kindness!

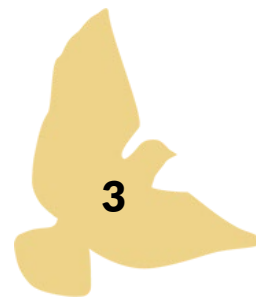
As you flip through this year's report, you will read the stories and see the metrics demonstrating your incredible impact –not just here in Virginia but across the country. We hope that they inspire you as much as *you* inspire us.



Lisa Kersey, Executive Director

Whether you participated in our Offramps 5K in April or attended the Celebrate Freedom gala in November; whether you invited us to speak to your church, business, or civic group, or shared what you learned with your friends, neighbors, and colleagues; whether you invested your time as a volunteer with us or donated money to further our mission, you made BIG things happen in 2022. You've set a high bar for yourselves, so we can't wait to see what you will make possible in 2023!

May God multiply the impact of your investment in Freekind and heap blessings upon you for your generosity.





you are
restoring
lives

Aliya was homeless and jobless, just trying to maintain her sobriety when she reached out to Freekind. She shared her incredible story of courage and survival and recounted times she was forced to go without basic needs for days, being confined to a small motel room, working 18+ hours a day with no sleep, and how she endured unbelievable mental, physical, and sexual abuse at the hands of her traffickers.

With assistance from Freekind, she received supportive services to include help finding employment opportunities. Aliya began a full-time job with benefits and quickly demonstrated to her employers how motivated and determined she was to succeed, earning her a promotion.



67 New victims of human trafficking & commercial sexual exploitation identified.



855 Instances of tangible support to include food, clothing, shelter, medical, & dental care.



49 Survivors started restorative programs, and another 30 graduated from theirs!



172 Instances of court advocacy with 100% improved sentencing outcomes for survivors.

Offramps Program

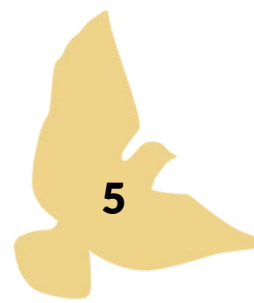
Our Offramps program assists adult victims of human trafficking right here in our community, especially those who have been criminalized. Our goal is to minimize re-victimization and reincarceration by giving survivors and the criminal justice system alternatives. For survivors, that includes practical support to escape their trafficker and forge a new life, free of abuse. For criminal justice professionals, that means advocating for alternative sentencing, so that survivors can participate in restorative care rather than incarceration for crimes initiated by their traffickers.

In the summer of 2014, Freekind conducted its first Volunteer Survivor Advocacy Training. Since that time, we have equipped thirteen classes of survivor advocates to restore a sense of belonging to survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. Our trained advocates serve survivors by teaching classes in the jail, meeting short-term needs, and walking alongside survivors for long-term support.

Then, in 2016, we held our first class on human trafficking for women incarcerated at Hampton Roads Regional Jail. We had 14 women in attendance. From there our Offramps program was born. Since that time, nearly 400 women across five local jails have participated in our program.



Since 2018, Freekind has offered “offramps to freedom” for more than 300 unique survivors of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.



A close-up photograph of a man's and a woman's eyes. The man's eyes are on the left, and the woman's eyes are on the right. The image is softly blurred, focusing on the eyes. The text "you are" is in white, "emphowering" is in a gold cursive font, and "lives" is in white. The text is centered over the eyes.

