



Narrative of Programs and Services in Partnership with Ventura County Probation



September 1, 2025

FOREVER FOUND

We exist to support the prevention, rescue, and restoration of child trafficking victims.

Our headquarters in Ventura County serves as the primary resource for commercially sexually exploited youth. We also operate a rescue home in India with 90+ children and manage child sponsorship programs for three existing rescue homes in Texas, Thailand, and Ethiopia. Our focus areas are direct services to at-risk youth and community training and education.

Top Goals Related to Human Trafficking:

1. Develop infrastructure to accommodate youth referrals and educational demands.
2. Enhance communication and education through our website, social media, and online platforms.
3. Expand our mentor program beyond Ventura County with Forever Found Chapters.
4. Expand holistic therapies, including adding a licensed therapist.

In September 2014, we expanded to address human trafficking locally in Ventura County, California. Forever Found became the first agency in Ventura County to begin a human trafficking program, remaining the only agency specifically dedicated to fighting human trafficking.

The Local Program Department primarily serves youth ages 12-25 and focuses on:

1. Trafficking Prevention
2. Victim Rescue
3. Survivor Restoration
4. Training and Awareness
5. Community Collaboration

Connie Shelton
Executive Vice President
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SERVICES	COST	MAX COST PER YOUTH
Intake (One-Time)	\$232	\$232 Per Hour
Equine Assisted Learning Lessons	\$155	\$155 Per 1-Hour Session
‘Word on the Street’ Day Training	\$800	\$1,600 for a Maximum of Two Forever Found Trainings Per Year
CSEC Mentoring Case Management	\$90	\$90 Per Hour
Becoming Me Mentorship Curriculum	\$155	\$155 Per Hour
Holistic Therapy Programs (Art, Equine, Fitness, Self-Care, Therapy)	\$155	\$155 Per Hour



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Intake Needs Assessment

This is a great opportunity for connection and spend time with the youth. Generally, visits last around an hour and they could end sooner, depending on the youth. We want to respect the youth's ability to make choices, therefore allow the youth the ability to determine the visitation length or decline the visitation entirely.

Basic Information

1. Name
2. Person Number
3. Begins with describing Forever Found and our role in the youth's process

Youth's Understanding of the Process

1. What sounded familiar to you, or does it sound like anything any one you know has gone through?
2. Why do you think you have been asked to meet with us?

Basic Provision

1. How many times a day is food available for you?
2. Under what circumstances do you go to bed really hungry?
3. Do the clothes/ shoes that you own keep you dry and warm?

Identification

1. Do you have a current form of identification?
2. Do you have a social security card?
3. Do you have access to your birth certificate?

Medical

1. When is the last time you went to a doctor?
2. When is the last time you went to a dentist?
3. Do you feel like you have any medical needs that need to be addressed?

Education

1. Describe your experience with school up to this point?
2. When school is good - what makes it good?
3. When school is bad - what makes it bad?

Getting to Know You

1. Describe three things that are really important to you.
2. What are two things you are really good at doing?
3. What do you like to do?
4. What do you want me to know about you?

Goals

1. Short goals to reach for this week
2. Goal to start working on that can be reached within 2 weeks
3. Longer term goals that this process can help start

Case Managers often time provides the youth with a book to read, like, Runaway Girl, and the database is updated with notes and next steps pertaining to: **Education and Information, Safety Plan and Resources, Social and Emotional Support, Health and Wellness, and Faith/Purpose of Life.**

HOLISTIC THERAPIES

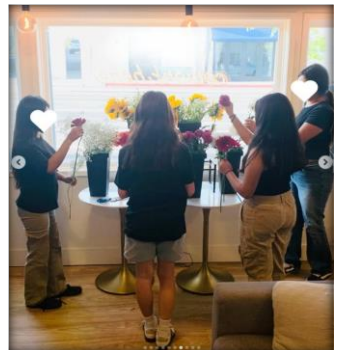
Recognizing the profound impact of trauma on each youth's mental, emotional, and physical well-being, we offer a range of therapeutic services aimed at addressing the unique challenges faced by survivors of trafficking and exploitation.

