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CHURCH ALLIANCE

IMPACT REPORT

Freedom Church Alliance 2018 Annual Report



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CHURCH ALLIANCE

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

LEIGH KOHLER



I want to take just a minute to say thank you and share a part of my journey with the Lord and the Alliance. I want you to know that I take my role as Executive Director very seriously. I see it as the post I've been assigned to by God at this hour. I do not take your support and your trust for granted. I'm also grateful for Allison Hankins, our Manager of Operations and Development, our Board, the Church Council, the Senior Pastors, Missions Pastors and other church staff members and dedicated lay people who have so graciously and eagerly stepped forward to join what God is doing here. This is certainly a team effort.

When I was 16 years old, I sensed a vocational call to ministry. I still remember that moment like it was yesterday. I was in the prayer room of my church, on my knees, telling God that I didn't have much to offer, but He had my life. As a young high-schooler I had no idea how this would play out.

I'll never forget what a mentor told me in those days, "Leigh, your call is to wake up every day and say, 'Lord, I'm at your beck and call. What do you have for me today?'" As I am sure many of you can relate to, there were doors I wanted to walk through over the years that God closed. There were also those unexpected doors that only He could have opened that I didn't even know I wanted opened. The Alliance is one of those doors.

My journey with human trafficking began with heartbreak and led to a prayer meeting at my home. This led to me being asked by a Missions Pastor at my church to go to a meeting hosted by Sugar Creek Baptist, with other churches, discussing how the Church in Houston could work together to end the problem of trafficking in our city. This led to the birth of the Alliance, and God has continued to connect the dots ever since.

My aim is to walk faithfully with God and to trust Him always: even when I can't see what's ahead. As Charles Stanley says, "Obey God and leave all the results to Him." My aim and desire as Executive Director is to love God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to let His love and wisdom be the well I draw from. I want to honor God and represent this Alliance with dignity, strength and an unwavering devotion to exalt the name of Jesus. After all, without Jesus there is no justice.

Today, I can say with confidence that I am more dependent on God than ever before. I'm more angry about the results of sin and the devastation it causes than ever before. I'm more certain than ever that the gospel alone is the hope for ending human trafficking. I'm more hopeful in the power and blessing that comes from unity in the body of Christ than ever before.

Thank you for being a part of the Alliance. In this world where standing out and taking credit is in high demand, and standing up and being part of something bigger than ourselves is in rare supply, thank you for being willing to be a part of what God is doing through the Alliance in ways bigger than what any one person or congregation can do. Thank you for allowing me to serve you and to be a part of this story along with all of you.

I want you to know that **together**, we created another **1,000 GoBoxes** full of ammunition to arm the Church for anti-trafficking efforts and held **6 GoBox Classes** throughout Houston resulting in greater justice discipleship and volunteer engagement. Together, we **gave more financial support** to trusted partners than any year to date resulting in the strategic strengthening and support of anti-human trafficking work throughout our city. Together, we collected **hundreds more GoBags** for law-enforcement and partner organizations. We grew the Alliance adding **5 new churches** this year bringing our Alliance to a total of 16 churches. Together, we were able to serve our city and state by serving on multiple coalitions and even getting to be a part of policy discussions at the state Capitol. The voice of the Church was heard.

Please take a moment to read through this Impact Report and see, in more detail, what God is doing through our Alliance, and let's celebrate with one big collective heart! We tried to keep things concise and honor your time. Please pray that God would grant us a fresh anointing, strategy, and vision for 2019. We have a distinct, appointed role to play in this fight as the Church of Jesus Christ. May God alone receive all the glory.

A handwritten signature of Leigh Kohler in black ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of 'Leigh' and 'Kohler' being capitalized and prominent.

LEIGH KOHLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ABOUT US

Mission and Vision

OUR MISSION

Our mission as the Freedom Church Alliance is to engage the Church as a unified, collaborative body to make a greater impact in the anti-human trafficking movement. The Alliance is a growing movement of churches united to fight human trafficking. The Church united and empowered by the Spirit, working alongside and strengthening anti-trafficking organizations, can transform our city. Overcoming human trafficking is too large a task for any one church or one organization. But by bringing our strengths and specialties together, we can collectively be far more effective.

Our mission as the Freedom Church Alliance is to engage the Church as a unified, collaborative body to make a greater impact in the anti-human trafficking movement.

