

freedom a la cart
café + bakery + catering

2025 IMPACT REPORT



A hand with dark blue nail polish holds a white paper coffee cup. The cup features a circular logo with the word "freedom" in a cursive font and "A LA CART" in a sans-serif font below it. The background of the cup is decorated with a pattern of small, stylized illustrations of city buildings, bridges, and trees, interspersed with orange and black floral motifs. The cup is topped with a swirl of white whipped cream, which is dusted with a fine layer of brown powder. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting with a person's arm visible on the right.

freedom
A LA CART

what's inside

Leading with Purpose 4

A reflection from our CEO on the challenges, growth, and vision guiding our work.

Who We Are 6

Our mission, who we serve, and the values we hold.

How We Work 8

The problem, our approach, and the pathways that support long-term stability.

2025 in Action 13

The milestones, campaigns, and community moments that shaped this year.

A Story of Strength 18

A Butterfly's story from crisis to long-term success.

Our Programs 22

The pathways that move survivors from crisis to long-term stability and independence.

Ingredients for Impact 24

How our social enterprise, volunteers, and financial stewardship fuel sustainable change.

In Their Words 26

Reflections from survivors on growth, healing, and what's possible with support.

On the Horizon 29

Where we're headed next and the priorities guiding our future growth.

The People Powering Freedom 30

The staff, board, funders, and supporters who make this work possible.

from our CEO

Freedom a la Cart has always been about more than programs. It's about people. It's about community.

And in 2025, that mattered more than ever.

The year brought unprecedented challenges for nonprofits. Funding uncertainty. Grant cuts. Shifting priorities. For many organizations, it was a year of contraction and instability. For Freedom, it was a year that tested our resilience and **revealed the strength of the community that surrounds this mission.**

In the midst of it all, we stayed focused on what matters most: survivors.

And because of that focus, our impact grew.

We served more survivors than ever before. More women entered our Workforce Development program. Employment retention increased. More survivors received housing and utility assistance. More families were supported through Adopt-a-Family. Educational support more than doubled. And the percentage of survivors living in safe, stable housing continued to rise.

Since we began with a single food cart in May 2011, 151 survivors have received paid workforce training. Each one stepping into employment, stability, and greater independence.

But here's what moved me most this year.

When we faced a significant funding gap due to unexpected grant cuts, our community showed up. Leadership. Staff. Survivors. Donors. Funding partners. You leaned in. You gave. You advocated. You shared our story. You reminded us that Freedom matters.

That's what community does. It doesn't walk away when things get hard. It draws closer.

Community is what makes our model work. Survivors build community with one another. Our team builds community with participants. Each guest who walks through our doors or orders catering becomes part of the story, turning everyday purchases into meaningful opportunities. Donors invest not just in services, but in futures. Partners collaborate to strengthen the ecosystem of support.

This is not charity. This is collective impact.

In a year defined by uncertainty, we chose clarity. We chose alignment. We chose to deepen relationships and strengthen our foundation so that this work remains sustainable for years to come.

Because survivors deserve more than short-term solutions. They deserve a community that stays.

Thank you for being part of this one!

Paula
CEO, Freedom a la Cart





rooted in purpose

who we are

Freedom a la Cart® empowers survivors of human trafficking to build lives of freedom and economic self-sufficiency. Rooted in our unique social enterprise model — a thriving café and catering business — survivors have access to paid job training, wraparound services, and long-term support as they rebuild stability, confidence, and independence.

the women we serve

Freedom a la Cart serves survivors of human trafficking, women who are reclaiming stability, healing, and independence after exploitation. Many navigate complex barriers such as trauma, legal challenges, justice system involvement, substance use recovery, limited educational opportunities, and mental health concerns.

Through employment, community, and support, we walk alongside survivors as they rebuild trust, recognize their worth, and take confident steps toward lives rooted in freedom.