We recognize that traditional talk therapy may not be sufficient for all individuals. Therefore, we provide access to specialized therapeutic modalities that take place at 'Drop-in' Center Events & Equine Therapy Ranches. These creative and experiential therapies allow the youth to express themselves and process their trauma in non-traditional ways, promoting healing and self-discovery. Holistic Therapies include but are not limited to:

- **Equine Therapy**
- **Art Therapies**
- **Physical Fitness & Self Defense**
- **Mindful Movement**
- **Creative Discussion Groups**

Complexities of trauma require alternative therapies as a way for trauma survivors to express their numbed and hidden emotions when they are unable to verbalize them.

We want each youth to feel loved and cared for as part of the journey to recovery, restoration and healing from abuse and trafficking. We desire for them to be a part of a new, healthy community of friends, so they break away from the dysfunctional and damaging relationships that have caused them harm. We see emotional breakthrough and healing for the youth as they gather for special group events and spend purposeful time with their mentors. They feel loved when we can provide food, crafts, and special therapies to help support their new life.





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Holistic Therapies

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Holistic Therapies

Art serves as a Teacher - reminding us to practice patience and gentleness with ourselves, to trust the process, to ask for help when "stuck", and that beautiful things can come out of big messes.





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Holistic Therapies

EQUINE THERAPY

"I love equine sessions so much. Learning about each horse's mannerisms and learning about how intuitive they are is so fascinating. Being around them is so exciting, and it brings such a calming effect, taking care of them, brushing them, and petting them. Sometimes I even get a little love back from them, and they will put their head on me. I'm so grateful to Forever Found for connecting me to this equine assisted learning program."

Equine Therapy can be profoundly beneficial for youth who have experienced sexual and emotional, or trafficking.

1. Emotional Healing and Trust Building

Horses are nonjudgmental and sensitive to human emotions, which makes them ideal companions for trauma survivors. Working with horses helps youth:

- Rebuild trust in relationships.
- Feel safe and accepted.
- Develop empathy and emotional awareness.

2. Empowerment and Confidence

Caring for and interacting with a large, powerful animal can be empowering. It helps youth:

- Regain a sense of control.
- Build self-esteem.
- Learn responsibility and leadership.

3. Regulation of Emotions and Behavior

Equine therapy encourages mindfulness and emotional regulation. Youth learn to:

- Recognize and manage triggers.
- Practice patience and calmness.
- Develop coping strategies in a supportive environment.

4. Physical and Psychological Benefits

The physical activity involved in grooming, riding, and caring for horses can:

- Reduce anxiety and depression.
- Improve motor skills and coordination.
- Provide a healthy outlet for stress and trauma.

5. Therapeutic Relationship and Support

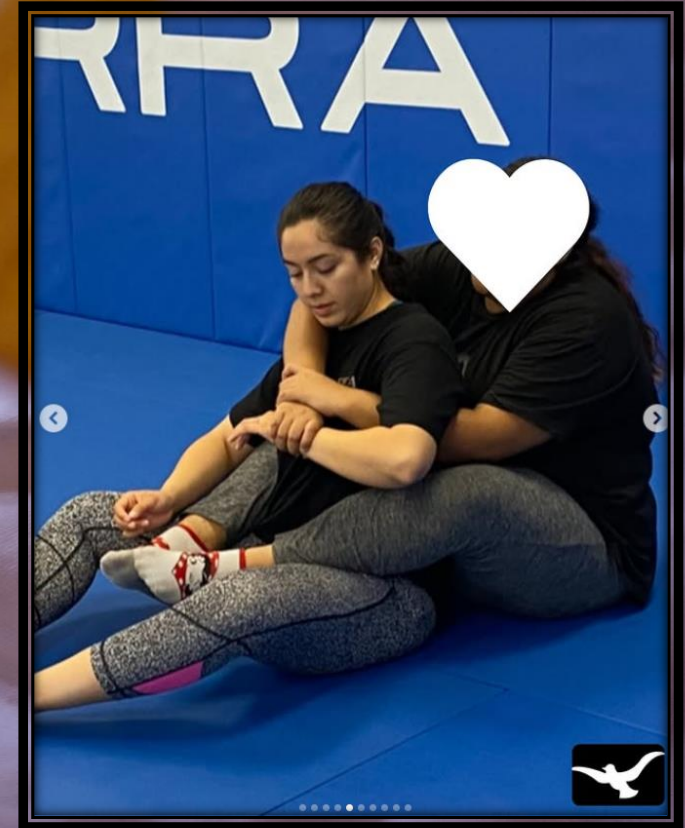
Sessions are often guided by licensed therapists who integrate traditional therapy techniques with horse interaction, creating a holistic healing experience.



