



There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.

Nelson Mandela





"Every human being on our beautiful planet holds within them an essence and reflection of divinity, an innocence that deserves to be loved, honored, and protected."

Kim Biddle, Founder, Saving Innocence

When it's all said and done, one of the great highlights of my life will have been my time spent at Saving Innocence. When I made a career change in 2015, I hoped to land in a place where I could utilize all that I'd learned but, far more important, find something that resonated with who I am at my core. As a dad with a daughter, fighting for child victims of sex trafficking is something that I care deeply about, and I can say without hesitation that the work of Saving Innocence has impacted me at the DNA level.

Nelson Mandela said it perfectly when he said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." I am proud to be part of a team that is fighting every day on behalf of children. Our advocates are modern-day heroes who wade into the deepest pain imaginable on a daily basis, helping these children tap into their inner strength and resiliency, find their own path, and walking with them on their journey back to health and wholeness.

As proud as we are of the children we've served and what we've accomplished so far, there is so much more we can, and we will, do. I am excited to expand our SLAY program, which will provide advocate resources and support to our kids after they turn eighteen; continue to build our foster care program so we help our children find loving and supportive families who understand the unique challenges our children face; and build out our training program so that Saving Innocence's impact expands nationally. We've fought hard these past 10 years, and we've impacted over 2,000 children. This fight must not only continue; we must fight stronger than before. We hope you'll join the fight.

To all of our supporters, thank you for entering into this grand effort with us. For those new to Saving Innocence, I welcome you to the fight and invite you to participate in whatever way you can.

Alan Smyth, Executive Director

I am deeply honored to serve on the board of Saving Innocence. My wife and I were forever changed when we learned that children were being trafficked, enslaved, and exploited for sex throughout Los Angeles County and across the U.S. Once we became aware of what was really going on in "our backyard," we could not look away or move on. We had to do something—anything—to help rescue and restore the lives of those among us who are vulnerable.

Though we wish the need for the work of Saving Innocence did not exist, the heartbreaking reality is that the need for Saving Innocence has only grown since its humble beginnings a decade ago. The need is real and increasing, but we can still do something about it together.

Taking a stand against child sex trafficking is not hard. Whether through donating to Saving Innocence, signing up to become a foster family, helping to throw a small birthday party, or even spreading awareness through social media, any action you take can make a difference.

As hard as it is for each of us to become aware of this evil in our midst, know that it is so much harder for the children who must endure night after night of exploitation at the hands of their traffickers. Let's stand together to put a stop to this evil and serve the needs of these children. Together, we can make a massive difference and restore the lives that they deserve.

Joshua Ungerecht, Chairman of the Board CEO and Chief Investment Officer of JRW Investments Managing Partner of Exchange Right Real Estate and Telos Capital

5

about us

At Saving Innocence our mission is to restore worth to every human by confronting exploitation.

We serve, empower, and advocate for child victims of sex trafficking.

First Responder Protocol

Prior to the services made available by Saving Innocence, children were considered child prostitutes and were often charged as criminals, even though the age of consent to sex is 18 years old. Typically, law enforcement officers identify children between the ages of 9 and 17, and then begin an investigation. Prior to 2014, law enforcement had no options to offer support to these kids, leaving them vulnerable to a cycle of exploitation.

To break this cycle, we are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to our partners in child protection when a sex trafficking victim is identified. Within 90 minutes our team responds to a staging area, conducts an assessment alongside social workers and juvenile probation partners, and begins safety planning and advocating for the child's needs. We ensure children have food and clothing, as well as physical and mental health care.

Case Management

Our specialized advocates and case managers support these children for months and years to come, providing ongoing safety, stabilization, weekly mentorship, basic needs like food and clothing, educational advocacy, career development, testimony and court support, reintegration into communities, transition into independent living, and empowerment services. The Saving Innocence team becomes like a family to these children.

Training and Education

We have been able to consult for and train more than a dozen organizations throughout the U.S. that work specifically with trafficking survivors. Our model has been replicated throughout the state of Texas, and in partnership with Dallas CASA, we developed a specialized Advocacy Training Course with videos and a companion workbook to support anyone working with this population. Our training has been purchased by multiple state and local government agencies as they continue to work to better serve child victims of trafficking.



It's 2 a.m. on a Thursday. LAPD

intervenes in the middle of a sexual encounter between Alexis, a high school freshman, and a John Doe. She is frightened—this is the first time she's experienced a law enforcement intervention, and she's afraid she'll be arrested. And she's right to be concerned. Up until 2016, a minor like Alexis would have been arrested and charged with prostitution.

