

Dear Supporter,

It was just one year ago that I found myself holding an envelope containing the fate of what was only a dream three months earlier. In that envelope was Bridge to Freedom Foundation's (BTFF) approved incorporation paper which turned a dream into a reality. And only a year later we have begun to make dreams come true; helping human trafficking survivors thrive!

I am truly amazed and astonished at what BTFF has managed to accomplish in such a short period of time. We achieved many monumental firsts, set future goals, and witnessed the extraordinary character of those in the community who have rallied to support us. Although we have only just begun the long journey to build BTFF, each day is a milestone. Our success will be worth every struggle we faced and each hurdle we overcame. I get excited each day when I think about the possibilities and the impact we are going to make, and the lives we are going to affect! Our impact is already beginning to be felt thanks to all the volunteers and supporters who have rallied around us. We were fortunate to receive donated space from the Providence Presbyterian Church to store the donations which had begun to overflow from my car and house!

Over the past year we meet supporters, received calls and letters of encouragement and support; all of which never failed to inspire and amaze me. One such moment came when I travelled to Spain in September to speak on Human Trafficking at an Aspen Institute Conference, and I was amazed to have the opportunity to give BTFF a global voice so early on. It was there at the conference where one would think that our reach would have ended, but it wasn't. While taking a few days to myself I ran into a couple on a hill in Barcelona, from Springfield, VA, we began to talk and they were instantly drawn to the cause, they soon found me again on the other side of that hill to introduce me to their family, and then found me again back in Virginia, were they told me that the meeting in Spain was no chance meeting at all. They were right; to me it was a sign to remember no matter how global the fight is, that it always come back home, and home is where you have to begin to make you impact if it's going to last.

While we spent most of the year laying the foundation for our work, we did begin work with some individual survivors, and the impact has already been felt. The whole year was proven worth it when I received a phone call over the holidays from a client. The joy in her voice was even more overshadowed by the confidence and positive outlook she had for the future. That one call was only the beginning of many more to come thanks to your generous support. Thank you so very much for helping us to lay the foundation, for which to build the bridge to freedom for human trafficking survivors. We look forward to the New Year as we begin to lay more bricks in the bridge that will empower more survivors to thrive.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2010!!

Cassandra Clifford

Executive Director and Founder

Bridge to Freedom Foundation

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