The response from the youth was incredible...
"I didn't know if I could do it! I did it! We did it! I'm so proud of myself. When can we go again?!"
Another mentor shared that their mentee left with *"a spark of restored confidence"*.

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Holistic Therapies

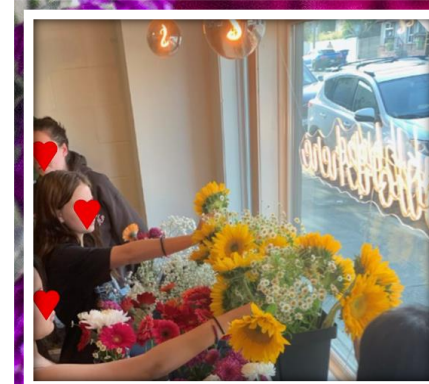


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Holistic Therapies

What a fun way to celebrate the end of the school year and the start of summer 🌞 with youth and their mentors! The Panda Express buffet was a hit, followed by rotating stations where youth learned how to make homemade ice cream & waffle cones 🍦🍌 and created their own unique flower bouquets 🌸.

The time and space felt light, bright, and safe ✨. Reflecting on our time together, we are reminded that often, deep healing occurs through simple acts.



Drop-In Center Event



We believe that giving youth a say in what activities they participate in helps promote healthy decision-making.

All services provided by Forever Found are 100% voluntary for the youth in our program.

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CSEC Mentoring | Case Management

Forever Found has reevaluated its performance measures and has thoroughly trained its staff on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT), provided by the Westcoast Children's Clinic. By utilizing this tool, we aim to reduce vulnerabilities, with markers measured by case managers every six months in the following areas:

- **Housing and Care Giving** | Youth experience housing or caregiving instability for any reason.
- **Physical Health and Appearance** | Youth experience notable changes in health and appearance.
- **Environment and Exposure** | Youth's environment or activities place them at risk of exploitation.
- **Relationships and Personal Belongings** | Youth relationships and belongings are not consistent with their age or circumstances, suggesting possible recruitment by an exploiter.
- **Signs of Current Trauma** | Youth show signs of trauma exposure.
- **Coercion** | Youth is being controlled or coerced by another person.
- **Exploitation** | Youth exchanges sex for money or material goods, food, or shelter.

Becoming Me

Quest #1 - Chapter 1
THIS IS ME

FOREVER FOUND Mentorship Curriculum

The Becoming Me curriculum is a trauma-informed intervention curriculum designed for youth and young adults impacted by sexual abuse and/or commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). The curriculum supports their healing and helps them establish a strong sense of identity.

Table of Contents

1

This Is Me!

We'll talk all about **YOU** in this chapter! Your strengths, your wants, needs, and what makes you **YOU**. Figuring out who you are is a journey and we're here for it.

2

What I Always Wanted

Here's where we'll go over what your dreams are, and what they were before "the Lie". You'll start to define what **LOVE** and **BEAUTY** is in this chapter.

Tips for the Journey



Watch this video to listen to some tips from your big sisters or turn to page 33 to read the video transcript if you don't have access to a phone.

This is **YOUR** journey so write down what you really **THINK** and **FEEL** - you won't be judged for it.

Be **PROUD** of yourself and what you are wanting to accomplish with your life.

Write down any **QUESTIONS** or **COMMENTS** that you have at the end of each workbook.

If you feel uncomfortable with any of the info in the workbook, let a **TRUSTED** adult know.