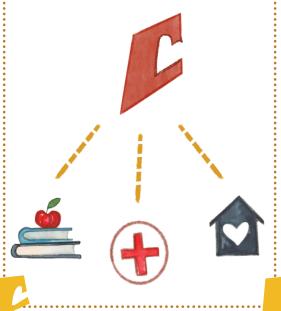
As soon as LAPD understands Alexis is a minor, they call the Child Protection Hotline; the First Responder Protocol is initiated, and the Saving Innocence advocate is notified and responds within 90 minutes. By 3:30 a.m., Diana, an SI advocate, meets Alexis and works with her to understand what's happened and starts to build trust—a difficult task because Alexis. who has grown up not trusting anyone, is hesitant to

open up.

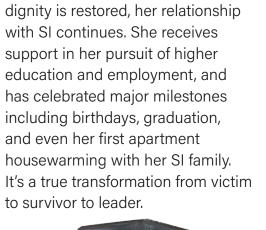
Alexis was brought in wearing little clothing, and right away Diana gives her a "crisis backpack," which includes a change of clothes as well as food and other items to help Alexis feel more comfortable. She's then taken to the local hospital to receive a medical exam. Diana doesn't leave her side this entire



In the meantime, members of the SI team are working to ensure safety and support will be available for Alexis. She will no longer fall into the hands of her trafficker and will have a safe place to stay, but there is still much more needed for Alexis' life to be "normal."



Now that SI has entered Alexis' life, she receives ongoing case management support from SI, attends SI empowerment events, is attending school, and most important, has returned to the childhood that she deserves. Her trafficker will soon face trial, and Alexis has been preparing for her testimony with the SI team.



Even as justice is served and Alexis'



what we do

To illustrate how our First Responder Protocol works, we are sharing it through the lens of a typical child sex trafficking victim. The story is hypothetical, but it's representative of the scenarios SI case managers see, day in and day out, in Los Angeles.

Alexis is a 16-year-old girl from a broken home, and for the past five years she has been in the foster care system. At 12 years old, Alexis and a friend from school were preyed upon by a sex trafficker, who gained their trust, promised them an easy way to make money and a stable place to live. After only a few months. Alexis realized she was stuck in a sex trafficking ring and unable to escape, especially since her traffickers provided her main source of food and shelter.

"I promise you're impacting us even if we don't show it. Thank you, Saving Innocence, for giving me another chance at life."

- Sara, age 16



"Y'all are really out here saving lives. I really appreciate all you and Saving Innocence are doing and did for me!"

- Jasmine, age 17

real stories

Ari

Ari* was trapped in a motel room in South Central Los Angeles. She didn't know where she was, nor did she know the man who had brought her there. She was scared and asking for help. She called her advocate. The advocate asked her several identifying questions regarding her location, while simultaneously calling 911 and our law enforcement partners on her personal cell phone. Ari couldn't tell us where she was, but was able to tell the advocate what she saw out of her window. Law enforcement officers were able to use her phone to ping her location, but by the time they were able to get the specific address, the trafficker had moved her. She was recovered later that day at a nearby mall, where the trafficker was buying her ice cream and new clothes. When she arrived at the police station, she burst into tears when she saw her advocate, a familiar face who had followed through in the middle of the night. We took her in for a medical exam and brought her back to her foster family to sleep safely. It was because of the relationships that existed between the child and her advocate, and between the advocate and law enforcement partners, that we were able to act on the crisis call.

Cindy

Cindy* had a tumultuous childhood, having been adopted as an infant. Her adoptive parents were not able or willing to support some of her challenges as she became a teenager, and sent her to several treatment facilities over the years. Eventually, Cindy ran away and was trafficked in Los Angeles County, though this was not her home. When Cindy was found by law enforcement, her social worker attempted to reunite her with her adoptive parents. When the social worker reached her parents, they responded by stating that they "didn't want her anymore." Someone now had to tell Cindy this heartbreaking news. This is where her advocate came in. We were able to help her understand her new reality and, more important, protect her from the specific words that the family had said. We needed to help her navigate through the realization that she would not be able to return "home." She was just 16 at the time. On this one day, without knowing much about Cindy otherwise, our advocate stood by her through the toughest questions. We are proud to have been there to help Cindy start her journey toward healing.

