

ARIZONA ANTI-TRAFFICKING NETWORK

# 2022 IMPACT REPORT

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[www.aatn.org](http://www.aatn.org)

2022 was an incredibly successful year for Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network! AATN grew both in size and capacity to create an Arizona where no one is bought, sold, or exploited. We are very grateful for the people and organizations that took the time to learn more about our work and become engaged in the fight against human trafficking in Arizona's communities.



## CEASE (Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation)

During 2022, AATN hired Michelle Rucker as the Program Director of CEASE. Michelle is a great addition to AATN, and we were lucky to engage her after she left the Arizona Attorney General's Office where she had worked with anti-trafficking education and community outreach and assisted with trainings for AATN's SAFE Action Project since 2019.

The City of Scottsdale was the first city in Arizona to receive the designation of being a CEASE City in 2022. The leadership of Scottsdale was instrumental in bringing together more than 1,600 employees from across city offices and departments to receive training on how to recognize situations of human trafficking. These training sessions were taught in conjunction with the Scottsdale Police Department's Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) unit and AATN staff. Since these initial trainings began, employees across Scottsdale's workforce have identified multiple human trafficking incidents. Beginning in January 2023, the cities of Tempe and Flagstaff have already committed to becoming "CEASE Designated." Several other cities have also expressed interest and will be following suit soon after. The City of Scottsdale has also committed to re-certifying their CEASE designation in 2023 and will begin their recertification training during the first quarter of 2023.

AATN and CEASE are very eager to build upon 2022's successes and continue the growth of CEASE Designated Cities where all are actively fighting to stop trafficking in their communities and neighborhoods. If you and your city are interested in becoming CEASE Designated, please reach out to Michelle at [michelle@aatn.org](mailto:michelle@aatn.org) for further information.



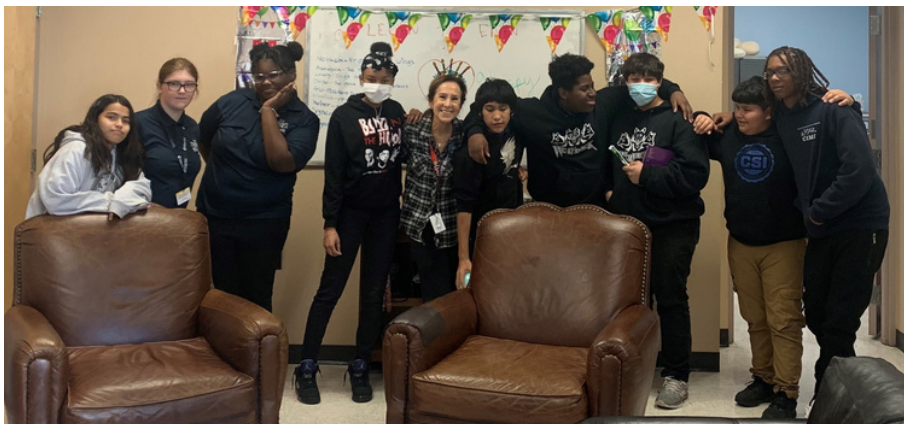
## CSI (Community Schools Initiative)

AATN's CSI after school program had an amazing impact on the lives of our participating youth in 2022. The youth who are engaged in CSI are likely the community's most at-risk youth who attend 7th and 8th grades at Children First Leadership Academy. Through the caring and mentorship of Program Directors Marilyn Seymann and Shannon Tiffany, our youth met adults and professionals from the community and were exposed to presentations that included internet safety, healthy relationships, and personal boundaries.

During the 2022 fall semester, CSI brought in an ASU Intern who provided art lessons. Phoenix Unified School District came in and talked with the youth to help prepare them for continuing their education in high school. Chef Jim taught basic cooking skills which the youth were able to use at home, and they each got their food handler's card so that they could participate in CSI's "Cookies for Change" program to make products for special bake sales for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The funds they earned allowed the youth to go on special field trips.

In addition to the above mentioned individuals, CSI and AATN would like to thank the following individuals who donated their time and talents during the first semester of 2022: Isaac Orona from St. Mary's Food Bank; Ken Snyder, teaching dental options and hygiene; Red Light Rebellion focused on alerting youth to the signs of human trafficking; U of A Nursing School, teaching the dangers of drugs and alcohol; Tammy Rivera from the City of Phoenix and Michelle Rucker, teaching on healthy relationships; the Girl Scouts; and Jacob Fornstom from the Arizona Attorney General's Office, teaching about internet safety.