*inspired by
the women
around me.*

32%

were trafficked
before age 15

70%

were sexually
abused as a minor

60%

have mental
health challenges

*inspired by
the women
around me*

83%

have children

96%

have been in jail
or prison

the problem a gap in services

The complex trauma and barriers survivors face continue long after a short-term recovery program ends. Without ongoing community connection and easy access to resources, these individuals often find themselves struggling to obtain and keep a job, pay bills, secure stable housing, parent, and remain sober. These complex challenges can become overwhelming for survivors and often lead to relapse or re-exploitation.

our solution whole-person restoration

Freedom a la Cart helps survivors achieve long-term stability through a holistic system anchored by our social enterprise. Our goal is to break the cycle of exploitation by connecting employment, community, and lifelong support.

How it Works:

- + A whole-person approach with flexible, personalized services tailored to each survivor's journey.
- + A 3-year workforce development program anchored by our café and catering social enterprise.
- + Long-term, lifelong community offering peer support, resource connections, and financial assistance for housing, education, and employment sustainability or advancement.
- + Trauma-competent support addressing economic, social, and emotional needs holistically.

Why It's Different:

- + Bridges the gap between crisis services and long-term independence.
- + Personalized, trauma-responsive support tied to sustainable earned revenue.
- + Survivor-led support, with lived experience informing care at every level.



the continuum of care

Freedom a la Cart plays a distinct role in a survivor's journey. While community partners provide outreach, crisis response, emergency housing, and short-term treatment, survivors are often left without long-term pathways forward. That is where Freedom steps in. Through paid employment, skill-building, and a strong peer community, we provide the sustained support survivors need to build stability, independence, and futures of their own design.

SERVICES	SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS	
PREVENTION		
Advocacy + Education	She Has a Name	
OUTREACH		
Drop-In Centers	Sanctuary Night	
INTERVENTION		
Crisis Support	Salvation Army	
RESTORATION		
Temporary Housing	Gracehaven Hersong Harriet's Hope Turning Point	SHORT-TERM
Treatment Programs	Amethyst Basecamp Lighthouse The GAP Initiative	
Restorative Justice	CATCH Court	
Workforce Development		MID-TERM
Independent Housing		
Continuum of Care + Community		
		LIFELONG



our areas of focus

These five primary areas of focus shape our approach to whole-person wellness, helping survivors move toward long-term stability and self-sufficiency.



work

HOW WE DO IT

We provide paid job training, employment coaching, education support, and practical skill development to help women secure and sustain meaningful employment.

85%

of survivors have increased their earning power since working with Freedom.

money

HOW WE DO IT

We equip women with financial literacy, one-on-one coaching, banking access, and debt navigation tools to build long-term financial stability.

64%

can meet their basic needs with little or no outside assistance.

housing

HOW WE DO IT

We connect women to stable housing while offering financial assistance, system navigation, and transition support toward independent living.

74%

of individuals are in safe, stable, and independent housing.

relationships

HOW WE DO IT

We foster healthy community through mentorship, peer support, social connection, and meaningful relationship building.

71%

have adequate social capital with at least 3-4 healthy people in their lives they can reach out to for help or support.

health

HOW WE DO IT

We support physical and mental well-being through trauma counseling, recovery resources, basic needs assistance, and access to healthcare services.

85%

are able to engage in work + life without being hindered by physical and mental health.



2025 in numbers



A snapshot of progress made possible through consistent, community-driven support. Each number reflects lives moving forward toward stability + independence.





374

unduplicated
survivors served

94%

of participants have made
progress toward achieving a
personal or professional goal

88%

of Workforce Development
participants retained
employment



78%

of Workforce Development
participants have
avoided new criminal charges
over the past 5 years

16,400

paid hours of
workforce development



127

survivors received support with
advancing their education



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

how we showed up this year

Because Freedom Matters Campaign

When long-standing grants were reduced and the number of survivors seeking support continued to rise, Freedom faced a critical funding gap. The need grew. Resources did not.

