

lift living
in freedom
together

Annual Report

2021

01

About LIFT

Introducing RADFEM

Financials

Recognitions

Looking Ahead



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Words **Matter.**

The way community leaders and media outlets talk and write about the sex trade matters.

Throughout this report, we have inserted definitions at the bottom of pages in hopes that we'll all start to become more aware of what we're saying, more cognizant to listen to Survivors, and advocate together with a shared vocabulary.



Survivor - A force to be reckoned with, the personification of strength, hope, and growth. A leader, confidant, changemaker, and innovator. A fearless advocate.

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Part 1:

About LIFT

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Ally - One who supports Survivors, holds their community accountable to recognizing Survivors as experts, leaders, and changemakers, calls-in other allies to make space and promote survivors, while calling-out pseudo-allies angling to take credit for Survivor work.



Letter from the CEO

As we entered 2021, I sensed a collective hope in the world that we were through the worst of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Though for a brief time we returned to some semblance of the “new normal”, we at LIFT continued to innovate and adapt our services to meet the unique experiences of Survivors living in a shut-down world. 2021 was a transformative year at LIFT. We solidified our values system and committed to standing in them resolutely. We forged new partnerships and found new allies. We created new programming, made challenging choices, and continued to elevate the voices and needs of Survivors in our community.

We contributed to drafting, filing, and advocating for a historic, Survivor-led bill, “An Act To Strengthen Justice and Support for Sex Trade Survivors”, while co-chairing the EMMA (Equality Model MA) Coalition. Though the bill did not pass this legislative session, we made incredible strides in building a broad coalition and will continue to fight for this critical bill until Survivors have access to full rights and lives full of joy and freedom from exploitation. Through our advocacy, RADFEM was born. RADFEM is a 501c4 that will allow us to stand in our political convictions and take action to advocate for Survivors in louder ways than ever before.

With the support of the City of Worcester, we opened HARBOR, our permanent, zero-barrier access, maximum-vulnerability shelter, in a temporary location in January 2021 and provided safe space to some of our community’s most vulnerable members. We are incredibly grateful to our team of Survivors and allies, and our community who showed up and helped to create a temporary space that feels like home.



In August 2021, we held our first Strategic Operations Session thanks to the Jensen Project. As we do in all our work, we centered Survivors in all of our planning and mapping of long-term goals. We brought together LIFT participants, our Leadership Team and Board Members and collaborated for two straight days on solidifying our core values, envisioning our future, and determining how we could turn ideas into reality. We are looking ahead to 2022 to where many of our long-term projects will come to fruition. We committed to standing in our values system. Sometimes that meant turning away from pseudo-allies and those who professed to support us, but refused to listen to us. A significant part of our mission is to elevate the voices of Survivors - if someone is trying to silence us, we are ready to fight back. LIFT is committed to owning the work we do- our strengths and our areas of growth- while not allowing others to appropriate our successes and erase Survivor leaders in the process. We understand that it may mean missing funding opportunities and sometimes standing alone, but we are fiercely committed to our cause and will not compromise our values for monetary gain. Survivors should not have to do that in the life of prostitution or outside of it.

We made some real gains this past year through purchasing our second home which now houses HARBOR, our community and learning center for Survivors and our maximum vulnerability shelter. This beautiful home now holds all of our Outreach & Advocacy Programming- enriching Survivors’ lives by having access to art programming, gaming and technology, outdoor and indoor activities, all in the name of cultivating space for access to joy and fun.

We celebrated our first Holiday Season at HARBOR and partnered with Clark University’s Women in Business and the First Unitarian Church of Worcester to give “The Gift of Choice” for

continued on next page

Unconditional Positive Regard - Showing complete support and acceptance of a person no matter what that person says or does.



Survivors in our programs. In just one night, we raised over \$2,000 in in-kind and monetary donations to provide Survivors festive apparel and gift cards to make winter a little warmer.

LIFT held our first Annual Rest & Recovery Retreat, taking 16 Survivors from Jana's Place on an adventure to Sunset Beach, NC. Hope is fostered best in the community, so we traveled and enjoyed experiences together as a team, outside of 'the life', building our very own life.

LIFT forged new partnerships including the YWCA of Central MA, who we worked with to open THRVE: Transitional Housing Resources for Victims of Exploitation. THRVE extends our services and housing ability and provides specialized Survivor-led case management and up to five rooms for women in vulnerable stages of transition out of treatment programs.

We remained available to our participants throughout the Omicron surge, ensuring access to testing and vaccinations. We demonstrated again and again that we are here for Survivors no matter what the world throws our way. We will continue to show up with unconditional positive regard for our participants, and change the systems that are failing us, no matter how difficult.

We look ahead in 2022 with many exciting projects and programs on the horizon. With seed funding from St. Francis Community Healthcare Inc. and the Major League Baseball Players Association, we will be opening our own Outpatient Clinic for Mental & Behavioral Health to increase access and support for Survivors. In the summer of 2022, we will be implementing our BRAVE program (Building Real Action for Viable Employment), born out of another partnership with the Latin American Health Alliance. BRAVE will provide access to job skills training and education, while also increasing invisibility of those who society attempts to marginalize.

LIFT's internal voice grows louder each day, and we are using it to not only shape our organization, but to change our community's perspective surrounding the stigmas that Survivors face. It is our hope that through education and advocacy we are able to cultivate a more accepting and supportive mindset in our community, not only for Survivors, but for all people who struggle with misrepresentation and misunderstanding. We use our voice to call on others, especially those with decision-making power, to step up and live out loud the values of equity they claim to hold. Freedom does not come easy, but it is worth the fight, the heartbreak, the joyful celebration. People tell us we are pursuing the impossible, but the way I see it, we are creating a new world of possibilities. Join us.

