



ANNUAL 2 REPORT 20

Keeping Kids Safe
from Sex Traffickers

Dear Friend,

This year found hardship like no other. With children sheltering-in-place during the pandemic, sexual abuse ran rampant. The number of sex trafficking cases in Alameda County alone increased 262%. There were no teachers, counselors or other students available to see the signs and offer help.

With cries of "Defund the Police", our law enforcement officers continued to respond to emergencies, but they do not have the man-power to proactively search for runaway children (which is often considered a low priority). At Special Operations, we understand that most children who run away or go missing are reacting to terrible circumstances often involving sexual abuse. It is imperative to find a missing child immediately.

Although our annual golf fundraiser was canceled this year due to the pandemic, we were still able to raise \$181,000 and found 20 missing kids. These children have been returned either to their families or, if they were from foster care, to our partner safe homes. Our team of private investigators responded immediately to emergencies throughout the year and provided boots on the ground searches for people. We combed through social media sites, conducted surveillance techniques, gathered evidence and elevated cases from "runaway" to "sex trafficking" within law enforcement. When appropriate, we worked closely with the families of these missing children to give them hope, support and guidance through the process. We worked closely with both local law enforcement and federal agents to bring these children home and were instrumental in the arrest of 4 violent criminals. With your support, we ended the year on a high note, delivering \$100 Amazon gift cards to 15 girls in 6 different safe homes.

These are wins that you have made possible with your support, commitment, and compassion. We have a long way to go. So many children need our help, but with you by our side we are positioning for success with a model that has now proven effective for rescuing girls and prosecuting criminals.

With Gratitude,



Scott Vermeer



VISION
MISSION
PURPOSE

That **every child is free** to be a child.

To **keep kids safe** from sex traffickers in the Bay Area.

To **rescue young victims**, to get them the help they need, and to **send traffickers to prison**.

THE PROBLEM

FBI studies indicate that the San Francisco Bay Area is one of the largest hubs of sex trafficking in the United States. Nearly half a million children go missing each year in our country — most presumed to be victims of sex trafficking. Here, in our community, children are commodities in the fastest growing, most profitable business of organized crime in the world. Unlike drugs, a child can be sold over and over again.

All youth are vulnerable to sex traffickers, but those who have already endured trauma — foster children or those running from abusive homes — become especially easy prey. Many are not reported missing or are reported as “runaways,” meaning there is no urgent search to find them. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, less than 1% of these children are rescued. The few who are seldom testify against their perpetrators for fear of retribution. Without the victim’s testimony, the perpetrator often remains free to traumatize and ruin the lives of other innocent girls.

Organizations, such as the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Polaris, provide hundreds of thousands of “tips” to law enforcement each year. Unfortunately, these time-sensitive tips often land — and stay — in file folders as our nation’s law enforcement is vastly underfunded and generally reacts to crimes in progress rather than proactively searching for a crime.

THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS SOLUTION

Our organization was born from an unmet need in our community — the need for boots-on-the-ground forces to join the fight to save children from sex trafficking. Our team of private investigators and retired law enforcement officers know how to find both victims and perpetrators. Because we are a victim-centered charitable organization — and NOT law enforcement — it is often easier for community members working with trauma victims to reach out to us for help. It takes a public-private partnership between law enforcement and the community to solve this hidden crime.

Once a child is rescued, we work with partners to provide direct assistance to the victims — emergency housing, financial assistance, legal help — any support they need to begin healing. When victims feel safe and are empowered to testify, traffickers go to prison. The result is a safer community for us all.