In response, we launched Because Freedom Matters, a community call to sustain job training, housing support, and wraparound care.

Together, **our community raised more than \$305,000**, stabilizing core programs and ensuring no woman's healing journey was interrupted.

Holiday Giving

This season, our community showed up in extraordinary ways.

- + **109 families adopted**
- + **227 children supported**
- + **200 holiday bags assembled**

Through Adopt a Family, supporters fulfilled wishlists for children whose mothers are rebuilding stability. Holiday Bags filled with warm essentials and small comforts reminded women in our Butterfly community and CATCH Court that they are surrounded by care.

Cause Cookies added another layer of impact, pairing handcrafted treats with meaningful giving. Each box shared more than sweetness. It shared hope.





Eat Up 2025

An evening of food, storytelling, and shared purpose, Eat Up 2025 brought together more than 400 guests, alongside chefs, supporters, and community partners, to fuel freedom.

James Beard semifinalist BJ Lieberman led a five-course tasting experience alongside an acclaimed lineup of local chefs. The program featured powerful survivor storytelling, spoken word, and music that honored dignity and resilience.

The evening raised more than \$280,000, with proceeds supporting employment, housing stability, and whole-person care for survivors building independent futures.

Eat Up is more than a fundraiser. It is a shared commitment to freedom.

Freedom a la CART

In 2011, Freedom began as a small market cart with sandwiches and a bold mission to raise awareness about human trafficking.

This year, we returned to those roots. The debut of Freedom a la CART, our mobile cart, brings pastries and purpose into the community once again. From local events to neighborhood gatherings, the cart allows us to share our story, expand awareness, and meet new supporters where they are.

Government Relations

This year, we strengthened our government relations efforts to elevate survivor-centered solutions at both the state and federal levels. Our team participated in more than 30 meetings with Ohio legislators, met with members of Ohio's Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. and Columbus, and hosted legislative tours to bring policymakers closer to the impact of our work.

These efforts led to meaningful public investment in our mission. We secured \$250,000 per fiscal year in Ohio's FY26–27 State Operating Budget and were included in the 2026 federal Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill for \$400,000 to support program expansion and operations.

We are grateful for the bipartisan support that recognizes the importance of long-term, survivor-centered solutions.







“

I learned about and followed Freedom a la Cart during Covid. The Freedom model of supportive recovery really piqued my interest.

My sustained involvement with Freedom started when I volunteered to provide CATCH Court lunches. This is the ideal activity for me — cooking and feeding people is my love language and getting to know the ladies in the program inspires me. As I witness their work and get to know them, I am so impressed by the ladies' commitment to a new life - jobs, education, sobriety - and so inspired by their strength and resilience.

My soul is nourished by my connection with them. I love my Thursdays at CATCH Court and I am proud to be a part of the Freedom a la Cart program.

JANET STEITZ, FREEDOM SUPPORTER





WHAT BELIEF CAN BUILD

a story of strength

When CV walked through Freedom's doors in 2019, she was two years into recovery and working to build a new life. What followed was a journey of healing, education, and growth that led her from workforce training to becoming a registered nurse. Her story is a reminder that when survivors are supported over the long term, transformation becomes possible.

When did you first become connected with Freedom and enter the workforce development program? How would you describe the stability of your life and your outlook on your future at that point?

I started working at Freedom a la Cart in 2019, two years into my recovery and still in treatment. My life was heavily "under construction." I was healing from trauma, learning how to become a good mom to a child born from my exploitation, and trying to build a new foundation for a life I've never experienced before. Emotionally, I was starting to stabilize. Physically and practically, I was far from it. I had a long record, no GED, no work history, and countless barriers ahead. I took it day by day, holding onto the hope that I could become the mother my daughter deserved.

What parts of Freedom's workforce development programming, services, or support were most impactful for you?