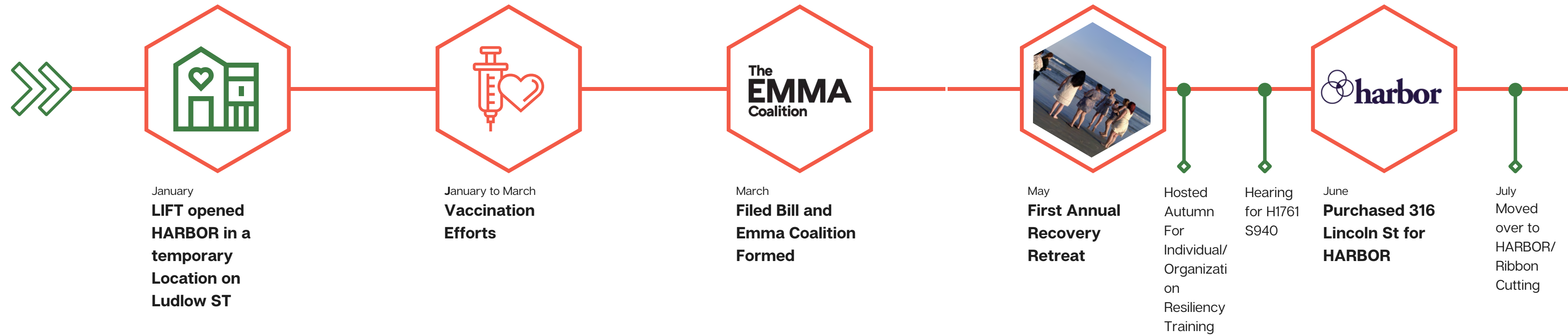
Nicole Bell, President & CEO
Living in Freedom Together, Inc. (LIFT)

Recovery - A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential.



LIFT 2021 Timeline

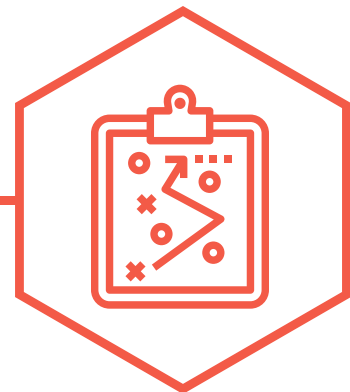
An overview of some of LIFT's key moments over the year from challenges to celebrations.



Sex trade - The trade that involves people's bodies being bought for one-sided sexual pleasure, such as prostitution.



LIFT 2021 Timeline Cont.



August
LIFT Strat Op



October
**Annual
Breakfast &
Youth Holiday
Party**



November
**Dream Big New
York Life
Foundation/
St Francis Award**



December
**Give the Gift of
Choice / LIFT UP
the Holidays**



Systems of Prostitution - Discrimination, exploitation, and abuse by an individual man or men that also includes a structure reflecting and maintaining inequality between men and women. Prostitution is the sexualization of power based on gender, class, race, and ethnicity and negatively impacts society's view of women.



Organization, Mission, & Focus

LIFT was founded in 2014 by Nikki Bell, who herself survived prostitution. Nikki found her pathway out of the sex trade through social justice work. As she was forced to navigate exiting “the life” with dismal support, no access to safety, sleeping on a mat on the kitchen floor of the shelter, she recognized the need for quality support and exit programs for prostituted people in our community. Nikki then started a support group where Survivors could come together to heal and share resources, began showing up at the District Court as an advocate for Survivors being criminalized, all while starting a Drop-In Center which operated with low costs by an all- volunteer team.

Through her relentless advocacy work and tireless dedication to her Sisters, Nikki has grown her one-woman operation into a multi-million dollar abolitionist organization with numerous programs and a team of almost 30. Survivors and allies are working together to support prostituted people, abolish the systems that are failing Survivors, and change how our community responds to those exploited in the sex trade.

LIFT is a Survivor-led nonprofit organization. All of our programming and curriculum is created and implemented by Survivors, over 70% of our staff are Survivors and/or people in recovery. Our focus is on our connection to the individuals we serve and commitment to our values system:

-  **Community**
-  **Autonomy & Choice**
-  **Transparency & Trust**
-  **Safety**
-  **Valued as a Human Being**

Trafficking - The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.” It involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to make an adult engage in commercial sex acts or the victim is under 18.



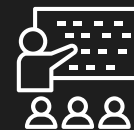
Our mission is to provide quality exit programming and supports to prostituted individuals with the goal of ending prostitution.



Advocating for social change and justice for Survivors and specific marginalized populations at greater risk of entering the sex trade



Leading legislative initiatives at national, state, and local levels



Providing training and consulting services to community-based partners, including medical providers, social services agencies, and law enforcement



Developing and delivering education and outreach services for community members and academic institutions

“John” “Sex Buyer” – A perpetrator of sexual violence, including rape, and assault. One who takes advantage of vulnerable populations to meet their sexual and violent self-interests.



