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DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL  
REPORT 2023

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Dear friends and partners,

2024 has begun and we are already in the spring, a spring that also characterizes the life of our organization, as many and various things took place in the past year, which we will see together next.

We had the opportunity to contribute to improving the lives of our beneficiaries and their children as well as raising awareness against human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Our vision remains the same: a free and restored life for all sex trafficked & exploited girls, and their children. All our actions are carried out with this mission in mind and we try to treat each of our beneficiaries with sensitivity and responsibility.

Let's see again this year everything that the Organization accomplished in 2023 for the relief and social reintegration of the beneficiaries but also for the public awareness.

Kind Regards,  
Dina Naki-Petrou

## ACTIVITY AREAS

### 1. ACCOMODATION

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Regarding our Hospitality program, since January 2022, we have been operating 2 Safe Houses, in undisclosed locations with capacity of hosting 14 beneficiaries in total and their children.

We also have two accommodation apartments for the Transitional Housing Program of Phase 2 of the Day Program.

As you probably remember, in 2022 we proceeded with the purchase of a plot of land with the aim of building an owned safe house specially designed for the needs of the demographic we serve.

In July 2023, the foundation ceremony took place and construction immediately began. The project continues without any interruption and is going very well, according to the plans. With the foundation and masonry complete, we are currently in the third stage out of six in total – the electrical wiring and plumbing. We are getting closer step by step to the completion of the project and this fills us with joy and optimism.

### 2. ALIMENTATION

Regarding our activities in the field of Alimentation, in 2023 we granted all our beneficiaries a weekly allowance which they need to manage in order to meet, among other things, the nutritional needs of themselves and their children.

We received regular donations from food banks and other organizations which covered a significant part of the nutritional needs of our beneficiaries.

We also arranged group meals for the beneficiaries, staff and volunteers as part of strengthening interpersonal relationships given the multiculturalism of our community.

### 3. EDUCATION & TRAINING

#### A. DAY PROGRAM

1. In 2023, we had a total of 19 beneficiaries and 13 children in the program. In particular, we offered courses for inner empowerment and acquiring life skills and knowledge such as anger management, self-esteem, budgeting, English, etc.

#### B. OTHER TRAININGS

1. We train the interpreters and caregivers of our Safe Houses, raising awareness about the issue of sexual exploitation and training them based on the specialized

needs of the demographic we serve. In 2023, we trained 2 Farsi-speaking interpreters and 7 caregivers.

2. We trained 2 teams from Italy, from respective organizations, who came specifically to see how our Program operates.

### **C. INTERNSHIP**

Last year, we had the opportunity to welcome interns who did their internship in our organization. Three (3) interns did their internship at the Organization mainly from the United States.

### **D. SEMINARS**

Last year, 4 training seminars were held for staff and beneficiaries on specialized topics, seminars on:

- ✓ Emotional trauma and its treatment.
- ✓ Social media safety.
- ✓ Trafficking and protection from it.
- ✓ Healthy interpersonal relationships.

### **4. DAY CARE & 5. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Regarding child care and employment, in 2023:

- ✓ We provided daily childcare & creative activities at our Day Center so that the beneficiary mothers could attend the classes.
- ✓ We offered special Child Care & Parenting skills courses.
- ✓ We organized parties for mothers-to-be.

### **6. HEALTH/MEDICAL SERVICES**

In terms of health services, in 2023 we provided for:

- ✓ The regular vaccination of children.
- ✓ The medical care and preventive examination of both the beneficiaries and their children.
- ✓ The distribution of hygiene items.

### **7. PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT-PSYCHIATRIC MONITORING**

Regarding the Psychological monitoring of the beneficiaries, in 2023, 100% of the participants in the Program:

- ✓ Took part in counseling sessions conducted at a mental health center and made significant progress.

- ✓ Specific cases were referred for psychiatric monitoring.

## 8. INTERPRETATION

We provided interpretation services during the Day Program classes but also during other activities, seminars, visits to doctors, hospitals, etc.

## 9. PROMOTING LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION

In 2023 we started a special vocational training program in handicrafts (sewing, clay and leather) and jewelry in which all the beneficiaries participated on a paid basis. We also collaborated with other organizations in order to provide job positions to our beneficiaries.

## 10. ACTIONS PROMOTING INTERCULTURALISM

Since it opened its doors in April 2016, Community House Damaris has hosted women from more than 22 countries in Eastern Europe, Africa, Middle East, Greece, etc. Since then, we have served beneficiaries originating from Romania, Greece, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Syria, Jordan, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Morocco, Uganda, Congo, Guinea, Venezuela, Cameroon, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Cameroon, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Somalia etc. All these beneficiaries speak a wide range of languages, such as English, Arabic, Spanish, French, Greek, Farsi, Romanian etc.

In the context of the UNESCO Principles of Intercultural Education:

- ✓ We provide lessons in emotional intelligence & Greek and world culture that contribute to respect and solidarity between individuals, but also between ethnic, social, cultural and religious groups.
- ✓ In addition, we organize multicultural activities with a dominant element of different national cuisines, customs, etc.