Freedom was my first job after gaining my freedom, and it was so much more than employment. I learned practical skills like how to be dependable, how to communicate professionally, and how to show up consistently, but the real impact was the support behind it.

They helped me earn my GED, supported me while I pursued nursing school, and made counseling accessible during work hours, so I didn't have to choose between healing and stability. They helped me secure housing, childcare, important documents, and even helped me buy a reliable car.

Freedom didn't just help me with job skills, they helped me build a stable foundation.

"For the first time, I felt like people genuinely believed in my future, and that belief started to change how I saw myself."



After graduating from the program, you were still engaged as a member of Freedom's Butterfly Program. How did support from Freedom change? Did Freedom continue to support your journey and career path?

As I became more stable, the support changed, but it never disappeared. Freedom continued to encourage me through nursing school in ways like helping me find and apply for scholarships, connecting me with tutors and community resources, buying me a nursing school bundle, and even connecting me with shadowing and job opportunities. They continued to check in and celebrate milestones.

One of the most meaningful moments for me was when Paula came to my LPN graduation. Seeing her there meant more than I can put into words. She had walked through some of the hardest seasons of my life with me, and to have her standing there as I graduated felt full circle. It reminded me how far I had come and how much their belief in me truly mattered.

What did the transition out of the workforce development program and into your next chapter look like? How long had you been in the program? What were you feeling? What was next for you?

I was in the program for about three years, and leaving was incredibly hard. Freedom felt safe. It felt like family. I was in the middle of nursing school and had grown so much there that leaving felt terrifying. At first, I felt frustrated and, honestly, a little hurt. I didn't feel ready. I didn't want to leave, but looking back, I can clearly see that they weren't pushing me out; they were pushing me forward! They saw that I was capable of more, even when I still doubted myself.

That shift changed everything. I transitioned into a role as a multi-skilled medical assistant at a family medicine practice. It was my first real step into professional independence, and it stretched me in ways I needed, even if I didn't realize it at the time.

Describe your educational journey and accomplishments since leaving the workforce program. Where are you today? What do you see in your future?

After becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse, I went back to school and recently graduated as a Registered Nurse. Over the past four years at the doctor's office, I progressed from Medical Assistant to LPN and now to RN/Office Manager. I originally went to nursing school wanting to become a Forensic Nurse to help survivors like myself. That dream once felt so far away, but now it's at the tip of my fingers. I was recently offered a position at a hospital, and they said they would help me achieve that dream.

There was a time when I did not believe I was capable of this life. Today, I stand confidently as CV, RN, and that still feels surreal to say. In the future, I hope I'm working in Forensics, helping those most in need. I also hope I'm able to buy a house, one with a big backyard like my daughter always wanted. I hope life is everything we have dreamed of.

In what ways do you see the impact of Freedom still showing up in your life today?

Freedom has left a permanent impact on my life. They helped shape the woman, mother, and friend I am today. I remember, in the beginning, pushing my daughter in her stroller to the bus stop in the freezing snow, struggling just to get through another day. Today, we get into a heated car and start our day. The hard work really does pay off.

No, it certainly hasn't been an easy journey, but this, this life here today, was so worth fighting for. I get to be the mother I always dreamed of having, and being able to be that person for my daughter has healed me in so many ways. I have worked so hard to get here, and we finally made it.

"Freedom taught me how to fight for my life and what I believe in, and how to break generational cycles. Because of that, my daughter gets a life free from violence, poverty, and instability. She won't fully understand the depth of what we survived, and that is the greatest gift I could give her."

What advice would you give someone just beginning their journey at Freedom?

Keep going, even when it feels overwhelming. There will be days when you want to give up or fight the process (because that was me), but just keep going. Freedom truly wants you to succeed, and they will support you every step of the way. You will look back and see how every step prepared you for something greater. It may seem impossible in the moment, but nothing happens overnight. So stay awhile and remain teachable. Life is really beautiful when it's all said and done.

