



ALIVE AT LAST

Where true freedom begins

Allies for the
Journey

Let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds.

HEBREWS 10:24



Alisa Evans
Executive Director

A message from our Executive Director

*Our heart is to mobilize
communities to encourage
and equip survivors of sexual
exploitation to build new lives.*



Imagine a life in which sexual abuse began at age 5. You feel helpless and unable to stop the abuse. Enslaved. What if all your neighbors were involved in prostitution, gangs and crime. There are no healthy role models and very little hope for the future. In fact, you can't imagine your life any other way.

I have personally listened to countless stories of abuse and neglect that began at an early age and led to a life of sexual exploitation: prostitution, trafficking and trading sexual favors for food, money or even a bus pass. Imagine those closest to you repeating, "You will never amount to anything. You are worthless." Words scar the heart deeply. Even if you don't want to believe it, you wonder if they are right because you haven't heard any positive affirmation.

But I have also witnessed profound healing that only occurs in relationship. In a moment, all the negative messages are challenged and a seed of hope is planted that God loves you, values you and wants more for you.

Alive at Last has pioneered a way to empower believers to help the most neglected and underserved segment in our society. We foster authentic relationships between Christians and survivors of sexual exploitation so that they heal, learn about their unique gifting, and find dignity and independence.

As mature Christians live out their calling to love their neighbor, they receive numerous blessings as they are used by God to bring hope and a sense of purpose. Alive at Last fills the gap of relational support survivors need.

Together we are literally changing lives and helping the exploited feel they are "alive at last." I look forward to partnering with you to extend the love of Christ to survivors all over our city and beyond.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

Alisa Evans

Alisa Evans
Executive Director
Alive at Last

The Problem:

Sexual exploitation is destroying lives in DFW.



1 in 4

girls will be sexually abused before they turn 18.

The sex trade is a

\$99 million

industry in our city.

85-95%

want to escape, but feel they have no other options for survival.

What keeps her enslaved?

Emotional scars

Emotional brokenness enslaves survivors. Many develop unhealthy coping mechanisms that allow them to survive, but not thrive. For those who experience trauma and abuse, the natural response is to self-protect in an attempt to hide their broken heart. They resort to self-harm or self-medicate with drugs and alcohol. They build walls and do not trust anyone.

Lack purpose and direction

Survivors often lack loving family and friends who help them develop their God-given gifts. They struggle with low self-esteem and do not understand their unique design. Growing up in dangerous environments, abuse takes the place of encouragement, which leaves the survivor feeling insignificant and worthless.

Barriers to Independence

Many survivors do not finish high school and have limited job opportunities. They can exist for years trapped in a subculture of drug addiction, prostitution, and crime. Women receive a felony after their third prostitution conviction. With no job history, felonies on her record, and no network, job possibilities remain bleak. Dependence on welfare is a natural progression. Escaping from this trap grows exponentially more difficult with each passing year.

The Solution:

Uniting Allies with survivors fosters healing, purpose, and independence in life.

The word, “Ally” denotes a mutually beneficial relationship in which both people have something to share and something to gain. Alive at Last mobilizes Christians to walk alongside survivors of sexual exploitation in relationship. Through this connection, both the ally and the survivor’s lives are changed forever.



Empowered Allies

ally

noun, al·ly \a-ˈlī, ə-ˈlī\

connected by a mutual relationship, as
resemblance of friendship

Alive at Last is a [movement of volunteers](#). We mobilize, equip and support allies for ministry in their city.

Mobilize: We bring awareness of sexual exploitation to the church and mobilize volunteers who have a heart to serve.

Equip: We equip allies with a strategic model, tools and training for addressing trauma and overcoming poverty.

Support: Each survivor’s journey is unique. We support allies through ongoing coaching and encouragement.

Allies fill a gap in services available to survivors that can only be met by believers who want to make a difference. Survivors’ lives are changed as they build relationships with Allies.

Healing: Survivors need God’s healing to move forward in life. By addressing life’s deepest wounds, survivors grow in confidence to face challenges.

Life Purpose: Survivors need encouragement to believe they are valuable and have a unique purpose in life. Allies help them understand their God-given design and help them explore new opportunities.

Independence: Generational poverty holds many survivors back due to faulty thinking and a lack of opportunities. Allies help survivors overcome barriers to self-sufficiency and independence.



Alies

HEALING



LIFE PURPOSE



Survivors



INDEPENDENCE



1 Healing

Survivors will continue to struggle in life if they don't heal from the abuse and trauma they suffered. It takes courage to process the pain, learn to forgive and begin to trust others.

Survivors find emotional healing in a safe environment when Allies facilitate support groups and are paired in one-on-one relationships. With the support of a nurturing community, survivors learn how to sustain healthy relationships, both interpersonally and at work. Survivors experience breakthroughs as they find a community willing to listen, extend grace, and offer acceptance. This is the first step in rebuilding a life worth living.