LIFT Leadership



Nicole Bell
FOUNDER, PRESIDENT & CEO



Courtney Ross Escobar
COO & INHOUSE LEGAL COUNSEL



Karen Riley-McNary
VP OF OUTREACH & ADVOCACY



Audra Doody
SENIOR DIRECTOR, OUTREACH
& ADVOCACY



Lori Ciprari
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF FINANCE &
OPERATIONS



Tempe Staples
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT



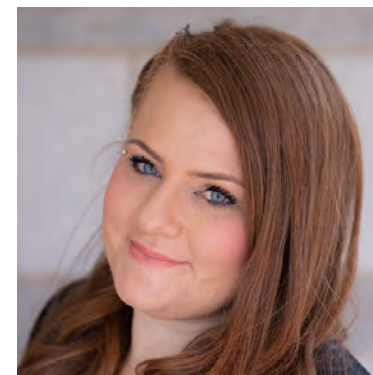
Jessica Mangiameli
CLINICAL DIRECTOR, JANA'S
PLACE



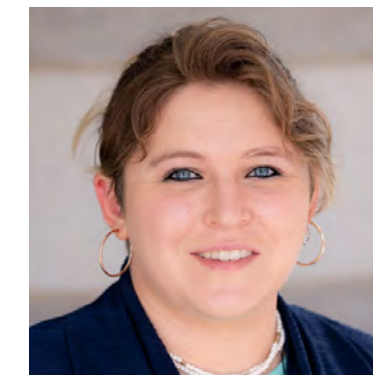
Alina Bluto
CO-PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
JANA'S PLACE



Angeliqe Martinez
CO-PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
JANA'S PLACE



Desiree Demos
PROGRAM MANAGER,
HARBOR



Alex Powell
COORDINATOR OF YOUTH
SERVICES

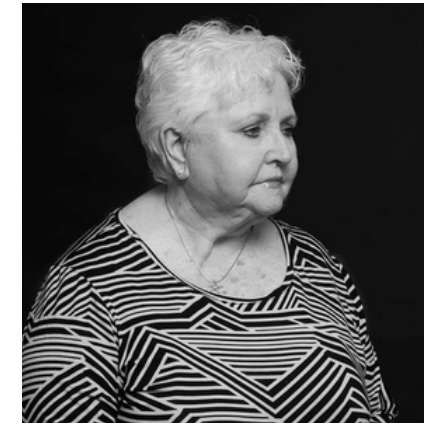
Advocate - A person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. See Audra Doody on Page 39.

Advocacy - Public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy.

LIFT Board of Directors



Vednita Carter
CO-CHAIR OF THE BOARD



Kathleen Mitchell
CO-CHAIR OF THE BOARD



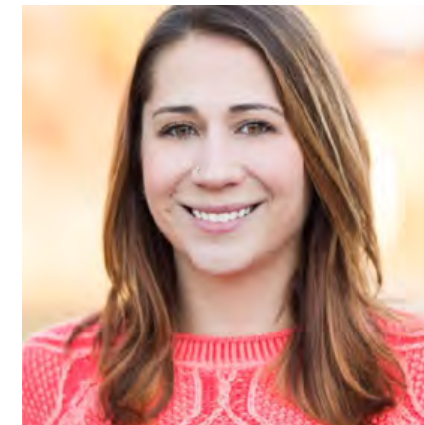
Lauren Sparks
TREASURER



Susan Hafty
BOARD MEMBER



Rachel Neimic
BOARD MEMBER



Kyla Pacheco
BOARD MEMBER



Joshua Croke
BOARD MEMBER

Low-Barrier – A service or provider that prioritizes ease of accessibility to programming and or resources in order to expand access to support for more people.

Zero-Barrier – No questions, all are welcome.



Part 2:

Introducing RADFEM, Inc.— Radical Abolitionists Demanding Freedom through the Equality Model

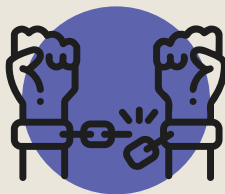
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PUBLISHED MARCH 2022



The Equality Model

We work to end systems of prostitution through the implementation of the Equality Model.



Full decriminalization of prostituted people

Eliminating crimes such as sex for a fee and common night walking ensuring no one will be arrested for their own exploitation.



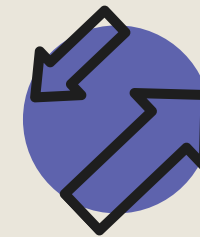
High-quality programs for people in the sex trade

Survivor-developed and led programming that addresses the unique needs of this population.



Buying sex remains criminalized

Sex buyers (johns) are penalized for purchasing access to the bodies of vulnerable people.



Decreasing on-ramps to, and increasing exit-ramps from, the sex trade

Addressing “Push Factors” that funnel young people into the sex trade (poverty, racism, misogyny, failed child welfare systems) and investment in Survivor-led programming to address housing, employment, and other related needs.