From a woman who was on death's door, to a woman free from the chains of exploitation.
Nurse, mother, sister, and friend.

*keep going,
CV, RN*



pathways to independence

Programs rooted in dignity, healing, and opportunity.

CATCH Court

Since 2009, Freedom has partnered with CATCH Court to support survivors at the earliest point in their healing. Through weekly lunches, mentorship, court support, and providing essential items, we ensure women are met with dignity and steady support the moment they walk out of jail.

Workforce Development

After six months of sobriety, survivors have the opportunity to enter Freedom's 24-month Workforce Development Program, where they receive paid, hands-on training in our café and catering kitchen. Alongside job skills, participants build life skills, explore career pathways through internships and job shadowing, and receive ongoing trauma-informed support.

When survivors secure employment, our support continues for an additional year, recognizing that true stability extends beyond a job offer.

Butterfly Program

Healing doesn't end with employment. It continues through community. The Butterfly Program is Freedom's peer-to-peer initiative that offers lifelong connection, encouragement, and support beyond workforce development. In a safe, welcoming space, survivors pursue next steps such as earning a diploma, accessing childcare, applying to college, building resumes, and working toward expungement. Together, Butterflies support one another as they move steadily toward lasting independence.

Housing Stability

For survivors, housing means safety, stability, and the foundation to heal. Freedom's pilot housing program bridges the gap between subsidized housing and independence by pairing safe housing with tiered rental assistance and personalized services. This approach strengthens stability as survivors take their next steps forward.

our workforce development model

A 36-month path from stability to independence.



MONTHS 18-24

Career Expansion

She's nearly ready for the next career move and is able to explore job opportunities through paid job shadowing and paid internships in areas of interest. She receives coaching through the job search and interview process as she lands her next job.



MONTHS 4-18

Life Skills + Job Readiness

As she continues to build her confidence, she completes further training on life and employment skills. She works alongside the support team to continue to overcome barriers to work and independence. She focuses on personal goal setting to progress toward whole-person wellness and independence.



MONTHS 1-4

The Foundation

She is hired as part of our paid Workforce Development Program and begins on-the-job training as part of the catering team. She meets with our employment coach to break down any barriers to getting to work. The focus centers on showing up to work on time, ready for their shift, and with a good attitude.



MONTHS 24-36

Job Retention

Changing to a new job is hard! As she transitions into sustainable employment, Freedom continues to support her with 1-on-1 support services, group meetings, mentoring, and a supportive community.



Referral + Readiness

A survivor is referred to Freedom a la Cart by a peer or community partner because she has experienced sex trafficking and multiple disadvantages, but she has been in recovery for at least 6 months and is now ready for paid work.

our social enterprise

the ingredients of impact

Every sandwich made, every meal served, and every order placed supports survivor employment and fuels lasting impact.

At the heart of our social enterprise is our Café + Bakery in downtown Columbus, where fresh-baked pastries, scratch-made meals, and locally roasted coffee are prepared daily with care. Alongside the café, Freedom a la Cart Catering transforms everyday gatherings into meaningful experiences, offering thoughtfully crafted meals for everything from meetings to special events. Together, these ventures generate critical revenue that helps sustain our programs while creating supportive, dignified employment for survivors.

Every bite is part of something bigger, helping restore lives and build pathways to freedom.

“

Whatever you order and no matter the time, it tastes like love and you'll feel nourished. This space feels like the hug you needed. A beautiful healing space. Incredible mission and work!

CAFE CUSTOMER REVIEW





THIS YEAR

83,550

COOKIES SCOOPED

61,281

SANDWICHES MADE



46,615

CAFÉ GUESTS SERVED

37,732

BOX LUNCHES DELIVERED

26,886

COFFEES POURED

13,127

CROISSANTS BAKED



611

SURVIVOR MEALS PURCHASED

Survivor meals purchased by café guests ensure individuals have a nourishing meal while accessing support and resources at Freedom.





