



arizona ● anti ● trafficking ● network

# 2025 IMPACT REPORT

*Hope in Action:  
Impact Across Arizona*

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# Message from the CEO

John Meza



When I stepped into the role of President and CEO in early 2025, I believed I already understood the depth of AATN's work. After serving as Board Chair for eight years, I had a front row seat to the vision, strategy, and unwavering commitment driving this organization forward. But stepping into the daily rhythm of our operations has given me a whole new appreciation for the scope and significance of what we do.

Today, I see the full breadth of AATN's impact across Arizona through awareness trainings delivered in classrooms and communities, prevention efforts reaching those most at risk, vital partnerships that strengthen our statewide response, and lives supported through compassion, advocacy, and early intervention. I've also seen firsthand the critical role AATN plays in working alongside law enforcement and community partners to ensure traffickers are stopped and survivors are protected.

This report represents more than outcomes; it reflects the tireless dedication of our staff, partners, and supporters who bring AATN's mission to life every single day. I am honored to lead this organization and deeply proud of the impact we are building together to make Arizona a place where no one is bought, sold or exploited.

12

counties served



11

survivors admitted to scholarship program



\$50,000

spent directly on survivors education



*"AATN's care for Desert Lily Academy students truly shines through. Their commitment to meaningful psychoeducation, their willingness to stay connected with students even after discharge, and their passion for educating students about human trafficking reflect a deep compassion and dedication that make a lasting impact. AATN has become a beacon of light for these girls, and we are deeply grateful for their support."*

Erin Kelsey, B.A, MSC  
Program Director - Desert Lily Academy

# AATN Overview



## Vision

An Arizona where no one is bought, sold or exploited.

## Mission

To eliminate human trafficking in Arizona by raising awareness, reducing demand and fostering prevention efforts with youth.

The Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network is a collaboration of programs fighting the multi-dimensions of Human Trafficking. Our programs cover a wide spectrum that address community education, public awareness, prevention, demand reduction, male engagement on the issue and the tourism and hospitality sector. It is through these activities that we hope to eliminate Human Trafficking in Arizona by raising awareness, reducing demand and fostering prevention efforts with youth.

# Just Men Arizona Overview

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Just Men Arizona actively disrupts the commercial sex market at the point of sale through personal man-to-man conversations with potential buyers who contact commercial sex ads online.

## 2025 Highlights

- Program Director Nick Lembo was invited to present at the Shared Hope International's "JuST" Conference in Orlando Florida. Nick co-presented on utilizing AI to combat the purchase of commercial sex.
- There are currently 4 volunteer cyber patrol teams throughout the state to combat sexual exploitation and trafficking. Volunteers are able to leverage their voice to speak up for the voiceless.

**2,085**



Buyers interrupted in Arizona

**45,474**



Total messages with buyers

# SAFE Action Project Overview



Safe Guarding All From Exploitation (SAFE) is a travel, tourism, and hospitality training program designed to elevate awareness and action within the industry to combat human trafficking. The program emphasizes the role that industry staff can play in early identification and intervention, empowering them to protect vulnerable individuals.

## 2025 Highlights

- This year SAFE trained Hotels, Resorts, Casino's, DMOs and students majoring in hospitality and tourism.
- SAFE was an exhibitor at the Governor's Conference on Tourism.
- SAFE invested in training hospitality students and early-career professionals to strengthen long-term trafficking prevention within the industry.

11

SAFE Re-certifications



9

New entities becoming SAFE certified



# CSI Overview

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Community Schools Initiative is a safe and supportive environment and offers a stable after-school space. CSI has an enriching and educational curriculum along with hands-on experiences to include art, cooking, and self-expression. The program continues to support some of the community's most at-risk youth.

## 2025 Highlights

- Students engaged in meaningful volunteer work, making paper cranes for a Children's Museum, food baskets for cancer patients, supporting local food shelters and creating treats, artwork, and cards for charities, veterans, and fire departments offering them the dignity of giving back.
- Students were able to engage in field trips and venues to which they are normally not exposed, theatre for a live performance, high school tours, museums and STEM sessions at local colleges.

**30+**



guests speakers were hosted

**100%**



of CSI 8<sup>th</sup> graders graduated and secured high school placement

# CEASE Arizona Overview

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Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation (CEASE) is a statewide initiative dedicated to educating and equipping municipal employees to recognize, report, and respond to sex trafficking in their communities.