AATN would also like to express a huge thanks and a big hug to Marilyn Seymann for her years of dedicated work to support the amazing children of the CSI after school program. Marilyn is a Co-Founder of AATN, and founder and current Program Director of CSI. Marilyn will be stepping down as Program Director later in 2023 and Shannon Tiffany will be taking over her responsibilities. AATN is very fortunate to be keeping Marilyn as the AATN Vice President. If you would like to assist in mentoring or in donating to the CSI program, please contact Shannon Tiffany at [Shannon@aatn.org](mailto:Shannon@aatn.org).





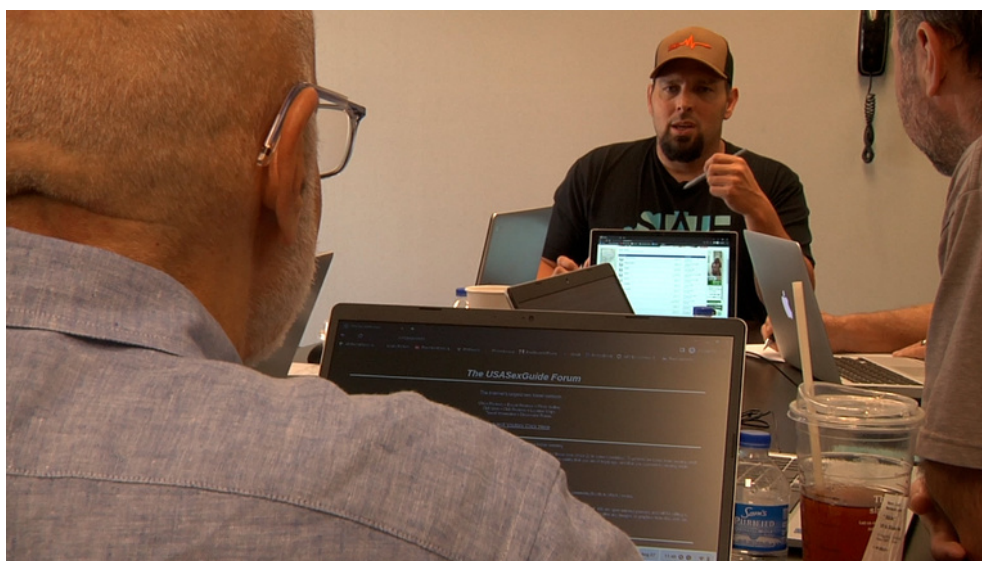
## Just Men Arizona

AATN's Just.Men.Arizona program had an amazing year working to educate buyers about the harms of commercial sex across Arizona – and even engaged a group in North Carolina!

Just.Men.Arizona is led by Program Director Nick Lembo. Nick and his teams of volunteers conducted 993 interactions with buyers, attempting to educate them about the cultural failures and exploitation involved in purchasing commercial sex.

Just.Men.Arizona is currently crewed by 12 individuals and together they amassed 303 hours, educating would-be buyers about human trafficking and sexual exploitation during 2022. They were also recognized and asked to participate in several national webinars and a national podcast to further educate about the evils of human trafficking and how honest and frank conversations between men can help educate buyers and dispel the myth that it is a “victimless crime.”

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or to learn more about how you can help educate and curb the demand for paid sex, reach out to Nick Lembo at [nick@aatn.org](mailto:nick@aatn.org).



## TRUST (Training and Resources United to Stop Trafficking)

AATN's TRUST Program, led by Program Director Stacey Sutherland, had an extremely busy and successful year providing education, awareness, outreach, and resources to fight human trafficking around the entire state in 2022. Stacey trained 2,698 individuals – and at no cost to those she trained -- in 2022 from 43 different organizations and various other public trainings. She was also invited as a featured speaker at 5+ major conferences!

TRUST also hosted multiple large-scale trainings and presentations which included such disciplines as law enforcement, fire/medical first responders, crisis/mental health services, victim service providers, educators, youth and the general public.

In addition to the many meetings attended, TRUST also supported 10+ public awareness events, 14 outreach events, and 15 law enforcement undercover operations.

In 2022, 53 law enforcement officers from across Arizona were sponsored to advanced, cutting-edge human trafficking training. We sponsored these attendees to conferences in Clearwater, Florida, Dallas, and Fort Worth, Texas.

In June, Stacey had the honor of being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Chief Walther of the Scottsdale Police Department for her time, hard work and dedication to the Scottsdale Police Department. Chief Walther stated, “We are proud to announce that with Stacey's help and diligence, we are now the first city to be CEASE (Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation) certified in Arizona!”

If you are interested in training, resources or more information on how you can help to combat human trafficking in Arizona, please reach out to Stacey at [stacey@aatn.org](mailto:stacey@aatn.org).