"[Freedom a la Cart] has assisted me in creating a good life. Sometimes it's rocky, but I have the tools to weather the storm. I bought my first car post-incarceration through the program. When my mental health prevented me from working, Freedom [a la Cart] stepped in financially... [They are] my sisters who let me cry on their shoulders and believed in me until I could believe in myself."

"[Freedom a la Cart is] just a warm place with lots of love and laughter. A place where you can be vulnerable and know you're safe. It's my forever home and grounds me in the community, never forgetting where I came from."

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

in their words



"Freedom a la Cart Café + Bakery + Catering is truly a 'love-the-mission' kind of place. The food and drinks are absolutely amazing—fresh, flavorful, and thoughtfully made. But what really sets this place apart is the environment. You can genuinely feel the love and care in every detail, from the service to the space itself. It's more than just a café—it's a community with heart. I'm proud to support their mission and will definitely keep coming back!"

CAFÉ CUSTOMER

"[Freedom a la Cart] has helped to shape me to be the person I am today. [They] walked beside me and showed me what stability is."

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



"Freedom [a la Cart] has refreshed my soul at insurmountable times. Whenever I need a moment to just breathe and gather my thoughts I know the loft is waiting. Even though I have been staying busy I never forget where my journey began and the trajectory of my life changed. I'm forever grateful for everyone who has been a part of my journey whatever the reason, whatever the season. I don't know where I would be - literally - if Freedom [a la Cart] would not have been there for me when I was lost, scared, and alone."

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

"[Freedom a la Cart has helped me] a lot. I got my first job with Freedom, got a degree while working at Freedom, got my license while working at Freedom, and paid off fines."

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

"I'm not alone anymore. I'm not as confused. I'm not as lost. I know I have someone to call."

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



"[Freedom a la Cart] gave me a community, I am not alone. [They] helped connect me to resources, such as getting my record expunged, and connecting me to a trauma counselor that accepted my Medicare insurance."

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

"It has been a privilege for me to volunteer with Freedom. I started volunteering when you operated out of the Van Buren shelter, and have volunteered in the catering kitchen since the café opened. I have immense respect for the goals and work of the organization and the support that it provides for people to change their lives. And I have valued getting to work with the catering kitchen staff and experience first hand the culture of mutual support that is present there."

MARK, FREEDOM VOLUNTEER

"Freedom a la Cart has helped me grow academically, relationally, and independently! I have a family in the women at Freedom."

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



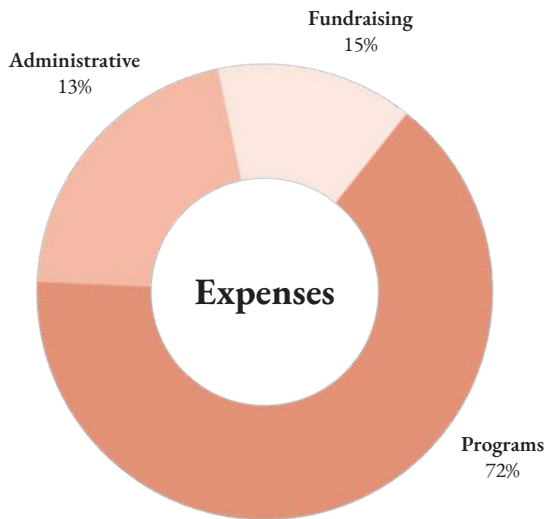
"The mission and action for survivors along with the top-notch food brings me back to Freedom every time we have an office event and need a tasty and reasonably priced meal. Thank you for always getting the orders perfect and having such a wonderful demeanor! Keep up the hard work!"

