

“I am incredibly thankful that God has brought me into this new season where I am able to grow and heal and am thankful that Terebinth has been a shelter that I could grow closer and be firm in the True Refuge which is Christ the Lord and King! Thank you all for your support and help!”

—CURRENT RESIDENT



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This year 2022 is, in my estimation, moving forward quickly and with many exciting happenings! Our employment readiness program with our Hope & Healing social enterprise continues to grow in products and in locations! We now have a consignment spot at the Clearwater Plaza! We are thankful to those who have already enjoyed our products and have spread the word of how good they truly are. This past spring, we had a lovely time with many of you at our Stronger Together Event and early this summer taking part in the first ever online Restoration Art Auction. We were also thankful to be part of the Stop the Trafficking 5K event again this year in Eden Prairie, MN.

It has been my pleasure to welcome various groups and projects that have come along side Terebinth Refuge to assist us in our work of restoration. It is always delightful when a person walks in the door bringing various in-kind donations and funds that were raised within their sphere of influence. We have had such generous individuals take the initiative to support our ministry, such as Mr. Gaskill’s history class from the Saint Cloud Christian School, who learned about the abolitionist movement and spearheaded projects to raise funds; or Don and CindyLu Prior’s Pampered Chef fundraiser; or Rachel Antilla’s garden party; or Salem Lutheran Church’s Summer Supplies drive; or my friend Joe, the HS teacher from Manistee Michigan, who brings a group of students across the Great Lakes (on a barge) every year to come to work for two days at Terebinth Refuge! This list of amazing supporters goes on and on, and I am overwhelmed by the love & care so many have expressed who continue to bless us in these amazing ways. Thank you!

And the residents at Terebinth Refuge are also moving forward in wonderful ways! We as staff get the incredible honor of seeing these women move forward into restoration. We have seen women move forward into new employment, school, new “never before” experiences & skills, emotional stability and into their own housing. Restoration has been the word of the

Artistic Highlight: Survivor Poem



MIDWEST MEMORIES

Midwest memories,
memories of me
The twisted lullaby
a haunting melody

Like a prairie weed I struggled
and yearned to be free
Of this saddening,
maddening hypocrisy

Yet with the even flow
of shame and pain;
I learned not to let
emotions show

To be seen and not heard,
a life lesson my legacy
Until one day the levee broke

And as I opened my mouth to
scream; I choked.

*Thank you to the resident for writing and
sharing this beautiful poem with us!*

year, citing II Corinthians 13:11, “Finally, brothers (and sisters) rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.”

We will be excited to rejoice with you at our 5th Annual RISE Breakfast this year on September 15th, our theme being “Rest, Rise and Restore.” As the scripture points out, this is a community effort! There will be much to share of new happenings and successes but also inspiring stories of restoration in the lives of survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking. I do hope you will plan to come! Thank you for ALL You do for Terebinth Refuge!

Much Love,
Cynthia Terlouw-Kvistad
Founder and Executive Director

An Intern’s Perspective: Housing, An Unmet Need

By Samantha Gilbertson, Former Terebinth Refuge Intern

Before joining the team at Terebinth, I thought I understood trafficking fairly well. And on an intellectual level, I did. I knew that popular culture’s understanding of trafficking was way off—that adults, people of color, and LGBTQ+ individuals are victimized at rates that we need to be paying more attention to. I knew that often, people who are trafficked come from a background of childhood trauma, and I knew what the long term effects of violence looked like on a person. And yet, when I began my internship and I learned what it was to do life with survivors, I was humbled daily.

One thing that I needed to learn and re-learn, was that the women I was working with owed me absolutely nothing. Not respect, or kind words, or trust. Sometimes I earned those things, but the job of the women I served was to heal, and being kind to me was not a prerequisite for that to happen. I had to really sit with the fact that sometimes healing looked a lot different from what I thought it would. That being a part of that process would sometimes be challenging or uncomfortable for me. I had to recognize that if my goal was to help women to heal, I got no say in how that happened, and I had no right to expect anything in return.

During the course of my internship, I made a video on the barriers that trafficking survivors have to safe and sustainable housing, even after they get out. I have a lot of passion over this issue, because I met so many intelligent, resilient women who have overcome insurmountable barriers, just to end up on the verge of homelessness because no one would rent to them. I watched them be told again and again that they are not worth renting to because they have poor credit, or no rental history, or no job history. I listened to their stories about touring scary, unsafe rental properties because they were the only ones they qualified for. I watched hard-earned confidence being undermined because after all the work that these women had done, they struggled to find even basic shelter for themselves.

I suppose in many ways, I made this video to help you learn what I have learned. That if our goal is to fight human trafficking in our communities and support our survivors, then we don’t get to hold expectations of what those survivors owe us. Not a certain credit score or income qualification. Not a background check that fits our worldview. Not our idea of what stable or healed looks like. In this video, I’m offering a way to care for others where instead of asking what we are owed, we remember that their journey is not ours to judge, and instead ask what we can offer.

