



Hear Their Cry

www.nextstepministrieskansas.org ▪ P O Box 1822, Salina, KS 67402-1822 ▪ Spring 2024

Mission Statement:

We exist to restore the lives of women broken by sex trafficking by providing a safe, Christ-centered home, Biblical counseling, and life skills that will provide purpose for a future

Vision Statement:

Sharing the transforming power of Jesus Christ with women broken by sex trafficking

We have been Called

At Next Step Ministries we have been called to defend the innocent and protect the vulnerable (Psalm 82:3-4, Proverbs 31:8-9). The journey has been a difficult one because of the continual struggle for funding. As we enter into 2024 we are asking you to join your hearts to ours as we minister to the victims of sex trafficking. Would you join us in being part of the rescue? As you read the following true events please prayerfully look for an opportunity to give of your time, treasures, and talents on behalf of the survivors this ministry will be serving.

The names and location have been changed to protect those involved. This violation of humanity happened in late 2023. This information was shared with our Board Chair from a friend who headed the rescue attempts. While this event happened in a predominantly Muslim country there is no comfort in the distance because this happens all over the United States and **yes**, even in **Kansas!** Sex Trafficking is everywhere.

A young lady named Debby, age 26, was struggling in an abusive relationship. She was introduced to a nice young man who appeared to have a lot of potential. He offered to help Debby and her 8 year old daughter, Mary, find a better life. Debby accepted the offer of help from this seemingly nice man. With plans to leave a broken life behind, Debby took Mary and went with the man. Debby was blinded by the shiny things this man dangled in front of her and all she could see was the bright side of what he offered. This man, Debby and Mary all entered into this new journey with smiles on their faces, but sadly the smiles for Debby and Mary would soon fade.

The car they were riding in stopped at a building and they went inside. Once inside, the truth of the journey came to light. Debby was beaten and raped repeatedly in front of her daughter. Once the men were finished with her, they drove Debby to another part of the enormous city and she was discarded. She was left alone, empty and broken.

Mary, was drugged and raped by multiple men. Mary was then set up to be sold to the highest bidder.

As events unfolded, a friend of Debby's family worked to locate Mary. After a few weeks Mary was located in another city. The friend of the family tried to purchase Mary so she could be returned to her mother. Unfortunately, the attempt failed and Mary was shuttled to another location. The friend of the family didn't give up though. They kept searching and talking with more people and were once again able to locate Mary. They lost her again to another snatch and grab game.



The friend continued to follow the trail while involving the authorities. They discovered that Mary had been "adopted" by a family who appeared to have legal paperwork showing they gone through the right process for adoption. The authorities kept pressuring the family. With the real possibility of jail time, that family relented and gave Mary back to her own family.

Sadly, though Mary was reunited with her family she was not able to be reunited with her mother. During the time that Mary was gone Debby was fighting her own battle. She struggled with the guilt of sacrificing her daughter to the world. In the end the guilt was too much for Debby and she took her own life by jumping off a bridge.

Eight year old Mary is on a long and difficult road to recovering from the trauma she was subjected to. Mary experienced things no child should ever have to experience. It was discovered after she was rescued that those who kidnapped Mary injected a drug into her vocal cords to keep her screams quiet. Mary literally had her voice taken away from her. The women we will serve have been robbed of their voices. With support and help Mary has recently started eating and sleeping again. And for the first time in a long time, she laughed.

We at Next Step Ministries are creating an environment where women can enter to get their voice back and yes even laugh one day. Your support, as our faithful donors, has been and continues to be priceless and sacrificial. We can't do this by ourselves. The hours, days, weeks and years we have invested are starting to take form at the safe house, a House of Hope and Healing.

Meet our Board Members **"Follow Your Heart"**

Greetings! I'm Karen, one of the Board members for Next Step Ministries, Inc. My interest in helping start this ministry stems from the work I've done with victims of sexual abuse, child sexual abuse and trafficked people. I recently semi-retired from caring for patients who have experienced abuse. I spent the past 20 years of my 38 year (so far) nursing career listening to the horrific things that have happened to people and helping to meet their physical, social, spiritual and emotional needs. The most frustrating part of working in a system was the inability to be free to talk to my patients about the hope they can have in Christ and Christ alone.

At Next Step Ministries, this is our primary goal. To introduce girls to the ONLY one who can change them and their circumstances. Of course, these girls have many needs, which we intend to incorporate into their rehabilitation, but NO ONE can change without the Gospel of Christ. We have just come through the season of celebrating the birth of Christ, who came as fully God and fully man to a sinful world. His goal was to pay the penalty for our sin and we'll celebrate that on Resurrection day. All Glory to God.

