



**ARIZONA ANTI-TRAFFICKING NETWORK**

# **2023 IMPACT REPORT**

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

2023 was another successful year for the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network (AATN)! During this period, AATN expanded significantly in both size and capability, working to foster an Arizona where no one is bought, sold, or exploited. Our gratitude extends to the individuals and organizations who dedicated their time to our mission, actively participating in the ongoing battle against human trafficking within Arizona's communities. Your commitment is instrumental in our collective efforts, and we appreciate your support.



Pictured above AATN employees and board members after our 2023 Breakfast

Founded in 2016, our non-profit organization carries with it a legacy of impact that stretches back over a decade. While officially established eight years ago, some of our core programs have been actively making a difference in our community for more than a decade. This combination of history and innovation forms the foundation of our commitment to the Arizona community. For more information on our programs please visit our website at [www.aatn.org](http://www.aatn.org).



## CEASE (Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation)

In 2023, over 7,600 municipal employees were trained on Human Trafficking through the CEASE program. Municipal employees often have an advantage to observe potential trafficking. This program is specifically crafted to educate those employees on how to identify, report, and prevent human trafficking crimes. Participating in this training not only enhances the awareness of employees but also serves as an invaluable asset for the broader community, including parents and caregivers.

The following Cities and Towns successfully completed the CEASE training and received their **2023 CEASE designation**:

- The City of Tempe
- Town of Queen Creek
- City of Yuma
- City of Chandler
- Town of Paradise Valley

The City of Scottsdale was the first city in Arizona to renew their CEASE certification for the 2nd year in a row.

CEASE Designations are awarded to cities who train a minimum of 75% of municipal staff and commit to implement CEASE training information into their new-hire process, or through an annual training update.

The City of Flagstaff and the City of Apache Junction are continuing to work on their CEASE training to earn their designation.

CEASE is looking forward to another great year of growth and continued partnerships in 2024. If you and your city/town are interested in the CEASE training, please contact Nate Boulter at [Nate@aatn.org](mailto:Nate@aatn.org).



Pictured left: AATN presenting The Chandler City Council with a plaque honoring their CEASE Certification and dedication to fighting human trafficking and exploitation

## CSI (Community Schools Initiative)

CSI had 15 amazing students in our after-school program in 2023. The 7th and 8th graders who are in our program are some of our community's most at-risk youth. Our youth met with adults and professionals from the community and were exposed to presentations that included internet safety, healthy relationships, gangs, hygiene, human trafficking, trauma informed art and personal boundaries.

Our various speakers included, Phoenix Unified School District, Red Light Rebellion, City of Phoenix, Attorney General's Office, Bloom 365, Girl Scouts, Mesa PD, Phoenix Public Library, Be A Leader Program, Valentina Montoya, Streetlight USA, University of Arizona Nursing School, and Chef Jim Rio.

Our students had several opportunities to "give back" to the community. They enjoy being able to be effective in their community through service. They went to St Vincent De Paul multiple times to package food for the homeless. They also made notecards for the SVDP homeless shelter which were placed on the pillows at night for the families and their children. We did a service project writing letters to "pen pals" at an orphanage in Honduras. We delivered a basket of our homemade cookies and brownies to neighboring Fire Station #16 as a "thank you" for their service to the community. The kids also enjoy baking monthly treats for school staff birthdays as a "thank you" for everything they do for the school and students. The kids also are decorating meal bags for the Joy Bus Diner, a nonprofit that delivers meals to cancer patients.

We enjoyed several fields trips which included University of Advancing Technology for a STEM project, Mesa PD Forensics Lab, St Vincent de Paul, High School visit to Metro Tech and a mock trial at the Sandra Day O'Connor Court House.

The kids continue to make baked goods for our Cookies for Change Business and the money earned goes toward their end of the year party. 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).



Pictured left: Shannon and Marilyn enjoying the CSI kids celebrating Marilyn's Birthday

## Just Men Arizona

Just.Men.Arizona has concluded another successful year dedicated to educating buyers about the detrimental impacts of commercial sex across Arizona. Notably, their efforts extended beyond our states border, reaching groups in Florida and Iowa.

Their dedicated volunteers conducted over 2400 interactions with buyers, aiming to educate them on the negative consequences and exploitation associated with purchasing commercial sex.

Currently, Just.Men.Arizona is fueled by a committed team of 21 volunteers, organized into four teams strategically positioned around the state. Collectively, they invested 276 hours in disrupting potential buyers and imparting crucial knowledge about human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

If you are passionate about making a difference and interested in joining our volunteer force, or if you simply want to learn more about how you can contribute to educating and disrupting the commercial sex market, please don't hesitate to contact Nick Lembo at [Nick@aatn.org](mailto:Nick@aatn.org).

