

The Cupcake Girls





Our Mission & Purpose

We provide confidential support to those involved in the sex industry, as well as those affected by domestic sex trafficking through holistic resources, case management, and after care. We provide nonjudgmental support to empower our clients in their pursuits through respect, resources, and relationships.



Our History

In 2009, Joy Hoover was introduced to the Adult Industry through the Adult Entertainment Expo & AVN Awards, an event The Cupcake Girls organization now attends annually.

We heard women's stories, specific needs, and began visiting Strip Clubs & Brothels with volunteers in early 2011.

The Cupcake Girls Portland began in November 2011 - through a Client who is now a Partner.

But why a cupcake?

It's an ice breaker.

It's a consistent presence at clubs, events and fundraisers.

It's the symbol of this non-profit.



Our Clients

We offer support to any individual who has worked or is currently working in the Sex Industry (i.e dancers, porn industry, legal brothels, street-based sex work, etc).

At this time, the majority of our clients identify as women.

We also provide aftercare for Survivors of
Sex Trafficking.



Direct Care Programs:

- Outreach
- Referral
- Intensive Case Management



Outreach:

Every month we take our signature cupcakes to local Strip Clubs and Legal Brothels. Last year we delivered thousands of cupcakes, and each cupcake provided an opportunity to connect with and build trust with potential clients.

We also host a couple of outreach events (AVN being our largest) each year.



Referral Program:

When a client is desiring resources for a particular issue or need, we give referrals to vetted, sex-worker friendly partners who have potentially agreed to see our clients pro-bono or at reduced cost. These partners may be individuals or other organizations in the community. Some of our partners provide services such as: dentistry, career skills & education , and mental health resources.



Intensive Case Management Program:

Clients meet weekly with their advocates so together they can build comprehensive, holistic plans to help them pursue their goals and objectives, working to ensure that we're matching the right solutions to the right individual, at the right time.



5 Most Common Needs in ICM Program:

- Homelessness
- Domestic Violence
- Substance Abuse
- Sex Trafficking
- Career Transitions



What is Sex Trafficking?

The Cupcake Girls defines Domestic Human Trafficking as an Internal Issue - Human Trafficking within the United States, which includes but is not limited to use of coercion, violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, or other forms of deception to compel adults or children to engage in commercial sex acts. People who are sex trafficked may be any age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, nationality or of any immigration status.

Under federal law, the crime of human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act where such an act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.



Sex Worker vs. Sex Trafficking

Survivor/Victim:

- A sex worker is someone who independently works in the sex industry, and is in control of who they share their body with, how they share it, and is free to use the money they earn.
- A trafficking survivor/victim is someone who is in the sex industry under coercion, deception, manipulation or threat, and they are not in control of their wages.



Most People Don't Self-identify As Being Trafficked:

Media and misguided education campaigns have associated sex trafficking with chains and cages or suggested victims always are kidnapped and that the perpetrator will be a stranger.

Such false information can keep those who are trafficked from seeking help



Pimp Tactics 101

GODZILLA PIMP	ROMEO PIMP	CEO PIMP
Uses force (kidnapping, violence, drugs, blackmail) to overpower prey.	Uses charm, gifts, and flattery to romance prey.	Uses money and business strategies to swindle prey.
Target Prey: Teens at a party, the mall, on social media... anywhere lacking responsible supervision.	Target Prey: Girls looking for love or acceptance. Runaways. Sweet and naïve young men and women.	Target Prey: Aspiring models and entertainers, especially naïve young women away from home.
<p>“Come party with me.”</p> <p>“Don’t tell anyone where you’re going.”</p> <p>“If you don’t do what I say I’ll post these (naked or embarrassing) pictures of you all over the Internet.”</p>	<p>“I love you.”</p> <p>“Nobody else understands me.”</p> <p>“I’ll give you everything you deserve.”</p> <p>“I can’t live without you.”</p> <p>“Dream with me.”</p>	<p>“I’m an agent. You have what it takes to make it in this industry. Trust me”</p> <p>“This is strictly business.”</p> <p>“I can make you rich.”</p> <p>“Fill out this form” (personal information)</p>
What to Watch For: Men 18+ who hang with younger girls. Overly friendly girls (recruiters) who persistently invite other teens to party and drink/drug with them.	What to Watch For: Guys who fall in love too quickly. Guys or girls (recruiters) who encourage teens to run away from home, promising a happier life.	What to Watch For: Men who flash cash and promise stardom. ‘Agents’ who are too pushy. ‘Agents’ who want bikini or “artistically nude” photos.
 <h2 style="margin: 0;">VICTIM</h2> <p>Intimidation & Threats: Pimp “breaks” the victim by letting her know he’s dangerous– beating,raping, yelling, showing weapons, etc. He threatens to hurt her and her loved ones.</p> <p>Control & Isolation: Pimp keeps the victim close and makes her dependent by calling constantly, moving her in, taking money away, monitoring her moves, etc.</p> <p>Psychological Manipulation: Pimp acts friendly sometimes, apologizes after abuse, promises that things will get better, calls victims “family”, makes victim think she’s damaged goods and purposed for a life of trafficking.</p>		