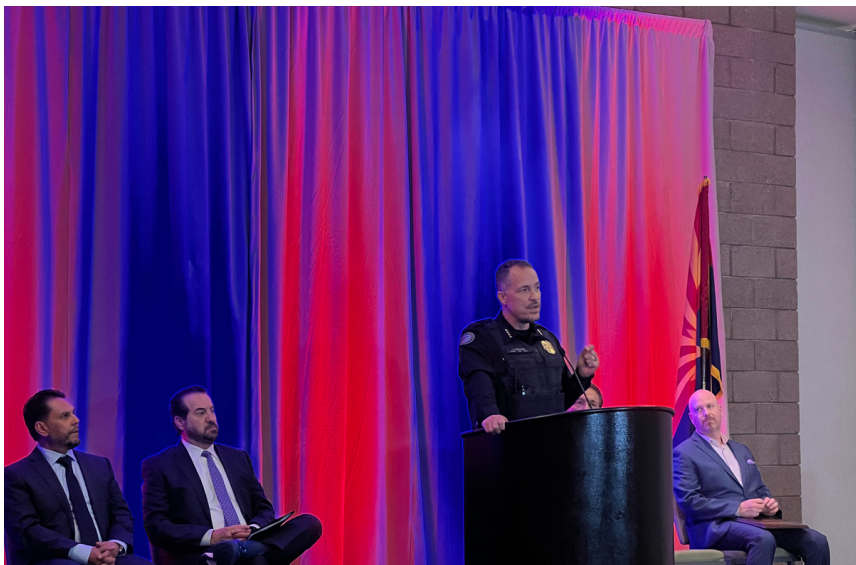
## **SAFE Action Project (Safeguarding All From Exploitation)**


2022 was an outstanding year for the SAFE Action Project. SAFE is focused on training organizations in the travel and tourism industry where instances of human trafficking and sexual exploitation may be taking place unbeknown to the property or company. In 2022, SAFE successfully trained over 3,100 individuals from 126 different organizations including hotels, casinos, chambers of commerce and destination marketing groups. It is gratifying to see the number of organizations that took a proactive stance against human trafficking in 2022. From August to December, thirteen individual organizations completed their SAFE Certification. This was no simple feat! In fact, several of the organizations trained almost 500 employees each to reach their 75% associate training requirement to become SAFE Certified.

It should be noted that the majority of recovered victims of human trafficking in Arizona have indicated that they were trafficked in a hotel during their victimization. It is very promising to see the proactive efforts by hotels across the state to join the fight against trafficking.

Capping off the year, Michelle Rucker and Karen Cahn presented a workshop on the SAFE Action Project at the annual Shared Hope national JuST Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. It was standing room only during the presentation and numerous organizations from other states sought further information on how they could get a program similar to SAFE started in their communities.

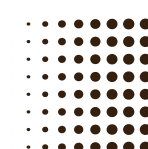
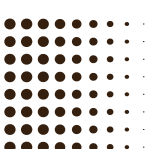
The SAFE Action Project is looking to build its network and program with even more organizations in the travel and hospitality industry in 2023. If you would like to have your organization participate and become SAFE Certified, please contact Nate Boulter at [nate@aatn.org](mailto:nate@aatn.org) for further information.





In 2022, through the generosity of our supporters and partners, AATN created a special scholarship program in memory of Jade Richard. Prior to her untimely passing in the summer of 2022, Jade was a survivor, mentor and advocate who constantly worked to help other survivors exit the life of trafficking and had just completed her bachelor's degree. AATN established the Jade Richard Scholarship in her memory to help other trafficking survivors further their education, whether through a certificate program, tech/trade school, or full degree program.

Finally, an amazing and unique fundraising opportunity was presented to AATN by 12 West Brewing in Mesa. 12 West Brewing created the first ever Stop Trafficking beer to benefit AATN! This special edition beer is a pale ale with citrus notes. 12 West Brewing not only donated all of the creation costs, canning, can label and table-topper designs, and printing costs, but also donated 100% of the proceeds from the canned Stop Trafficking beer to AATN. If you missed the release party, you can still visit 12 West Brewing and order our STOP beer on tap. Stop by and support both AATN and 12 West Brewing!



As stated above, Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network has been impressed and humbled by the many people, partners and organizations that have stepped up to the challenge of creating an Arizona where no one is bought, sold, or exploited. Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network is a non-profit organization, and we could not do this work without the continued support and funding through grants and donations from those who share our desire to end human trafficking in Arizona.

Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network relies on your continued support. All of the training and resources provided by AATN are done so at zero cost to the recipients. If you are able and would like to donate to one of our robust AATN programs, or the Jade Richard Scholarship, please visit [www.aatn.org](http://www.aatn.org). For further information, email Xavier Walker at [xwalker@aatn.org](mailto:xwalker@aatn.org)



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