It's All About You

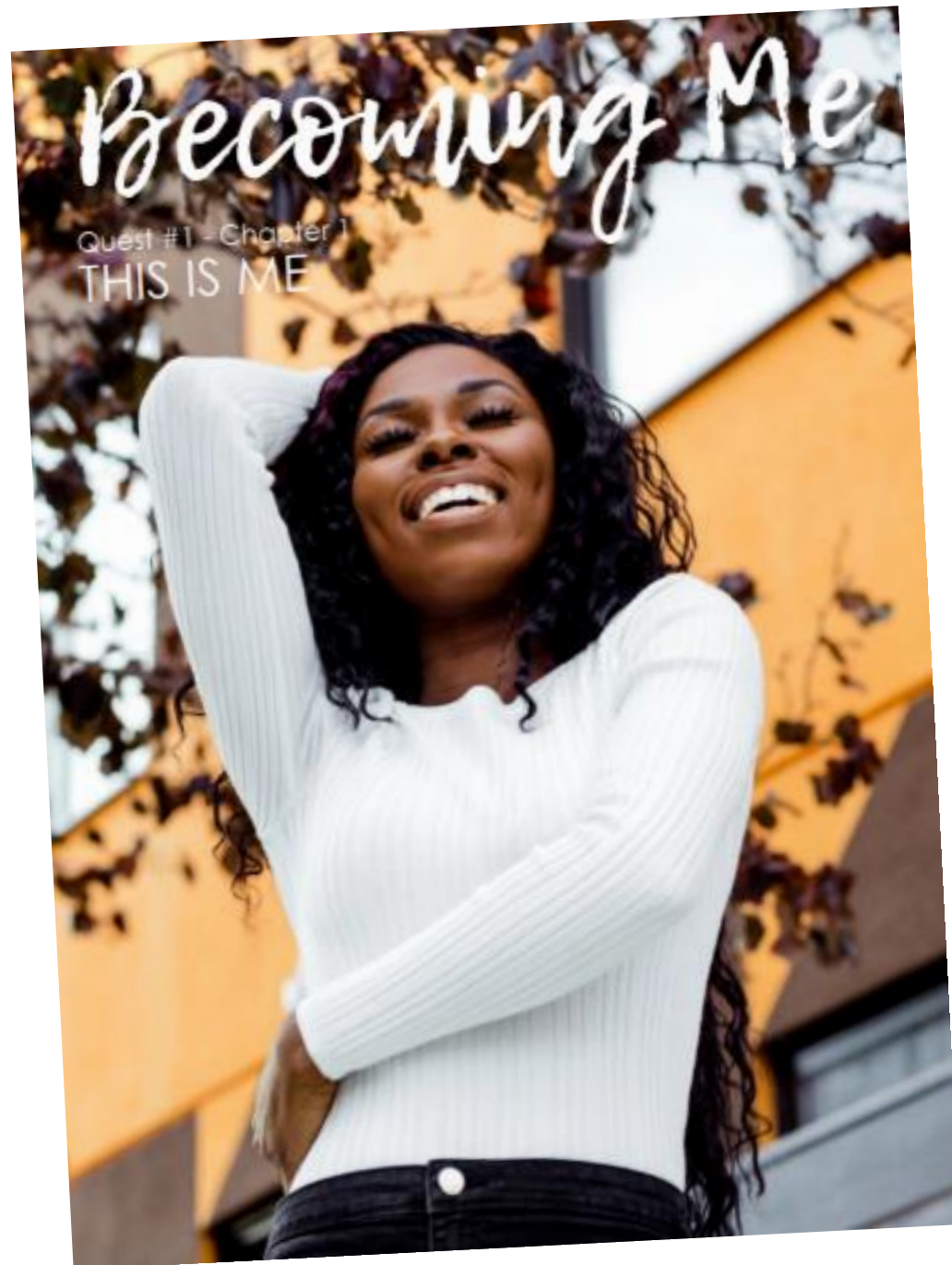


If you could describe your life in a song which song would it be and why? _____

Which movie would it be and why? _____

My favorite color is _____
My favorite food is _____
My least favorite food is _____
I like _____ about me
My favorite holiday is _____
I dream about _____
I'm really good at _____
I look up to _____ and _____
_____ as role models
I wish I could _____
I'm proud of _____

Mentorship Program



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Mentorship Curriculum

Key Elements of the "Becoming Me" Curriculum:

- **Trauma-informed:** Recognizes and addresses the trauma experienced by CSE survivors.
- **Gender-specific:** Tailored to the needs and experiences of youth and young adults who have been commercially sexually exploited.
- **Focus on Identity:** Helps youth explore and strengthen their sense of self.
- **Empowerment:** Aims to empower youth to take control of their lives and work towards healing and recovery.
- **Survivor Voices:** Incorporates testimonies from survivor sisters to inspire and empower other youth.
- **Various Methods:** Utilizes journaling, activities, and discussions to facilitate healing and self-discovery.