Coordination of this holistic approach

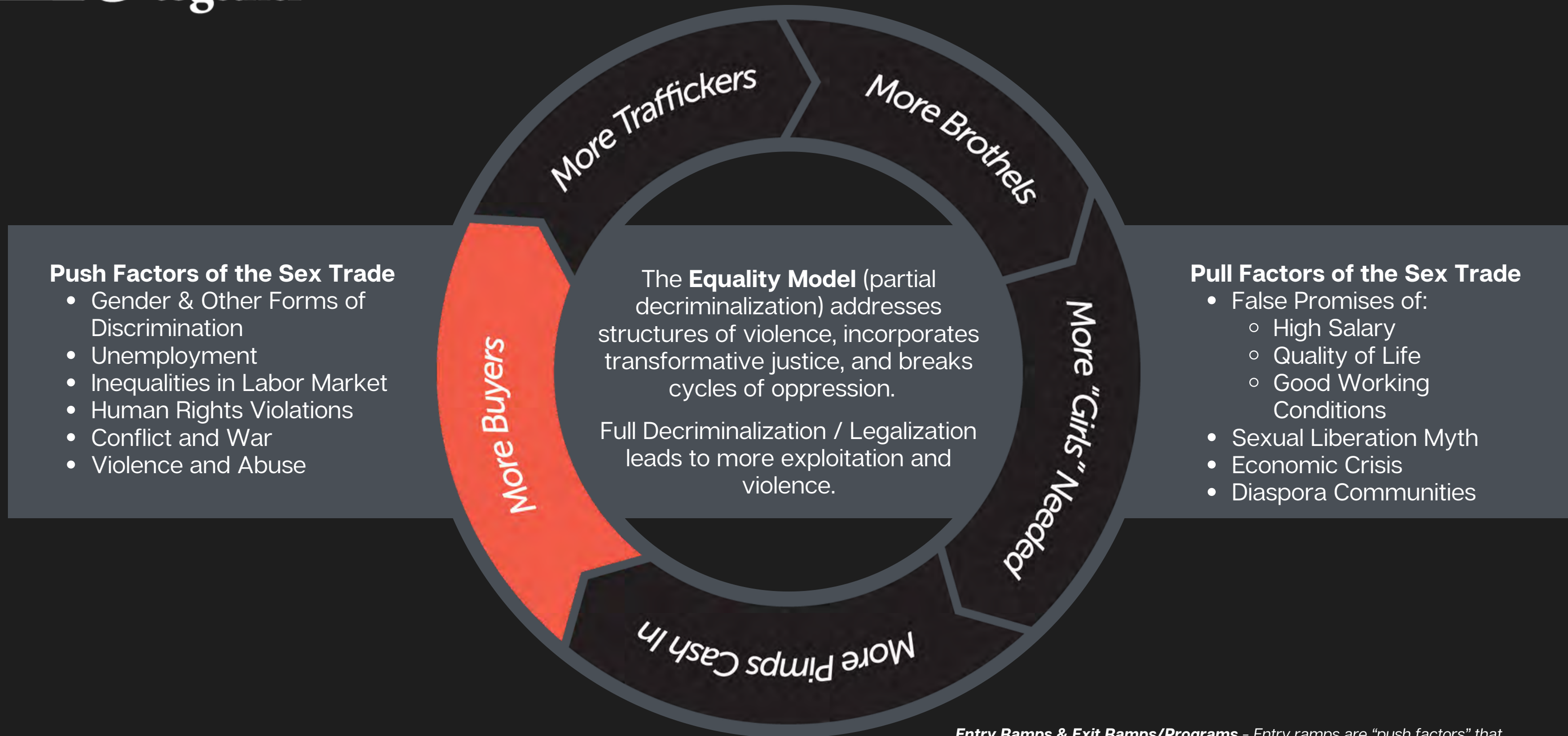
Public information campaigns, education and training, legislative and penal code changes, and services must be present and coordinated to support the common goal.



Anti-sex trafficking legislation enforced or strengthened

Laws to penalize third-party exploiters and protect prostituted people are strengthened

Exploiter - An unethical person; a user—one who takes advantage of other people for their own gain in a way that is wrong and damaging. One who uses a person’s vulnerabilities against them for the purpose of control and profit.





The Equality Model in MA (EMMA) Coalition is a Survivor-led, community effort that works to dismantle systems of violence against prostituted people through the implementation of the Equality Model. We are part of a growing global network of Survivors providing resources and supporting Survivors to step into their own power and voice.

H.1761 S.940, “An Act to Strengthen Justice and Support for Sex Trade Survivors”, or the Equality Model Bill was sent to study by the Massachusetts State Legislature in 2021. This Bill was written using a gender equality framework, a model that has made significant advancements for all women, especially for those being prostituted, in the countries it has been implemented in. It was a first-of-its-kind law created, drafted, and supported by Survivors across the Commonwealth. Legislative change is a critical element that must be achieved if we are to end systems of prostitution and provide access to viable pathways out of “the life”.

LIFT is dedicated to prioritizing and elevating the voices of Survivors and advocating for the societal changes we need to improve supportive programming and provide access to justice for Survivors of the sex trade. To continue elevating the voices of Survivors and advocating in meaningful ways, we created RADFEM (Radical Abolitionists Demanding Freedom through the Equality Model), a Survivor-led 501(c)(4) that allows us to continue to lead and scale up the efforts of the EMMA Coalition beyond the advocacy limits of a 501(c)(3). Through RADFEM, our message and actions will transcend new borders, allow engagement with a broader network of changemakers, and take our advocacy work to a whole new level.

RADFEM was formed to abolish prostitution and the sex trade by challenging social misconceptions of systems of prostitution through legislative initiatives and policy reforms that reflect the Equality Model's key goals. RADFEM will benefit victims and Survivors of sex-trafficking, prostitution, commercial sexual exploitation, and

any and all other systems of prostitution or entities of the sex trade. It will promote social welfare for one of the most marginalized and unjustly maligned populations in our country, and will hold accountable racism, misogyny, discrimination, bigotry, transphobia, and patriarchal systems of leadership, all of which are the pillars that hold systems of prostitution in place.

Prostitution doesn't exist in a vacuum. It is the creation of systemic failures of society and socioeconomic disparities that cross lines of class and race and push people to the outer margins of our communities to disappear. RADFEM will not allow society to turn away and disown its failures. We will continue to push people to know better, to do better and to effect change in their institutions, communities, and workplaces.

