

Waves OF HOPE

YOUR GENEROSITY IN ACTION

Hope comes in waves. It surges. It peaks. It swells and it crashes. But the true test lies in what follows the waves: the lull.

The lull is when the ocean's surface remains unceasingly flat. It is when our ability to continue is tested, sometimes even doubted. The lull is when we dig into the deepest wells of who we are, lean heavily on each other, and plead our most honest prayers.

This year, in particular, the Center for Justice and Reconciliation (CJR) has felt the gravity of the lull. There have been countless moments when hope is imperceptible: the grooming of children rises and the resources to adequately address this are scarce; a survivor scholar faces housing instability that disrupts her pursuit of a college degree; the CJR itself operates without the leadership of an Executive Director for a lengthy stretch of time.

Jesus himself encounters the pinnacle of all lulls in the final moments before he is arrested to be crucified. He breathes: "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow."

How remarkable that when the sorrow feels infinite, the ocean's surface once again begins to stir. A fresh wave of hope comes rushing toward us: a tenth grade boy realizes he is being groomed and reaches out for help through a kNOW MORE!© presentation; a survivor scholar begins their

studies at PLNU through the Beauty for Ashes Scholarship Fund; the CJR team is fortified by leaning on each other during a big transition.

And the most astounding wave we've ever known still buoys us: death and injustice recede in the presence of Jesus' incomprehensible resurrection.

Hope—the real, substantive kind—comes in waves. It ebbs and flows, surges and recedes. Hope that saturates our lives with meaning is tested and doubted, sometimes so fiercely we can fear it has been forever lost. Yet as we persist, we often discover—again and again—that hope is steadily moving in the undercurrent of our lives, swelling in moments to give us the courage and strength we need to keep pressing on.

With Gratitude,

Rylie Shore Kern
Program Director, Community Relations



CENTER FOR JUSTICE &
RECONCILIATION



Your support has made the following *waves of hope* possible and the *lulls* endurable since July 1, 2023:

BEAUTY FOR ASHES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SEVEN SURVIVORS of human trafficking are studying at PLNU under the Beauty for Ashes Scholarship Fund, **THREE** of them for the very first time.

THE LULL: There are three essentials that many survivors lack when rebuilding a life outside of exploitation: secure housing, stable income, and a strong support system. Without these stabilizing factors, unforeseen challenges – such as a car breaking down or financial aid being withheld due to complicated regulations – have threatened to derail the studies of a few survivor scholars.

WAVE OF HOPE: A survivor scholar was barred from receiving her nursing license because of her record – a direct result of her victimization. Determined to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse, this scholar worked diligently with CJR partners to appeal the decision. After learning that she was a victim at the time of the crime, the judge immediately expunged her record. He told the survivor scholar that her courage has forged a new path for other survivors to get their records expunged as well. This scholar is now moving closer toward her dream of working with under-resourced communities as a nurse while maintaining a notable GPA and holding class leadership positions.

KNOW MORE!® PREVENTION CURRICULUM

*Since the start of the school year, the kNOw MORE!® team has performed in **FIVE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS:** Crawford, Hilltop, Hoover, Montgomery, and San Diego. **OVER 2,000 TEENS, grades nine through eleven, are now equipped to recognize and interrupt the grooming process.***

THE LULL: As the need for kNOw MORE!® becomes increasingly evident, we have received an influx of performance requests from local high schools. Because financial resources have not increased at the same rate as community interest, we have been unable to equip all interested schools with human trafficking prevention education.

WAVE OF HOPE: In October, the kNOw MORE!® team performed the interactive drama for 1,289 students at Montgomery, Hilltop, and San Diego High Schools. Twenty-nine of these students requested follow up

on their exit slips, indicating they had additional questions or needed to talk to someone about themselves or a friend. Beyond its intent as a prevention tool, the kNOw MORE!® curriculum is identifying dozens of youth who are being groomed or exploited and ensuring they are connected to resources.



ABOVE:
The kNOw MORE!® team pose with the Montgomery High School mascot.



LEFT:
A selfie of the kNOw MORE!® team during one of their rehearsals.

HT-RADAR

*To expand the number of professionals engaged in human trafficking awareness and prevention, HT-RADAR is partnering with different subcommittees of the Human Trafficking Advisory Council to launch discipline-specific forums. The first forum focused on "Human Trafficking within Healthcare" and was attended by **OVER FIFTY PROFESSIONALS**.*

THE LULL: As trafficking recruitment tactics change shape and resources for survivors remain limited, the most effective method for equipping professionals can feel ambiguous. In the revisioning process for HT-RADAR, it was difficult to identify how this program can best evolve to meet the emerging, complex needs within the county.