2020 BY THE

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020

REVENUE

Donations\$156,585
Fundraisers \$25,120

Total Revenue\$181,705

DIRECT EXPENSES

Rescue & Arrest\$102,773

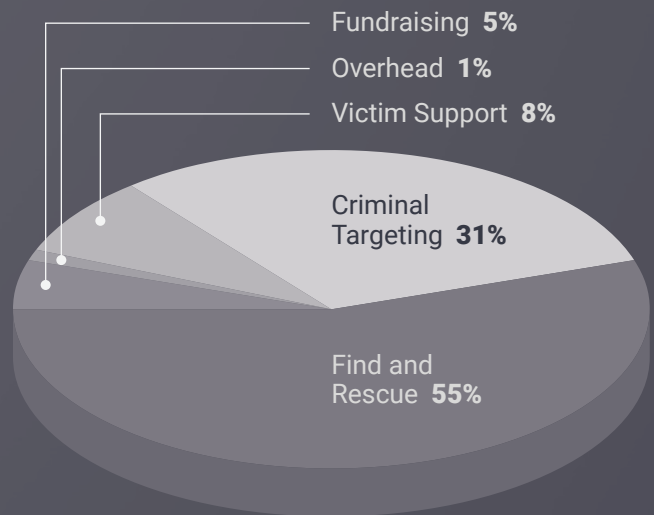
OTHER EXPENSES

Fundraising.....\$5,481
Overhead \$1,708

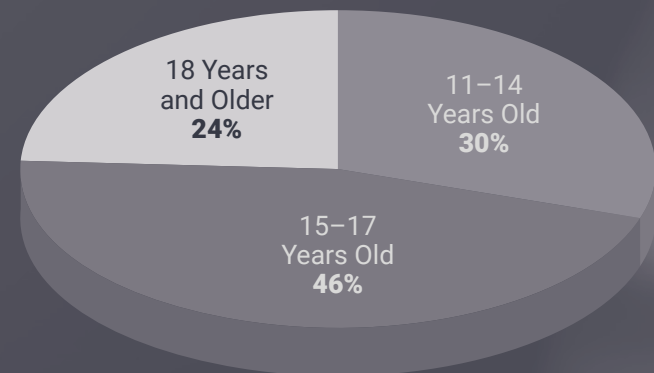
Total Expenses.....\$109,961

Net Reserve\$71,743

SPECIAL OPERATIONS USE OF FUNDS



AGES OF CHILDREN SERVED



NUMBERS

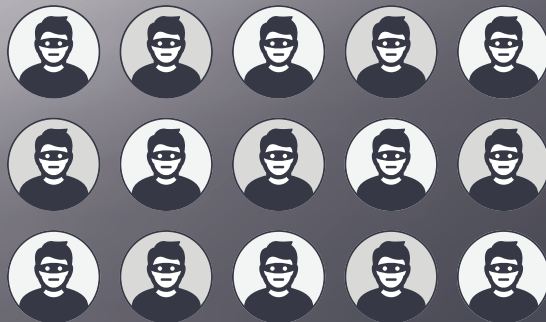
BAY AREA COUNTIES SERVED



20 CHILDREN SAVED



15 CRIMINALS TARGETED



TOGETHER WE CAN BRING CHILDHOOD BACK TO CHILDREN

Thank you to our Special Operations Family:

- Our donors, sponsors, partners, community supporters, and law enforcement.
- Our amazing Board of Directors.
- The volunteers who give so much time to help solve cases, rescue girls, spread the word and fundraise.
- Our survivors, who inspire us with their resilience, strength and determination.

To make a gift, please visit our website

findingkids.org. If possible, please check if your employer will match your gift.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Founded in 2017, Special Operations is a non-profit dedicated to keeping kids safe from sex traffickers in the San Francisco Bay Area. The result is a safer community for us all.

Learn more: findingkids.org or email us directly at info@findingkids.org

Please sign up for periodic updates about our cases at findingkids.org



“

There are no words. I can't thank you enough for finding my daughter. ”

MOTHER OF A MISSING 15-YEAR OLD

“

I truly do not believe Ellie would have been found without Special Operations. ”

ELLIE'S MOTHER

“

Just knowing that folks cared enough to hire private investigators to find our daughter kept us going... no parent should have to go through this ... ”

JENNY'S MOTHER

“

We want to thank Special Operations for their caring and generosity towards a victim of sex trafficking, The community's generosity helped [the victim] through the process, all of which were critically important in getting the case to court and, ultimately the maximum conviction. ”

JOHN VANEK,
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
PROGRAM COORDINATOR,
SAN MATEO COUNTY

“

There is no way she'd be safe right now if it weren't for Special Operations. ”

LAW ENFORCEMENT



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ABOUT US

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Special Operations Silicon Valley is a 501(c)(3) Organization. EIN:
81-2874951