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LABORATORY TO COMBAT
HUMAN TRAFFICKING



2025

GRATITUDE REPORT

*Rooted in values.
Sustained by community.*



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A NOTE FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS

2025 was not an easy year. Federal funding cuts and shifting priorities created real uncertainty for organizations across the country doing critical work. **As national resources shifted, the need for strong, locally grounded responses became more urgent.** Many of the communities we work alongside, including immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people experiencing housing instability, faced new pressures that made reaching out for help harder and riskier. We saw all of this up close.

And yet the work held. It held because our values gave us a clear compass to carry the mission forward. Our research stayed grounded in lived experience and survivor leadership. Our training kept reaching the sectors and communities that needed it most through an interdisciplinary response. Our Hotline stayed open every hour of every day. And the next generation of human rights leaders stayed engaged in this work long after their program terms ended.

And most of all, the work held because of you. Individual giving reached its highest level in LCHT's history. Volunteer advocates showed up reliably, answering calls from survivors and communities across Colorado. Statewide partners deepened relationships when it might have been simpler to step back. **This Gratitude Report is a small reflection of the impact your support made possible in 2025.** We are not done, and we are glad you are with us!



Amanda Finger
Executive Director, Co-Founder



Dr. Annjanette Alejano-Steele
Research Director, Co-Founder



“

LCHT's unique ability to engage with and draw together leaders, organizations, and communities to listen and identify thoughtful approaches to end human trafficking endures. In these times of great uncertainty, I think the role LCHT serves is even more vital.

STEVE HANNON

Former LCHT Board Member

TWO DECADES OF IMPACT



85,000+

People trained on human trafficking



209

Leadership Development Program alumni



6,000+

Calls and texts to the Hotline



275

Vetted resource partners in the statewide directory



4

Major research projects to drive action and inform policy change

20

YEARS OF IMPACT



Founding LCHT Board Member
Tara Tull speaks at LCHT's
20th Anniversary Celebration

THE DIFFERENCE 20 YEARS CAN MAKE

In 2025 we marked our 20th anniversary as an organization.

When we started in 2005, Colorado had few coordinated resources, limited public awareness, and no statewide system for connecting survivors to help. **We believed that a data-informed community could change that.** And it truly has.

Today we are grateful for every survivor leader, advocate, donor, volunteer, and partner who has been part of this work. **You have made Colorado a leader in the movement to end sex and labor exploitation.**



COLORADO HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE



CALL: 866-455-5075

TEXT: 720-999-9724



Colorado's 24/7 Human Trafficking Hotline exists so that no one facing exploitation has to navigate it alone. Staffed around the clock by trained volunteer advocates and connected to a statewide directory of more than 275 vetted service providers, the Hotline connects survivors, service providers, and community members across Colorado with resources, referrals, and support.

In 2025, as programs across the national human trafficking response were paused or disrupted, this Hotline never closed. It held strong because volunteers kept showing up, partners stayed connected, and supporters like you gave generously to ensure survivors in Colorado could access help and resources whenever they reached out.

2025 AT A GLANCE:



951

CALLS AND
TEXTS RECEIVED



26

NEW STATEWIDE
RESOURCES ADDED



349

REFERRALS MADE



52

ACTIVE VOLUNTEER
ADVOCATES

“

In 2025, many programs supporting victim services in Colorado were cut or faced funding gaps. But our Hotline's services and availability remained unchanged. We kept tabs on shifting resources and helped survivors make sense of changing systems.

KATLYN PRYSHLAK

Hotline and Advocacy Manager





TRAINING AND EDUCATION

LCHT's Training and Education Program helps professionals and community members across Colorado to recognize exploitation and respond with care. Through in-person and virtual trainings, we reach key sectors and communities across the state from hospitals and courtrooms to schools, shelters, and victim service organizations.

In 2025, that commitment deepened. **LCHT expanded its reach into the healthcare sector, training 2,751 health professionals.** We also increased outreach to Spanish-speaking communities through know-your-rights events, and published a child welfare toolkit in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Human Services. Because of supporters like you, more people across Colorado are equipped to prevent human trafficking and connect survivors to help.