I recently enjoyed watching Christmas movies. This was one of the things that helped me deal with the difficulty of listening to the accounts of abuse I would hear at work. I used to watch Hallmark movies, but since they've gone "woke", I have no interest in supporting them. So, I subscribed to a "Christian" version of nice guy always gets together with girl, and they live happily ever after. I can honestly say they are very similar to Hallmark movies, without most of the garbage! There is something that recently caught my attention though. In all the movies, where the couples live in opposite vicinities and in order to live happily ever after one of them has to move, I began to pick up on the above words—**Follow your heart**. It struck me that this was easily stuck in there at the end of the movie and all was well if guy and girl got together. Easy to believe. Easy to not think about. But is it true?

My thoughts turned to scripture. Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Then I thought about the heart. Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?" Who can understand it? The only One who can understand it is the One who created it! He is the only one who can CHANGE it! That verse says our hearts are desperately sick, so why should we follow it? We shouldn't. We need to entrust our heart to Christ, by faith and He has promised to cleanse it. Then we should follow HIM. How does He speak to us? Through His Word of course! I challenge you in 2024 to follow Christ and not your own heart!

Would you join us in praying for Next Step Ministries Executive Director! We are actively seeking applicants for this position and are excited to see how the Lord will use them to expand and grow the ministry.

The Executive Director's top priority will be to establish relationships with individuals and organizations to partner with Next Step Ministries. The Executive Director will work effectively with the House Directors on the Dwelling Place Program and the success of the women to come to our home. They will work closely with the Board of Directors to create and execute a strategy to open and operate the local home; to oversee local operations in accordance with NSM's policies and mission. The Executive Director is responsible for establishing a working relationship with internal entities of NSM.

The Executive Director position has the following Biblical expectations:

- ◆ Feel called to Next Step Ministries
- ◆ Be a Born-Again Believer in Jesus Christ Alone
- ◆ Be active in a local Bible-believing local church
- ◆ Ability to articulate their personal testimony
- ◆ Ability to teach Biblical principles
- ◆ Must uphold the Mission and Vision
- ◆ Participate in NSM's Team Care
- ◆ Must adhere to NSM's Statement of Faith & Statement of Marriage & Sexuality

Preferred Life Experiences

- ◆ 5 years of management experience
- ◆ 3 - 5 years ministry experience
- ◆ Fundraising or sales experience strongly recommended

Do you know someone who might be interested in this opportunity to help women find freedom from the dark world of sex trafficking, if so please have them contact the board at nextsteptruth@gmail.com. For a full job description please visit: <https://www.nextstepministrieskansas.org/careers/>

The 2023 Tax Donation Statements have been sent out, if you believe yours has an error or didn't receive one please contact us at nextsteptruth@gmail.com.

Next Step Ministries is here to help women who have escaped sex trafficking. We are a non-profit organization, we do not receive government funding and solely rely on the support of our faithful donors who desire to help others start a new and beautiful beginning with a life of FREEDOM! If you would like to support us please see the donation form below. You can mail it to: P O Box 1822, Salina, KS 67401

Become a Ministry Partner Today!

Donation

- \$ 25.00 - Hebrews 13:16
- \$ 50.00 - Galatians 6:9
- \$ 75.00 - Philippians 4:19
- \$100.00 - Psalms 121:1-2
- \$ _____ - Other Amount
- Show my support by making this a monthly donation

First and Last Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Credit Card Number

Routing Number

Exp Date

CVC

Account Number

Signature

Date

Checking or Savings

Draft Date

A note to our faithful supporters:

We at Next Step Ministries are so thankful for you and your partnership with us. We understand things have been moving slowly with regards to getting the House of Hope and Healing completed and we are thankful for your trust and patience. **We are not quitting!** We are committed to opening this home to minister to women who have been trafficked and need to be introduced to the only One who can change their lives.

We are thankful for every person who utilizes their God given talents and abilities on this project. Currently, we are in need of certain skilled laborers. Do you know of an architect who could help us draw up plans? Do you know skilled carpenters who can build walls? Do you know skilled workers who can hang sheetrock and finish walls? Do you know of someone who lays flooring for a living? Do you know of someone who is skilled in HVAC? **Do you know anyone** who can build kitchen and bathroom cabinets?

God has supplied a plumber to help us. We know many of you have offered to paint—and we are excited about that—*its' just not quite time yet!*

We KNOW God will supply all our needs—because He has promised to in His Word!

Please be in prayer that He would work in the hearts of skilled people to help make this house ready for the women we will serve. Please email us at nextsteptruth@gmail.com or call / text Tami at 785.201.7120 if you would like to help or have information you would like to share. **We pray you have a blessed 2024!**

UPCOMING WORKDAYS>>>

February 24th
March 9th & March 23rd
April 6th & April 20th
May 4th & May 18th

We plan on working 9 am to 3 pm

**Please email nextsteptruth@gmail.com;
call 785.531.1227 or let a board member know
if you are able to help.
This also helps us get a count for lunch.**

Next Step Ministries, Inc

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