The human trafficking industry is a complex system that needs to be replaced by another more powerful system. A united, holistic approach to the problem is necessary if we are going to see true, lasting change. Fragmented efforts are not enough. When we speak and act as one, the Church has the potential to be an incredible force for good on earth. We can have a powerful impact on the culture, and in the lives of countless individuals. Under God's leadership, we want to join hands in our city so that we can increase our impact and reach.

OUR VISION

To see the Church rise up as a unified and connected body: awake, ready, and compassionately engaged in the fight against human trafficking. To see the Church pursuing faithfulness, purity and a passion for Christ that inspires us to become defenders of women, children and men. To see the darkness pushed back by the light and love of Jesus Christ in our city and throughout the world. To see the oppressed and exploited rescued, redeemed and healed by the grace and power of God.

Photo top

Some of our friends and partners in front of the Capitol Building in Austin, Texas.

Photo bottom

Some of the 2018 Freedom Church Alliance Church Council convening together.



THIS IS WHY BEING A MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE IS VALUABLE

INVESTMENT

Collective Giving

Investing with the Alliance and its expertise in anti-trafficking issues and trends results in holistic, transformative, and long-term solutions. Collective giving, like that of the early Church, allows your church's giving to have greater impact.

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Wisdom

Our rigorous process in choosing which partner organizations to fund means that your church can have confidence in its investment. We evaluate each potential partner's transparency, leadership, stewardship, and impact.

VOICE

The Church Council

Member churches receive two places on our Church Council, which meets quarterly, to stay updated on the front lines of trafficking. The Alliance, in turn, sits on committees that influence relevant policies and direction of city and state government.

SPECIAL ACCESS

GoBox Training

Member churches are equipped with our innovative anti-trafficking toolkit, the GoBox, that concretely and practically answers the question: "What can I do about human trafficking?". The GoBox gives church leaders the ability to give an action-oriented, discipleship-focused response.

ADDRESSING DEMAND

Confidence in Hard Conversations

The Alliance equips your church with the resources, networks, and opportunities to address demand issues (pornography, harassment, and sex addiction) in the church. Join the Alliance in raising a generation of men who treat women with dignity and respect: an issue the Church is uniquely placed to address.

COLLABORATION

Collective Influence

A unified body has a powerful impact. The Alliance collaborates with many churches, anti-trafficking organizations, and ministries throughout our city, nation, and the world. Enjoy shared resources, best practices, subject-matter expertise, and opportunities to serve and be served.



ABOUT US

Meet The Team



LEIGH KOHLER

Executive Director

Leigh Kohler is Founder and Executive Director of the Alliance. Leigh is a knowledgeable and passionate speaker for God's mercy and justice. Leigh and her husband Marc have been married 20 years, and they have three children. She loves teaching God's Word and is passionate about seeing people set free.



ALLISON HANKINS

Development and Operations Manager

Allison is responsible for executing and implementing all of the Alliance projects and campaigns and overseeing the day-to-day running of the organization. She aspires to see the City of Houston raise a united fist against the injustice of human trafficking and loves being a part of that initiative.



PETE RAMIREZ

Board of Directors

Pete is a vice president for one of the world's largest commodities trading companies. Pete and his family are active members of Sugar Creek Baptist Church where they helped to establish a program to educate children with special needs.



NATALIE MANTEL

Board of Directors

Natalie is Director of Grants Management and Corporate Counsel at Living Water Int. and a mother of four daughters. She has worked at World Vision, Benedictine University, and Crown Point Christian School teaching reading and computer skills.



DEBRA PARKER

Board of Directors

Debra is the Founder and Executive Director of Wildfire Collective. Through Wildfire, podcasting, and writing, Debra leads a generation in freedom to wildly pursue Jesus. One of the facets of Wildfire is leading a prayer initiative for those trapped in slavery.



GO
DO
GOOD

THE ALLIANCE AT A GLANCE

From Year 2018

MANY STREAMS MAKE A MIGHTY RIVER

THIS IS WHY THE ALLIANCE EXISTS

Zechariah 4:10 says, "Do not despise small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin." In 2013, with only a handful of churches, the Alliance walked confidently toward the work laid out by the Lord. Five years later and 16 churches strong, we continue in that path, always seeking new opportunities for the Church in Houston to stand against trafficking.

There is an old Swedish Proverb that says, "Many streams make a mighty river." As each new stream joins, our river grows. Our impact is magnified. Our voice is amplified. The platform that we've grown into is a privilege to be stewarded with integrity and wisdom. We do not take lightly the task ahead but always thank the Lord for the chance to work for His Kingdom and His justice.

