



**OER** OPERATION UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

**MID-YEAR REPORT**  
JANUARY - JUNE 2016

**EMANCIPATE | EMPOWER | ENLIGHTEN**

**EMANCIPATE CHILD VICTIMS**

We are freeing child victims around the world from sex trafficking and dismantling the criminal networks. Once rescued, we place children with safe havens that provide recovery care.

**EMPOWER LAW ENFORCEMENT**

We are bolstering law enforcement and governments around the world by creating and providing them with technology, tools and training to eliminate trafficking.

**ENLIGHTEN THE PUBLIC**

We are educating stakeholders around the world about the prominence and travesty of child sex slavery and driving them to actionable steps.

## DEAR O.U.R. SUPPORTER:

We are excited to be offering you an Operation Underground Railroad 2016 mid-year report, providing updates and information regarding our most pressing successes and exceptional growth. We are truly grateful for the support you continue to give, and would like to use this report as an opportunity to be transparent in how your contribution is helping the children we are rescuing as well as building worldwide partnerships for the scalability of eradicating sex trafficking. We also would like to shine a light onto those of you who are stepping into the fight as a partner of O.U.R., and are emphasizing along with us that we will not tolerate our children to be sold for sex exploitation.

Let's start with our gratitude for the increase in giving this year. We cannot do this alone, and the number of people eager to help us rescue children is humbling. We have added 7,000 new donors so far this year; every single donation helps us reach more children in need. We are also grateful to the many companies, foundations and civic groups that have recognized O.U.R. as an organization worthy of their support. We are happy to report that we have increased our corporate and foundation contributions by 60%. Thank you for recognizing the strength and structure built over these past 2 years. While funding has increased this quarter, so has the demand, and with that, the successes. We have completed an unsurpassed 26 rescues in just the first 6 months of this year. This number has already surpassed the 24 total rescues we were able to perform in all of last year! We are eager to continue this progress through the end of 2016.

While we rely on financial contributions and measure our immediate impact by the number of arrested traffickers and rescued victims, these numbers do not even begin to describe what you and O.U.R. provide the children rescued. We would like to share an experience with you from our Director of Aftercare, Jessica Mass:



## WHAT FIVE DOLLARS CAN BUY ON THE STREET

**FEBRUARY 2016:** It was a beautiful sunny day as I walked down the street. It was the second to last day of our trip and the majority of our work had been completed. Everyone was busy going about their days. Taxi drivers zoomed by way too fast, street vendors sold delicious food, and there was a random stray cat ruffling through a newspaper while chasing a mouse. By this point, I had been walking long enough to have a glow (otherwise known as sweat) from the heat of the sun. I could finally see the walking-bridge that crossed over a very busy intersection. Right before I was going to climb the stairs to the bridge, I noticed a little girl and her mother. They appeared to be homeless as they were digging through a trash can pulling out small scraps of street vendor food after others had their fill. The little girl's eyes connected with mine. Her eyes melted my heart and I remembered I had two granola bars in my backpack. As I handed her the granola bars, her beautiful smile was as bright as the sun. Her mom gently embraced her and nodded her head towards me in gratitude. This is very different than what I was about to see as I walked over the bridge.

Trafficking is not a new world to me. I cannot claim ignorance or say that I'm oblivious. However there are still times when you're caught off guard, not expecting to see something: the buying of a human being in plain sight with no intention of trying to hide one's actions. As I walked over the bridge, an older Caucasian man who looked to be in his 70's walked up to a young lady. He was dressed in a Hawaiian shirt and jeans. His wrinkly eyes looked her body up-and-down long before ever making eye contact with her. She had what appeared to be a small 3 x 5 card in her hands. I noticed it was laminated; yet looked worn and had a bit of dirt on the back. As I got closer I noticed that there was a price written at the top, the equivalent to six US dollars. Underneath, it had several images of various sexual acts that I would soon realize this small amount of money would buy. I noticed him point to three different images on the card. She stared at the card and nodded, not making eye contact. I could only stand there, staring at him hoping that I was misunderstanding the situation. I was irrelevant to him and he never even acknowledged my presence. He was not ashamed or trying to hide what, to him, was a simple business transaction. I then saw him point and shake his head 'No'. He negotiated the price as if he was buying a bracelet from a street vendor; from six dollars to five dollars. She looked at him, with her face expressing sadness, as if she knew. Even if she tried to get the full amount, he was not going to pay more than five dollars. In broken English, she told him, "No, six dollars." He threw his hands up in the air and in a loud voice said, "No, five dollars!" The man's negotiation ended up being the final price. As soon as she agreed to the price, he put his right hand on her butt and with his left pointed saying, "Hotel that way." When they began to walk, he moved his pointed hand to her chest. I stood there in shock of the negotiation and how quickly everything had happened. Questions raced through my mind. Should I try to stop him? Can I give her six dollars to provide an hour of freedom? Is she doing this by force or her own free will? Does she want me to help? She looks like she's a young adult. Is this her free choice? I want her to know I care, that someone cares. I finished crossing the walking-bridge and sat down on a bench. With my elbows on my knees and my hands on my forehead I asked God, "When will this stop? Your children are not for sale." After sitting for a while, God in His understanding that is far beyond mine said, "In this fallen world things won't make sense. Justice in its fullness has not come. But I love my children enough to send people to fight for them! Never give up fighting for those who need love, protection and freedom. True love. No strings attached. Loved just because they are my children. It is not time to ask 'Why'. It's time to stand up and keep asking, 'What can we do? Where can we look?'"