**JUST.  
MEN.  
ARIZONA®**

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

2023 was an extremely busy and successful year providing education, awareness, outreach, and resources to fight human trafficking around the entire state of Arizona.

In May, TRUST brought Leah Martineau on board to provide additional support. Leah is an Arizona native, who was raised in Gilbert. She graduated in 2004 from ASU with her teaching degree. She has a great passion for protecting children and fighting for the most vulnerable.

TRUST trained over 2,300 individuals – and at no cost to those trained.

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

In addition to the many meetings attended, TRUST also supported 10+ public awareness events, 17 outreach events, and 20 law enforcement undercover operations.

In 2023, TRUST was able to help various law enforcement agencies secure over \$2.3 million in grant funding to fight human trafficking 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).



Pictured Left: AATN Staff and a law enforcement partner stand next to a visual of their presentation at the 2023 JUST Conference

## SAFE Action Project (Safeguarding All From Exploitation)

In May of 2023, AATN welcomed Ashlynn Rooney as the new Program Director of SAFE. A proud graduate of Arizona State University, she earned her Bachelor of Science degrees in both psychology as well as family and human development while excelling in Barrett, the Honors College, completing her studies in May of 2022. As a leader in the fight against human trafficking here in Arizona, she is able to highlight the importance of utilizing research and practical intervention to address this issue within the travel, tourism, and hospitality sectors.

During 2023, SAFE certified 9 new organizations in addition to recertifying a majority of prior SAFE hospitality and tourism partners. SAFE was able to train a total of 4,649 industry professionals.

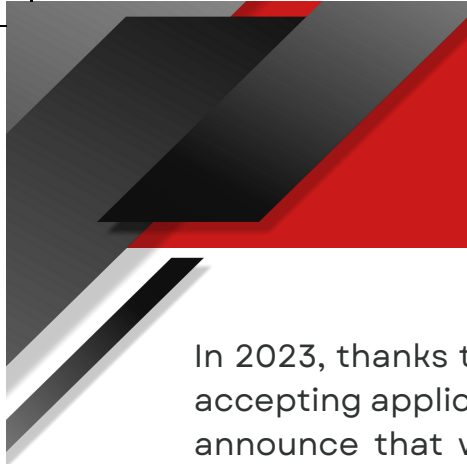
### New SAFE Certified Organizations Include:

- Talking Stick Resort
- Casino Arizona
- Hilton Garden Inn Chandler Downtown
- Hyatt Place Phoenix/Gilbert
- Residence Inn by Marriott Chandler,
- Home2Suites Avondale
- Arizona Grand Resort
- SpringHill Suites Goodyear
- Tru by Marriot Goodyear

The SAFE Action Project is looking to further build its network and certify more organizations in the hospitality and tourism industry in 2024. If you would like to have your organization participate and become SAFE Certified, please contact Ashlynn Rooney for more information at [Ashlynn@aatn.org](mailto:Ashlynn@aatn.org).



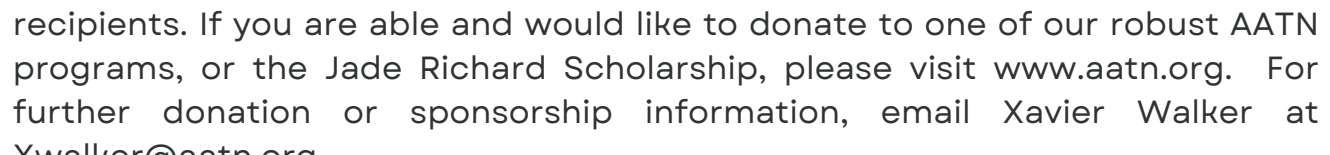
Pictured left: AATN staff and board members with Arizona Attorney Kris Mayes at Talking Stick Resort's SAFE Certification Press Conference



In 2023, thanks to the generosity of our supporters and partners, AATN began accepting applications for the Jade Richard Scholarship Fund. We are proud to announce that we currently have two survivor recipients of the scholarship fund!

The 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 501(c)3 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 donation or sponsorship information, email Xavier Walker at [Xwalker@aatn.org](mailto:Xwalker@aatn.org).



*“Through our scholarship, we aim to be more than just a lifeline; we are a beacon of hope, a bridge to a brighter future, and a testament to the strength and resilience of survivors. Together, we can empower survivors to become victors in their own inspiring stories, one scholarship at a time.”*