One clear example of this mighty river is the collaboration between these many churches to host **six GoBox classes** this year, educating and equipping hundreds across the Greater Houston Area.

Over **1,000 GoBoxes** were distributed. Attendees turned into volunteers, friends turned into advocates, every day people turned into well-versed champions for justice. The Church in Houston continued its impact on the front line organizations that we support, giving out **six strategic financial gifts** and three benevolence gifts. This strategic giving touched the full landscape of trafficking: **Prevention & Education, Intervention, Aftercare** and more.

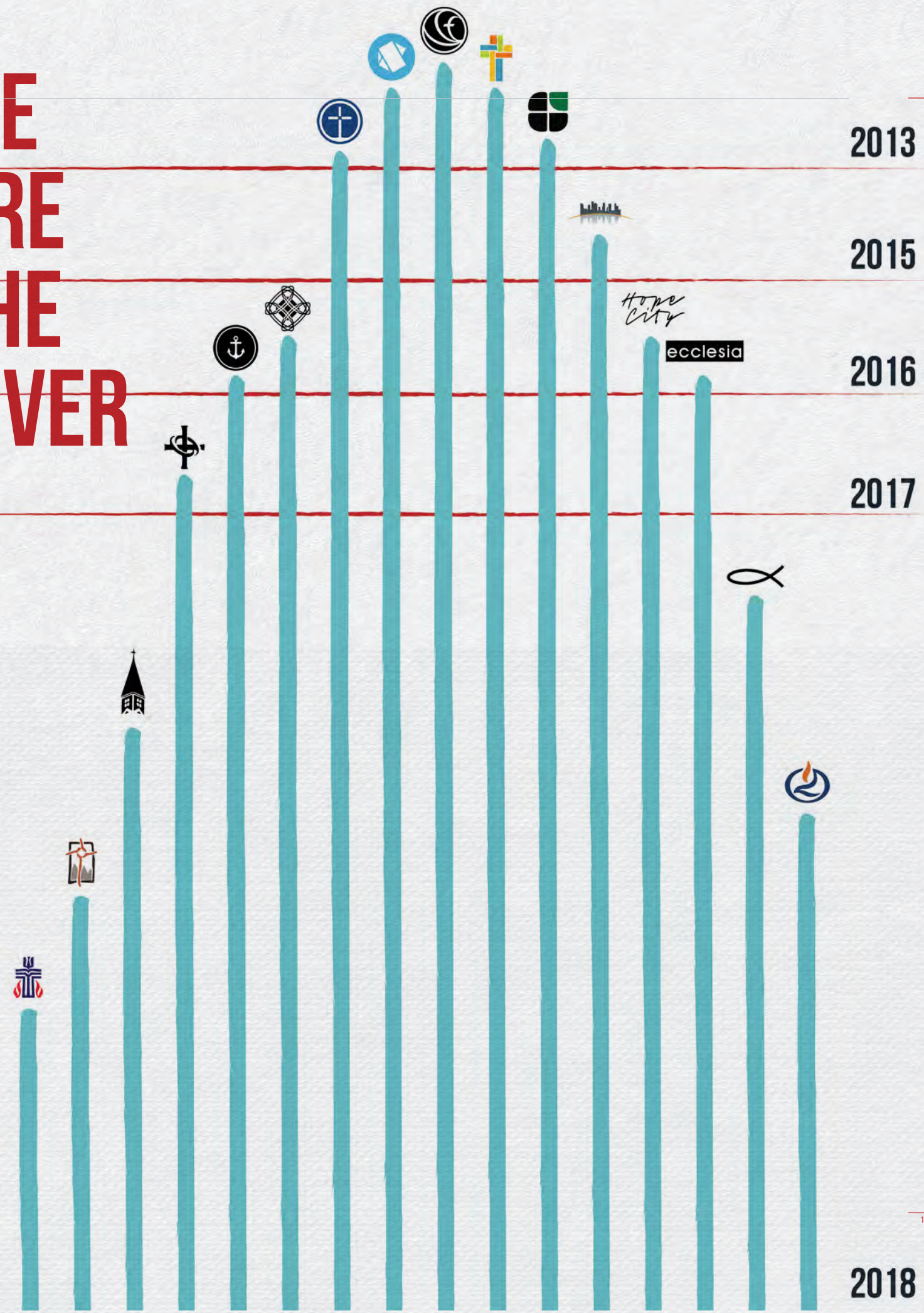
Financial giving is not where our Alliance ends. This year, we participated in **four coalitions** in Harris, Montgomery, and Brazoria Counties. We sit amongst law enforcement, trafficking professionals, professors, caretakers, government employees, students and more to collaborate and combine efforts to fight trafficking.