Though we are incredibly disappointed that “An Act To Strengthen Justice and Support for Sex Trade Survivors” did not pass this legislative session, we are confident that the EMMA Coalition and RADFEM will build on the incredible work we did in the 2021. Through our fierce advocacy work, Massachusetts will be the first state to implement this type of legislation. We will refile this bill in the 2023 legislative session. We understand change takes time, and we will be relentless in pursuing legislative action that will provide prostituted people the rights and access to safety they deserve.

To learn more about this *Bill* and our legislative work with the EMMA Coalition visit EqualityModelMA.org or scan this QR code:



.....
“The Life” - A phrase used as slang to describe systems of prostitution.



Words Matter.

Sex Work/er vs Sex Trade/Prostituted Person

In the age of “alternative facts,” the importance of communicating facts and relying on experts, and most importantly; those with lived experience, has been elevated. The way we speak about issues, the way we value data, qualify outcomes, and present outwardly to the community is important. In short, words matter.

The realities that the sex trade negatively impacts and harms people and the movement to abolish systems of prostitution may be new to most people, it is important to understand that this is a global issue addressing multiple intersections of vulnerability.

Prostitution relies on capitalism, patriarchy, colonialism, racism, and the marginalization of minority populations (LGBTQIA+, disabled and neurodivergent folx, and immigrant communities), and is fueled by male-directed violence and gender inequities.

For instance, many folx think the words “sex work” and “sex worker” are innocuous neutral terms used to refer to prostitution and prostituted people. We know better. Sex work and sex worker are terms coined by the Pro-Sex Work lobby in an attempt to sanitize the violence inherent in the sex trade. The Pro-Sex Work lobby works in direct opposition to the movement to abolish prostitution. It is supported by sex buyers and traffickers and pushes legislation to fully decriminalize prostitution; making selling access to the bodies of, disproportionately, black and brown women and girls decriminalized creating an unchecked and unregulated market. Full decriminalization codifies vulnerabilities as commodities, eliminating programs to support prostituted people, and makes exiting prostitution incredibly difficult, if not impossible.

Survivors of systems of prostitution are the experts in how to talk about this issue, support individuals involved in the sex trade, train frontline providers to assist in exiting services, lead the drafting of legislation, and should lead the movement to abolish the sex trade. When you talk about the sex trade or when media outlets cover stories regarding people in the sex trade, it is of the utmost importance that you use proper language. If you aren't sure what the proper language is, consult an expert; a Survivor of prostitution (not Google).

LIFT understands that the words we use matter; they impact how and where we show up for people. In 2020, LIFT worked with Action! by Design to reflect on the language we were using, how that language impacts the Survivors we support, and how it informs the work we do in our community. We evaluated the terms we were using, their ability to resonate with key audiences, deliver the intended message, and, most importantly, how they were heard by Survivors. This collaborative process involved members of the LIFT team across all programs, included allies, but was centered on Survivors.

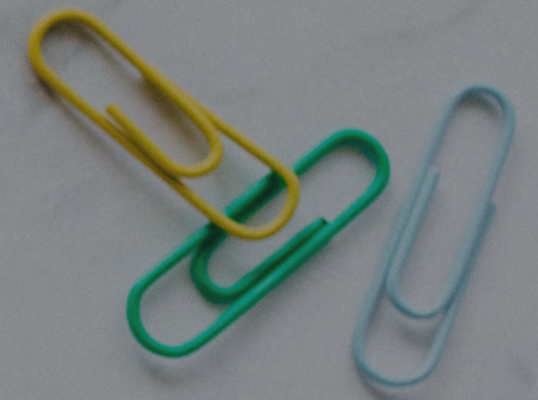
We moved away from language that contained implications of power-over structures, insinuated rescue mentalities, or terms suggesting Survivors need to be given credibility by allies. Terms like “empower” - which is defined as giving (someone) the authority or power to do something - were removed. We believe Survivors hold their own power and authority, and our role is to respect that autonomy not bestow it. We removed the butterfly image from our logo as societal views say that “beautiful” butterflies transform from “ugly” caterpillars. We believe the caterpillar and the Survivors we support are inherently good, strong, and capable as is. This is an example of the structures of worthiness organizations impose on marginalized populations. Structures of worthiness do not align with our value system. People are worthy, as they are, at every moment.

Victim - A person who is tricked or duped, harmed, injured, or killed as a result of a crime.

documents

Deductions

TAX LAW



Part 3:

