



OPERATION UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

**2019**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**



## SURVIVOR UPDATE:

# Mckenzie Fulfills Dream of Becoming a Teacher



“...strengthening the family unit is a vital part of the healing process for survivors.”

This is O.U.R. Aftercare Director Jessica Mass visiting with Mckenzie (name changed) and her son in Africa! Almost two years ago, Mckenzie was rescued from trafficking in the Mediterranean. A false employment agency told her there was an opportunity for her to become a trained, certified childcare provider in the Mediterranean. McKenzie was thrilled because she loves children. When she arrived, however, she was put in a home where she was a slave – repeatedly exploited

and forced to clean and do chores with little to no food. She missed her son back home and became very depressed.

One day she decided to try and escape. Luckily, she was able to find help!

The O.U.R. Ops Team assisted in Mckenzie’s rescue from the Mediterranean and our Aftercare Team supported her repatriation and aftercare.

Mckenzie’s road to recovery has come with many challenges, but we are so excited for her because she has achieved her dream!

She received aftercare from our in-country partners and became a certified teacher. Her son is in school, and now she has her very own apartment that she is renting.

On this recent visit to her home, our team was also able to meet with some of Mckenzie’s sisters,

nieces, and nephews. We believe that when possible, strengthening the family unit is a vital part of the healing process for survivors.

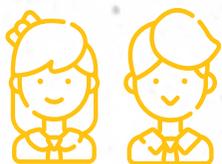
A rescue is never complete without immediate and long-term aftercare. We are so inspired by Mckenzie’s hard work and determination to overcome her challenges and become a teacher like she has always dreamed.

# WE ARE OPERATION UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

# O.U.R. MISSION

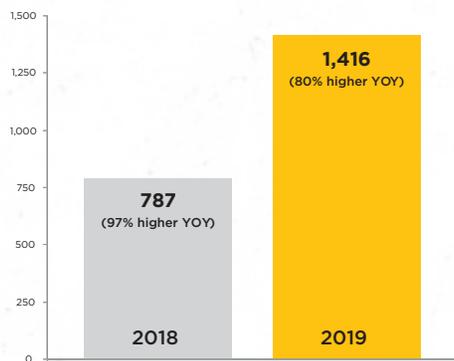
To shine a light worldwide on the global epidemic of child sex trafficking, and in so doing rescue more children from slavery and assist law enforcement to seek justice for those who violate children. We place survivors on a path to recovery partnering with vetted aftercare providers or by placing them with families.

## O.U.R. IMPACT



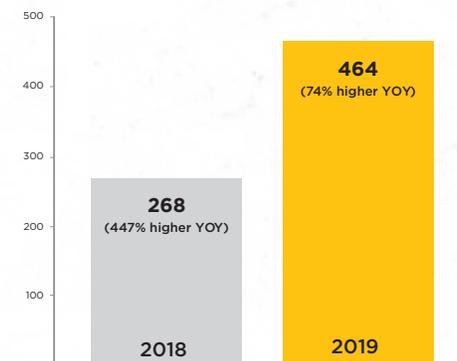
**3,319**

VICTIMS RESCUED



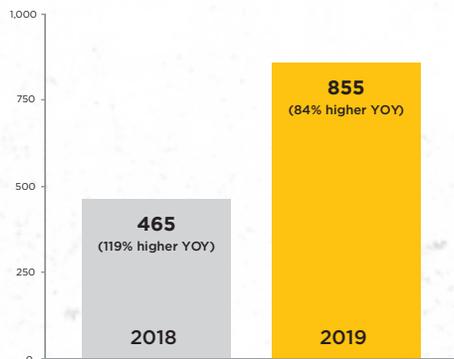
**922**

RESCUE OPERATIONS COMPLETED



**1,877**

TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED



### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- **1,505** law enforcement professionals were trained in 2019
- We conducted operations in **24** countries and **25** U. S. states
- Aftercare was provided for survivors in **every** country we had contact with

- **12,000+** registered volunteers around the world\*

(\*14,000 as of June 1, 2020)

# O.U.R. HIGHLIGHTS



## NEPAL

We expanded our work in Nepal, one of the most heavily trafficked areas in the world.



## ARRESTS

Several hundred traffickers were arrested with our assistance in 2019. Some of the sentences served include:

German Citizen: 20 years in the Dominican Republic.

South American Traffickers: 40 years & 19 years.

U.S. Citizen: 27 years in Peru.



## RESCUE MILESTONES

We rescued our **2,000<sup>th</sup>** survivor in March 2019 and our **3,000<sup>th</sup>** survivor in October 2019.

## UKRAINE

Every year in Eastern Europe, an estimated 15,000 children will age out of the orphanage system and be displaced all over Ukraine. Another 800,000+ children are refugees from a war zone. All of these children become targets of human trafficking, and that is why we, along with our partners in Ukraine try to prevent trafficking from ever happening in the first place.