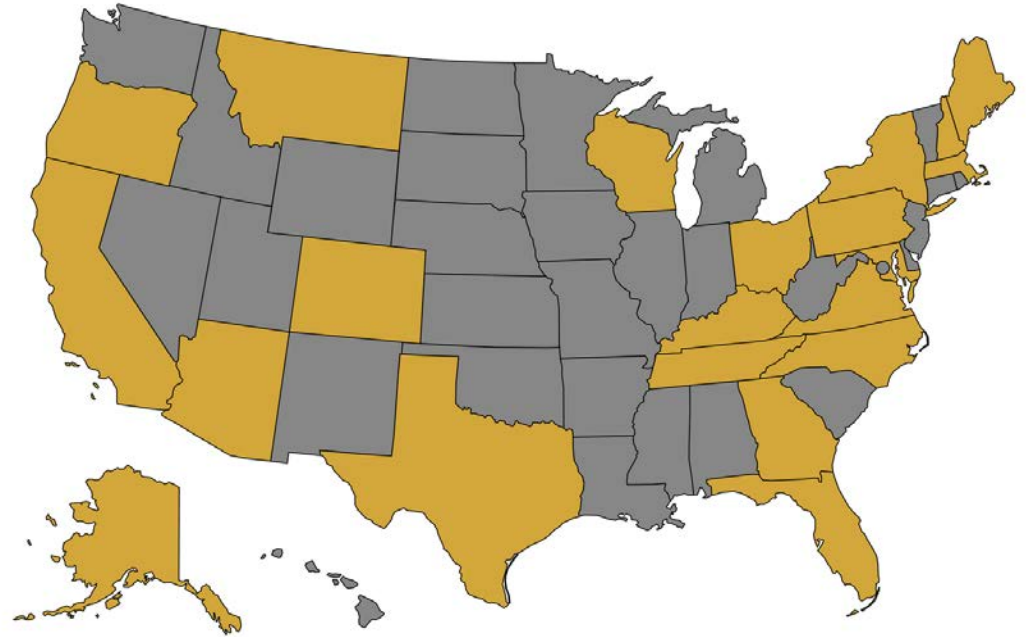
you are
emphowering
lives

But what if Aliya had attended a school where prevention education had been available? Could she have escaped her victimization? 15-year-old Aliya squirmed in her seat when the information her teacher shared hit too close to home. She met her boyfriend online in a gaming chat room and he made her feel so beautiful with his compliments and attention. The gaming world was her way of escaping her volatile home life. She never expected to find someone who cared about her there. He had asked her to run away from home and come live with him so they could work on their dream of being together forever.

She could finally see a way out. But her stomach began to flip as each sign of grooming was shared, and it was as if the teacher was mapping out her entire relationship with her new boyfriend. The seed of doubt had been sown by her teacher, and there was no escaping it.



School divisions across the nation have been working to implement our program into their Family Life, Social Studies, and Health curricula for more than ten years. For most of that time, New Creation VA has been working with the Prevention Project team to bring this program into classrooms in the Shenandoah Valley. Finally, just this fall, the school division implemented the program, and students are now receiving the tools they need to avoid experiencing sexual exploitation. We are grateful to New Creation and other prevention ambassadors around the Commonwealth and the country as they advocate for prevention education in their communities.



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During the 2021-2022 school year, you *equipped 413* classrooms, *empowered 11,844* students, and *reached 3* new states with the life-saving tools of the Prevention Project.





you are
equipping
our community

Unfortunately, Aliya didn't have access to prevention education and we find her seated in the back of the squad car, the handcuffs pinching and rubbing her wrists in painful, all too familiar ways. The dread begins to pulse through her as she contemplates the beating that is coming her way when she gets back to her boyfriend who she calls "daddy." Her anxious thoughts are interrupted when the arresting officer turns to face her and asks, "What happened to you? How can I help?" For a moment, she sits in stunned silence unable to process the question. It was one she had never been asked before. For the first time since she had been in "the life" she didn't feel judged for her choices. It felt like a lifeline was being thrown to her.

What if, instead of suffering countless years of abuse and exploitation, a well-trained officer, prosecutor, or probation officer intervened, and her time in "the life" was reduced to days or weeks? Unfortunately, Aliya didn't have criminal justice professional result in a life of freedom for Aliya and hundreds more like her? How might a trauma-trained criminal justice professional result in a life of freedom for Aliya and hundreds more like her?

Together we are making an

impact

Freekind began in 2012 to bring awareness of human trafficking to Hampton Roads. Since then, our mission has expanded to include training and equipping criminal justice and other community professionals to reduce harm to victims by accelerating identification and intervention.

This includes members of the medical and social services professions, criminal justice providers, and crisis pregnancy centers. The longer a victim remains ensnared by their trafficker, the greater the trauma and shame, and the longer the road to recovery. By providing awareness training, we hope to increase early identification and improve the chances of recovery and restoration.

We also equip our community by engaging churches, civic organizations, and local businesses through awareness education. While the phrase “human trafficking” has become ubiquitous, many in our community still believe it is a problem that happens to “other” people or in other countries. We believe that the more people who understand what human trafficking looks like in our country and our communities, the greater our collective power to disrupt this \$150 billion criminal industry.

