

Victory Stories 2013-2014

One victory happened as a result of CVJC trainings at a local church. “Anna” attended and paid careful attention, and months later when she interacted with an employee, red flags went up. ‘Claudia’ was extremely uncomfortable in their phone conversation, she was uncharacteristically short in her responses, and gave Anna reason for concern. She asked the right questions, such as whether she was being held against her will, and if she wanted help. Claudia responded with a certain “yes”, and with help from local police Anna got Claudia to a safe location. Anna contacted CVJC, and our network kicked in. Community partners helped provide emergency shelter and support. Anna listened to Claudia, prayed with her, and explained her rights and options. The CVJC leadership team was able to secure a program and longer term housing as an option for Claudia. Although she declined this option, and returned to a dangerous situation, we know that an oppressive act against her was prevented that day! Claudia knows who to call when she is ready to take the next steps into a new life. The CVJC network was able to provide the support and resources needed for Claudia in her time of crisis, and Anna was able to share her faith with Claudia and many others.

Another story: in November 2013 when Fresno City Council passed the Massage Parlor Ordinances. These were the first ordinances to mention human trafficking in Fresno County. A CVJC partner began working on passing these ordinances in 2011, when we learned the number of massage parlors had jumped drastically from about 35 to 209 in just two years and were acting as fronts for human trafficking. CVJC worked closely with our Councilmen Clint Olivier, the Police Department and community members to raise awareness and support for these ordinances. They passed unanimously! The immediate result of this is that the detective who issued permits for massage parlors is now able to send applications to the National Massage Therapy Council to be certified. Her time has been freed up to focus on investigating illegal activity and coming along side victims. Each business is now required to bring their facility up to code, and to ensure employees are certified massage therapists.