Financial Highlights

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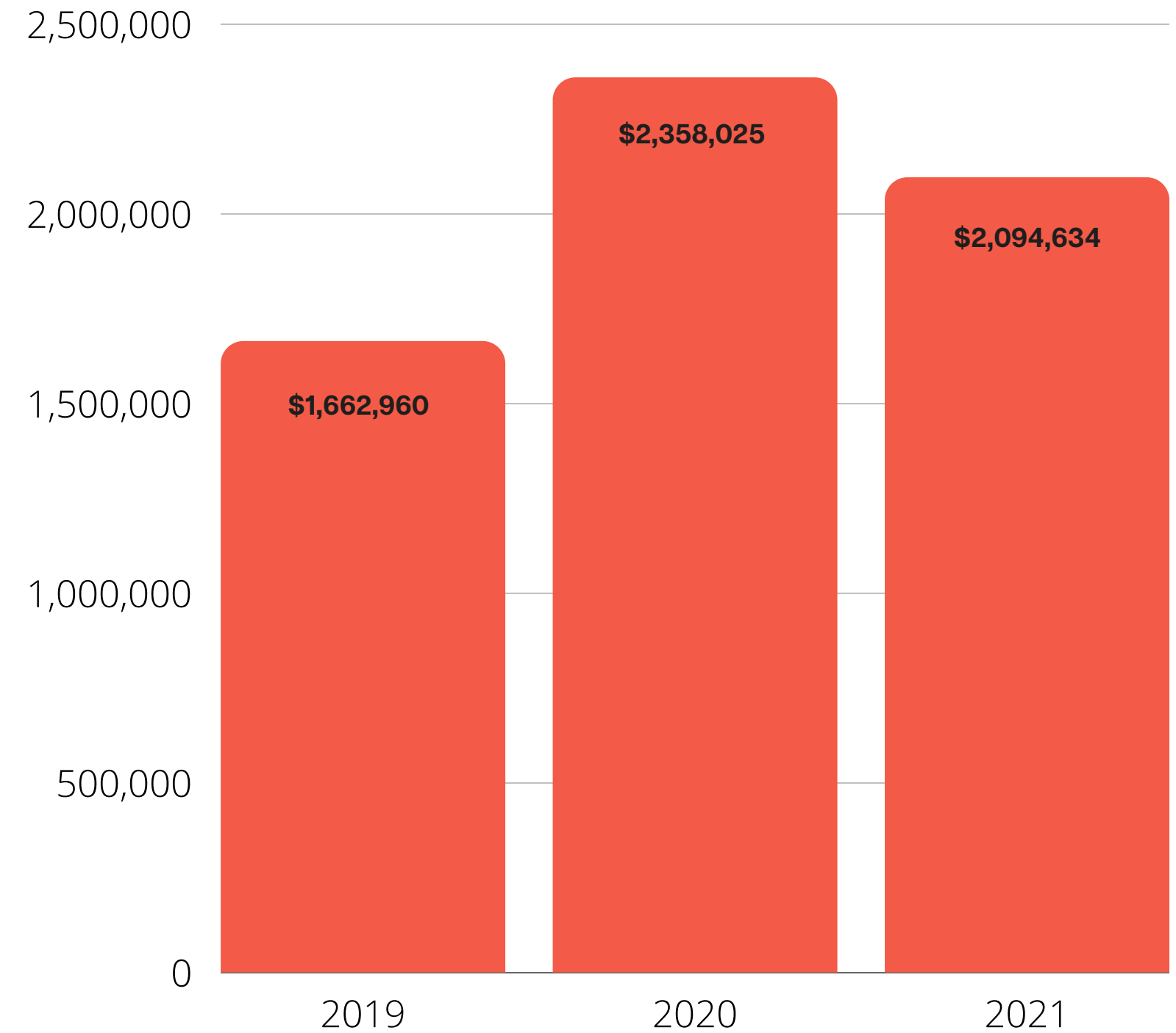
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2020 OMB No. 1545-0074 IRS Use Or

separately (MFS) Head of household (HOH) use. If you checked the HOH or QW box, enter t

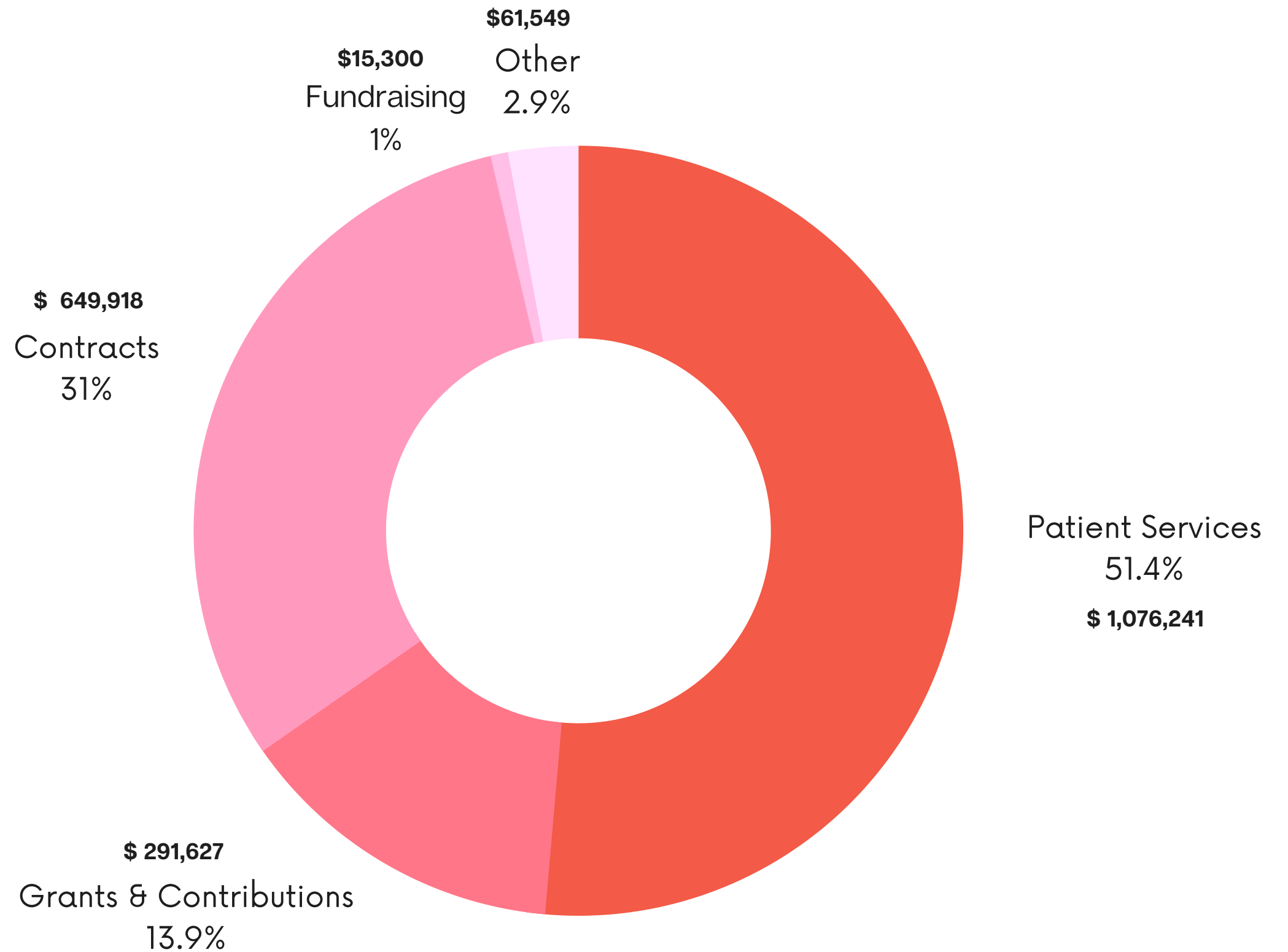
Structures of worthiness - The belief that someone must do or be something in order to receive goods or services.