The Alliance has been invited to represent the Church on **City, State, and National** levels in 2018. It's a platform that we step onto with much caution and prayer, asking the Lord to go before us. We look back at 2018 with humble hearts of gratitude for the Member Churches, the Partner organizations, the Board of Directors, and our Lord.

"The accomplishments of the Freedom Church Alliance in 2018 have been nothing short of remarkable - enlisting over 1,000 new people in the fight against human trafficking through awareness and prayer. I feel honored and blessed as the initiatives continue to move forward from here."

- Pete Ramirez
Freedom Church Alliance
Board of Directors

WE ARE THE RIVER



FREEDOM CHURCH ALLIANCE

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

“

"The demand for the GoBox and classes shows what an exciting and impactful tool it has proven to be! "

*-Natalie Mantel
Freedom Church Alliance
Board of Directors*

“

"As a local pastor, it is so critical that my church and the Church in Houston unify together around The Alliance... When the church comes together empowered by God's Spirit, we not only move the needle forward toward justice, but we get to join God in bringing his Kingdom down on earth."

*-Libin Abraham, Pastor of Multi-Site Ministry
Sugar Creek Baptist Church*

1,000 GOBOX
TOOLKITS
DISTRIBUTED

6 GOBOX
CLASSES
COMPLETED

200 GOBOX
CLASS
ATTENDEES

5 NEW
MEMBER
CHURCHES

4 NUMBER
OF
COALITIONS

6 STRATEGIC
GIFTS
GIVEN

MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE

Who, How, and Why



“

"Thanks to the Freedom Church Alliance and their connection to the different organizations, we learned of many different ways our church can help make a difference in ending human trafficking. We also love how the FCA supports the churches in their efforts to reach and educate the community through the GoBox Classes and other endeavors. I believe the Freedom Church Alliance allows us to do far more collectively than our church could ever do alone. Thanks to the Alliance, I know that together we can end human trafficking and bring restoration to God's people."

- Jimmy Fenwick, Director of Missions
Sugar Land First United Methodist

THESE ARE THE CHURCHES THAT MAKE UP THE ALLIANCE

We are made up of 16 congregations across the Greater Houston area. We reach from Sugar Land up to Cypress, from Downtown Houston out to Katy. We are passionate, mission-minded churches with a heart for the gospel, for the oppressed, and for justice. We understand that the Church must work together to see measurable change in our communities. We recognize that teaming up across denominational boundaries can change the world.

1 Peter 3:8 says, "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind."

In 2018, we saw five new congregations join our Alliance, bringing us to 16 Member Churches. These 16 bodies of believers have brought passion, influence and resources to the fight against trafficking. We are the Body of Christ, actively pushing back the darkness in Houston. We would love for more churches to join us.

"Our partnership with Freedom Church not only allows us to be involved in all these arenas but also extends our reach and influence be a part of the most crucial needs with the most dynamic solutions."

-Alicia Divers, Missions Pastor at Bayou City Fellowship

A main character trait of Alliance Churches is a heart for collaboration. Once a quarter, the leaders of our congregations gather together to enjoy a meal, receive updates from the front lines of anti-trafficking work, collaborate on projects, have face time with leaders of anti-trafficking partner organizations, and get to know one another.

Alliance Churches have had measurable impact on the anti-trafficking landscape. Through the financial support of every congregation, we have supported the work of **12 anti-trafficking organizations over the course of five years**. In total, Alliance Churches have hosted eight GoBox classes, educating and equipping hundreds throughout Houston. The Church in our city has made a mark, and we will continue to fight for the oppressed.