## 2025 Highlights

- The City of Phoenix (5<sup>th</sup> largest in the country) became the newest CEASE designated city. In order to receive this designation, over 75% of city employees must successfully complete comprehensive training and commit to ongoing, updated training on an annual basis.
- CEASE training underwent a comprehensive update and redesign to enhance content relevance, incorporate emerging best practices, and prepare for a full relaunch in 2026.

6



Cities that are CEASE Designated

15,000+



municipal employees trained

# TRUST Overview



TRUST combats human trafficking in Arizona through education, training, technical assistance, awareness, outreach, prevention, and intervention programming. Serving as a liaison with organizations and potential collaborators statewide, TRUST develops and directs projects to enhance collaboration and capacity throughout Arizona.

## 2025 Highlights

- Through ongoing collaboration with EMS personnel and child maltreatment teams, we enhanced frontline capacity to identify exploitation earlier, support vulnerable individuals, and strengthen coordinated community responses.
- Expanded outreach and prevention efforts focused on vulnerable populations, including individuals experiencing homelessness, youth in foster care, and individuals with special needs.

**83+**

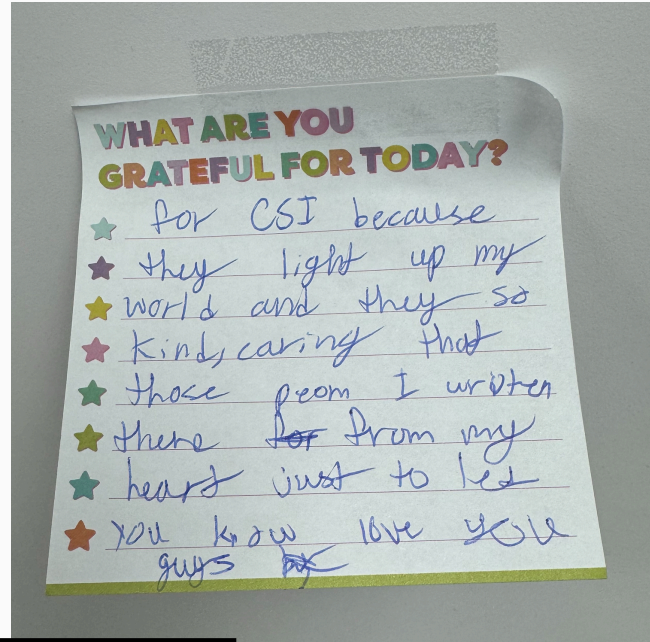


trainings throughout Arizona

**3140+**



people reached through direct training



## Intervention Programming

AATN started providing a weekly support group for girls ages 11–17 who have experienced exploitation, using art and life-skills topics to build confidence and resilience. We have served 16 girls and continue to offer mentorship and stable, caring adult support as they heal and grow.

**20+**



sessions of intervention programming

**35**



outreach events

## Prevention Programming

AATN prevents human trafficking through education, early intervention, and community-wide capacity building. In 2025, we increased targeted training for youth, to broaden awareness of trafficking tactics, online safety, grooming, and risk factors.

**12**



prevention sessions with youth

**22**



public awareness events

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# Employee Spotlight

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## Alexandria Rogers

SAFE Program Director

Ali joined the AATN team in October 2025 and brings a wealth of experience that has been centered on supporting vulnerable populations. Currently completing her Master of Social Work at Arizona State University, Ali is dedicated to bridging the gap between research, education, and community practice to build safer and more equitable systems of care.



## Rachel de la Torre

CEASE Program Director

Rachel joined the AATN team in November 2025 bringing with her a background in law enforcement, victim advocacy, and anti-trafficking education. Rachel brings over a decade of specialized experience to her leadership role. Her career has been marked by a deep commitment to public safety and victim support, including frontline service as a peace officer and work in crisis negotiations.

# Partnership Impacts

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AATN's impact is strengthened through strategic partnerships across Arizona, including law enforcement, prosecutors, healthcare professionals, educators, hospitality partners, and municipal leaders

Through these collaborations, AATN has supported funding for law enforcement operations, helped equip agencies with tools and technology to combat human trafficking, and invested in sending multidisciplinary professionals to advanced human trafficking trainings and national conferences. By strengthening frontline capacity and fostering cross-sector collaboration, these partnerships ensure communities are better prepared to prevent exploitation, hold offenders accountable, and support survivors with compassion and dignity.



**65**



Multidisciplinary professionals  
sponsored for education

**8**



law enforcement operations funded

**218**



victims directly supported