Year Over Year Revenue & Support



Male-perpetrated violence - Physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse at the hands of men, usually against women and girls.

2021 Revenue by Category



Support - Give assistance to, advocate alongside, helping folx navigate barriers, holding space for.



Part 4:

Supporter Recognition

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Radical Feminism - A belief system that says patriarchy is dividing societal rights, privileges, and power primarily along the lines of sex and, as a result, oppressing women and privileging men.
Abolition/ist - Working towards ending systems of prostitution. One who works toward ending systems of prostitution.
.....



SURVIVOR LEADER

Alex Powell (Zie/Zhir)

Alex is the Coordinator of Youth Services, and zhir journey with LIFT began in 2018 as an intern while attending Clark University. Alex joined the team full time as A Youth Mentor and Outreach and Advocacy Specialist and has since been promoted to Coordinator of Youth Services. Alex is a dedicated and compassionate advocate who supports our most vulnerable youth in the Greater Worcester Region. Alex continues to support youth in countless ways, including providing training for youth providers and law enforcement. Alex found creative solutions to stay connected to vulnerable youth throughout the pandemic. Alex stands by exploited youth and is a trusted individual who helps our youth build skills and strengthen their voices so they can advocate for their own needs, goals, and dreams.



MA Vacatur Law - Laws that recognize that trafficking victims are not responsible for criminal activity in which they have been forced to engage.



ALLY LEADER

Angie Martinez (She/Her)

Angie is Co-program Director at Jana's Place and leads with incredible energy and compassion. Angie brings such joy to all she works with and around. Angie is an ally in every sense of the word and stands by Survivors through some of the most challenging times of their lives. Angie has led the team at Jana's Place through incredibly difficult times with limited staff during the second wave of the pandemic, encouraging learning and listening to those most impacted. We are endlessly grateful for all she does to support Survivors both in Jana's Place and our community.



Joy - A feeling of true happiness, freedom, and hope.



EXCELLENT PARTNER

YWCA of Central Massachusetts

Many agencies and organizations claim to support prostituted people in our community but, in fact, do not create meaningful access and find reasons to turn prostituted people away from their programs. Survivors often cannot gain access to programming due to the stigmas faced- or progrmas simply acknowledge that prostituted people are too difficult to deal with and they decline us access. The YWCA took a stand that our community needs to ensure that Survivors have access to safe housing during difficult transition periods through the creation of the THRVE Program. THRVE pairs 5 safe rooms at the YWCA with a Survivor Case Manager from LIFT who is there to support our participants in meaningful ways and with unconditional positive regard. When serving Survivors, we often interact with multiple marginalized populations. One of our goals is to provide cross-trainings in the hopes that LIFT participants will utilize the full scope of services offered by the YWCA, while YWCA participants will learn about the programs that LIFT provides to our community. The YWCA THRVE Program is helping LIFT create sustainable offramps out of prostitution and we couldn't be more excited about the work we will continue to do together.



Radical Acceptance - *Accepting ourselves, the people around us, the world around us, and the situations we are in exactly as they are.*



FUNDER SPOTLIGHT

Saint Francis Community Healthcare, Inc.

St. Francis Community Healthcare, Inc. has been a longtime supporter of LIFT, even back when all we had to offer Survivors was a couple of nights of peace and safety at our drop-in center, which was space rented in a church. Every time we have reached out to St. Francis, they have honored our intentions and needs without hesitation or question. When we had to change course with the funds we received, they quickly approved that too. During the first wave of the pandemic when funds were incredibly difficult for LIFT to access, St. Francis once again prioritized the needs of Survivors in our community, as they approved our request over our ask. Those funds allowed us to build out a Business Resource Center at Jana’s Place. This year, LIFT requested funds to support our Outpatient Mental and Behavioral Health Clinic and, once again, St Francis provided us the funds to meet the critical needs of Survivors in LIFT’s Continuum. Thank you St. Francis Healthcare, Inc., for your commitment to LIFT. You always exceed our expectations.



Radical Acceptance - Accepting ourselves, the people around us, the world around us, and the situations we are in exactly as they are.