In 2019, we placed 44 children in nurturing homes and saved them from falling prey to traffickers. These children were rescued from various

vulnerable conditions such as being orphaned by war conditions, abused, abandoned, or living on the streets.

## O.U.R. K9S SNIFF OUT CHILD SEX PREDATORS



O.U.R. empowers and supports law enforcement across the United States with the tools, technology and training they need to more effectively combat child sex trafficking in their jurisdictions. One way we do this is to facilitate the national deployment of Electronic Storage Device (ESD) detection canines – dogs that sniff out evidence to prosecute child predators.

These devices are routinely hidden by child predators in an attempt to hide sexually abusive and exploitative images of children from significant others and law enforcement. Such small devices are easily hidden and difficult to locate when law enforcement search warrants are executed. These dogs quickly sniff out evidence that a human investigator alone would need much longer to find, if even found at all. This evidence is pivotal to a successful prosecution.

In 2019 alone, the O.U.R. dogs helped with 65 operations, 101 arrests, and 14 rescues.





# 25 Reasons You Should Know What Your Children are Doing on Their Phones

These 25 men were arrested for arriving at a home to sexually abuse children in Arizona. They responded to ads on various apps and websites by attempting to make a deal for different sex acts with children.

Luckily, undercover officers were the ones behind the ads, not traffickers selling real children.

Unfortunately, the type of sting operation used in Operation Summer Shield works well because of the shocking amount of real ads of real child victims who are being exploited sexually online. In addition to traffickers selling children online, social media has become a wide open field for predators to find and extort vulnerable children. **Today's youth need to know the dangers online.**

"Predators no longer lurk in chat rooms," Senator Marsha Blackburn said, "**Predators**

“**Traffickers look for the vulnerabilities and a child... And they find what it is that is missing, whether it's attention, or love, or [physical] things.**”

use the apps our children use.” These 25 men are the 25 reasons that you should know what your children are doing on their phones, because children are being targeted by online sexual predators.

“Traffickers look for the vulnerabilities and a child.

They look for what they are talking about online,” said Dr. Roe-Sepowitz. “And they find what it is that is missing, whether it’s attention, or love, or [physical] things.”

**“I think it’s really important that if someone slides into their DM, that they know that that’s a predator, and to cut that person off,” she said.**

These men all sought to have sex with children in other states around the U.S. in the last few months through Snapchat, Instagram, and other popular social media apps and websites.

“In [my past work as a government agent], we call that creep guy “Uncle Skippy.” Look, every time you put that picture up... just know that Uncle Skippy is watching. Uncle Skippy is always watching whatever you put up there. [We need to] get kids thinking about those dangers.” Tim Ballard, O.U.R. Founder & CEO.

**Talk to your kids about internet safety.**

Creating communication and trust is key to helping our children open up if they see something exploitative or meet someone potentially dangerous online.

**O.U.R. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Kelly Wilson,  
CHAIR

Stephen Fairbanks,  
TREASURER

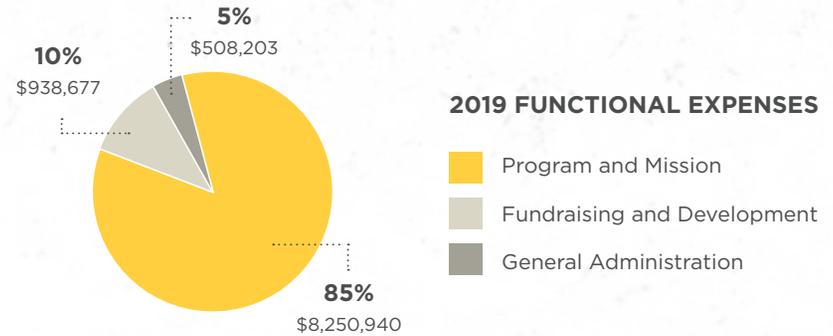
Marc Reynolds,  
SECRETARY

Julianne Blake

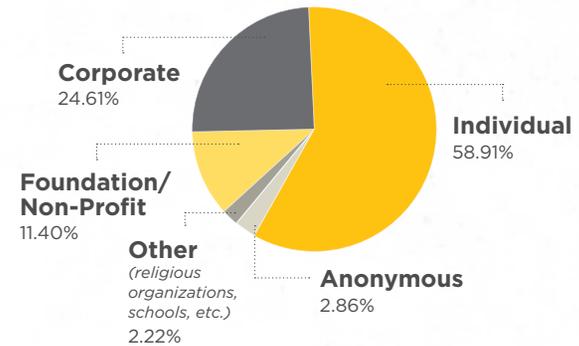
Benjamin Pack

# FINANCIALS

**2019 NET ASSETS \$30,810,871**



**2019 DONATIONS BREAKDOWN**



**RATED BY CHARITY WATCHDOGS**





Scan the QR Code to watch our  
Annual Report video online:



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