2018 MEMBERS FREEDOM CHURCH ALLIANCE



ecclesia



Hope City



HOUSTON'S FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH



12715 Telge Road, Cypress TX 77429
901 Yorkchester Drive, Houston TX 77079

7401 Katy Freeway, Houston TX 77024
11011 Mason Road, Cypress TX 77433
1730 Jefferson St, Houston TX 77003
4309 Sienna Parkway, Missouri City, TX 77459

1100 Elder St, Houston TX 77007
325 Piney Point, Houston TX 77024

1515 Hillendahl Blvd, Houston TX 77055

303 Jackson Hill St, Houston TX 77007

3150 Yellowstone Blvd, Houston TX 77054

5300 Main St, Houston TX 77004

502 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land TX 77478

431 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land TX 77478

13223 Southwest Fwy, Sugar Land 77478
7555 Highway 6 South Missouri City, TX 77459

935 Echo Lane, Houston TX 77024
21000 Franz Rd, Katy TX 77449
21757 Fairfield Pl, Cypress TX 77433
9016 Westview Dr, Houston TX 77055

8601 Chimney Rock Rd Houston TX 77096

8300 Katy Fwy, Houston TX 77024

608 Aurora St, Houston TX 77008
2009 W Gray St, Houston, TX 77019
6145 San Felipe St, Houston, TX 77057
1649 Gessner Rd, Houston, TX 77080

3700 Southwest Fwy, Houston TX 77027

MAP OF THE ALLIANCE

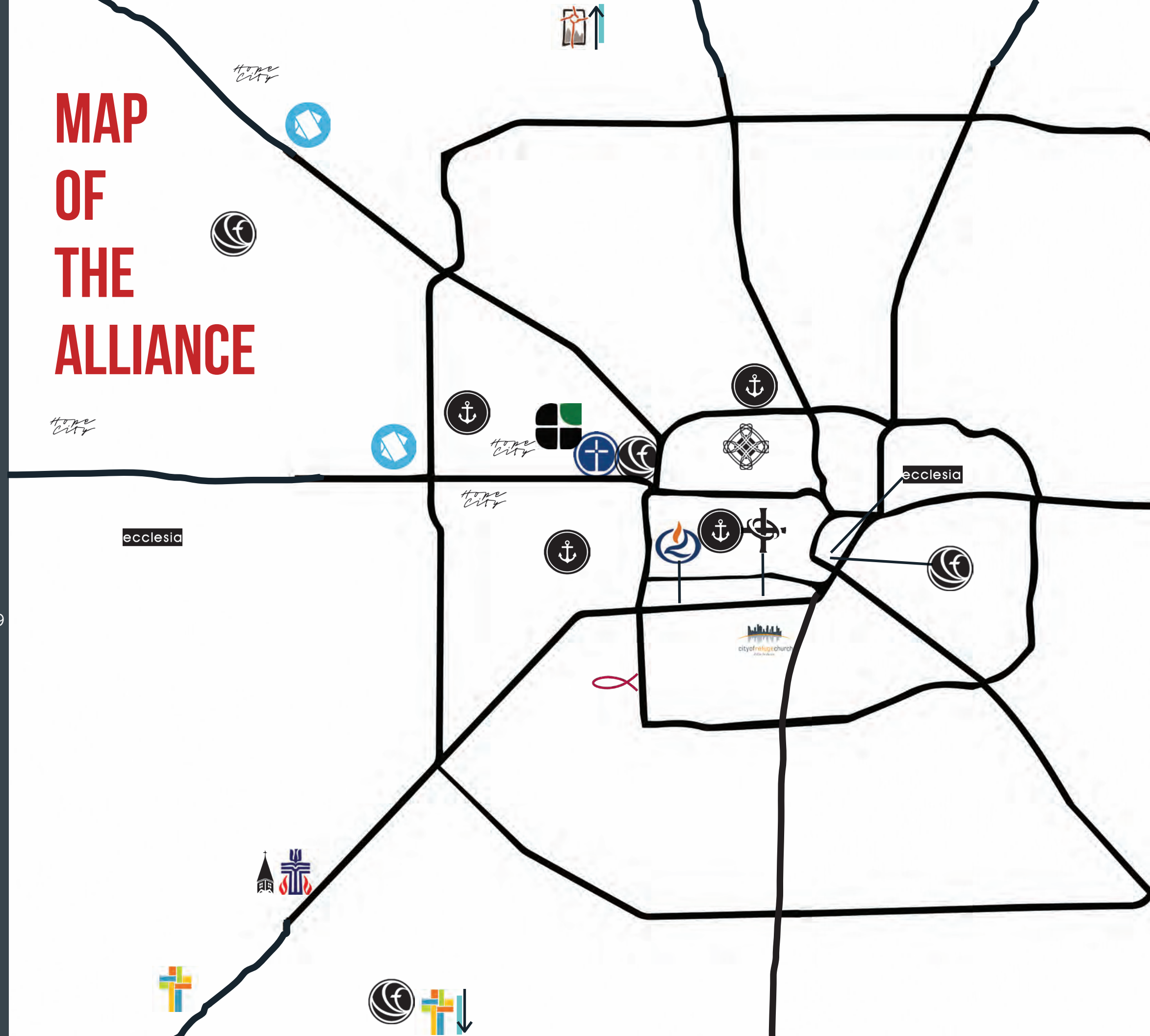




Photo top left

Our partner organization Unbound Houston receiving some of our GoBags.