54 Classes Provided

1,591 Individuals Trained

125 Youth Trained



you are
hope

Meichell Worthing

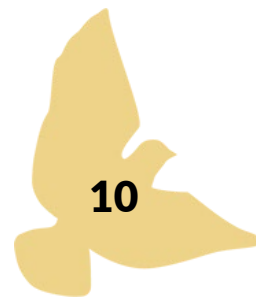
Meichell Worthing has owned Lighthouse Counseling since January 2008 and contracts with Freekind to provide services to survivors of sex trafficking. Meichell and the team she has built at Lighthouse Counseling provide a safe place for survivors and the tools they need to heal mentally and emotionally. They walk alongside survivors as they journey through the darkest places of their trauma histories. They do the faithful and hard work of inspiring hope where there has been the deepest pain. Meichell was this year's recipient of our annual Freedom Maker award, presented each year at our Celebrate Freedom fall gala.

Freedom Maker 2022

Freekind's annual award for significant contributions to the anti-human trafficking movement through their gifts, talents, and abilities. Has demonstrated their willingness to build capacity to fight human trafficking in their sphere of influence and beyond



Meichell has been an integral part of our Volunteer Survivor Advocacy program and helped to develop the first advocacy training in 2014. She and her team have provided trauma-informed therapy to countless survivors, providing vital care and support on their journey to freedom. Meichell is a fierce advocate for empowering survivors of trauma to heal.



Ambassador of the Year

For outstanding leadership & dedication to spreading the Prevention Project™ program to schools & organizations in their community.

Sabrina Dorman-Andrew

A strong advocate for the Prevention Project™ program for eight years, through her organization, New Creation VA, she raises money to support licenses for the program for school divisions in the Shenandoah Valley.

“She has such a passion for this issue and is a great collaborator. Her devotion to partnership and education makes her a great Prevention Project Ambassador, and I am grateful to have her on the team!”

- Deanna Longjohn,
Prevention Education Director

Volunteer of the Year

For outstanding leadership & commitment to engaging our community & equipping them to be disrupters of human trafficking.

Emily Dotson

Serving as Freekind’s Church Engagement Coordinator for four years, Emily has taken on the role with very little in place and built an integrated program that engages existing church partners and attracts new ones. She has helped build a network of more than 50 church partners to support the work of Freekind.

“Emily is a unique volunteer whose passion to end human trafficking inspires those around her.”

- Lisa Kersey, Executive Director

Advocate of the Year

For outstanding passion and dedication to serving survivors on their journey to freedom

Beth Dippo

As a prayer warrior and an advocate that meets needs in whatever situation she is asked to, Beth values and cares for our clients deeply- lifting them up in prayer and helping to restore their sense of belonging through healthy relationship.

“I am so grateful for Beth...I appreciate her humility and compassion, her strength, and wisdom...I am truly blessed to serve alongside her.”

- Medy Cook, Transitions Coordinator

you are freekind

You make this work possible. In so many practical and tangible ways, **you are Freekind**. The work we do is hard, but we can't do it alone, and that is why we are so grateful for you, our partners. When you hear the story of a survivor entering a restorative residential program, you are the reason. When you learn that our prevention education curriculum is in a new state or a new school, you were key to making that happen. When you hear that hundreds of people were trained in how to identify a trafficking victim, you were the reason.

Not everyone recognizes that human trafficking is a problem. But you did, and what's more, you decided to do something about it. And for that, we are truly grateful. No matter how you have partnered with us, there is a ripple effect from your generosity that you may never fully appreciate and that we may never be able to fully explain. Just know that your investment and influence matter. It matters to us. It matters to those who avoid a life of victimization. And it matters to survivors whose lives have been forever altered by your kindness. So, while we don't make it a practice to hand out capes, you are still superheroes in our book.

We are grateful for the engagement and investment of every organization that has partnered with us by funding our work. Highlighted here are a few of the organizations that have demonstrated a multi-year commitment to the anti-human trafficking movement by contributing to the mission and programs of Freekind.



In 2023 we will

amplify freedom



The momentum of this year makes me excited for what's ahead in 2023, and I'd like to invite you to be part of it! This past October, Freekind launched its Richmond Advisory Council, a diverse, 9-member group of leaders representing both the public and private sector in the greater Richmond community. With the help of this team, we are building new relationships and gaining a clear understanding of the current services, organizations and initiatives available to survivors or human trafficking, and how Freekind can add value through its unique service model. And as the birthplace of the Prevention Project™ program, Richmond will be a priority for our continued efforts to invite more schools and community organizations to partner with us in preventing the next generation from being trafficked.

