

November 15, 2022

Thomas Adams  
Cincinnati Women's Fund  
President

Dear Mr. Adams

My name is Caroline Evans and I serve as the Executive Director of Freedom Pathways. Our mission is to provide outlets that lead victims of sex trafficking to freedom. We help victims discover their supreme worth, we help victims renew their faith in the goodness of humanity, and we help restore their desire to live a free life. We are asking the Cincinnati Women's Fund for \$5,000 to help fund our Outreach program to reach and provide for women on the streets.

We are passionate about fighting for women caught in sex trafficking and addiction because we believe with every fiber of our beings that every person has a value that cannot be lost or diminished, and that they deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, and love. We have seen that they have the potential to become some of the most resilient, incredible, unstoppable forces for good in this city. In Cincinnati, there are so many women who do not live in that reality and have been forgotten and discarded.

My passion for reaching trafficked women began when I met a woman who was trafficked on a church outreach trip. In 2010, I started going out on the street on Friday nights to meet women who were working as prostitutes in downtown Cincinnati and give them food and clothing out of the trunk of my car. This style of front-line work continues to this day through our Outreach Ministry, as our volunteer teams now drive the streets of downtown Cincinnati and Hamilton, OH to connect with victimized and vulnerable individuals and provide them with basic aid and prayer. In 2013 I applied for 501c3 status, and in 2015 I quit my full-time job and rented a small space on Anderson St. to provide deeper care for our women, which has evolved into our Day Ministry Centers. The Day Ministry moved to West Avenue in 2018 with more space for the women. This center provides a respite for women to receive love and acceptance, and to meet basic human necessities, including hot meals, day-time shelter, medical and counseling services, and other resources. St. Mary's Clinic joined the ministry to provide basic health care and counseling to our visitors. In August 2020, Freedom Farm opened as the first residential space for Freedom Pathways near Harrison, OH. Here women stay up to two years to heal, grow, and learn transformative life skills that will lead them into healthier lives.

The journey for trafficked women to leave their lifestyle and seek healing is generally a very slow, complex, often extremely difficult process. However, we strongly believe that all these women, regardless of their lifestyles or willingness to change, have extreme value and deserve to be loved. We do everything that is in our power to affirm their worth and express our love to them, through physical, emotional, and spiritual means. This all begins with our outreach program, where we work diligently to help meet these needs. We offer food, water, hygiene items, Narcan kits, basic aid, care packages, and clothing. We offer prayer and conversation, we

invite them to our day center, and we even have professionals on our team who can provide counseling to those who desire it. Through our outreach program we have the following goals: individuals will accept a form of basic care or food, individuals accept another form of personal care (prayer, counseling, mental health services, addiction treatment, etc.), individuals accept invitation to day center, and lastly, trust is built and maintained with women on the streets. To measure the success of these goals, we track the number of resources given out, invitations to the day center, etc. in a detailed spreadsheet.

Our ultimate goal for all of these women is for them to get off the streets and put them on a path toward long-lasting, healthy lives. Their engaging with the outreach program is the first step. For us, any engagement—no matter how small—is a victory. It can be incredibly difficult for trafficked women to trust anyone, even for something as small as receiving a water bottle. We hope that as trust is built from our consistent presence, the women will know that we are there because we truly care for them and want the best for them, and that they feel and know that they are loved. Regardless of whether they choose to engage in the journey toward a healthier life, those experiences of true love can never be taken away. For women who have been robbed of all their dignity and have never had anyone love them in a real and genuine way, this is monumental and keeps us fighting.

We kindly ask the Cincinnati Women's fund for \$5,000 that would be used to help cover the physical necessities, as well as the transportation costs (fuel, maintenance, and parking) needed to reach trafficked women on the streets. Thank you so much for your commitment to making a difference in Ohio communities. We appreciate your consideration for our funding request.

Sincerely,

Caroline Evans  
Executive Director

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