I don't know this young girl's story. I do know the story of many others. Often, they are providing for other siblings. Perhaps their parents passed away and they are left to feed themselves. Maybe... I don't know. I don't have all the answers, but priceless human beings are reduced to five dollars and every effort made to stop the buying of a human is worth the challenges it takes to do so. Both experiences, the one of the little girl and her mom looking for food and the girl being bought for five dollars, only lasted about thirty seconds. However, the first child had a protective mother looking out for her, standing by her side. There was no one fighting for the second. The man with his arm around her was not the arm of a protective, loving parent. His intentions were clear: to use her for his own sexual enjoyment for an hour and then send her on her way. I'm so grateful for my team because they fight for the one that no one else is fighting for, and they offer the hope that someone is coming.

# YOUR DONATION IN ACTION

## 2014

7 RESCUE OPERATIONS  
36 ARRESTED | 212 RESCUED  
4 COUNTRIES

## 2015

20 RESCUE OPERATIONS  
88 ARRESTED | 176 RESCUED  
9 COUNTRIES

## 2016

MID YEAR  
26 RESCUE OPERATIONS  
62 ARRESTED  
156 RESCUED

Hopefully you have noticed that the number of arrests has more than doubled. This number is of particular importance because it shows the scalability of eradication and it is how we protect children from being exploited. On average sexual predators have hundreds of victims in their lifetime. By focusing on the arrest of these offenders we are creating a layer of safety as well as a deterrent to show that the local community of law enforcement will not tolerate this crime.

### WHERE WE HAVE BEEN THIS YEAR

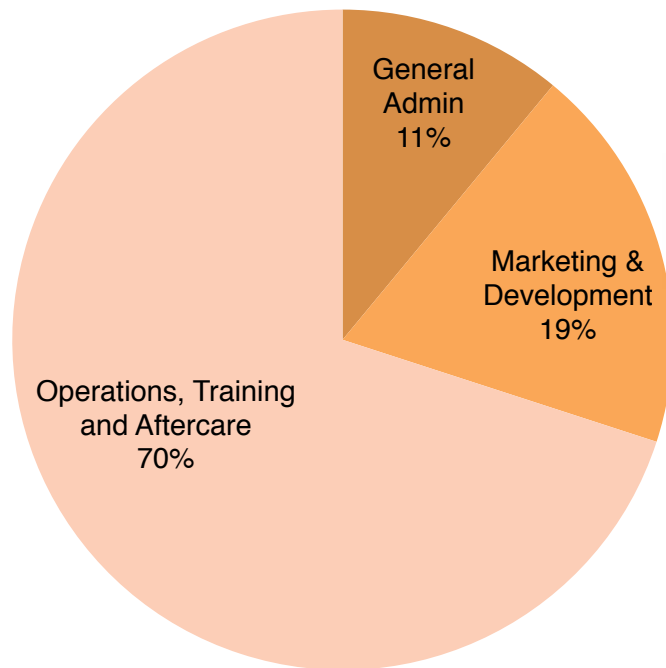
NEPAL	THAILAND
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	UGANDA
MEXICO	USA
INDIA	CAMBODIA



# MID-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



- The release of the documentary “The Abolitionists” contributed to a significant increase in donations, volunteers and supporters around the world.
- CrossFit O.U.R. ([www.crossfitour.com](http://www.crossfitour.com)) is already supporting our 100% model by covering all office expenses.
- We have forged new and successful relationships with the government of Thailand, and also received a plaque of recognition and partnership.
- Multiple major media outlets have covered O.U.R. this year to help increase awareness.
- We inaugurated the O.U.R. CET-COE (Child Exploitation Targeting Center of Excellence), which will be housed at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. We have already trained 54 law enforcement personnel, year-to-date, and have plans for additional trainings in the months to come.
- The Mexican Government invited O.U.R. to work multiple operations that resulted in a total of 40 trafficking victims rescued and 14 suspected traffickers apprehended. They are now leading regional partners in this fight.
- We have made great strides in our Aftercare efforts as we have partnered with rehab facilities and shelters in over a dozen countries around the world.
- Our volunteer program has increased tremendously with over 1,723 registered volunteers across the country.



## SPENDING ANALYSIS



## **OPERATION UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**

### **O.U.R. MISSION STATEMENT**

**TO SHINE A LIGHT TO THE WORLD ON THE GLOBAL EPIDEMIC OF CHILD SEX  
TRAFFICKING, AND IN SO DOING TO RESCUE CHILDREN FROM SLAVERY AND  
ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS.  
WE PLACE RESCUED CHILDREN IN SAFE HAVENS PROVIDING  
APPROPRIATE RECOVERY AFTERCARE.**