

THE HOPE OF SURVIVORS

2015 Annual Report

Assisting victims of clergy sexual abuse and misconduct, as well as providing educational and informational materials and seminars to pastors and churches of every denomination, worldwide.

Celebrating 13 Years of Service 2002-2015

www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com

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The History of The Hope of Survivors

The year 2015 marked the 13-year anniversary of The Hope of Survivors, which was born one evening in December 2002, as Steve and Samantha were reflecting upon their own experience of clergy sexual abuse and the lack of resources that were available to help them understand and heal at that time. They felt compelled to develop a website that would provide information and encouragement to anyone who may be searching for answers. Steve and Samantha felt if “just one person” could be helped by the website, then it would be well worth the effort and pain they had gone through. While Steve and Samantha’s vision was initially limited in thinking “just one,” the Lord knew how many hurting people there were—suffering all alone and living without hope. As you will see in the remainder of this report, there are many “ones” out there who have been touched and blessed by the ministry of The Hope of Survivors. Truly, God does work all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

About The Hope of Survivors

The Hope of Survivors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting victims of clergy sexual abuse and misconduct of all denominations and faith communities, as well as providing educational and informational materials and seminars to clergy members, church leaders and congregations worldwide.



The Hope of Survivors is a registered California nonprofit corporation and is authorized to conduct business in the state of Iowa, and in Ohio and Texas as a foreign corporation under the same name. *La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes*, the Latino Division of The Hope of Survivors, is registered in the state of Texas. The Hope of Survivors maintains International offices with volunteer staff in Queensland, Australia; Bistrița & Bucharest, Romania; Alberta, Canada; and Edenbridge, UK.

Professional memberships include: American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC), Outpost Centers International (OCI); Adventist Association of Family Life Professionals (AAFLP), and Adventist-laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI). The Hope of Survivors has been recognized as a Valued Partner by GuideStar Exchange and has received the Top-Rated Nonprofit Award for 2012-2015.



Why The Hope of Survivors?

Many people wonder why there is a need for The Hope of Survivors. They tend to see this as a small issue with few victims and, therefore, no need for an organization that addresses such a difficult topic. From our perspective—and from that of the victims we serve around the world—the need for The Hope of Survivors is very great because the prevalence of clergy sexual abuse is also very great.

Each year approximately 100 new victims contact The Hope of Survivors for emotional and spiritual support. About 10,000-15,000 people visit the website each month. That tells us there are many victims who find the information and support they need directly through the website. Let's allow the victims to speak for themselves about the need for and importance of The Hope of Survivors:

"I found out about The Hope of Survivors from my own research. ...Your website helped give me the confirmation, biblically and just through the knowledge on the subject, that speaking out is important to protect others and helped guide me in knowing the appropriate way to do so, along with talking to my therapist, prayer and biblical research of my own."—UT

"Thank you for your response. I greatly appreciate this platform as it is right now the only support that I have. ...It is only after God led me to this website that my eyes were opened to what had really happened to me. I was just always in pain after the abuse and knew that I needed counseling but I didn't even understand what for because I had not even understood it to be abuse. I have read every victim's story and some of the things they were told by their abusers are exactly the things I was told, word for word, and that is scary. I greatly appreciate your support, I never would have known what was happening with me had it not been for your website."—South Africa

"My congregation did not label my situation with my pastor as abuse, but as an affair. The Hope of Survivors is what changed me and helped me understand what abuse of power is."—IA
"Best resource I have come across to help victims of Clergy Sexual Abuse and hurting congregations. Great for prevention, education and responsiveness. Being passive is NOT acceptable."—OH

"I'm writing to you because, firstly, I just wanted to tell my story in a safe place and, secondly, see if you could help me understand Biblically how God feels about all this. Because I think I know, but a lot of what I thought I was told I no longer trust. I want to keep seeking God and truth and I believe in your organization and was hoping you could guide me to some of the answers I was looking for."—Survivor

"I went through a very dark time in my life and, if it had not been for Steve and Samantha with The Hope of Survivors being there to counsel, pray and encourage me, I would be depressed, divorced and destitute. They continue to be a remnant for people like me. Precious and God sent. Their service is selfless and I am forever grateful to them."—KS

When you financially support The Hope of Survivors, you are enabling us to produce resources that will help victims recover from the devastating trauma and effects of clergy sexual abuse. You help us to educate clergy and church leaders about the issue and facilitate prevention of the abuse. You save lives and marriages. You help change the faith community by enabling us to bring about greater awareness of this issue through exhibiting at conventions, speaking engagements, etc. Thank you for partnering with The Hope of Survivors as we continue to bind up the brokenhearted and set the captives free (Luke 4:18).