Photo bottom left

Some of our partners gathering for prayer.



Photo top right

Left to right
Leigh Kohler, Freedom Church Alliance
Mark Dennis, Redeemed Ministries
Allison Madrigal, Rescue Houston
Tiffany Runyan, Love146
Hilary Sherrer, The Landing

OUR PARTNERS

Getting Behind Effective Work

Taking action through partnerships is key to our mission of fighting human trafficking. We partner with many trusted anti-trafficking ministries, organizations, and government bodies both in Houston and across the nation. We believe in working alongside and supporting existing organizations that are doing good work rather than trying to duplicate their work. We are not looking to reinvent the wheel, but we are here to strengthen and support the excellent work already being done in the anti-trafficking community. The Alliance endorses and partners with organizations that are having real, effective impact against trafficking. Many of these organizations serve the Alliance as well, by graciously acting as guest speakers at many of our GoBox classes. Because of this, attendees are able to hear from these front line professionals about their work, stories from the field, their various experiences fighting trafficking, and about how the gospel is changing lives. This is invaluable to our GoBox classes, and has resulted in our congregations stepping out of the pews and into the fight.

We join many of these hard working partners on coalitions throughout Harris, Brazoria, and Montgomery County where we can collaborate and make joint impact.

This year, we were excited to gift financial support to six partner organizations (learn more on page 22). In addition to these partner gifts, we were able to give some smaller financial gifts out of our benevolence fund, which allows us to give to immediate or special needs that arise throughout the year. One of the benevolence gifts we gave was for the purchasing of chairs and Bibles for the chapel at **The Refuge**, near Austin. The Refuge provides long-term restoration community with on-site services for girls, minors through age 19, who have been exploited through sex trafficking.

We also purchased 100 Bibles in The Message translation, which will be given to **The Landing** and **Redeemed Ministries** for survivors and clients they serve who want a Bible. We are thrilled to help get the loving and life-changing Word of God into the hands of people who want it. When one of our contacts from the FBI contacted us with an urgent need for a victim, we were able to say, “Yes, we can help!” because of the generous giving of our Alliance churches.

Through all of our giving, the Church in Houston is having impact on all fronts of human trafficking.

THE GOBOX INITIATIVE

"What Can I Do About Trafficking?"

ABOUT THE GOBOX

The GoBox is a self-contained toolkit that provides helpful resources and specific guidance to empower you and your churches to become a vital part of fighting human trafficking in Houston. The GoBox will equip you with knowledge on human trafficking, empower you to take action, and connect you with organizations where you can make a difference. The GoBox will guide you through the process of education, prayer, awareness, prevention, volunteering, and activism.

ABOUT THE GOBOX CLASSES

The GoBox classes give attendees an opportunity to learn firsthand from our partner anti-trafficking organizations. These classes include presentations from abolitionists and experts, discussion periods, and more. These classes are a comprehensive, in-depth exploration into every section of the human trafficking problem.

ABOUT THE GOBAGS

The GoBags are a chance for GoBox owners to get hands-on in the fight against human trafficking. Each colored bag represents a different organization with different needs. Fill the bag with the items listed on freedomchurchalliance.org and drop it off at the corresponding organization.

Red = Rescue Houston
Blue = Love146
Yellow = Elijah Rising

Orange = Unbound
Green = YMCA
Purple = The Landing
White, Navy, & Maroon = Law Enforcement



"The GoBox class is phenomenal. It is packed with tremendous information and resources. We are grateful for the new relationships we have made with churches and individuals who are passionate about fighting human sex-trafficking from the demand reduction perspective. These are connections we would have never developed without the GoBox class. Thank you, Freedom Church Alliance."

