



U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

The *U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Coalition* is building a support network of partners willing to offer educational opportunities to women who have come from situations of enslavement and exploitation. Such a survivor of human trafficking often does not have education beyond GED. Your partnership would help her begin higher education and/or job-training courses that would help her toward self-reliance.

Survivor Support Working Group

The *Survivor Support Working Group* empowers survivors by facilitating education and employment opportunities. This working group reaches out to congregations, associates, colleagues and business partners to create links to education and employment.

Survivor Support Educational Partner

- Could your organization provide resources such as paid internships or fellowships allowing a survivor to learn skills that could help her qualify for a job?
- Could there be an opportunity for a scholarship within your community-sponsored college/university that could help individuals become educated in a professional career path?
- Please consider ways in which you could become a USCSAHT Survivor Support Partner.

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Responsibilities of Professional(s) Working with Survivors

The appropriate individual will evaluate a survivor's capacity for success in education, using the following criteria:

- She has reached a stage of growth that indicates her ability to effectively handle the ordinary stresses and responsibilities of daily life.
- She exhibits social skills that confirm her ability to function within a social setting, follow directions, and speak on her own behalf.
- She understands, reads, speaks, and writes English at a level appropriate for the educational entity to which she is referred.
- She has undergone career and/or aptitude testing that indicate her level of interest in and ability to engage in education in the field(s) of her interest, capacity.
- She is aware of her responsibilities to the educational institution to which she is referred.
- She possesses necessary documents to study.

Responsibilities of the Educator

- Institution offers clear guidelines about course performance and grade point average expectations.
- Institution has appropriate counseling and tutoring opportunities to assist the potential student.
- Institution establishes a mentor relationship that will provide friendship and support to the student.
- Institution offers appropriate financial aid and/or work/study opportunities to enable potential student to manage obligations beyond what the educational institution is able to offer *gratis*.

Responsibilities of Survivors

She understands the policies and guidelines that govern the educational institution and career path and demonstrates the ability to perform at the appropriate level of competence with mentoring support.

Role of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Religious sisters, who are members of the USCSAHT Coalition network, will offer mentoring support to assure good relationships between potential educational settings and survivor candidates.

Example of Gaining Opportunity to Study

One congregation hired a survivor as a housekeeper. From this position, she advanced to assisting their elderly members and received such affirmations from the sisters that she was stimulated to go to nursing school.

In her words: “These opportunities changed my life and my family’s life. The opportunity opened doors for my future and helped to make me an independent and strong woman and motivated me to give back to my community.”

Comments of Survivors

“After over four years in slavery, in 2000 I was rescued by U.S. Immigration. I am so thankful that I am free.”

“I was overjoyed that I was introduced to a community of Catholic sisters. At the time they had a job opening for housekeeping. I worked during the day and started to go to ESL classes at night. After that I also took a certified nurse assistant course, GED, computer and driving classes.”