Our goal is to introduce Freekind to the broader Richmond community, even as we strengthen existing relationships with churches, businesses, volunteers and donors in both the Hampton Roads and Richmond communities. We will continue working on new editions of the Prevention Project curriculum, shoring up gaps for at-risk populations. We also will continue expanding our Offramps program in both regions, allowing continues identification of survivors caught in the criminal legal system rather than recognized as victims in need of restorative care. In addition, we will be seeking an independent research partner to assess the long-term effectiveness of our survivor services, helping to strengthen the program and potentially equip other communities to replicate our program to support survivors in more communities.

Each of us has something we can contribute to ending human trafficking in our communities and in our Commonwealth. Whether you are looking to engage with Freekind as an individual volunteer or donor, get your church or business more involved, or have unique ideas and talents you'd like to offer, please reach out to us 24/7 by emailing info@freekindva.org. **You** will write the story of Freekind in 2023. What story will you tell?



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Thank You...

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Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Foundation
Birdies for Charity
BLM Roofing
Bon Secours Mercy Health
Chesapeake Public Defender's Office
Chesterfield County
Child & Family Services
Christopher Newport University
Community Knights
Community Solutions
Cox Communications
Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW)
Dominion Energy
Dominion Services for All People
Duck Donuts

Ferguson Cares
Ford Cook Real Estate
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Franklin Public Schools
Godwin High School
Great Exchange
Friends of Guest House
Hampton Roads Regional Jail
Henrico County
HER Shelter
Hermitage High School
Hopewell Counseling
Human Trafficking Justice & Freedom Intl.
Illuminate Justice
Indulge Bakery & Bistro
Langley Federal Credit Union
Langley Foundation for Families
Latisha's House
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Lighthouse Counseling
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New Creation VA
New Kent County Public Schools
Newport News Police

Newport News Public Defender's Office
Newport News Public Schools
Newport News Sheriff's Office
Newport News Shipbuilding
Newport News/Williamsburg Intl Airport
Norfolk Sheriff's Office
Orphan's Promise
Overton Family Foundation
Page County Public Schools
Portsmouth Public Schools
The Propeller Club
Real Life
Recover Hope
Richard Bennett Trust
Robbins Nest Realtor
Safe Harbor
Sentara Cares
Smithfield High School
Southeastern Family Project
Towne Bank
Transformation Freedom Initiative
Transitions Family Violence Services
Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office
Virginia Law Foundation
Wal Mart, Store #4220

Church Partners

Alexander Baptist Church
Alive Church
Atlantic Shores Baptist Church
Atlee Community Church
Believers Church
Calvary Assembly of God
Christ's Fellowship
City Church of Richmond
City Life Church
Coastal Church
Coastal Community Church

Crestwood Presbyterian Church
Crown & Joy Presbyterian
Emmaus Church Hampton Roads
Freedom Life Church
Grace & Faith Fellowship Inc.
Grace Episcopal Church
Greater Discipleship Center
Greek Orthodox Philoptochos Chapter 1097
High Street United Methodist Church
Hill City Church
Hope Church

Journey Christian Church
Life Church
Manna Church
Mechanicsville Christian Center
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
Mt. Gilead Full Gospel International
Ministries
Northside Christian Church
Olivet Christian Church
OV Church
Portsmouth First Friends Church

Providence United Methodist Women
Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Redemption Hill Church
Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church
Seaford Baptist Church
St Mary's Catholic Church
Stony Point Reformed Presbyterian Church
Trinity Church
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
West End Assembly of God



“ Together, we are making freedom, hope and belonging a reality for survivors of human trafficking.” ”



how to grow your

freedom & kindness

Each of us has something we can contribute to ending human trafficking in our community and our Commonwealth. If you want to engage with Freekind as an individual volunteer or donor, get your church or business more involved, or have unique ideas and talents, please visit our website or get in touch with us 24/7 by emailing:

info@freekindva.org



Make a donation.

Be a force for good in the global movement to end human trafficking.



Become a volunteer.

Freekind is a place for passionate people interested in investing their time and talents.



Partner with us.

Whether you're an individual, church, or business, we have a place for you!

Jesus said: "For when you saw me hungry, you fed me. When I had no place to stay, you invited me in, and when I was poorly clothed, you covered me. When I was sick, you tenderly cared for me, and when I was in prison you visited me... whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me." [Matthew 25:35-36, 40](#)



Let's get

Connected!

Freekind

www.freekindva.org

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Engage with us:

@freekindva



@freekind-va1387

FREEDOM • HOPE • BELONGING

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