



Creating **Circles of Change** In Your Community

**Responding to Youth Trafficking
with the StolenYouth Model**

So now you've seen the film SOLD, feel inspired and have asked “what can I do”?

If you feel passionate about this issue and can donate some of your time and resources toward ending youth trafficking in your community, we've included in the following pages our story and a guide to help you form your own Circle of Change.





This is how we created StolenYouth

A passionate and committed group of 12 Seattle area women became aware of the global issue of human trafficking by supporting the feature film, SOLD (soldthemovie.com) a movie based on the best-selling novel by Patricia McCormick, about a young girl from Nepal who is sold into slavery in India. First they traveled to India and met with many NGOs and saw how young the sex trafficking survivors were, learning that the global average age of a trafficked child is thirteen, and that millions are trafficked every year and brutally forced into sexual slavery. When they returned to Seattle they began to research the issue in their own backyard. They soon discovered that there was also a horrific problem in Seattle. They felt compelled to do something about it – and StolenYouth was born.

StolenYouth is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to raise funds and awareness to support the rescue and recovery of sexually exploited youth in the Seattle area.

After asking many questions and meeting with many local organizations dealing with youth trafficking, they decided that the single biggest contribution they could make was to raise awareness and funds to support and expand existing programs. With this approach, more resources would be available to address the issue and help get trafficked children off the streets and into recovery. Since their founding in 2012, they have successfully raised millions of new philanthropic funds through a yearly luncheon, and formed a coalition with the community agencies they support that work in the area of commercially sexually exploited youth.

A close-up photograph of a person's eyes, looking directly at the viewer. The eyes are dark brown and have long eyelashes. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin around the eyes.

WHAT IF WE COULD

STOP TRAFFICKING

BEFORE IT HAPPENS?

Hundreds of children are bought and sold for sex in King County every year. Here is how StolenYouth, along with our partners, is changing that:

In Seattle the five non-profits StolenYouth.org supports with grants, has served over 200 children each year since 2012. They also have created a comprehensive program which can be duplicated in any city, including yours.

- 4 community advocates on call to exclusively serve trafficked youth
- Life-saving wraparound services for rescued trafficked youth
- Over 1,200 hotel owners, staff, service providers and law enforcement trained on how to recognize, report and help trafficked children and youth
- 20 King County high schools having their students participate in a week-long anti-trafficking program

The first step is to create a mission and vision statement for your 501(c)(3).

The StolenYouth vision is to expand the community's awareness and ability to appropriately intervene on behalf of young people coerced into the sex trade and to work together for sustainable and system-wide change in our community. To provide funding to support an innovative collaboration of local organizations that brings together the strengths of direct service, policy development and the public sector.

Here are the steps to creating a Circle of Change in your own community.

1

Gather likeminded and influential women and men

If you are inspired to act, it's important to know that you cannot do it alone.

Look to the change makers in your community: philanthropists, heads of companies, community leaders, and those with non-profit experience. Share with them what you have learned, the global and local statistics of youth trafficking, and invite those who are similarly inspired to join you in addressing the issue in your city. There are a number of powerful films and resources that you can use to mobilize your community. "Sold" is a powerful film, which can be used as a discussion starter. There is another film called "Very Young Girls" which looks at this issue domestically.

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Build Your Non-Profit's Board

Once you have a group of 8 – 12 leaders who are ready to take action, form your organization. Forming a 501(c)(3) requires a lot of founding documents and registrations with your state to receive charitable contributions. You can find out more about the specific requirements here: <http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/building-nonprofits-board-30046.html>



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Research

Consulting with local experts will be critical to your success. Chances are that there are already people and organizations working to serve trafficked youth and/or addressing the prevention of youth trafficking in your city. [The National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#) tool is a good place to start identifying local groups to start talking with. StolenYouth spent many months meeting with executive directors, PhDs who had written on the subject, and case managers who work with at risk youth every day. Reach out to local law enforcement, politicians, and survivors. All of these stakeholders have a unique perspective on the local context. Somewhere between conversations over coffee, site visits, and listening to the community, your group will find a funding priority. What are the services that are missing or underfunded? How can your group maximize impact?

In Seattle, we found that while there was some funding for safe houses for sexually exploited minors, there was an urgent need for funding to keep current programs running and provide better outreach and opportunities for education, healing and vocational training for survivors.