Description of Mission, Services & Programs

The Hope of Survivors takes a faith-based, scriptural approach to helping victims understand the devastation of clergy sexual abuse and how they can receive healing and wholeness by God's grace. It is our mission and prayer that, through our website, educational seminars, one-to-one communication (phone, email and in person), media, printed resources and in-house programs, you will find answers and the truth about what's happening to you. The Hope of Survivors seeks to:

- (a) Educate the victims, clergy, church body and the general public about clergy sexual abuse and misconduct, the frequency of occurrences, the moral and social implications involved and the devastating consequences through national media, by disseminating brochures and other related materials, conducting educational seminars, and by maintaining up-to-date websites;
- (b) Conduct retreats and seminars specifically for the victims of clergy sexual abuse and provide one-on-one support for the purpose of facilitating their healing and recovery, and helping them to gain a greater understanding of what has happened to them, giving them hope and encouragement, and restoring their faith in their Creator;
- (c) Work closely with churches that are dealing with the after-effects of an abuse situation for the purpose of helping them to understand the importance of providing a safe environment for all and for understanding the dynamics of clergy sexual abuse so that the church and the victim are not further damaged in the aftermath;
- (d) Provide training seminars for clergy and church administrators for the purpose of disseminating prevention information and encouragement, and to work closely with those who have violated their sacred trust.

In short, the mission of The Hope of Survivors may be summed up in the motto:

Reaching the Hurting... Ministering to those who have suffered abuse at the hands of clergy.

Calling the Faithful... Providing resources and support to church leadership to help them remain true to their high calling.

Bridging the Gap... Leading the hurting to hope through a healing relationship with Christ.

Organization Funding

The Hope of Survivors is funded by individuals who support the mission and goals of the organization; survivors of clergy sexual abuse who desire to use their means to help others; and by grants from private individuals and foundations whose values are similar to those of The Hope of Survivors. Grants previously awarded include: Versacare, The William R. Dally Foundation, ASI MidAmerica and the HOPE Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Your support is greatly appreciated. The Hope of Survivors does not receive any denominational subsidies.

Statement of Financial Position — As of December 31, 2015

ASSETS	<u>Dec. 31, 2015</u>
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 — Cash — HOPE Checking — US Bank	\$100,400.61
1045 — Cash — CD	\$ 15,009.24
1074 — Hold for Healing Center	\$0.00
1075 — Cash — Hold — Temp Restr. Romania	\$0.00
1080 — Hold for Canadian Division	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$115,409.85
Other Current Assets	
1079 — Hold for DVD Project	\$0.00
1200 — Miscellaneous Receivables	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Current Assets	\$115,409.85
Fixed Assets	
1600 — Equipment	\$10,518.94
1603 — Renewal Center Land	\$0.00
1605 — Renewal Center Building	\$0.00
1607 — Renewal Center Furnishings	\$0.00
1690 — Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(\$9,435.00)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,083.94
Other Assets	
1810 — Start-up Expenses	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$118,493.79</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
2300 — Credit Card Liability	
2310 — Company Credit Card—Capital One	\$0.00
2314 — Company Credit Card—US Bank #3545	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total 2300 — Credit Card Liability	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Credit Cards	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity	
3010 — Unrestrict (retained earnings)	\$263,293.61
3015 — Temporarily Restricted	\$13,000.00
Net Income	<u>(\$157,799.82)</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$118,493.79</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>\$118,493.79</u>