*-Beau Abdulla, Director
Love People Not Pixels*

THE GOBOX



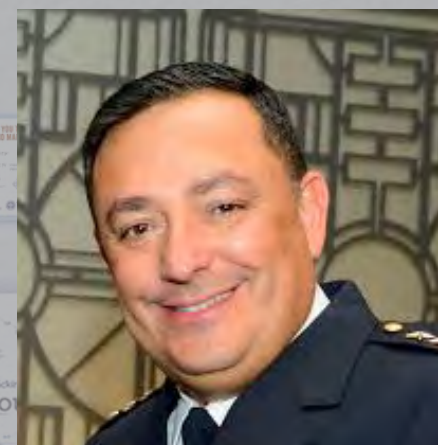
THE GOBOX CLASS



THE GOBAGS



INSIDE THE GOBOX



Art Acevedo, Chief of Police HPD writes in a letter to the Alliance that he "...would like to thank you and your organization for implementing the 'GoBox Launch' campaign in an effort to bring forth public awareness and to assist in the fight against human trafficking."

He continues, "Educating others on how to recognize victims of human trafficking, providing the necessary skills for prevention, and offering the appropriate resources and services is a crucial component for resolving this ubiquitous modern-day slavery."

A letter for you from Minal Patel Davis, Special Advisor to the Mayor on Human Trafficking

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater works, it is the greater work" Oswald Chambers

WHY THE GOBOX?

STRATEGIC PARTNER GIVING

We Gave to These Organizations

We are thankful to God for blessing the mission that we and our partners share. In our 5th year, The Alliance was able to give more generously than we ever have before. Our strategy is to give to various organizations that are addressing each and every niche of the human trafficking problem, including Demand, Prevention, Intervention, and Aftercare.



The Alliance subsidized the cost of all Defender Training events for 2018. "Not only did FCA's financial gift fund our Defender Training events for the year, but their GoBox classes had such a profound impact on GoBox attendees that many of them came to a Defender Training to learn more about how they can fight the demand for sex trafficking." - Christian Madison, LPNP Communications Director



In 2018, Love146 developed Not a Number, an interactive, five-module prevention curriculum designed to provide youth with information and skills in a manner that inspires them to make safe choices when they encounter potentially exploitative situations and more. The investment from Freedom Church Alliance allows their Prevention Advisory Specialists the ability to implement Not a Number and directly reach youth in schools and juvenile detention facilities right here in the Greater Houston Area.



As a result of our support of Redeemed Ministries' ongoing operations in 2018, Redeemed Ministries was able to expand the offerings of their recovery program. They were able to further develop their existing services, and invest more into the Sparrow House property, which is a restoration house that is available to adult women rescued in the United States.



Due to Hurricane Harvey, general giving to The Landing by donors decreased over the last year. A partner gift was given in order to continue providing the same quality and quantity of services to the growing number of survivors who access the drop-in center. The drop-in center provides refuge, support, and resources to survivors of trafficking in Houston, Texas.

