



Jordan Pine's Senate Majority Policy Committee Hearing Testimony
January 11, 2024

Hello, my name is Jordan Pine, and I am the Founder & CEO of Greenlight Operation. Greenlight Operation is a non-profit that is on a mission to strategically combat human trafficking through educational initiatives and serve sex trafficked women through a continuum of restorative care.

Greenlight Operation has led over 150 human trafficking seminars throughout Pennsylvania training thousands throughout our state. We have also attained Act 48 certification so that teachers may get credit toward their licensing when they take our human trafficking course. As a result of the seminars and consultations we offer, we have seen individuals, law enforcement agencies, organizations, and schools better understand human trafficking, get involved in impactful solutions, and recognize victims, which has led to extractions.

In addition to our prevention and intervention efforts, Greenlight Operation has also laid the groundwork to launch a sustainable and effective restoration home in Central Pennsylvania. We purchased a house in May of 2022 and have been renovating it to provide residential therapeutic care to female survivors of sex trafficking.

As we have been renovating the building, the Greenlight Operation team has been simultaneously crafting the restorative program and assembling its direct-care team.

When we first started this project, we assessed what was needed most by survivors exiting human trafficking. Many have been in and out of emergency shelters, domestic violence programs, homeless shelters, and the like. What was missing in the recovery process for many was programming that offers longer-term partnership that assists with learning to live independent and sustainable lives. We absolutely need crisis centers in the journey to healing, but more services are needed beyond that to equip a survivor for true success.

If a person has exited human trafficking but has no job, no home to return to, no safe connections, and extensive traumatic baggage, we shouldn't be surprised that they turn back to the streets, substances, or even their trafficker. The journey to freedom only begins when a survivor leaves their exploitation.

Many of us have that perspective though that a person is removed from their trafficker and then goes on to live happily ever after, but that's not the case. A survivor needs to see a life for themselves beyond their abuse, and sometimes that takes a patient helping hand to go through

the long and tedious process of picking up the pieces of their brokenness and helping them put those pieces back together.

As one of the survivors we have worked with has shared, “aftercare provisions matter. The precision and depth of care offered to survivors leaving the life determines whether a survivor will be able to heal from their trafficking experience or if they will face avoidable barriers with re-integration and fall victim to recidivism.”

At the restoration home, we will offer 24/7 residential care that will last anywhere from 12-18 months for each survivor. Survivors joining our program will not be charged any fees for their stay, as we want them to have the ability to focus 100% on their healing and recovery. Free to low-cost care is necessary for survivors so they are not buried in medical and mental health care bills. Having experienced the deprivation of basic human rights, these building blocks are essential for survivors to experience true healing.

For example, while Greenlight Operation’s residents will be working through counseling and trauma-therapy, they will also receive life skills coaching, job skills training, access to medical and dental care, classes on financial literacy, courses on nutrition, and so much more. Our goal is to help survivors work through the healing process while also setting them up for success beyond our program. This means ensuring job placement, finding a place to live, and learning the skills needed to live independently.

Programs like this cost money and currently funding is limited for victims of human trafficking and organizations that serve this demographic. There simply are not enough beds to serve the number of survivors that are seeking shelter in our state and nation. Shelter continues to be the number one resource requested by survivors exiting human trafficking as reported by the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Ultimately, the goal is to prevent human trafficking altogether, but until we stop the demand for slavery, we must be ready to aid and assist victims with quality aftercare. To do this, organizations need funding, permits need to be streamlined, and zoning should be reasonable as we have witnessed shelters take an additional two years or more to open simply because of zoning difficulties.

It takes all of us getting involved to combat the fastest growing criminal industry, and we are encouraged by each one of you who are using your seats of leadership to make a difference. Thank you for your time and your desire to see Pennsylvania better serve survivors of human trafficking.