My Story: From Victim to Survivor to Leader

Beth Jacobs
TAT Field Trainer
Survivor Leader
Chapter I
Background

Grew up in a small town in Minnesota

Never felt true love or acceptance from my mom

Had to learn the bus system

My parents split up after long separations

I went to live with my dad in a bigger town
Training Points

Prostituted people don’t come from “Prostitutionville”

We are your neighbors, friends, fellow citizens

Vulnerabilities and insecurities can make you a target

People are looking for acceptance and love
Chapter 2
One Fateful Choice

- Job searching and the bus station
- Pool hall
- Meeting Meeco and Moe
- Missing the bus
- Missing the bus a second time--- the moment my life changed forever
During the barbecue, Meeco and Moe asked me a lot of questions---scouting for victims

False sense of trust established with them

Fear of my dad’s reaction about the bus... one choice. It really can happen that fast
Chapter 3
Initiation to the Life

• Took a ride with Moe and accepted a drink out of a McDonald’s cup
• When I woke up, I woke up to a new reality
• The truck stop
• No one helped
Training Points

- Gorilla Pimp versus Romeo Pimp
- Deep fear---the start of the breaking grounds
- People didn’t know what to do then, but you all do. CALL 911 and the hotline 1-888-3737-888 if you suspect human trafficking
Chapter 4
Breaking Me Down

- Took me to a hotel used for prostitution
- Took my clothes, glasses, identity, age, name
- Beat me everyday; emotional abuse and name calling
- Brought between 4-15 buyers a day to me
- Used drugs as punishment and for compliance
- Moe hid in the closet to make sure I complied

Photo credit: https://flic.kr/p/4qJNDP
I believed my trafficker/pimp was EVERYWHERE

Self-esteem was eroding

No escape

I started to internalize his lies

Every hesitation was met with a blow

My identity was shifting
Chapter 5
Attempted Escapes

- Got into taxi to go to bus station
  - Abducted and raped/beaten/exploited
- Police arrived and were going to send me home
  - Pimp met me at first bus stop and abducted me
- I gave up...resigned myself to the life
Pimp said no one wanted me, and I was nothing...maybe that was true.

Broken and brainwashed

Feeling of hopelessness

Don’t know who to trust---everyone is out to exploit you

Training Points
People wonder why we just don’t tell law enforcement

Pimps condition us to distrust officers: “They are your enemies and will lock you up.”

Many of us have been used by police
Chapter 7
Getting Out

- Serial killer murdering prostituted women
- Traffickers sent me and another victim to Minnesota to another trafficker’s home to wait out the killer
- We drove to Minnesota, and she started working in a massage parlor... I got picked up on an outstanding warrant, and that was when I got out.
Training Points

- It takes a lot of courage to leave your trafficker if you are even able
- There aren’t a lot of resources especially for adults exiting the life
- Getting out turned out to be the easiest part...
Chapter 8
Rebuilding My Life

- No home
- No identification
- No high school diploma
- No money
- Fear of Traffickers
- No support system
- Broken self-esteem
- Criminal record
- Lack of job skills
- Few services
A Little Trivia

Did you know that it is easier for a trafficker to get ID after he gets out of prison then it is for the victim?
Why do we need identification?

- To get into a shelter
- To apply for Food Stamps
- To apply for health care coverage
- To get treated at a hospital or clinic
- To donate plasma or blood
- To rent an apartment or a house
- For the police
- To ride a plane, train, or bus
- To register at the unemployment office
- To get a library card
- To start a Job
- To cash a check
- To go to school
- To register to vote
- To buy a car
- To drive
Case Studies

Stephanie

• Born in Chicago Illinois
• Chicken or the Egg

Chrissy

• Born in Texas - One needs ID to get a birth certificate, and to get a birth certificate you need ID
WE NEED YOU!

Point of contact in every DMV office across the nation to assist survivors needing to get a drivers license

- Cares about the issue
- Well-Connected
- Supported
Chapter 9

Today

- Got some help and guidance through a program in Minnesota
- Went to school and received my BSW
- Worked with prostituted and sexually exploited individuals
- Began Willow Way in Tucson, AZ
- Advocated for legislative and policy changes
- Train law enforcement as a field trainer for TAT
- Have built successful, healthy relationships
Video
WE NEED YOU!

Point of contact in every DMV office across the nation to assist survivors needing to get a drivers license

- Cares about the issue
- Well-Connected
- Supported
Beth Jacobs
TAT Field Trainer
bjacobs.tat@hotmail.com
520-488-7399