220

TOTAL TRAININGS



8,877

TOTAL PEOPLE TRAINED



39

COLORADO
COUNTIES REACHED



“

In 100% of youth presentations, we have had multiple disclosures of violence, some of which has been trafficking. We are giving these young people language to put to their lived experiences. We hope this will help them on their healing journey.

KARA NAPOLITANO

Education and Partnerships Director

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

LCHT's Leadership Development Program builds the next generation of human rights leaders through 150+ hours of hands-on training, mentorship, and practical experience. In April 2025, LCHT hired its first dedicated Leadership Development Program Manager, Rose Inglis, deepening the organization's commitment to developing the advocates and practitioners who will carry this work forward.

In 2025, Rose led two cohorts of emerging human rights leaders through the program. Every Fall intern stayed connected to LCHT beyond the formal program. Four went on to train as Volunteer Hotline Advocates, and others conducted research, led partner outreach, and co-

facilitated trainings alongside staff. **Because of supporters like you, this program does not just teach people about human trafficking.** It builds up human rights leadership that effects positive social change for years to come.



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Leadership begins with a decision to show up. It is about how you engage with your community, how you respond to injustice, and how you use your voice, skills, and perspective to contribute to change.

ROSE INGLIS

Leadership Development
Program Manager



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- LCHT HIRED ITS **FIRST DEDICATED LEADERSHIP PROGRAM MANAGER**
- 11 INTERNS **COMPLETED THE PROGRAM**
- **\$3,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 2025 PARTICIPANTS**

RESEARCH AND ACTION



LCHT's Research and Action program is built on a simple conviction: the communities closest to exploitation are best positioned to understand it and shape the response. Through community-based participatory research and The Colorado Project, your support keeps this work survivor-informed and connected to the people it exists to serve.

In 2025, root cause community conversations brought together practitioners and advocates to examine how housing instability, immigration barriers, and child welfare involvement create vulnerability to exploitation. Collaborating with the **Human-Centered Action Research to Disrupt Trafficking (HART) Center**, a national group of researchers, informed the design of LCHT's new **Community Affirming Research Experts (CARE) Team** — seven individuals with lived experience who will guide Colorado Project 2028. Because of supporters like you, what communities name as urgent becomes research, and what research finds powers local action.



➤ COMPLETED **FIVE ROOT CAUSE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

➤ **LAUNCHED THE CARE TEAM:** 7 INDIVIDUALS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE GUIDING OUR RESEARCH

➤ **WORKED WITH THE HART CENTER:** A NATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING EXPERTS

➤ DELIVERED TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF **HB25-1168 (SURVIVOR-PROTECTED HOUSING)**

“

We are determining what big questions we want answered about the patterns, shifts, and emerging risks in human trafficking during this time of change. We want to design a project that reflects what communities are actually living through right now.

MARLA SUTHERLAND
Research Manager



THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

Human trafficking is too complex for any single organization to address alone. That is why collaboration is not just a strategy at LCHT. It is embedded in who we are and reflected in our name. Our network today includes more than 275 vetted resource partners spanning state agencies, law enforcement, healthcare systems, child welfare organizations, schools, and community-based providers across Colorado.

Together, we build a response no single organization could sustain on its own. **The partners featured here reflect what that commitment looks like in practice.**

“

At LCHT, we've always believed in a locally led response. With enough support and collaboration from our incredible statewide partners, Colorado can continue to model leadership in the fight against exploitation.

CRAIG NASON

*Development and
Communications Director*

FEATURED TASK FORCE



BRINGING OUR VALLEY HOPE (BV HOPE)

bvhope.org

Founded in 2014, Bringing our Valley Hope (BV HOPE) has spent more than a decade building a community-rooted response to human trafficking in central Colorado, including years of co-hosting trainings with LCHT. Working in Chaffee County and neighboring communities, BV HOPE helps students, educators, first responders, and the medical community understand how to recognize and respond to exploitation close to home.

Their conviction is simple: prevention belongs in local relationships, not just statewide systems, and rural communities deserve the same depth of response as urban ones.

In 2026, BV HOPE is deepening that commitment with the launch of **Elizabeth Anne's Haven**, a new home for survivors in the heart of the community they serve. BV HOPE represents the power of locally-led solutions to end exploitation and create a safer Colorado for everyone.