Jenna

Jenna*, at 14, was in need of medical attention. She did not feel comfortable letting her caregiver know that she needed to see a doctor, so instead she called her advocate and told her what was going on. The advocate knew just who to call at the clinic who was specifically trained in working with victims, and was able to make necessary arrangements to take Jenna to see the doctor late in the evening. Once in the waiting room of the clinic, Jenna was really happy that her advocate was able to support her and was thankful to have someone by her side during stressful moments.

^{*} Names and details changed to protect confidentiality.

a decade of progress

A 2009 headline, "Prostitution Raids Rescue 52 Youth," referred to the kids, as young as 10 years old, as child prostitutes. 2009 was also the year that the FBI listed Los Angeles as one of the top 13 child sex trafficking areas in the nation, and one of the top three in California. This paved the way for Kim Biddle to begin work in the sector.

2010 | In response to the overwhelming need and general misunderstanding of the crimes being committed against children, Kim recognizes, "If not me, then who? And if not now, then when?" This leads to the creation of Saving Innocence.

2012 | SI is the only nonprofit contracted by the Los Angeles Superior Court to be a part of the launch of the first Juvenile Court in the U.S. for child victims of sex trafficking, named the STAR Court, which stands for Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience, SI serves 24 kids.

2014 | SI pilots the Los Angeles County First Responder Protocol, where we respond to calls within 90 minutes, alongside social workers and probation officers. SI serves 80 kids.

2015 | SI continues the First
Responder Protocol, now with
five advocates on a rotating basis
for crisis response and longterm advocacy. The Los Angeles
Regional Human Trafficking Task
Force is launched, and the First
Responder Protocol is expanded
to the Los Angeles Police
Department's 77th and Southeast
Divisions, SI serves 117 kids.

2016 | SI begins Word on the Street groups in Juvenile Hall, facilitated by advocates and survivor advocates. Dream Court, the child welfare version of STAR Court, begins hearing cases, and SI supports the district attorney and clients in two massive trials, one resulting in the trafficker being sentenced to 281 years.

2016 | The First Responder Protocol is rolled out to all Los Angeles Sheriff's Department stations. Senate Bill 1322 passes, meaning that children are no longer arrested for prostitution. SI serves 173 kids.

2017 | SI starts working with the Texas Governor's Office, supporting their efforts to use SI's model throughout Texas. Sixteen of our children graduate high school, and we help 24 testify against their traffickers. SI serves 324 kids.

2018 | The First Responder
Protocol is rolled out to all LAPD
divisions. We train Dallas CASA
supervisors and an advocacy
agency in Arkansas, and consult
with organizations in Hawaii and
Maryland. It's our first year of the
Survivor Leadership Academy for
Youth. We serve 509 kids and have
35 high school graduates.

2019 | We start a new contract with the Department of Children and Family Services, and the intervention curriculum is piloted in Juvenile Hall facilities. We serve 558 kids and have 25 high school graduates.

2020 | SI launches our online advocacy course and our Foster Family Agency. We serve 401 kids.



Every girl, no matter where she lives, deserves the opportunity to develop the promise inside of her.

- Michelle Obama



key initiatives ahead

In addition to the pioneering work that Saving Innocence is already doing and has done for over 10 years, we have determined three key initiatives toward which we will add additional focus and resources.

Foster Family Agency

First and foremost, we have launched our Foster Family Agency. This might be the most important and strategic thing we could do for our kids. We have seen over the years that the single biggest contributor to the vulnerability of our kids is the lack of an intact, healthy, loving, and protective family. It is no surprise that this is also the single biggest obstacle to their swift and complete escape from the life of commercial sexual exploitation.

We are recruiting, training, and supporting foster families who have enough room in their homes and hearts to receive one of the children that Saving Innocence cares for. These families are providing a supportive, loving, protective family willing to invest in the future of our children.