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Form a coalition

Once you have identified the need(s) in your community choose three to five organizations to be a part of a new coalition. These organizations should be vetted by your whole board, but do not necessarily need to be long-established entities. StolenYouth provided seed funding to two organizations at their inception because they were providing unique services for unmet needs in the community. Since sex trafficking is a complex problem, your response must be multifaceted: the core of this approach is that it brings together the strengths of direct service, policy development, and public services. The organizations in your coalition will be able to work together for sustainable change, becoming partners in the solution with your funding as a safety net. This allows them to focus on programming and scaling rather than fundraising.

child trafficking
the human rights issue of our time

The StolenYouth Coalition includes:

Youthcare

<http://www.youthcare.org/>

The Center for Children and Youth Justice

<http://ccyj.org/>

**BEST: Businesses Ending
Slavery & Trafficking**

<http://www.bestalliance.org/>

Organization for Prostitution Survivors

<http://seattleops.org/>

Seattle Against Slavery

<http://www.seattleagainstslavery.org/>



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Educate your community

There are many members of your community who are still in the dark about the prevalence of this issue in your city, but if given the opportunity to learn more, will surprise you with their commitment to helping you eradicate sex trafficking. As an awareness builder, your organization can host yearly events, which can become forums to educate a wider and wider circle of support. Most metropolitan areas have Town Hall or City Hall meetings with public speakers, who are local and national thought leaders. Bring some of those experts that helped inform your organization to present on a panel about youth trafficking and invite your community to come, listen, and ask questions.

After your first year you can use the event as a chance to update the community on progress in combatting youth trafficking and what work is still needed. By hosting free educational events you can bring the issue into your community's consciousness in meaningful ways and find new partners in your work.

How to host a Town Hall Meeting:

[https://www.acep.org/uploadedFiles/
ACEP/advocacy/state/Guide%20to%20
Hosting%20a%20Town%20Hall%20
Meeting.pdf](https://www.acep.org/uploadedFiles/ACEP/advocacy/state/Guide%20to%20Hosting%20a%20Town%20Hall%20Meeting.pdf)



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Fundraising

As a major source of funding for your coalition, you will need to host a yearly fundraiser for your community to donate to your cause. StolenYouth hosts a yearly luncheon with over 800 guests and raises critical funds for their coalition. Whether a luncheon, a gala, or an auction, it is important to educate your audience on the current and local context as well as lay out how donating to your organization is an effective way to make lasting change. There are many reasons for the success of the StolenYouth luncheons. The board seeks local companies and partners to underwrite all costs for the luncheon, so that every penny donated goes to grantees. Speakers always include both founders of the organizations supported by StolenYouth, but also survivors or their families telling their own personal stories. Having the voices of survivors speak is critical to making this a cause which people support from the heart.

Form a Grant Committee

From within your governing board you will form subcommittees that fit the needs of your organization. Those will be specific to your community and board members, but one essential committee is the Grant committee, whose purpose it is to monitor the progress of the coalition and to recommend how to allocate the funds you've raised to the organizations within the coalition. StolenYouth's Grant Committee meets 4 -5 times a year, puts out a call for grant proposals, reviews progress reports midway through the grant period, and meets with the grantees throughout the year for both oversight and to stay up to date with the needs of the organizations.



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Branding

As you successfully fundraise, manage the coalition, and raise awareness, it is important to develop your messaging and brand in a consistent and impactful way. Develop marketing materials that briefly tell your story, background on the issue in your community, and how you are addressing it. This should include a website with resources and educational material as well as using social media to capture and build your network.

Be Advocates

It is crucial to always keep learning. Keep meeting with your advisors and find new ones. This issue is changing and there are new players all the time. As founders you will be asked to speak about the issue to local media or schools. These opportunities are invaluable to increasing your reach and inspiring more of your community to join you. From the local anti-trafficking task force to middle or high school students, to faith based congregations, Rotary or Lions Clubs, or organizations such as soroptimists or Junior Leagues there are a number of groups that will be surprised by the issue and moved to act when you reach out to them. Your organization can be the catalyst for partnerships small and large, all of which are invaluable to creating change and stopping youth trafficking in your community.



For more information and to request a StolenYouth representative to speak with your Circle of Change, contact:

Jane Charles
206-931-5131
Janecharles11@gmail.com

www.soldthemovie.com