

Awaken is a non-profit organization that has been serving the northern Nevada community for more than 8 years. Our mission is to increase awareness and education surrounding the issue of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and to provide housing and restoration for its victims. Awaken operates transitional house, a drop-in center, and facilitates support groups, therapy, mentoring, advocacy, and case management. All of Awaken's services are focused on healing, empowerment and identity building.

Our vision is to transform our community with the ultimate goal of eradicating commercial sexual exploitation. We aim for victims to be restored to their fullest potential. We aspire to be an inspirational model for other communities. It is estimated that over 1500 women and girls are being commercially sexually exploited at any point in time in northern Nevada. Awaken's strategies are built on the pillars of Prevention, Restoration and City Transformation. All of Awakens services are focused on healing and identity building.

**<u>Prevention</u>**: The average age of entry into prostitution in America is 14 years old. Awaken targets education and outreach efforts in middle and high schools and local youth organizations to prevent the CSE of youth.

**<u>Restoration</u>**: We help women transition out of CSE by providing coordinated case management of emergency and long-term services which include food, clothing, housing, counseling, family support, mentorship, education and job training. To date we have helped over 500 women and children.

<u>**City Transformation:**</u> Awaken knows that CSE will never change until we all agree that it is never right to buy and sell women and children for one's own benefit. Awaken increases awareness and educates the community and governmental entities about the existence of and solutions to commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) in northern Nevada. Awaken is seeing signs of growing support and awareness of the need to address this issue and make our community safe.

To learn more about what we are doing in the community, and how you can continue to support us, feel free to call us at 775-393-9183 or visit our website at <u>www.AwakenReno.org</u>.



Dear DHHS Contingency Services for Victims of Human Trafficking,

Awaken is requesting funds for dental work for a victim of trafficking in the Awaken transitional house. KH has left years of abuse and victimization. Growing up, her parents neglected her physical needs and safety. In time she encountered abusive relationships, which led to being trafficked. The violence she encountered included being locked up and held hostage for periods of time. Her teeth suffered from the physical violence and drug abuse. The pain KH endures on a daily basis hinders her from moving forward therapeutically. The physical look of her teeth also cause her grave insecurities.

Awaken has proceeded to pay for long road of dental work to begin. After KH had her front teeth repaired, she showed a significant change in her confidence. It has been noticeable by everyone around her, including herself.

KH wrote a letter to the staff as a gratitude response showing the absolute importance this dental work has on her life:

Dear Awaken Staff,

I just wanted to tell you how blessed I am to have you in my life. How extremely grateful I feel to have all the help and support I have through your services. I wanted to write you a thank letter to each and every one of you, because I realize how hard you work for all of your clients. I have not ever been in a safe place where I feel loved, wanted and welcomed the way I feel here. The main reason for my letter though is to thank you for blessing me with the opportunity to get my teeth fixed, I feel that I am so lucky to have been given the chance to grow and have my teeth fixed, boosts my confidence level. I don't know where I would be without the support of all of you. From the bottom of my heart and soul, I thank each and every one of you for all that you do to change the world. You make a big difference. You have made a big difference in me. THANK YOU!

We are requesting the funds for KH's dental needs so she can truly overcome the physical and emotional pain from her past, and begin to work on her future needs. Her insurance has covered the extractions. The final total Awaken is requesting is \$3,675.

Thank you for your considertation. Sincerely,

Melissa Holland Founder, Executive Director



BROSY FAMILY DENTISTRY 175 Cadilac Place Reno, NV 89509 775-826-1988

The fees in this proposal are valid until 03-15-19. After that, fees may increase.

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