FEATURED PARTNERS



Loving Beyond Understanding lovingbeyondunderstanding.org

Based in Grand Junction, Loving Beyond Understanding provides LGBTQ+ affirming mental health counseling, peer support, training, and community programming across one of Colorado's most geographically isolated regions. **They bring both lived experience and professional expertise to the work of reducing vulnerability and building belonging.** In 2025, they served as a community partner in LCHT's root cause research on the intersections of homophobia, transphobia, and exploitation risk for LGBTQ+ individuals.

Sungate Kids sungatekids.org

Since 1996, Sungate Kids has provided forensic interviews, therapy, and prevention education for children who have experienced abuse and exploitation in Colorado. **As a member of the Colorado Human Trafficking Council, they bring deep expertise in trauma-informed care for the state's youngest survivors.** In 2025, Executive Director Diana Goldberg contributed to LCHT's root cause research on systems-involved youth, helping shape how our field understands the link between child welfare involvement and trafficking risk.



Denver Health denverhealth.org

Denver Health has been a cornerstone of LCHT's healthcare training work since 2016, when a connection through Colorado's 24/7 Human Trafficking Hotline first brought the two organizations together. **What began as a referral quickly grew into a sustained partnership, with Denver Health's Forensic Nurse Program helping develop LCHT's healthcare training curriculum beginning in 2018.** Since then, LCHT has trained more than 19,000 healthcare professionals across Colorado using this curriculum, with a Denver Health nurse now delivering those trainings directly to providers statewide. That reach grows every year because of the community behind this work.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD

The Spirit of Service Award is presented annually by LCHT to recognize an individual who has made an outstanding volunteer contribution to ending human trafficking in Colorado. Nominated by staff and board members, and selected by leadership, awardees embody a deep commitment to human rights and partnership in our mission.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS:

- **2018** Chris Licause
- **2019** Nhu-Minh Le and Jen Jachimiec
- **2020** Colleen Devlin
- **2021** Brittany Valadez and Devin Pitts-Rogers
- **2022** Madison Goering and Danny Trznadel
- **2023** Cindy Goldman
- **2024** Arnold Hanuman

2025 RECIPIENT: CALEB STEWART

LCHT first connected with Caleb Stewart in 2013, when he was just starting out as a legal advocate with Colorado Legal Services. **More than a decade later, he remains one of our most trusted partners in the statewide response to human trafficking.** As a Senior Staff Attorney at RMIAN, Caleb represents survivors of human trafficking in their immigration cases, co-leads anti-trafficking trainings with LCHT's team, and helps onboard volunteer advocates for Colorado's 24/7 Human Trafficking Hotline. When a survivor faces a complicated situation and we need someone we can trust, he is often the first person we contact. Thank you for your service, Caleb!



Read our full blog feature on Caleb here:



“

Anti-trafficking work matters to me because I want to live in a world where everyone can expect to receive the fair value of their labor and have their innate dignity respected.

CALEB STEWART

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JULIE LASER

Board Chair

Julie Laser brings more than 30 years of clinical social work expertise to her service on LCHT's Board. She served as a professor at the University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work for 21 years, where she created and taught DU's course on human trafficking and then served as a co-principal investigator on The Colorado Project 2023, LCHT's signature statewide research initiative. Her scholarship, clinical practice, and advocacy work have been deeply intertwined with LCHT's mission across her years of board service. As she completes her tenure as Board Chair in 2026, LCHT is grateful for the passion and commitment she brings to Colorado's anti-trafficking movement!



Julie (center) with former LCHT Board colleagues at our 20th anniversary celebration

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Sydney tabling at The Southern Colorado Human Trafficking Task Force's annual Symposium

SYDNEY GENOVESE

Hotline Advocate, LDP Intern

Sydney came to LCHT's Leadership Development Program wanting to understand human trafficking in Colorado more deeply. What drew her was something most internships don't offer: a deliberate focus on building leaders, not just filling roles. Over the course of her extended LDP year, she developed training materials on racial disparities now used in LCHT presentations statewide, led law enforcement outreach to expand the Hotline's tip network across Colorado, and trained as a Volunteer Hotline Advocate. By the end of her time with LCHT, she was co-facilitating anti-trafficking trainings alongside staff. She came to learn. She stayed to lead. Thank you Sydney!