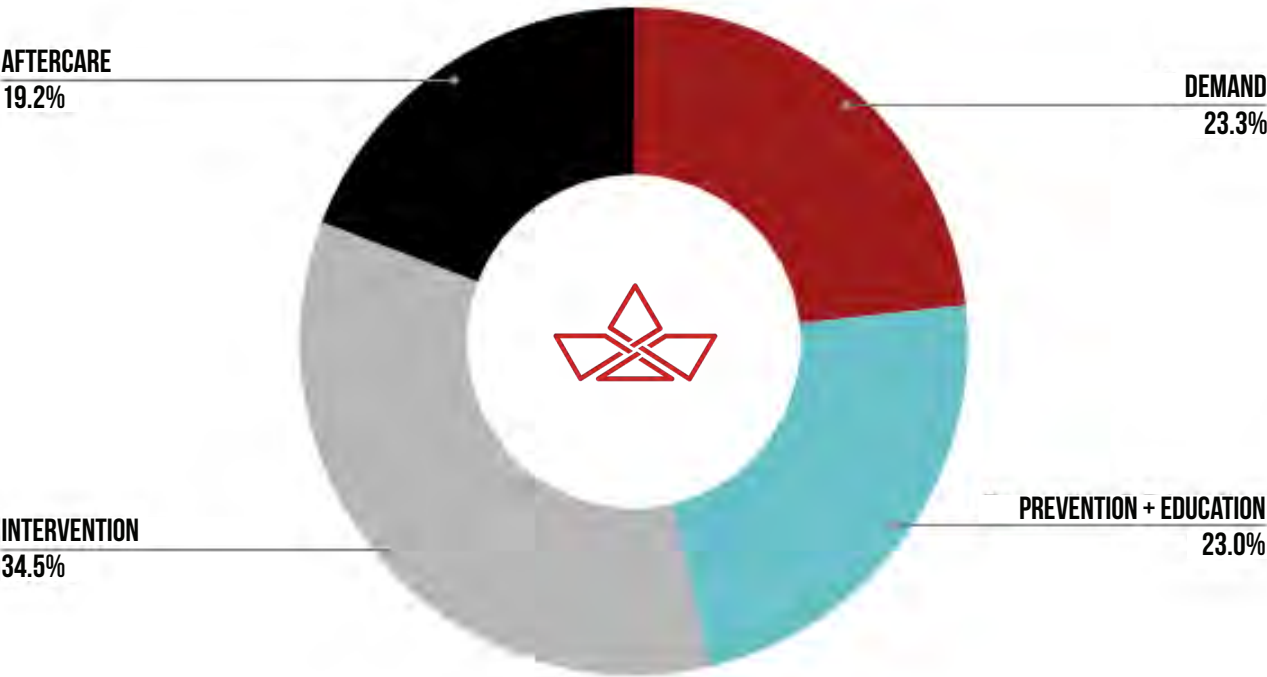


A 2nd Cup offers free event space to hundreds of anti-trafficking events each year. This year, we've been able to gift a new audio system for that event space, enhancing the quality of the room for many anti-trafficking organizations. This gift supports the entire abolitionist community because this space is used by all our partners to support their events and programming.

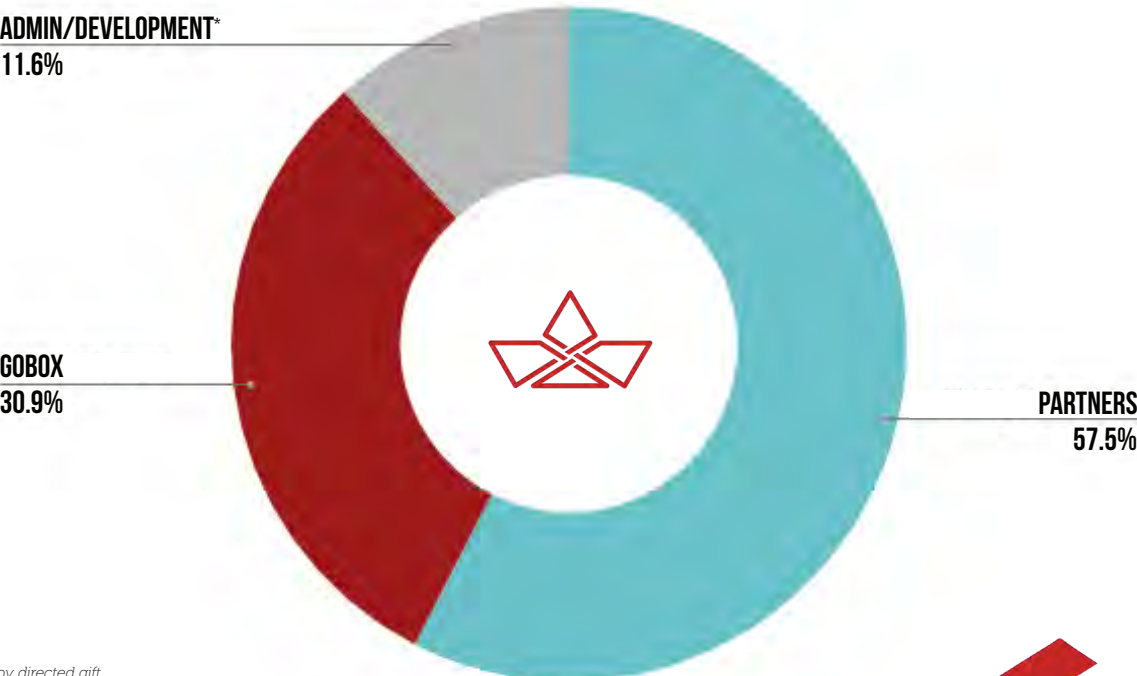


In 2018, Rescue Houston experienced a significant increase in calls to their anti-trafficking hotline and in the number of physical rescues. This year of growth has also included a much-needed Assessment Program. We subsidized this growth by supporting their general operations budget.

HOW WE GAVE IN 2018



HOW WE SPENT IN 2018



*salaries covered by directed gift.



GO
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**FREEDOM
CHURCH ALLIANCE**

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