



## Dear Friends and Partners,



God continues to amaze us, and we have seen many signs of hope this past six months! A highlight for me (Jessica) was speaking with Melissa Gomez at EOC’s 6th Annual Human Trafficking Conference. We shared with apx 300 people about the value the faith community brings to the fight against human trafficking. The church has such a crucial role to play! I was floored at how many people, including survivors, gave credit to God that day. *Thank you for taking a stand with us for FREEDOM!*

*“As a survivor it was the love of Jesus Christ displayed through the church, then embraced by the community that really helped me to get out, and then stay out . . . Divided we are weak and ineffective, but together we are a force to be reckoned with!”*

~Debra Ehrlich, Breaking the Chains/CVJC Advisory Council

### Partnering with Faith Communities

At least **16 churches** participated in Freedom Sunday so far this year, empowering their people to *Pray, Give and Act* in response to human trafficking! As prayers were offered on behalf of those oppressed in our region, over **5500**

**people** heard about what it means to **join Jesus in proclaiming freedom** for the captives.

The ripple effect of Freedom Sunday is powerful! In the past 3 months alone...

- 3 churches held additional trainings, providing opportunity for learning and involvement
- One church took on a special project and provided 36 backpacks for CVJC to give to victims and survivors in crisis
- At least 2 survivors were identified because of what was shared at local churches
- One survivor is connecting regularly with CVJC, and we have set her up with a mentor as she continues to heal
- This same survivor has already become an advocate, referring a young woman to us who is currently being trafficked

### Prevention Work in Juvenile Hall (Juvenile Justice Campus/JJC)

We created a cozy atmosphere in a JJC classroom setting, and 9 incarcerated girls gathered around to sit at the feet of 3 survivors of trafficking who shared their stories—both their struggles and successes. One survivor shared a statement that set the stage for the evening: **“This is the first time I’ve**

**been to a jail facility without being in handcuffs.”** When the girls entered the first day of our My Life My Choice program (a prevention curriculum on trafficking of minors), some came with an attitude, others were uncertain or shy. By the end of the first session, the ice was broken and at the end of week 6, the group was transformed! The girls had been listened to, empowered, and in response they took ownership of the group. They laughed together, ate together and shared their hearts. We were told the class was the buzz in the halls, with other girls wondering when they could have the same opportunity.

Each young woman left the program with valuable community resources needed to help keep her safe, and info on who she can turn to for support. The hope is that these girls will also go on to share with family and friends, whom we know need the resources just as desperately. JJC staff have asked us to do the program as often as we can, but it takes a dedicated team, prayer, and funds to get the message out. **Will YOU help make it happen?! [cvjusticecoalition.com/donate](http://cvjusticecoalition.com/donate)**

### EACH ONE COUNTS!

Presentations/Trainings: 21

Individuals Educated: 959

Community Prayer Events: 8

Cumulative Juvenile Justice Attendance: 103

Advocates/Victims/Survivors Resourced: 20

\*Contact us for details on how numbers are calculated\*