Training

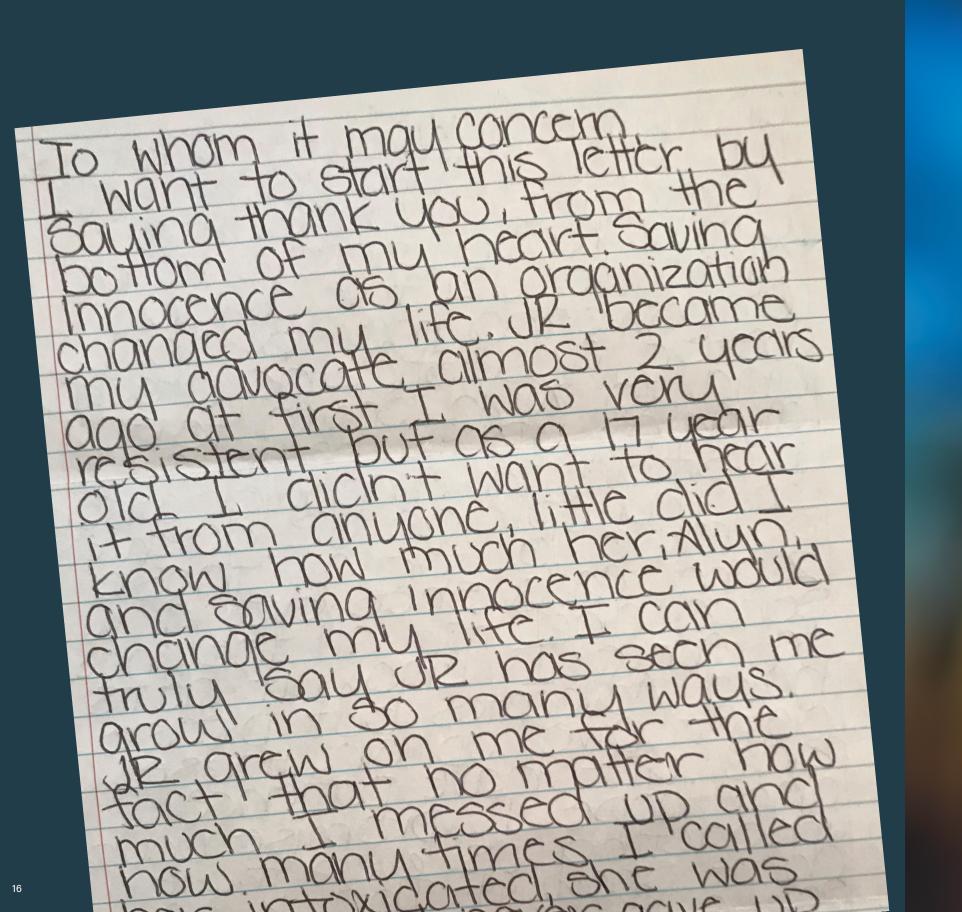
We are taking all that we have learned in doing this work for 10 years, and we are training and consulting with government agencies, law enforcement, other nonprofits in the sector, and any individual desiring to be a better advocate. We have created a robust. survivor-informed e-course that is ready and available to train the world. We are building out our training resources and are available for ongoing consultation.

Survivor Leadership Academy for Youth (SLAY)

SLAY is a 12-week survivor development program that specializes in professional and character development as it pertains to leadership. SLAY offers workshops on topics such as teamwork and collaboration, self-care, conflict resolution and management, financial literacy, interviewing, and resume and cover letter writing, among many others.

Our amazing kids have missed out on so much in their compromised childhood. While they may "transition out" of the system, they may not be ready to stand on their own two feet. Our SLAY program focuses on our "Transitional Age Youth" kids who are typically between the ages of 18 and 22.

For more information, please visit savinginnocence.org.