Statement of Activities — January through December 2015

Ordinary Income/Expense	<u>Jan – Dec 2015</u>
Income	
4000 — Contributions	\$40,467.35
4001 — Grants	\$15,000.00
4002 — Contributions — Temp Restricted	\$0.00
4010 — Non-Cash Donations	\$0.00
4100 — Sales	\$750.82
4400 — Miscellaneous Income	\$10,436.12
4500 — Interest Income	<u>\$16.78</u>
Total Income	\$66,671.07
Expense	
6000 — Salaries	\$50,000.00
6010 — Payroll Taxes	\$4,098.00
6050 — Professional Fees	
6052 — Accounting	\$985.51
6050 — Professional Fees – Other	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total 6050 — Professional Fees	\$985.51
6060 — Books & Education	\$517.50
6070 — Bank Charges	\$212.09
6075 — Finance Charges	\$4,267.34
6080 — Contract Services	\$16,378.30
6090 — Donations	\$0.00
6100 — Rent	\$119.53
6120 — Telephone & Internet Services	\$1,956.18
6130 — Dues & Publications	\$468.00
6150 — Licenses & Fees	\$498.00
6160 — Insurance	\$1,442.00
6200 — Office Supplies	\$2,283.15
6210 — Renewal Center Maintenance	\$3,325.87
6220 — Collection Service	\$394.96
6230 — Postage	\$1,496.88
6240 — Printing & Publishing	\$5,422.29
6245 — Software	\$129.99
6250 — Photography	\$349.00
6260 — Operating Supplies	\$763.27
6270 — Research Funding	\$0.00
6300 — Sales Tax Paid	\$10.00
6400 — Advertising	\$10,268.78
6410 — Domain Registration	\$930.11
6420 — Travel	
6421 — Lodging	\$9,331.19
6422 — Airfare	\$4,177.80
6423 — Car Rental & Other Auto Expense	\$1,048.22
6424 — Fuel	\$1,044.06
6425 — Other Travel Expenses	<u>\$718.85</u>
Total 6420 — Travel	\$16,320.12
6431 — Grocery / Meal — Renewal Center	\$0.00
6430 — Meals & Entertainment — Other	<u>\$3,901.27</u>
Total 6430 — Meals & Entertainment	\$3,901.27
6500 — Victim Assistance	\$500.00
6570 — Utilities	\$4,232.22
66900 — Reconciliation Discrepancies	\$0.00
6700 — Depreciation Expense	\$5,580.00
Total Expense	<u>\$136,850.36</u>
Net Ordinary Income / Other Income/Expense	(\$70,179.29)
Other Income	
6850 — Gain (Loss) on Assets Disposals	(\$87,620.53)
Total Other Income	(\$87,620.53)
Net Other Income	(\$87,620.53)
Net Income	<u>(\$157,799.82)</u>

Demographic Information By Denomination

The chart below reveals the 2015 demographics based on reported denominational affiliation.

#	<u>Denominational Demographics</u>	%
2	African Methodist Episcopal Church	2%
2	Anglican Church	2%
2	Assembly of God	2%
4	Baptist Church	4%
1	Brethren in Christ (Friends)	1%
5	Catholic Church/Roman Catholic Church	5%
1	Charismatic Interdenominational Church	1%
2	Christ Gospel Church	2%
1	Christian Missionary & Alliance Church	1%
1	Church of Christ - Christian Church	1%
1	Disciples of Christ	1%
1	Episcopal Church	1%
1	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	1%
2	Free Methodist Church/United Methodist	2%
1	Full Gospel Church	1%
2	Jewish	2%
3	Lutheran Church	3%
8	Non-denominational	8%
1	Pentecostal Church	1%
1	Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada	1%
33	Seventh-day Adventist Church	35%
1	Tibetan Buddhist	1%
18	Undisclosed	19%
1	Vine Life Church	1%
	<u>Adjustment for fraction of percentages</u>	<u>2%</u>
95	Total from 1/1/15 to 12/31/15	100%

Notes:

- (1) These demographics do **not** include clients from previous years, who may still be receiving ongoing support from The Hope of Survivors.
- (2) These demographics do **not** include secondary victims such as spouses, children, friends or relatives of the affected individual who contacted The Hope of Survivors, or the other victims of the same pastor of which the client was aware and made known to The Hope of Survivors.
- (3) These figures also do **not** include known cases where The Hope of Survivors has been consulted but has had no direct contact with the client. Thus, the total number served is much greater than these statistics cited.
- (4) The year 2015 averaged just under 2 new clients per week (95 total).
- (5) Same notes apply as stated above on following page.