LIFETIME ALLY

Senator Harriette Chandler (She/Her)

LIFT would not be here without the advocacy work and support of Senator Harriette Chandler. She listened to the needs of Survivors- people she understood were her constituents- who had never had access to legislators and truly had no platform to be heard in this community. Senator Chandler created pathways to funding and resources which allowed LIFT to open Jana's Place, the first residential program for Survivors of the sex trade with co-occurring Substance Use Disorder and mental health disorders. She is a reliable listener and advocate, and distinguishes herself as a lead example to other legislators on how to create meaningful changes and ensure Survivors are included where decisions are being made. Senator Chandler was the lead Senate sponsor for our historic bill, "An Act to Strengthen Justice and Support for Sex Trade Survivors." She responds to every call we make to her office. We cannot think of anyone more deserving of the Lifetime Ally Award, for the legacy she has left has already, and will continue to improve, the lives of prostituted people in our community for decades to come.



Tokenism - Using survivors in a symbolic effort to show the inclusion of those with lived experience. Using survivors to speak at events, but not valuing their input and leadership.



Thank you to our 2021 Annual Breakfast Sponsors!



Nora Driscoll, Attorney
Jenna and Alec Zadek
Hector Mendez Matos, BMM Transport

Thank you to our other individual contributors who donated through Facebook and other social payment platforms from which we do not receive a comprehensive list of names.

Other Major Supporters of 2021:

- City of Worcester for supporting HARBOR
- Massachusetts Bureau of Substance & Addiction Services for supporting Jana's Place and HARBOR
- NoVo Foundation for supporting LIFT's general operations and administrative systems
- Reliant Foundation for providing \$15,000 in emergency funding and \$15,000 toward uplifting health care at HARBOR
- St. Francis Community Health Care, Inc. for generously supporting the Outpatient Clinic for Mental & Behavioral Health with seed funding
- Major League Baseball - Major League Baseball Players Association for generously supporting the Outpatient Clinic for Mental & Behavioral Health with seed funding



Our Amazing 2021 Supporters

\$25,000 & Above

**Sisters of Saint Joseph
Major League Baseball
Reliant Foundation, Inc.
The New York Community Trust**

Thank you to our other individual contributors who donated through Facebook and other social payment platforms from which we do not receive a comprehensive list of names.

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Saint Francis Community Health Care, Inc. The Jenson Project Fletcher Foundation
First Congregational Church

\$5,000 - \$9,999

The Health Foundation Worcester County District Attorney's Office Micah and Iris Chase Charitable Fund
The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation, Inc.

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Cornerstone Bank Greater Worcester Community Foundation Henry Barry and Joan Vercollone Barry Fund
Massachusetts Bankers Association Charitable Redemption Rock Brewery Corporation Mirick O'Connell
Foundation
Susan Haffty Mercury Wire
United Way of Central Massachusetts Nancy Brosnihan
Baystate Savings Bank Premeer Real Estate, Inc.
Digital Federal Credit Union

\$500 - \$999

Currie Management Consultants, Inc. Open Sky Community Services Saint Mary's Church
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo PC Patricia Murphy Susan Riley

\$1 - \$499

John Street Baptist Church Jeancarlo Garcia GFWC Northboro JWC
First Congregational Church Matt McLaughlin Jane Peterson
Marianne Felice Virginia Navickas Michaela Fournier
Amy Skrzek Ali Wise Raposo Morgan Belanger
Hector Mendez Amy Marshall Marilyn Sachs
Elizabeth J. Cross Giving Fund Anne McCrann Tracy Scannell-Keating
Committee to elect Michael O. Moore Casey Starr Barbara Staples
Janet L. Comeau Francyne Lefemine Patricia McCann
Sara Roemer-Fieberg



Looking Ahead

In 2022, LIFT will continue to expand access to effective programs and opportunities for Survivors of the sex trade. We will continue to build spaces that center the needs of Survivors, eliminate barriers to accessing services, continue to educate our community on the harm of prostitution, and ensure that those buying access to the bodies of our most marginalized are held accountable.

LIFT will open our Outpatient Clinic for Mental & Behavioral Health (OC) and build capacity for trauma-informed clinicians to show up and build trusting relationships with Survivors. The OC will engage competently trained clinicians with the drive to offer compassion alongside Survivor Advocates to holistically support Survivors. The clinical/advocate team will stand by and assist Survivors as they endure the emotional and stressful process of unpacking the lifetime of trauma they experienced at the hands of those buying access to their bodies, while continuing to uphold our zero-barrier mentality of care.

We will continue to build bridges and partnerships in 2022. This summer we will begin BRAVE (Building Real Access to Viable Employment), our newest partnership with Latin American Health Alliance (LAHA). BRAVE will go beyond standard job skill training by offering hands-on “co-op” experiences at an auto body and mechanic garage and a food truck. BRAVE is part of our comprehensive suite of programs that build exit ramps out of the life for Survivors and pathways of sustained recovery for our community’s most vulnerable women and men with substance use disorders. BRAVE is about agency and new beginnings. We will continue to elevate the voices of Survivors and make space for Survivors where decisions are being made. Survivors have been told for too long to be small, do what they are told, and to stay invisible in our community by people who cause serious harm. LIFT will continue to stand in our values system, challenge patriarchal systems, and call out pseudo allies. LIFT will continue raising our collective voice and challenge paradigms and systems that exclude Survivors.

LIFT’s ethos transcends the notion of “empowerment”- we want so much more than that. We want and deserve liberation from systems of prostitution and will not stop until all Survivors have access to quality of life, pursuit of happiness, and the connection of loving community.

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