journeying

THE LOVE146 ANNUAL REPORT // 2021-2022
I used to do some hiking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. On difficult hikes, your only view is what is right in front of you. Often you feel like you are hiking and hiking – but not getting very far. You concentrate on only taking the next step. You constantly remind yourself to keep moving, or even picture in your mind the goal or destination to help you persevere. It’s really hard to see how far you have actually journeyed until you are up high enough, sometimes even above the tree line. And then the view will often take your breath away, as you realize how far you’ve actually come. You pause for a moment and try to take it all in. The expansive beauty of it all.

This year marks a very special moment for us at Love146: It was 20 years ago that we began this journey, not fully knowing what was ahead.

But after that initial encounter with a girl who wore the number 146, we were compelled to do something. And so it began. Honestly... it’s been hard. Really hard. Often times we felt like we were carving out a path as we walked on it. Sometimes feeling like we weren't getting very far or moving as fast as we would’ve liked.

Along the way, we met others who were already on the path before us. And then others joined us. We were not alone. The longer we journeyed, the more experienced we became. Experts joined us along the way. As our knowledge and understanding increased, we became more effective. All along, we have kept the goal and destination in our minds and hearts: the end of child trafficking and exploitation. Nothing less.

As you can see in this Annual Report, we have come a long way in 20 years. We have seen countless children who were vulnerable and at extreme risk for trafficking avoid exploitation because they were equipped through our Prevention programs.

Through our Survivor Care programs, we have journeyed with thousands of children climbing their own mountains of recovery with a tenacity that is humbling to witness. Children who you may think would have difficulty even smiling again, dance and sing and move toward a future full of hope.

Since that moment we began this journey 20 years ago, together we have been able to reach over 70,000 children throughout the world. We have not arrived at our destination yet. We still have a hard journey ahead. But as you read through the pages of this report, take a moment and pause... Take it all in. The expansive beauty of it all. We’ve come a long way. Thank you for journeying with us. Catch your breath, and then let’s keep going.

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO & CO-FOUNDER: ROB MORRIS

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In order to be effective, programs need to be informed by evidence, based on strong theoretical frameworks, and promote practices that are proven to produce positive outcomes for children. Love146 is committed to investing in and delivering innovative services and rigorously evaluating our efforts. By measuring the impact of our programs on the children we serve, we aim to set a standard that reimagines what effective child trafficking prevention and survivor care can look like, and sharing our findings so that they may be replicated at scale.

US Department of Justice funding a 5-year independent evaluation of Survivor Care

Love146 entered into the second year of the evaluability assessment being conducted of our Long-Term Survivor Care Services. As part of this evaluability assessment, researchers from the University of New Hampshire’s Crimes Against Children Research Center (CCRC) analyzed five years of program data, conducted qualitative interviews with staff to gain insights about program operations, and began enrolling youth in longitudinal surveys to measure program impact. Looking forward, these efforts have resulted in the US Department of Justice awarding CCRC funding to conduct a 5-year independent outcome evaluation of Love146’s Survivor Care Program. It is Love146’s hope that this will further advance Love146’s commitment to ensuring that our programs are meaningfully changing the lives of the youth that we serve.
In partnership with University of New Hampshire’s Crimes Against Children Research Center (CCRC) and the Houston Independent School District, Love146 began the first independent outcome evaluation of our Not a Number prevention education curriculum. Data collection for this evaluation began in Spring 2022 with a cohort of over 150 high school age students, and continued through the fall with hundreds of additional students. Following data collection CCRC will compare the pre/post assessments from youth who participated in Not a Number with the assessments from youth who did not receive the intervention. To the best of our knowledge, this will be the first rigorous evaluation of an anti-trafficking prevention education curriculum that compares outcomes for youth who received the program with youth who did not.

Looking ahead, CCRC and the University of Minnesota recently received a grant from the Center for Disease Control to conduct a 5-year randomized control trial evaluation of the Not a Number program’s implementation in Minnesota. The goal of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of Not a Number in reducing rates of trafficking victimization for youth by using a rigorous cluster randomized controlled methodology. This study will be conducted in partnership with 24 youth-serving organizations throughout Minnesota. As part of this study, the research team will use a Community Based Participatory Research approach incorporating community member feedback on the project goals and outcomes.

We need to hold ourselves accountable and ensure that we are having the impact we intend to. We want to do what works. Rigorous evaluation will allow us to assess our impact, make improvements in our programming, and inform future anti-trafficking efforts.”