WAVE OF HOPE: On October 20th, HT-RADAR hosted the Human Trafficking within Healthcare Forum. Over fifty professionals were equipped with the tools to identify and respond to human trafficking in the healthcare sector. The event also sparked interest in eighty individuals who are now connected with the healthcare subcommittee and want to do more to combat human trafficking in their field.

Professionals in the healthcare sector gathered at PLNU's liberty station campus to learn more about human trafficking prevention.



CHURCHES AGAINST TRAFFICKING

*The CJR regularly shares faith-based learning tools and action steps with the **2,700+ INDIVIDUALS** who are subscribed to our monthly newsletter. Beyond this, Churches Against Trafficking has largely been on pause.*

THE LULL: Churches Against Trafficking lost engagement coming out of the pandemic. There is not a clear pathway toward what the next rendition of this program could look like, and funding remains limited.

WAVE OF HOPE: Individuals from a handful of churches have recently reached out to inquire about how to get involved with Churches Against Trafficking. The renewed interest in this program has inspired the possibility of hosting a focus group to identify how it can best serve churches.

STUDENT INITIATIVES

*More than **75 STUDENTS** attended the Cup of Culture series this semester, and **THIRTEEN PLNU STUDENTS** committed to participate in the Justice Cohort.*

THE LULL: On the Border Pilgrimage in September, we grieved the tragedy of lives lost and torn apart at the U.S - Mexico border. Students heard personal, firsthand stories from migrants and border patrol agents, and together, we soberly acknowledged that we often lack clear solutions to global, systemic issues.

WAVE OF HOPE: The October Cup of Culture featured a dynamic panel of five local organizations who spoke to PLNU students about social justice careers. Representatives from Olive Crest, Jewish Family Services, Plant with Purpose, the Rock Church, and International Rescue Committee offered tangible opportunities for students to take action on issues they care about most. Sophomore Rhianna Nowlin reflected: "I learned about different projects near us and was able to reach out to different people and opportunities. There are many ways to get connected and serve."

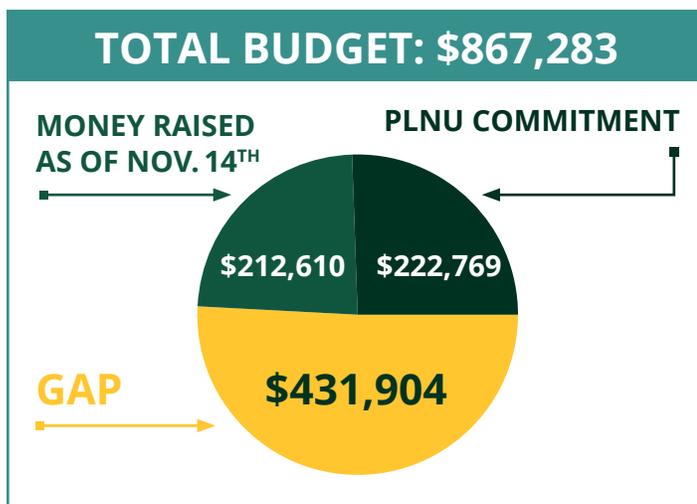
The 2023-2024 Justice Cohort members gather every Thursday evening to learn more about justice issues & take action.



OUR BUDGET

The CJR is mid-way through its fiscal year, and we have only raised 30% of the \$645K needed to continue operating our programs. If we do not raise \$109K by December 31, 2023, conversations with survivors hoping to attend PLNU next year will be paused. kNOW MORE!© presentations in San Diego high schools will be halted. Human trafficking education, prevention, and awareness will be interrupted. *We need your help to raise \$109K before the new year so that life-saving human trafficking prevention and education can continue.* Human trafficking is on the rise, and survivors and youth need resources now more than ever.

Your end-of-year donation will close the financial gap. Will you make a donation to guarantee that human trafficking prevention and education can continue in 2024?



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER

With your end-of-year or monthly contribution, we can achieve the following goals together in the next six months:

Bring the kNOW MORE!© Prevention Curriculum to three high schools and reach over 1,500 students

Continue phase one of a two-year research project that focuses on "Analysis of Prosecutions of Human Trafficking Crimes within San Diego County: A Retrospective Study"

Welcome a new Executive Director to the CJR

The need for human trafficking prevention and response continues to grow. The CJR depends on your end-of-year donation to address this growing need.

You can give online at: pointloma.edu/cjr

You can also send checks to:

CJR at Point Loma Nazarene University

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your gifts are tax deductible.

Become a HOPE Hero

Hope Heroes are those who financially support the CJR on a monthly basis. When you give monthly, you nurture hope by creating a sustainable foundation for human trafficking prevention and education to reach more people.

CONTACT US:

CENTER FOR JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION | PLNU
3900 LOMALAND DRIVE | SAN DIEGO, CA 92106
cjr@pointloma.edu | (619) 849-3224 | pointloma.edu/cjr



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