Content Covered in the Curriculum:

- **Safety Planning:** Strategies for staying safe and avoiding risky situations.
- **Building a Support System:** Connecting with resources and creating a strong network of support.
- **Understanding CSEC:** Provides information about commercial sexual exploitation and its impact.
- **Healthy Relationships:** Learning about healthy relationship dynamics and boundaries.
- **Re-establishing Relationship with Self:** Working on self-esteem, self-compassion, and self-care.
- **Empowerment and Leadership Development:** Fostering a sense of agency and developing leadership skills.
- **Strategies:** For exiting and staying out of the commercial sex industry.
- **Practical Guidance:** Support for navigating the transition out of the commercial sex industry.

Mentorship Program



WORD ON THE STREET

1-Day Conference Version

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS

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Word on the Street Training

This curriculum is designed specifically for facilitation in a 1-day 5-hour conference format. It is adapted from the 6-week ***Word on the Street: Educating and Empowering Young Women and Girls***.

Authors

The authors included Nicole Klasey, Michelle Guymon (Los Angeles Probation Department), Nola Brantley (Nola Brantley SPEAKS!), and Jessica Midkiff.

Contributors

Contributors to the curriculum included: Joan Pera (Los Angeles County Probation Department), Terrika Woolfolk (Los Angeles Probation Department), Eric Ball (Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services), Tonya Octave (Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services), Kim Biddle (Saving Innocence), Kristina Fitz (Saving Innocence), Allison Newcombe (Alliance for Children's Rights), Wendy Mielke (Crittenton Services for Children and Families), Brianna Wheat (Crittenton Services for Children and Families), Michelle Garza-Rodriguez (David and Margaret Youth and Family Services), Albert Chin (Maryvale), Gina Peck-Sobolewski (Maryvale), Krystal Moreno (Maryvale), Jordan Sharon-Masyln, and Kate Walker (National Center for Youth Law).

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Purpose

The purpose of this prevention curriculum is to educate, equip, and empower participants, and provide them with tools and opportunities for discussion to prevent them from unknowingly becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation. There is currently a gap in educating youth on the dangers of commercial sexual exploitation, and without this type of education many youth are becoming victims. Youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation commonly experience extreme physical and emotional trauma. Once victimized, it is difficult for youth to escape the exploitive relationship as these children often form trauma bonds with their exploiters, similar to domestic violence victims.

The commercial sexual exploitation of children is an issue plaguing the entire country, disproportionately impacting youth living in poverty, those involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, minorities, and youth who identify as LGBTQ. Many youth in these systems have either experienced sexual exploitation themselves or know other youth in the system who have experienced it. For youth in poor communities across the County of Los Angeles, commercial sexual exploitation has often become a viable option for survival. Many youth are lured into the commercial sex industry in their attempts to survive and then become trapped enduring various forms of abuse. Many youth associated with the system are missing for weeks, months, or even years while they are being trafficked across the city, county, state, and nation through the commercial sex industry. Traffickers target these youth because they are seen as "throw away" kids that parents, caregivers, and agencies have forgotten about or ignored.

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The majority of identified commercially sexually exploited youth have experienced a continuum of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and commercial sexual exploitation. The exception is usually with youth who have been victims of *guerrilla pimps*. *Guerrilla pimps* do not develop a pre-exploitative relationship with their victims, instead they kidnap, rape, beat, and exploit youth. Given the fact that many victims of commercial sexual exploitation travel this continuum of abuse, this prevention curriculum will also address sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

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Word on the Street Training



Each workshop includes:

- o An overview of the workshop
- o A list of material and multimedia needed for the workshop
- o Learning objectives
- o Ice breaker
- o Sub-topics and talking points
- o Instructions for activities

Time	Event
9:30 - 10:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast
10:00 - 10:20	Welcome
10:20 - 11:20	It Is NOT a Game
11:20 - 12:00	Lunch/Large Group Activity #1
12:00 -1:00	Promises...Promises
1:00 - 1:30	Break/Large Group Activity #2
1:30 - 2:30	Love is Blind
2:30 - 3:00	Closing



*A Special Thank You for
Your Partnership*



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