Demographic Information By State/Country

The chart below reveals the 2015 demographics based on the state/country where the client resides. Throughout just 2015 there were **26** known states and **10** known countries (other than the U.S.) represented as of 12/31/15.

<u>State</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Arizona	2	2%
Australia	4	4%
California	7	7%
Canada	4	4%
Colorado	5	5%
Florida	4	4%
Georgia	3	3%
Great Britain / United Kingdom	4	4%
Idaho	1	1%
Illinois	2	2%
India	2	2%
Indiana	3	3%
Kansas	1	1%
Kentucky	1	1%
Louisiana	1	1%
Maryland	2	2%
Mexico	1	1%
Michigan	2	2%
Minnesota	2	2%
Missouri	3	3%
Nebraska	2	2%
New Jersey	4	4%
New Zealand	1	1%
North Carolina	1	1%
Ohio	2	2%
Oklahoma	3	3%
Oregon	1	1%
Pennsylvania	8	8%
Romania	1	1%
Slovakia	1	1%
South Africa	2	2%
Tennessee	3	3%
Texas	4	4%
Undisclosed	6	6%
Wisconsin	1	1%
Wyoming	6	6%
<u>Adjustment for fraction of percentages</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>
Total from 1/1/15 to 12/31/15		100%

The Hope of Survivors' Officers, Directors & Staff

Without God as the Ultimate Founder, Director and Provider for The Hope of Survivors, none of the work would have lasting effect or eternal results. We give all the glory and honor to our Heavenly Father, yet we recognize the individuals who are His instruments in service. We acknowledge and give our year-end 2015 Board of Directors and Volunteers our heartfelt gratitude for their sacrificial service:

Board of Directors

Steve Nelson, President, Chairman (since 12/02)
Samantha Nelson, V.P. & CEO (since 12/02)
Martin Weber (since 4/08)
Steven Grabiner (since 2/07)
Jennifer Jill Schwirzer (since 9/07)
Ray Hartwell (since 4/08)
Wendy Lee (since 3/12)
Robert Peck (since 7/12)
Shyleene Rosado (since 4/07)
Jeanne Hartwell (since 9/14)
Renee Battle-Brooks (since 10/15)



Ray Hartwell, Jeanne Hartwell, Robert Peck, Steven Grabiner, Martin Weber, Jennifer Schwirzer, Steve Nelson, Samantha Nelson, Madeline Roll, Coralie Roll and Wendy Schwitzer

Volunteers

Tom Lemon (2004-2009)—Board Chair Emeritus
Robert & Debbie Withrow (since 2/04)—Accounting
Peggy & Dave Mahrt (since 5/05)—PR/Marketing
Coralie Roll (since 1/06)—Australia Division/Admin.
Sandy Kirkham (since 8/06)—Advisory Panel
Arlagene Groves (since 4/07)—Australia Division/Victim Support Services
Shyleene Rosado (since 4/07)—Latino Division Vice President/Victim Support Services
Heather & Brad Brown (since 9/09)—Victim Support Services
Gail Jenkins (since 8/10)—Victim Support Services
Andrea & Anthony Shipwright (since 5/13)—Victim Support Services (UK)
Laura Fierbinteanu (since 12/13)—Romanian Division Victim Support Services
Mary Jo Noworyta (since 3/14)—Victim Support Services; PR/Marketing
Shayna Costello (since 5/15)—Fundraiser
Timothy Elder (since 7/15)—Research Assistant; Victim Support Services
David Pollock (since July 2015)—Marketing (Latino Division)
Angelica Pollock (since July 2015)—Law & Victim Resources (Latino Division)
Yesenia Elias (since July 2015)—Social Media (Latino Division)

Day-to-day operations are primarily the responsibility of the CEO; however, each Director and Volunteer has a vital role in the ongoing development and advancement of the ministry and its goals. The Hope of Survivors is indeed indebted and greatly blessed by the involvement of each Director and Volunteer. Volunteers worked over 3,000 hours during 2015.*

***Note:** Estimates based on tasks undertaken by individual volunteers. Not all volunteers reported hours, even though they performed work on behalf of The Hope of Survivors. The total hours represents a **low** estimate of the number of volunteer hours required during 2015. Additional hours from project-based volunteers, such as the individuals who offered to translate the website into various languages, are not included in this estimate. Hours from volunteers in other countries are **not** included although they are in the hundreds of hours.