Watch Samantha’s Mini Documentary on Terebinth Refuge’s YouTube.

Rest, Rise, and Restoration: Terebinth Refuge's RISE Fundraising Breakfast



Terebinth Refuge is hosting its fifth annual RISE fundraising breakfast on September 15th, 2022. The event will be held at the Park Event Center in Waite Park from 7:30 – 9:00 AM. RISE is the most important fundraiser of the year for us! Proceeds from the fundraiser serve as critical operating funds, providing residents

with housing, food, medical and mental health care, as well as employment training. The theme of the event this year is restoration. The 90-minute program will highlight why restoration is crucial for survivors of this horrific crime; what restoration of the body, mind, soul, and spirit means; and how Terebinth Refuge is rising to the challenge. The Emcee of the program is Pastor Dave Genberg of Discovery Church. Along with a powerful video by Anderson-Hughs Production, the program will also include testimonies from two resilient survivors who have personally experienced the power of restoration. *You won't want to miss this inspiring event. If you haven't registered yet, be sure to do so on Terebinth Refuge's website before September 12th!*

Terebinth Refuge Has A New Program Director!



Meet our new Program Director, Ranone Thompson. Ranone comes to Terebinth Refuge with over thirty years of experience in management. She has also served on the board of Angel Reins Stable, a loving home for rescue horses and a healing program for veterans, survivors of human trafficking and others suffering from PTSD, depression, anxiety, grief and more.

Through her experience at Angel Reins, Thompson found out about Terebinth Refuge, and we are so glad she did! What drew Thompson to Terebinth Refuge was the fact that there is shelter, and, more importantly, programming to move women towards becoming healthy and flourishing in their own housing and employment. She loves watching the women grow and find themselves, but watching them struggle is, of course, hard to see. The best way to overcome this struggle, Thompson shared, is to work together as a team to come around the women and help them move through the bumps in the road.

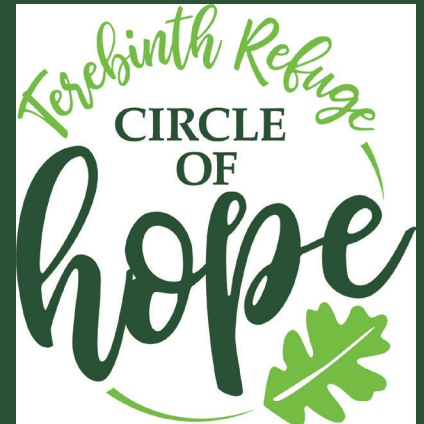
What's New with the Hope and Healing Store?



Meet our new Hope and Healing Store Manager! Her name is Jenny Norton. She has lived in the area since 2006. Hearing CeCe speak at THRIVE conference before Terebinth Refuge had a space peaked her interested in the organization, as she has always been a supporter of empowering women and children. Jenny and all the resident interns are excited for the summer and all their upcoming events. The store will be at the MN Garlic

Festival on 8/13, and Hopefest on 8/21! If you are not able to make it to these fun events, be sure to check out the new Hope & Healing store bundles, such as the shampoo bars, shower steamers, and flax seed hot/cold bags. There are many new endeavors happening at the Hope and Healing Store and their residents' interns are greatly benefiting from them. The interns can learn job skills, work as a team, make fun products, learn about a natural body care product lifestyle, and interact in a positive way with our community!

Thank you to our Supporters!



Thank you to our generous Circle of Hope members, who are committed to consistent giving. You all provide critical operating support, and we could not do this transformative work without you!

Thank you for standing strong against this horrific crime of sex-trafficking. We want to thank the members for being as passionate about our mission as we are.

Thank you for believing that women who are victims of sex-trafficking need and deserve a place of refuge, and are supportive of our long-term, holistic healing approach.

THANK YOU TO FABULOUS FUNDERS:

Benton Telecommunications
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Foundation
MDU Resources
Salem Lutheran Foundation
Central Minnesota Community
Foundation
Julie Ann Williams Foundation

Ways to Help

Pray for our residents, and our leadership.

Become a monthly giver of any amount. Monthly giving helps tremendously.

Join or enroll in our Circle of Hope commit to making an annual gift of \$1,200 (\$100/month) or more for a period of three years.

Sponsor our RISE and Stronger Together events

Attend our RISE and Stronger Together events

Volunteer with us! See our website for details.

Donate household items, specifically pots and pans, paper products, and non-perishable food items.

Invite us to speak at your business, church or group.

Share our mission and website with others.

Contact us with opportunities for employment and affordable housing for women in our home.

Provide space for gatherings and special events.

Subscribe to our newsletter on the website to get updates and important news.

Like us and share posts on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support and interest in this ministry!

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