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## **Sex trafficking survivor services increase by 42 percent in 2018 for The Family Partnership PRIDE program**

*“On the Streets” outreach increases to victims/survivors in high risk areas of Minneapolis  
in partnership with the Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center*

**MINNEAPOLIS** – Last year the Super Bowl brought heightened awareness of sex trafficking in the Twin Cities but the societal issues that keep people from leaving “the life” remain. The Family Partnership Promoting Recovery, Independence, Dignity and Equality (PRIDE) program increased outreach and service delivery to survivors of sex trafficking by 42 percent in 2018.

“For more than 40 years we have provided a non-judgmental place for people to come and talk about their experiences and the trauma that led them to sexual exploitation and trafficking,” said Lorena Pinto, Director of the PRIDE program. “We offer survivors comprehensive services and a consistent place for support until they are ready and able to leave the life behind.”

**What makes it difficult to escape sexual exploitation?** A common thread is low income. In 2018, 98 percent of people PRIDE served are living in poverty: 56 percent are living at 100 percent of poverty or below, and 42 percent are living at 200 percent of poverty or below as defined by [2019 Federal Guidelines](#). So helping survivors find affordable housing, or a job, might also mean support in sealing or expunging a criminal record. PRIDE also now offers evidence-based economic mobility services such as [Mobility Mentoring](#), a breakthrough strategy to help women escape intergenerational poverty.

**Increase in “On the Streets” outreach** -- Every week, staff from the PRIDE program and the [Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center \(MIWRC\)](#) walk the streets to meet victims/survivors of trafficking where they are. “We have an outreach bag of items they may need from gloves to hygiene products,” said Pinto. “We offer to connect them to whatever services they may need from shelter to Rule 25 chemical health assessment, or group therapy.”

In 2018, these teams provided outreach to 317 individuals. Of those, 91 percent of survivors were engaged on the streets of the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods of Minneapolis, and nine percent on Minneapolis’ Northside. From the first quarter to third quarter last year, the outreach contacts grew by 208 percent. The program is continuing in 2019. It was started in August of 2017 and is funded by the City of Minneapolis Health Department.

**Underserved populations** – Of those served by the “On the Streets” outreach program with MIWRC, 68 percent were American Indian followed by 22 percent African American. For the PRIDE program overall,

36 percent of people served were African American, 26 percent were Caucasian, 16 percent American Indian and 15 percent multiracial.

**More public awareness** – Overall, PRIDE staff increased educational trainings on recognizing signs of sex trafficking and what to do if someone is sexually exploited, by 522 percent in 2018 (859 people reached vs. 138 in 2017). The PRIDE staff regularly engages with residents and business owners in the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods to educate about sex trafficking and our outreach activity.

**Serving survivors from age 10 to 56 years-old** – PRIDE provides services across the lifespan. In 2018, 61 per cent of those served were from age 25 to age 65. That is an important service distinction, since the [Minnesota Safe Harbor legislation](#) covers services for those age 24 and younger (with no criminal charges for those 18 and under) – leaving a significant gap for those age 25 and older.

“It is important that we serve all ages to help break the intergenerational cycle of sexual exploitation,” says Pinto. “But trafficking is not just going to go away until we address the larger barriers that families with low incomes face, from accessible and affordable housing, to resources for education and economic mobility.”

**Downloadable Infographics** – PRIDE People Served in 2018, and “On the Streets” outreach with MIWRC are available for download [here](#).

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**About the PRIDE Program:** For 41 years, the PRIDE (Promoting Recovery, Independence, Dignity and Equality) program has provided support services to sexually exploited individuals and their families. It was the first program in Minnesota to deliver services to sex trafficking survivors and PRIDE is nationally recognized for its advocacy against commercial sexual exploitation. **24-Hour Crisis Line** – 612-728-2062 or 888-774-3399.

PRIDE is a program of **The Family Partnership**, an innovative and highly impactful nonprofit in the Twin Cities area, founded in 1878. Last year, more than 17,000 children and families benefitted from the specialized services and programs that The Family Partnership offered to clear the path for family success. [www.thefamilypartnership.org](http://www.thefamilypartnership.org)