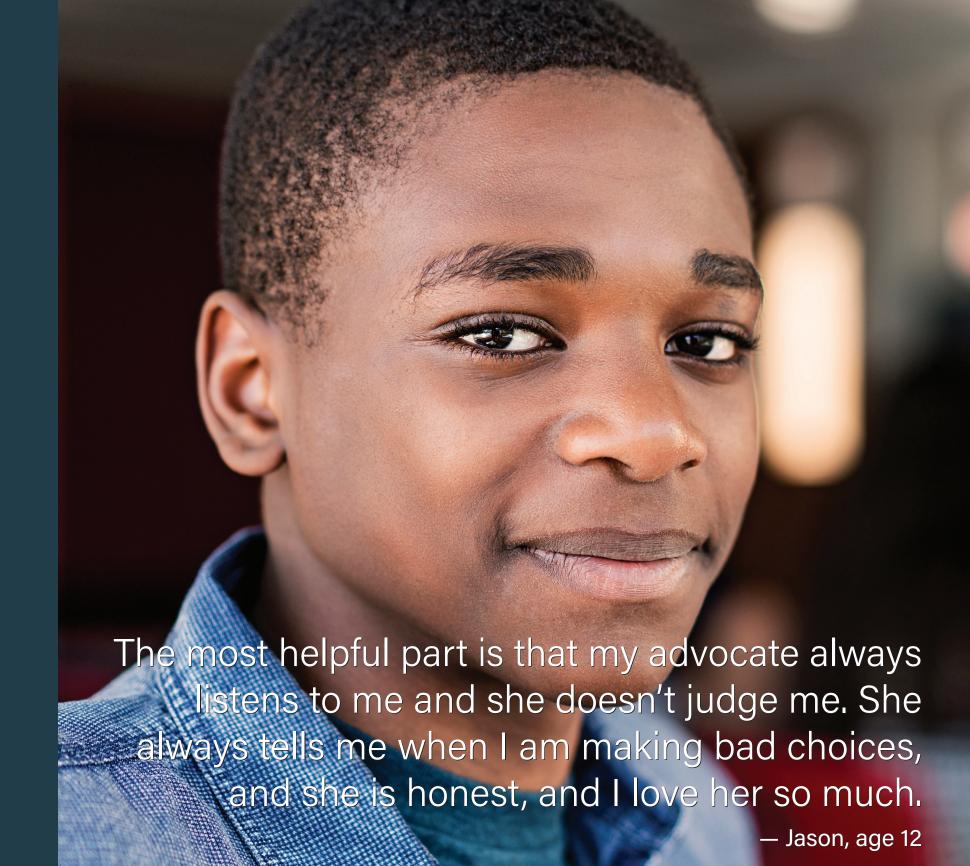




Our vision is to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children and restore the cultural values of innocence and human worth.

Since inception, we have fielded more than 700 first responder emergency calls, we have accepted more than 1,100 children into case management, we have served more than 1,800 children, and we have trained more than 10,000 frontline professionals.

During the same time, 50 traffickers have been prosecuted with testimony from children.



message from kim

A decade ago, I started Saving Innocence with a determination to help the most vulnerable children in our communities be seen and honored. In 2010, state laws were not yet in place to enable law enforcement to arrest traffickers or protect survivors. Yet I was graced to befriend incredible allies in law enforcement and the probation department who trusted me to assist them in the field. They called me into 3 a.m. law enforcement operations, snuck me through the back of juvenile halls, and allowed me to sit with children in courtrooms as they testified against their exploiters before "human trafficking" was a state-level term.

Racism and a burdened and broken foster system, combined with a high demand for "sex entertainment," have enabled hundreds of thousands of children to be coerced and sold into sex trafficking every year within the U.S. As our eyes opened, we began to see youth throughout Southern California falling through gaps or arrested for "prostitution" when they were victims of trafficking and rape, leaving them without access to advocacy, aftercare, or basic needs like shelter and safety.

Over the years, we've worked together with leaders in law enforcement, probation, and child welfare to create a framework to change this. Together we launched the First Responder Protocol, where our team responds to law enforcement calls 24/7; the STAR Court and the Dream Court, where we are advocates for child victims; and the Word on the Street groups that we lead in juvenile halls. We also train NGOs and government officials nationwide on how to replicate these models to care for the vulnerable in their communities.

From our early work, Saving Innocence steadily grew, adapting and responding to the needs of these children and doing all that we could to search for, fight to protect, and unconditionally love them. I am so proud of our incredible staff, who help children escape their captors and begin the journey of healing their emotional, psychological, and physical wounds.

The youth we work with have the most impossible circumstances stacked against them, yet are the bravest, most resilient humans I have ever met. By resisting becoming the hate that set out to destroy them, they rise up to become beacons of hope and love in our society, and in their own lives. They are our future leaders, and they are the heroes we have the honor to know, love, and learn from every day.

I am so grateful for everyone who has stood in the gap for these children. Whether you have given an hour or a dollar, or prayed for miracles along the way, I offer a sincere and heartfelt thank you. I'm in awe of our community's solidarity with those overcoming abuse. For the sake of our own hearts, and the vulnerable who surround us, may we continue to remember that we belong to one another.

Peace and every good,

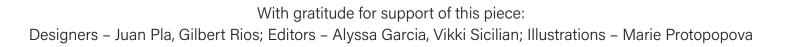
1

Kim Biddle, MSW Founder, Saving Innocence



Family is not defined by our genes, it is built and maintained through love.

Unknown







For more information,
contact us at
info@savinginnocence.org
or visit
savinginnocence.org