

# THE HOPE OF SURVIVORS

## 2016 Annual Report

Assisting victims of clergy sexual abuse and misconduct, as well as providing educational and informational materials and seminars to pastors, church leaders and congregations of every denomination and faith community, worldwide.

Celebrating 14 Years of Service 2002-2016

**[www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com](http://www.TheHopeOfSurvivors.com)**

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## Contact Information

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### **La Esperanza de los Sobrevivientes**

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### **The Hope of Survivors—Canada**

Phone: (866) 260-8958 extension 3  
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## The History of The Hope of Survivors

The year 2016 marked the 14-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 Wyoming, 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; Somerset West, South Africa; 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 2012-2016.



## 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 week approximately 1-2 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:

*“The Hope of Survivors is one of a kind! It is a much-needed life support for many that find themselves in a horrible situation of being betrayed by their spiritual leader. Without this organization, their staff and volunteers, and their amazing website, many in this sad situation would find themselves without any help or support. I was a victim of pastoral sexual abuse and when it came out, I became a victim of an ignorant church that rallied around the abuser and ignored the victim. The wealth of knowledge found on their website, along with someone to talk to who understood, was what saved me from feeling like the only answer was suicide. They offer truth in the midst of so many lies and hope to what seems utterly hopeless.”—IN*

*“The Hope of Survivors has helped countless people. They provide vital resources through their well-designed website, and give personal care to people who call and write in. The organization is well-run, efficient, transparent, and in perfect line with its mission statement. Staffed largely by volunteers, it exists because of the passion and vision of those involved.”—PA*

*“The Hope of Survivors is the only safe place we could turn to, when my wife was exploited by the pastor for his selfish gratification. We were both betrayed by our trusted pastor. Our church was of little help—partly because they too were shocked and confused by the horrific actions of the pastor they have been calling "God's Chosen Man" for years. Our church was ill equipped to deal with this tragedy, or provide any real help to us. That's why I am so grateful for The Hope of Survivors for providing hope and healing during our darkest times. May God continue to bless you and give you strength to press on.”—Victim & Donor*

*“The Hope of Survivors helped me move forward in healing after my experience with pastoral abuse! I read so many survivor stories and new that I wasn't alone! This organization is vital to the Body of Christ! It addresses a need that is prevalent but rarely acknowledged. I thank God for this organization and continue to share its ministry with others who have faced similar hurts and pains. May God continue to bless them and supply all of their needs according to His riches and glory!!”—Victim*

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, 2016

ASSETS	<u>Dec. 31, 2016</u>
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 — Cash — HOPE Checking — US Bank	\$40,884.70
1045 — Cash — CD	\$ 3,574.27
1075 — Cash — Hold — Temp Restr. Romania	<u>\$ 400.00</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>\$44,858.97</u>
Total Current Assets	\$44,858.97
Fixed Assets	
1600 — Equipment	\$11,223.92
1690 — Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(\$8,787.00)</u>
Total Fixed Assets	\$2,436.92
Other Assets	
1810 — Start-up Expenses	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$49,295.89</u></b>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2130 — Accrued Payroll Taxes	<u>\$8.43</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>\$8.43</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$8.43</u>
Total Liabilities	\$8.43
Equity	
3010 — Unrestrict (retained earnings)	\$105,493.79
3015 — Temporarily Restricted	\$13,000.00
Net Income	<u>(\$69,206.33)</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$49,287.46</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>\$49,295.89</u></b>

