

Connected for Freedom

Walking Alongside Survivors: A Look Into Survivor Advocacy

Key Takeaways



Crisis Response



Building Trust

Trust is built through consistency, showing up, following through, and creating spaces where survivors feel seen, heard, and respected.



Meeting Immediate Needs

Addressing urgent concerns such as shelter, food, clothing, transportation, and safety allows survivors to focus on longer-term goals and recovery.



A Collaborative Effort

No single agency can meet every need. Strong partnerships among advocates, healthcare providers, law enforcement, child welfare, and community organizations help prevent survivors from falling through the cracks.

Survivor advocacy is not about leading survivors, it is about walking alongside them, providing consistent, trauma-informed support that empowers them to define and pursue their own path toward healing.

Strength-Based Approach

Recognizing progress, celebrating successes, and helping survivors identify their resilience promotes healing and self-determination. Let's celebrate the small and big wins!

Small Interactions Matter

Listening, being present, reducing pressure, and responding with empathy can significantly influence a survivor's willingness to engage in service. A consistent presence can make a huge difference in service engagement.

Healing Is Not Linear

Survivors may experience periods of crisis throughout their journey, requiring ongoing support, flexibility, and repeated safety planning.

Rebuilding Community

Trafficking occurs in the context of harmful relationships; recovery often happens through healthy relationships and supportive communities. Brief interactions can make a lasting impact when providers listen and use survivor-centered language.

Survivors' courage, growth, and capacity to rebuild their lives demonstrate that healing is possible and remind professionals that they are not doing this work alone.