Exposure Information Editorial / Media / Advertising

- Google AdWords (key words for search results – monthly)
- Women’s Radio Network Interview with Lisa Singer
- 3ABN *Today* Interview (February 2015)
- Focus on Women Magazine (Baltimore, MD)
- LifestyleTV Interview
- Adventist Review—Reaching Out to Victims of Clergy Abuse (July-August 2015)
- LLBN Interview
- Inside ASI Ad (Summer 2015)
- Life Destiny TV (South Africa)—aired documentaries
- Faith That Inspires Action (May 2015)
- Christian Newswire (May 2015)
- 3ABN Australia Interview (August 2015)
- And many others!

Additionally, The Hope of Survivors continued to publish and distribute its quarterly newsletter, *HopeSpeak*, to over 1,800 individuals, and distributed materials through various avenues, including online orders, direct requests, conventions, conferences and other venues.

Conferences / Programs / Projects

Beyond the day-to-day support it provided for victims of clergy sexual abuse, The Hope of Survivors was actively engaged in the following events, conferences and programs, plus several in-house and on-site counseling sessions at various times during 2015. Some of these included:

- *Hope & Healing* 5-day Respite at Bedford, IA (January 2015)
- Sermon series on healing in Northglenn, CO (February 2015)
- *Trust & Truth* seminar in Northglenn, CO (February 2015)
- ASI exhibit in Kansas City, MO (March 2014)
- Sermon series on healing in Kansas City, MO (March 2015)
- Sermon series on healing in Shiprock, NM (April 2015)
- *Trust & Truth* seminar in Shiprock, NM (April 2015)
- Training seminar for Navajo Support Group Leaders in Waterflow, NM (April 2015)
- Sermon series on healing in Centralia, MO (June 2015)
- Sermon series on healing in Hamburg, PA (June 2015)
- Exhibits at camp meetings in MO and PA (June 2015)
- Exhibit at North American Christian Convention in Cincinnati, OH (June 2015)
- Exhibit at General Conference Session of SDAs in San Antonio, TX (June-July 2015)
- Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention Campaign in San Diego, CA (August 2015)
- Sermon series on healing in Council Bluffs, IA (August 2015)
- Sermon series on healing in Mt. Tamborine, Australia (August 2015)
- *Hope & Healing* 5-day Respite at Mt. Tamborine, Australia (August 2015)
- Men’s Prayer Breakfast lecture in Toowoomba, Australia (September 2015)
- Sermon on healing in Toowoomba, Australia (September 2015)
- Congregational Healing Symposium in Lancaster, PA (September 2015)
- Exhibit at Pastoral Evangelism & Leadership Council in Huntsville, AL (December 2015)

Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention™ Day Campaign

The Hope of Survivors conducted its 5th annual Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention (CSAAP) campaign (<http://www.clergysexualabuseawarenessday.com>) by hosting several events around the country and enlisting many volunteers for various activities. Although CSAAP was initiated by The Hope of Survivors, many other individuals and organizations are part of this campaign to raise awareness of the issue of clergy sexual abuse and to fight to stop its prevalence among churches of all denominations. Several endorsements have been garnered from leaders in the fields of advocacy, research, law and social work, which helped lend additional credibility to the significance of the campaign.



It is the goal of The Hope of Survivors to see CSAAP become to clergy sexual abuse what pink ribbons have become to Breast Cancer Awareness. You can help us make that happen by sponsoring or hosting an event in your area, writing letters to the editor of your local newspaper, as well as mainstream media outlets. Just be sure to let us know your plans so we can assist you with promotion and materials!

Special Thanks...

The Hope of Survivors is deeply indebted and thankful to its Directors, Officers and Volunteers (listed on page 10) who served and supported the ministry in 2015. It is difficult to list the names of every individual or organization that has had a part in supporting or assisting the ministry in some way. There are many individuals who faithfully support this ministry in some way, and we are very grateful for you. Thank you all for your support and prayers!

We'd also like to say "Thank You" to our donors and to those who have donated their time, talents and services to help The Hope of Survivors conduct its programs and day-to-day operations. The Hope of Survivors would not be able to continue its operations and services for victims and churches if it were not for you.

"Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf."—2 Corinthians 1:11