ARIA FLOOD
Love146 Director of US Prevention
Love146 believes in the unique power of relationships to increase children’s resilience and survivors’ recovery and overall well-being. Beyond helping children achieve specific goals, Love146’s programs foster relationships, both with our team and other community members — out of a belief that it’s these relationships that will bring about lasting transformation. Through this approach, we come together to support individuals and make a safer world for children.

As Love146’s US Survivor Program grows in maturity, we are now seeing an increasing number of youth who have gone through our program becoming pregnant and beginning to raise children of their own. Almost all of the youth served through Love146 have Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) scores of 4 or higher. Many of these youth come from families who have experienced generational trauma and do not have secure attachments with their own caregivers. In order to break the cycle and reduce risk for the next generation, Love146 hired a 2-Gen Parenting Program Manager to build a parenting program specifically designed to meet the targeted needs of this population. These youth need guidance and support in raising their own children. However, with 84% having histories of child welfare involvement, many are scared to seek out services for fear that their children will be taken from them. As we did with our Employment and Education Services, Love146 believes that we can fill this needed gap, building on the trusting relationship we already have with these youth. We will begin this program with a single staff member and grow it as additional needs and resources present themselves.
The timeliness of Employment & Education support

As the world continued to reopen and workplaces/educational institutions evolved, barriers to employment and education (specifically housing, food security) continued to persist for the youth we serve. Recognizing this, Love146 supported youth in our Education and Employment Program through rental assistance, grocery gift cards, and connecting youth to needed resources. In addition, with increased opportunities for remote and hybrid education and employment, the program supported youth in helping them learn and adapt to the shifting expectations and skills (e.g., remote meeting etiquette, in-person v. remote work attire, higher level of computer proficiency) required for successful education and employment so that youth are prepared for this new reality. Through our holistic approach, Love146’s program is helping youth address external barriers, acquire basic life and self-advocacy skills, and envision a future they are motivated to work towards.

Post-pandemic Mental Health Crisis for children

In December 2020, the US Surgeon General issued their advisory on the youth mental health crisis further exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis has significantly impacted trafficked youth, who are being referred to Love146’s Survivor Care Program with greater mental health needs and requiring longer and more intense interventions and services. Historically, about half of the youth referred to Love146’s Survivor Care Program required Long-Term Services; this year, that need grew to 70-80% of youth in need of Long-Term Services. While Love146 triaged referrals to support youth with the greatest needs, we maintained a wait list of 15-20 youth at any given time of youth who were in need of Long-Term Services, but for which Love146 did not have immediate capacity to provide services.

While many countries are moving into a “post-pandemic” world, the Philippines is not there yet.

Youth in our Philippines program are moving towards their third year of living with significant Covid safeguards. Imagine the precautions you lived under in the spring of 2020. And now imagine you’re still living that way. Currently, any staff that leaves our Round Home must continue to quarantine before re-entry. Many schools remain closed, and many children who cannot afford private tutoring are being left behind and watching their chances for an education slip away. Over the past year, only 25% of youth in the Philippines were able to participate in school. This is not true for the youth in our care — because they are here they’re continuing to get educational and other services. This past year, 100% of school-aged youth in our survivor care in the Philippines were able to continue their education, because of your support.
Partnering with local school districts: highlighting DeKalb County

Schools can play a critical role in prevention education. Research shows that most youth continue to be enrolled in and attend school, even if not regularly, at the time of their exploitation. Survivors also identify teachers and other school personnel as key people that could have helped them if they had had the appropriate knowledge and resources to recognize that they were being exploited. This year, Love146 partnered with DeKalb County in Atlanta, GA to train school personnel in our Not a Number curriculum. Through this training, school personnel are educated on the realities of human trafficking, and equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to share this information with the youth they work with. For DeKalb, this will mean that the 94,000 students in their district receive accurate information and skills-based training in a manner that inspires them to make safe choices when they encounter potentially exploitative situations.

Training of trainers: This year Texas joined Minnesota

This year, Texas joined Minnesota as the second state to go through Love146’s Training-of-Trainers for our Not a Number program. Through our Training-of-Trainers Love146 teaches well-seasoned Not a Number Facilitators to become fully licensed Trainers who can train and license other Facilitators within their state. This rigorous process enables states to have on-the-ground experts who can continue to expand the reach, capacity, and sustainability of their Not a Number program without requiring a Love146 staff member to come on site to train additional facilitators. Love146 offers continuous training and technical support to all of these trainers as well as the facilitators they license to support their on-the-ground needs and ensure that the program is implemented with fidelity. Moving forward, this Training-of-Trainers model will be the focus of the CDC funded evaluation taking place in Minnesota.