CARRY the work

Our 2025 end-of-year giving campaign had a name with intention behind it: *Carry the Work*. Ending human trafficking is not the work of one organization or one moment. It is carried forward by a community of people who believe this mission matters long term. **Because of your generosity, the *Carry the Work* campaign was the most successful in LCHT's history**, raising nearly \$250,000 and accounting for a quarter of our total support in 2025!



\$249,838

TOTAL SUPPORT RAISED



547

UNIQUE DONORS



194

FIRST TIME DONORS



210

EVENT ATTENDEES



A SPECIAL NIGHT OF GENEROSITY



At the heart of every campaign is our Colorado Gives Day live event, a special night where our community gathers in person around a theme chosen to reflect the work most urgently in front of us. In

2025, that theme was youth prevention. **Over \$75,000 was raised in one day**, and your support is helping more professionals across Colorado receive the training they need to step in, speak up, and connect young people to help before exploitation takes hold.



LIVED EXPERIENCE VIEWPOINT: JOSIE HEYANO



Each year, LCHT invites a leader whose perspective educates and inspires our event guests. On Colorado Gives Day 2025, we were honored to welcome **Josie Heyano** as our featured speaker.

Josie is a Deg Xinag Athabascan woman from Alaska, a clinical social worker, and a nationally recognized leader in anti-trafficking and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) advocacy. She is the founder of Signify Consulting, which blends modern therapy with Indigenous healing practices rooted in land, storytelling, and community.

Josie's powerful lived experience and message to our community of support continue to motivate us!

“

Care is not abstract. It is not transactional, and it is not performative. It is something we practice in how we show up for each other, especially when it is inconvenient, when resources feel scarce, and when the temptation to retreat into individualism is strong.

JOSIE HEYANO



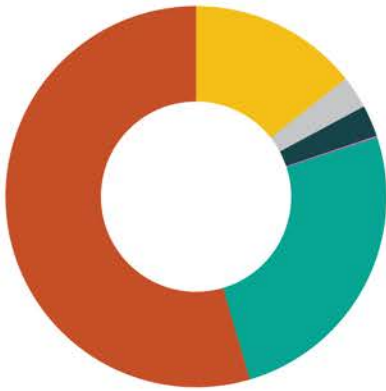
Read Josie's full reflection on exploitation, care, and community.



Josie sharing from her home in Alaska on Colorado Gives Day

2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

SOURCES OF LCHT SUPPORT:



FOUNDATIONS / GRANTS	54.6%
INDIVIDUAL DONORS	25.5%
GOVERNMENT FUNDING	14.4%
BUSINESS / CORPORATE	2.8%
INTEREST INCOME	2.7%
PROGRAM REVENUE	<1%

View our full financials, including 990s and audited financial statements.



2025 was not an easy fundraising environment. But despite federal funding cuts and economic uncertainty, LCHT ended the year with \$1.04 million in total revenue. **Individual giving grew 37% over 2024, reaching its highest level in our history.**

Our financial stability and growth reflects a community of people who keep choosing to invest in this work when it matters most. We are deeply grateful!



\$1.04M

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED



620

UNIQUE DONORS



72

LAB CATALYST
MONTHLY DONORS

THANK YOU 2025 BUSINESS SPONSORS



PHIL LONG



BURNS & MCDONNELL



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THE WORK CONTINUES, BECAUSE OF YOU.

As we share this report in spring 2026, we do so with genuine gratitude for how community support has sustained the mission. In a year when so much felt uncertain, people like you kept showing up for anti-trafficking in Colorado. Interns became leaders. Volunteers answered calls. Partners collaborated. Donors gave generously.

That support means more survivors in Colorado have someone to reach out to. More professionals know what to look for. More new leaders are ready to carry this work forward. And the research that will shape Colorado's response for the years ahead is underway because this community chose to invest in it.

Your commitment to ending human trafficking for good is what keeps this work moving. We are not done, and we are glad you are with us!

With gratitude,
Team LCHT

Thank You.



YOU CAN HELP END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a serious human rights abuse that happens right here in Colorado. Want to make a difference in the fight to end it? Donate and join our community of support today!

Visit combathumantrafficking.org/giving



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HUMAN TRAFFICKING



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