Relationships Bring Healing

“Abuse happens in relationships, therefore healing must happen in relationships. The treatment of trauma must not be confined to a professional, medical or psychological response, but instead understood as a relational process.”

– Steven R. Tracy & Celestia G. Tracy, Princess Found

Compassion and mercy can turn a survivor's life around. As survivors heal, Allies experience the blessing of being used by God to transform another's life.

Above all, Love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

testimonials

ally

I first heard about Alive at Last at our church women's ministry luncheon and was drawn to the fact that there were so many women hurting that needed to see God's love to heal.

I volunteered on that day, checking the box that said "Be an instructor." When I left that first meeting, I sat in my car and cried, overwhelmed by a world of unthinkable circumstances. I still cry.

I now teach a class and have been *blessed in innumerable ways*. I have laughed, cried, prayed with them and prayed for them. I've seen women build their self-esteem, take pride in themselves, and step out on their own. I've seen women stumble, pick themselves up, and then start over again. The biggest blessing of all however, is to see them come to know Jesus as their Personal Savior. Through God's amazing grace, I have seen women set free from the bondage and shame of abuse. *God has put a love in my heart for these women:*

– Sue, Ally

survivor

I didn't know what to expect in class. I was scared to share anything and I wasn't big on God. After a few classes I started to open up and learn about God. I began to realize that all the abuse I encountered was not my fault, and I didn't deserve it. It opened my eyes and helped me realize who I am. I learned tools to help me overcome the trauma. I became in touch with God and began to pray a little. The ladies helped me work through some issues. I am truly grateful for them. My life has changed in many ways. I am such a happier person inside and out. It put a permanent smile back on my face.

I no longer live in fear. I love myself again. I see the beauty in my life and a bright future.

– Allison, Survivor



2 Life Purpose

Survivors have not experienced healthy affirmation from those closest to them. The lies they believe about their purpose need to be replaced with the truth of their God-given design.

Understanding individual gifts, talents and abilities is essential to living out one's destiny. An Ally is paired in a one-on-one "mentoring" relationship with a survivor for 6 months. Allies have the opportunity to speak life-giving words to a survivor and allow her to:

Experience
Experience unconditional love

Discover
Discover strengths, gifts and talents

Explore
Explore life purpose and mission

As a survivor understands her unique design, she trades her inferior identity for an identity rooted in God and His love. She then begins to live a life full of meaning and a vision for her future is ignited. This is only possible with an Ally by her side, sharing the experience.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

testimonials

Survivor

I know that I am loved and forgiven by God no matter what other people have tried to convince me of in the past. I'm accepted and perfectly made in His image. I no longer have to be around negative people anymore. I can love myself and know that God loves me.

Now that I have knowledge about how to live a life I'm proud of and how I can be happy, I can now help others who are suffering and struggling with trauma and abuse. I can lead them into a new life and a new way of thinking.

I love this ministry and recommend it to anyone who has experienced any abuse, trauma and neglect, anyone who wants to love themselves for who they are. I'm no longer a slave to my past!

My mission statement is *"I rise by lifting others."*

– Cindy, Survivor

Ally

Volunteering for Alive At Last is a huge blessing, and being an ally to my new friend gives me such joy. I love seeing people discover who they truly are as uniquely designed creations of God. Being able to be a part of helping my new friend discover her design and explore her potential has been one of my favorite parts of being an ally.

My personal mission statement is: *Mining the gold in people.* And a huge part of my life work is to help people, their teams and their organizations discover their own mission statements. Working as an ally allows me that opportunity, while building a safe and trusting friendship. I enjoy every minute of our time together. She has grown so much, and I am thankful to be a part of that. I am humbled because she is willing to share honestly and risk trusting again. Her transparency honors me, and I hope I can reciprocate.

While Alive At Last only asks for a six-month commitment, *I expect our relationship to last for life.*

– Brenda, Ally



3 Independence

Survivors growing up in generational poverty struggle to find their place in today's job market. With minimal job experience, a criminal record, and no connections, survivors can feel overwhelmed and hopeless. They remain vulnerable until they learn new ways of thinking and planning for the future.

Allies come alongside survivors by leading groups, mentoring, coaching and offering employment. They encourage survivors to embrace life-giving principles and strategies.