Impact of past investments continue: Every public primary school in Madagascar’s capital reached by pilot partners

In 2020, Love146 wrapped up a 3-year pilot program in Madagascar. At that time, we transitioned the program to Madagascar-based partner organization, Growing the Nations Therapy Programmes, equipping and encouraging them to use the developed educational tools in their communities. In 2022, we received word that every single primary school in Madagascar’s capital, Antananarivo, had been reached with the program. This is just one example of how the ripples of investments made over Love146’s history still have impacts today in the lives of vulnerable children.
Love146 recognizes that society’s inadequate response and systemic failures allow for the ongoing exploitation of children. In addition, social determinants and marginalization put some children at higher risk, and result in the inequitable provision of services and justice. Alongside survivors and a movement of those committed to the same vision, Love146 works to address these issues in our communications, programmatic work, and efforts to advocate for broad-based responses that reduce children’s vulnerabilities, and uphold their rights and dignity.

Challenging society’s response

Of the over 700 youth Love146’s US Survivor Care Program has served since 2014, 75% have been children of color.

In order to elevate conversations about the disproportionate number of children who are trafficked, Love146’s presented Addressing Race in Anti-Trafficking Programming: Practical Guidance and Lessons Learned at Shared Hope’s annual human trafficking conference. Love146 also authored a chapter entitled Systemic and Structural Roots of Child Sex Trafficking: The Role of Gender, Race, and Sexual Orientation in Disproportionate Victimization in the book The Historical Roots of Human Trafficking: Informing Primary Prevention of Commercialized Violence. In addition, Love146 participated in the US Department of Health and Human Services’ 7th Human Trafficking Leadership Academy, focused on addressing inequalities and barriers to accessing services for survivors of human trafficking and communities of color.
UK team challenge the government's lack of protection for children trafficked or vulnerable on the move

The Love146 UK team have spent years caring for trafficked youth coming into the UK from abroad. Love146 Survivor Care in the UK journey’s alongside these young people, who often brought from Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe for the purposes of exploitation. Because of this experience, the Love146 UK team is on the front lines of how the government handles these children. When that handling makes a vulnerable child even more vulnerable, team members speak up and take a stand. Responding to a proposed resettlement in Rwanda, Love146 also provided similar expert consulting support at the US Department of Homeland Security as they sought to review and inform implementation of their Blue Campaign and similar anti-trafficking awareness campaigns. In addition, Love146 participated in the annual conference for anti-trafficking programs funded by the US Department of Justice, where we presented on our journey working with survivors to inform the rebranding of our origin story. This survivor-informed process culminated in Love146 creating a new video where we share about our origin and growth as an organization. You can view Love146’s story at https://love146.org/videos.

Sharing lessons learned with the broader anti-trafficking field

Committed to sharing our on-the-ground experiences in order to influence the broader anti-trafficking movement, Love146 participated as an expert consultant with the US Department of Health and Human Services as they looked to inform and update their Look Beneath the Surface campaign to prevent human trafficking. Love146 also participated in a webinar coordinated by the US Department of Education that addressed how schools can better meet the mental health needs of trafficking survivors in their communities. Building on the experiences of our Prevention Education and Survivor Care Program, Love146 shared about the need for schools to support mental health conditions such as PTSD, anxiety disorders and substance use disorder, not just experienced by survivors of trafficking but experienced by so many children who are subjected to individual and community-based violence and exploitation. She highlighted that survivors of trafficking were not only reentering schools following their exploitation but that many of them were attending schools, either regularly or irregularly throughout their victimization. Participation in national webinars such as this helps Love146 share our on-the-ground expertise with others in the anti-trafficking field as well as those in adjacent fields such as education.

Speaking to how schools can support students in the wake of trauma

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More solutions are needed to support survivors of trafficking in our schools. But exploitation is only one kind of trauma. There are a lot of students in our classrooms who’ve experienced trauma of all kinds. If schools are focused on addressing trauma (certainly including with younger children) we can lower youth’s risk of trafficking in the first place.”

TAMARRA CLARK
Love146 Director of US Survivor Care
We couldn’t have done anything in this report without your generous support.

THANK YOU.
For privacy and protection, Love146 changes names and obscures details about our clients, and no identifiable images in our communications are of children known to be exploited.