## 11. ESTABLISHING COOPERATION NETWORKS

In 2023, the organization further expanded its networking to work with other networks active in the same field with the common goal of combating sexual exploitation and trafficking. In this context:

- ✓ We officially became a member of the Global network of the Canadian Servants Anonymous Foundation.
- ✓ Four of our executives participated in the European Freedom Network.

- ✓ We participate and coordinate the meetings of the Athens Freedom Network organizing local actions.
- ✓ We took part in the annual board meeting of RENATE, the European network for the fight against human trafficking as well as
- ✓ The European **Forum of Christian Leaders** (FOCL) which took place in Poland.
- ✓ We took part in the **International Conference of OSCE** in Vienna.
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## COLLABORATIONS

In 2023, we collaborated with:

- Society for the Care of Minors and Youth
- International Rescue Committee Hellas
- European Expression
- Home Project/ Pugad Shelter
- Doctors without borders
- International Organization for Migration
- Meraki Center
- A21
- Amurtel
- Faros Elpidas
- MEAALOFA Foundation
- Fenix Aid
- Doctors of the world
- Ministry of Migration and Asylum
- Diotima
- Counseling & Psychotherapy Center
- Action aid
- Generation 2
- Because we carry

## 12. AWARENESS OF THE RECEPTION SOCIETY

As a part of our organization's mission: "We train, network and promote awareness in the community of this demographic's specific needs. Thus,

We participated in ONLINE ACTIONS like –

- ✓ The 67th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on 15 March 2023.
- ✓ The photo exhibition on sexual exploitation entitled "When places speak" held at the Piraeus Municipal Art Gallery 27.11.2023 - 09.12.2023.
- ✓ Last year we made REGULAR PRESENTATIONS of the benefits and results of our Organization, to representatives of other organizations active in Greece, abroad as well as other entities.

With respect to the Greek culture, the Organization also introduced the beneficiaries to the Greek tradition and history last year, and contributed to the cultivation of the artistic sensibility through various activities. Particularly:

- ✓ We gave the beneficiaries the opportunity to participate in festive Greek customs and learn their importance for the local community.
- ✓ We organized group artistic workshops for the creation of handicrafts which were taught by visiting groups from America to our beneficiaries.

Listed below are the names of the groups and the art projects they taught:

- Grace Point BC, Bentonville, AR –Vitro technique
- Faith Presbyterian Ch, Burmingham, AL – Painting, Embroidery
- Denton Bible Ch, Denton, TX – Decoupage, fabric scented hearts
- Covenant PCA, Naples, FL – painting, cloth aprons.
- The Mission Ch/Valley Ch, Des Moines, IA – Decorative pebbles, photos
- Orangewood PCA, Maitland, FL – Batik Technique
- Trinity Presbyterian Ch, Montgomery, AL – Clay, jewelry
- Smithton Free Ch, Inverness, Scotland – Painting, fabric wreaths

#### • 14. INFORMATION-SERVICE- COUNSELING

Through the caregivers of the Organization and the social service, in 2023 we offered:

- ✓ **Professional Counseling** with the aim of empowering them as they are directed accordingly to discover their potential and talents and utilize them in the work sector.
- ✓ **Goal Setting** program for each beneficiary according to the needs of each case.

## 15.A story and some testimonies.

B. is a single mother from Uganda who managed to escape prostitution and reintegrate into society with the help offered by Community House Damaris to which she was referred in October 2019.

When she lived in her country, she was under a lot of pressure to help her family financially. A friend connected her with a woman who helped her prepare her papers and travel abroad to find a decent job. There, she discovered that this job was prostitution into which he was forced. After a few months, she became pregnant and had to visit the hospital. There she managed to escape. After spending many nights on a park bench, she got in touch with a smuggler who took her to Lesvos island, Greece. From the refugee camp there, she was referred to the House Damaris which welcomed her.

As she has shared in the past, "Damaris stood by me like a family." She attended the recovery program, had several counseling sessions, participated in the Bible study and also received vocational training.

Today, she lives with her son independently in one of the organization's transitional housing apartments. She works and builds her life with freedom and dreams for the future.

"It's the best choice, it's a place where you can see yourself transformed."

V. single mother from Africa

"I am looking forward to the future. I am strong. I overcame anger and guilt. I am thankful for my life." by K. a single mother from Africa

K. single mother from Africa

"Now, I have been hired by a CHD partner organization and I work making bags. I generate an income and I am very happy for it."

B. a young mother from Africa, Job training graduate.

## Program Results

In total, until December 2023:

- 58 women have joined our program.
- 73 children have had mothers with program involvement.
- 32 children have been hosted by Damaris House.
- 4 of the 58 women have been one-time program repeaters.
- 9 of the 58 women have been emergency placements only, staying less than 30 days.
- 8 languages are spoken (Greek, Romanian, English, French, Ukrainian, Farsi, Spanish and Arabic).
- 10-12 women served on average each year.
- 100% of the program beneficiaries underwent a psychiatric evaluation and psychotherapy, achieving significant progress.
- 100% of the program beneficiaries and their children were provided with primary health prevention.

Excluding emergency cases (9 women), 49 women have attended the program. Of these 49, 37 women are now considered to have a stable social status and have shown significant progress in their rehabilitation.

All of the above give the program a success rate of 76%.