1 God's view of work

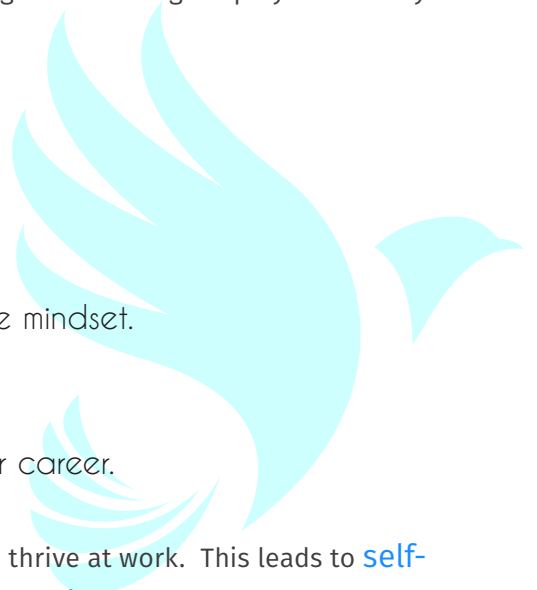
Work is good, and we are blessed to be a blessing.

2 Attitudes

Survivors learn to be faithful employees with a positive mindset.

3 Opportunities

Survivors develop plans and strategies to further their career.



Survivors develop **self-worth** and gain a sense of **pride** as they learn to thrive at work. This leads to **self-sufficiency** and a desire to get off welfare. For the first time, being **independent** is a reality for survivors.

Alive at Last replaces the poverty mindset and breaks the survivor's dependence on welfare.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

testimonials

ally

When we met our survivor, I could tell it was a great fit because she really wanted to get to a better place in her life. She worked hard and listened to constructive criticism well. She just kept getting better and better. She has also been a good leader in terms of helping other people who struggled with the same issues that she did in the past- mentoring them and encouraging them. *She has become an integral part of our company.*

If you are serious about finding a connection between business and ministry, you have to be willing to get to know people and hear their struggles. Our survivor struggled because she didn't have a driver's license. When I found out that she couldn't parallel park, I decide to teach her. We used our company parking lot before our guests arrived. We kept practicing and practicing until she got it. When she came in and told us she passed, we all celebrated! It didn't come from a place of pity for a person we felt we should help. Our celebration came from the fact there is a *relationship between us - a friendship.*

I think real ministry happens as you start having genuine relationships. You genuinely want to spend time with them. You genuinely want to fellowship with them. We are a team, and God calls us to love one another.

– Steve, Ally

survivor

Carmen grew up in the country and was raised by her grandmother. She dropped out of school in 11th grade and ended up on drugs. She got into a lot of trouble with the law and was arrested for prostitution. After going through rehab and staying at a transitional house, she met Alive at Last staff who introduced her to the company where she now works.

“In the beginning I was kinda nervous because I hadn't worked in many years. I made it through the interview process, but I still had to pass a two week training period. I was trying to do everything right, but I was under so much pressure. By not trying to mess up, I was messing up.

I had an incident with one of the bosses, and I kinda broke down. I went in the bathroom and looked at myself. I got myself together and said to myself, 'No. This is not how this is going to happen. I am not going to mess this up. I am going to work at this job.' When I came back out, from that day forth, I was on a whole nother level.

I am very grateful for the people I work with. We all joke around here. We are like a family. Everyone is wonderful. We are friends. I love the people I work with. I have a lot of mentors they are always on me about elevating and doing better. We communicate with each other. There isn't a lot of drama. We are a close knit group.

I am no longer on any government assistance. I pay for everything. I don't mind. I have transitioned from starting out with nothing to completely supporting me and my daughter.”

– Carmen, Survivor



Why is our model effective?

Our model of community support allows survivors to flourish in life-giving relationships so that they can heal, discover their unique design and learn to live out their God-given purpose.

“Love the Lord your God... and Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 10:27

Volunteer Movement

Alive at Last mobilizes, equips and supports believers to extend the grace and love of God to the exploited.

Collaborative

We partner with local organizations such as The Salvation Army and Union Gospel Mission to identify survivors and provide complementary services. Other partners include drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers, diversionary court programs, parole offices and non-profit organizations. By working together, we can provide a more effective outcome and reach more survivors.

City-Wide Coverage

We support survivors where they live. Because many survivors do not have a car, Alive at Last makes it easy by bringing services to our partners' locations.

Scalable

Our online training educates, empowers, and inspires Allies from their home. Also, each Ally has a designated leader for personal support. Because each survivor has unique needs, our experienced Leader Allies with first-time Allies function as a team to give appropriate support. The combination of online resources and personal support makes our model scalable.

Growth Opportunities

Our goal is to replicate the current framework and multiply the number of locations as we advance regionally and nationally in the coming years.

MISSION

Mobilize communities to encourage and equip survivors of sexual exploitation to build new lives.

VISION

Survivors of sexual exploitation live free, fulfilling their God-given purpose.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barry L. Gordon

Gary Sutton

Elaine L. Sommerville

Debbie MacDonald

Mike Immler

Gwen Miller

469-319-0922

aliveatlast.org

alisa@aliveatlast.org