VICTIM

Intimidation & Threats: Pimp “breaks” the victim by letting her know he’s dangerous– beating,raping, yelling, showing weapons, etc. He threatens to hurt her and her loved ones.

Control & Isolation: Pimp keeps the victim close and makes her dependent by calling constantly, moving her in, taking money away, monitoring her moves, etc.

Psychological Manipulation: Pimp acts friendly sometimes, apologizes after abuse, promises that things will get better, calls victims “family”, makes victim think she’s damaged goods and purposed for a life of trafficking.

Signs of Vulnerability

Uneducated about domestic sex trafficking and pimp tactics
Unstable home life
Previous sexual abuse
Desperately seeking love or acceptance
Shares personal information on social media
Glamorizes stars who glorify casual promiscuity, e.g. Nikki Menaj, Lady Gaga

Signs of Grooming

Gifts, especially cell phone
Sudden changes in sexuality, dress and/or attitudes toward sex
Secrecy when a particular person calls
Seemingly heavily influenced by a new friend or boyfriend that she doesn't want anyone to meet
Truancy from school or nights away from home

Signs of Trafficking

Depression
Self-Isolation (physically or emotionally)
Tattoo of a name or a money-related phrase/ image
Sexually explicit photos on social media
Chronic truancy from school or running away from home
Fear

Please reach out to us at www.thecupcakegirls.org/get-support

*www.SowersEducationGroup.com

Screening Tool Questions:

1. Sometimes lies are used to trick people into accepting a job that doesn't exist, and they get trapped in a job or situation they never wanted. Have you ever experienced this?
2. Sometimes people make efforts to repay a person who provided them with transportation, a place to stay, money, or something else they needed. The person they owe money to may require them to do things if they have difficulty paying because of the debt. Have you ever experienced this?



3. Sometimes people do unfair, unsafe, or even dangerous work or stay in dangerous situation because if they don't, someone might hurt them or someone they love. Have you ever experienced this?
4. Sometimes people are not allowed to keep or hold on to their own identification or travel documents. Have you ever experienced this?
5. Sometimes people work for someone or spend time with someone who does not let them contact their family, spend time with their friends, or go where they want when they want. Have you ever experienced this?



6. Sometimes people are told to lie about their situation, including the kind of work they do. Has anyone ever told you to lie about the kind of work you're doing or will be doing?
7. Sometimes people are hurt or threatened, or threats are made to their family or loved ones, or they are forced to do things they do not want to do in order to make money for someone else or to pay off a debt to them. Have you ever experienced this?



Local For All Our Holistic Resource Center



When Someone Tells You They Are Being Sex Trafficked:

If it is Monday - Friday 9a - 5p:

- Call The Cupcake Girls (702) 879-8195
- Help them fill out a support request at www.thecupcakegirls.org/get-support



When Someone Tells You They Are Being Sex Trafficked:

If it is after hours/weekend:

- Establish Safety:
 - Safe Nest/Safe House in Vegas (800-799-SAFE/702- 451-4203)
 - Domestic Violence Resource Center (775-329-4150)
- Continued Care:
 - Call The Cupcake Girls (702-879-8195) to leave a message and/or fill out a support request at www.thecupcakegirls.org/get-support



Questions?



Las Vegas