## Statement of Activities — January through December 2016

Ordinary Income/Expense	<u>Jan – Dec 2016</u>
Income	
4000 — Contributions	\$53,079.85
4001 — Grants	\$23,000.00
4002 — Contributions — Temp Restricted	\$4,123.05
4100 — Sales	\$1,069.06
4400 — Miscellaneous Income	\$380.85
4500 — Interest Income	<u>\$130.62</u>
Total Income	\$81,783.43
Expense	
6000 — Salaries	\$71,724.12
6010 — Payroll Taxes	\$5,907.40
6050 — Professional Fees	
6051 — Legal	\$1,520.00
6050 — Professional Fees – Other	<u>\$1,098.57</u>
Total 6050 — Professional Fees	\$2,618.57
6060 — Books & Education	\$812.70
6070 — Bank Charges	\$330.60
6075 — Finance Charges	\$5.75
6080 — Contract Services	\$16,900.00
6090 — Donations	\$0.00
6100 — Rent	\$611.40
6120 — Telephone & Internet Services	\$1,641.06
6130 — Dues & Publications	\$249.00
6150 — Licenses & Fees	\$87.00
6160 — Insurance	\$3,033.14
6200 — Office Supplies	\$1,728.40
6210 — Renewal Center Maintenance	\$11,540.50
6220 — Collection Service	\$901.40
6230 — Postage	\$2,188.51
6240 — Printing & Publishing	\$9,612.00
6245 — Software	\$2,149.56
6250 — Photography	\$526.00
6300 — Sales Tax Paid	\$49.00
6400 — Advertising	\$2,750.30
6410 — Domain Registration	\$947.08
6420 — Travel	
6421 — Lodging	\$4,790.60
6422 — Airfare	\$4,604.82
6423 — Car Rental & Other Auto Expense	\$1,365.57
6424 — Fuel	\$162.38
6425 — Other Travel Expenses	<u>\$339.39</u>
Total 6420 — Travel	\$11,262.76
6430 — Meals & Entertainment — Other	\$1,731.64
6500 — Victim Assistance	\$409.00
6510 — Gifts	\$109.97
6560 — Payroll Expenses	\$695.90
6700 — Depreciation Expense	<u>\$487.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$ 150,989.76</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(\$69,206.33)</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>(\$69,206.33)</u></b>

## Demographic Information By Denomination

The chart below reveals the 2016 demographics based on reported denominational affiliation.

#	<u>Denominational Demographics</u>	<u>%</u>
1	AME Zion Church	1%
1	Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, N.A.	1%
4	Assembly of God	5%
3	Baptist Church, Southern Baptist Church	4%
1	Calvary Chapel	1%
5	Catholic Church/Roman Catholic Church	7%
1	Christian Church – Disciples of Christ	1%
1	Church of God	1%
2	Episcopal Church	3%
1	Evangelical Lutheran Church of America	1%
1	Independent Christian Church	1%
3	Non-denominational	4%
1	Pentecostal Church	1%
1	Presbyterian Church in America	1%
25	Seventh-day Adventist Church	37%
16	Undisclosed	24%
1	United Church of Christ	1%
	<u>Adjustment for fraction of percentages</u>	<u>6%</u>
<b>68</b>	<b>Total from 1/1/16 to 12/31/16</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 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 2016 averaged approximately 1.3 new clients per week (68 total).
- (5) Same notes apply as stated above on following page.

## Demographic Information By State/Country

The chart below reveals the 2016 demographics based on the state/country where the client resides. Throughout just 2016 there were 27 known states and 7 known countries (other than the U.S.) represented as of 12/31/16.

<u>State</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Alabama	1	1%
Arizona	1	1%
California	5	7%
Colorado	4	6%
Connecticut	1	1%
<b>Denmark</b>	1	1%
<b>DRC – Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	1	1%
Georgia	1	1%
<b>Great Britain</b>	1	1%
<b>Hungary</b>	1	1%
Illinois	1	1%
Indiana	1	1%
<b>Jamaica</b>	1	1%
Kansas	1	1%
Louisiana	1	1%
Massachusetts	2	3%
Michigan	2	3%
Minnesota	1	1%
North Dakota	1	1%
Nebraska	2	3%
New Hampshire	1	1%
New Jersey	1	1%
New York	1	1%
Ohio	1	1%
Oregon	2	3%
Pennsylvania	3	4%
<b>Philippines</b>	3	4%
<b>Romania</b>	1	1%
South Carolina	1	1%
Tennessee	1	1%
Texas	4	6%
Undisclosed	5	7%
Virginia	2	3%
Washington	1	1%
Wyoming	11	16%
<u>Adjustment for fraction of percentages</u>		<u>12%</u>
<b>Total from 1/1/16 to 12/31/16</b>		<b>100%</b>

## 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 2016 Board of Directors and Volunteers our heartfelt gratitude for their sacrificial service:

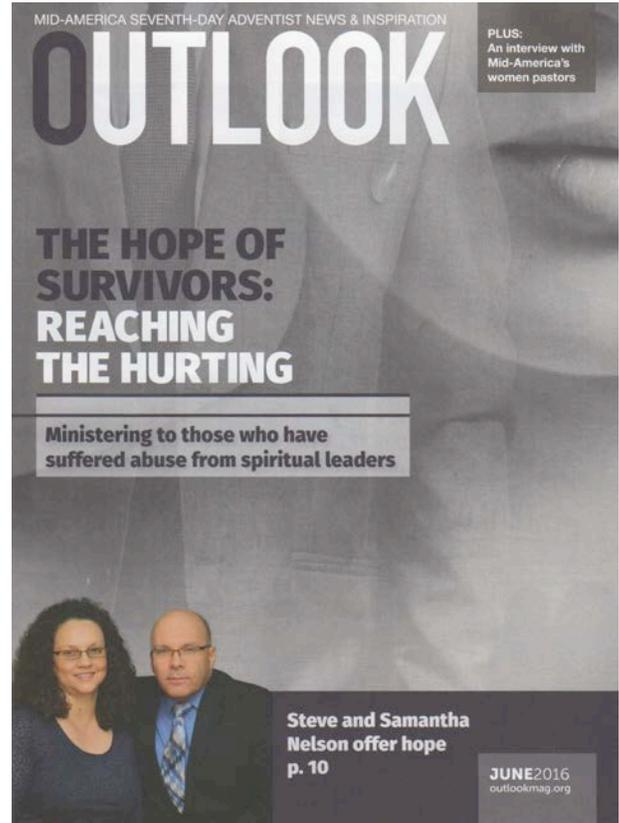
### Board of Directors

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

### Volunteers

Tom Lemon (2004-2009)—Board Chair Emeritus  
Robert & Debbie Withrow (since 2/04)—  
Accounting  
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  
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  
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.



## Exposure Information—Editorial / Media / Advertising

- Google AdWords (key words for search results – monthly)
- Sabbath School Net (THOS mentioned in multiple articles here)
- *Adventist Review*
- *Outlook Magazine* (June 2016)
- *Rocky Mountain Conference News Nuggets* (July 29, 2016)
- OCI Reports (Fall 2016)
- And many others!

Additionally, The Hope of Survivors continued to publish and distribute its quarterly newsletter, *HopeSpeak*, to over 2,000 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 2016. Some of these included:



- Women's Expo in Worland, WY (February 2016)
- *Hope & Healing* 5-Day Respite in Cody, WY (March 2016)
- *Hope & Healing* 5-Day Respite in Cody, WY (March 2016)
- The Hope of Survivors-Romania Division in Bucharest/Bistrita (April 2016)
- Clergy Sexual Abuse Testimony in Bucharest, Romania (April 2016)
- *Trust & Truth* seminar in Burleson, TX (April 2016)
- Exhibit at ASI Convention in Los Angeles, CA (April 2016)
- The Hope of Survivors-Romania Division in Bucharest/Bistrita (May 2016)
- Exhibit at the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in Portland, OR (May 2016)
- Abuse Prevention/Education Seminar in Sheridan, WY (May 2016)
- *Hope & Healing* 3-day Intensive in West Seneca, NY (May 2016)
- Exhibit at Can U Hear Me Now Youth Conference at Camp Cedar Falls, CA (May 2016)
- Abuse Prevention Seminar (Spanish) in Fort Worth, TX (June 2016)
- The Hope of Survivors Support Group Meeting in Cullman, AL (July 2016)
- Exhibit at Camp Meeting in Casper, WY (July 2016)
- *Faith & Fidelity* Seminar at Helderberg College, Somerset West, South Africa (August 2016)
- EndItNow Abuse Prevention Program at Santa Monica, CA (August 2016)
- CSAAP Campaign Program in Powell, WY (August 2016)
- CSAAP Campaign Program in Cody, WY (August 2016)
- *Faith & Fidelity* Seminar for Pastoral Counseling 2 at Helderberg College, Somerset West, South Africa (October 2016)
- Abuse Prevention Seminar at Newcastle, WY (October 2016)
- *Call It Anything But Love* Seminar at AMEN Conference at Helderberg College, Somerset West, South Africa (December 2016)
- Exhibit at GYC Youth Convention in Houston, TX (December 2016)
- Exhibit at Pastoral Evangelism & Leadership Council in Huntsville, AL (December 2016)

## Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention™ Day Campaign

The Hope of Survivors conducted its 6th annual Clergy Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention (CSAAP) campaign (<http://www.clergysexualabuseawarenessday.com>) by hosting several events around the world and enlisting many volunteers for various activities. This year we established walkathons to raise funds and had participants in Wyoming, New York, Texas, Alabama, California, Maryland, and Romania. 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 2016. 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.

*"I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people."—Psalm 35:18*