CATERING CUSTOMER

2025 financials

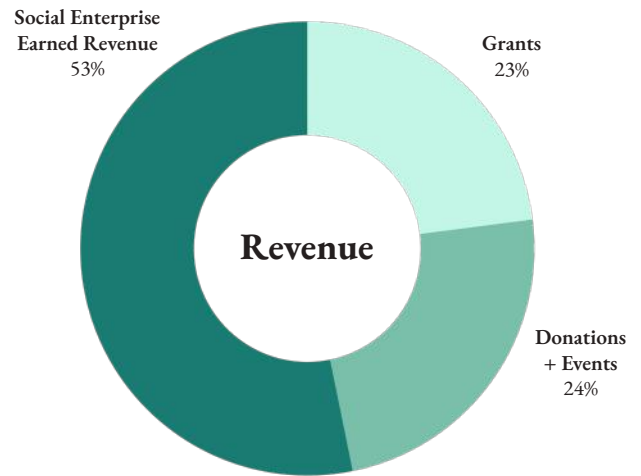
Freedom a la Cart operates with a commitment to financial responsibility and long-term sustainability.

In 2025, more than half of our operating revenue came from our social enterprise. This earned-income model allows us to reinvest directly into survivor employment, support services, and programs that promote lasting independence.



● Programs: \$2,796,069 [72%]
● Administrative: \$489,716 [13%]
● Fundraising: \$597,856 [15%]

Total: \$3,883,641



● Grants: \$847,975 [23%]
● Donations + Events: \$880,309 [24%]
● Social Enterprise Earned Revenue: \$1,964,746 [53%]

Total: \$3,693,030



every dollar goes further

An independent analysis found that Freedom a la Cart generates a 7-to-1 return on investment. **Each year, our work produces \$21.6 million in economic impact locally and \$34 million in lifetime benefits for survivors.** That impact grows as survivors build stable careers, strengthen their families, and contribute to thriving communities.

strengthened by community

At our annual Eat Up event this year, I found myself standing backstage for a few minutes, just taking it in. The room was full of longtime supporters, donors, first-timers, volunteers, staff, survivors, my fellow board members — everyone eating, talking, laughing. And then one of the women in our community of survivors sang, and the whole room came together.

I first walked into an Eat Up in 2017, knowing almost nothing about Freedom a la Cart. That night I got it immediately. Food brings people together, the mission gives it meaning, and the impact does the rest. Standing backstage this year, I felt the same thing I felt then.

That continuity is not an accident. Freedom a la Cart has been here, and will keep being here, because of the people who keep showing up for it.

Strong organizations are built on more than passion. They're built on vision, discipline, and the courage to think beyond the moment. In my second year as Board Chair, our extraordinary community is what I keep coming back to. You showed up, especially when it was hard. Your belief in Freedom is what makes the work we do as a board — the governance, the critical decisions, the long-term thinking — not just possible, but meaningful.

Over the past year, the board worked closely with leadership to sharpen our priorities, strengthen how we govern, and make sure every decision — especially in an unpredictable funding climate — reflected both our values and our long-term responsibility. The result is an organization with real clarity about where it's headed, a more diversified base of support, and a model that keeps proving it works.

Freedom a la Cart has grown from a bold idea into a trusted leader in survivor-centered workforce development and housing stability. That didn't happen by accident. It happened because of disciplined leadership, a committed board, and a community that believes deeply in long-term solutions.

We are confident in the path ahead and deeply grateful to steward an organization that is not only making an impact today, but shaping a stronger future for survivors and our broader community.

Thank you for being part of this work.



Sarah Ahern

Sarah Ahern, Board Chair

the people powering freedom

our board

Sarah Ahern
Board President
PATH

Daniel Bloch
Board Treasurer
MGF Sourcing

Joyce McKinniss
Board Secretary
Jones Day

Varsey Laurelle
Varsey Laurelle
Consulting

Leslie Miller
Nationwide

Ada Nwoke
Huntington National
Bank

Wendy O'Donnell
Accenture

Megumi Robinson
Belle Communication

Kieran Sherry
Columbus State
Community College

Kristina Stuecher
OhioHealth

Teonna Wells
Jobs and Family
Services

freedom team

Paula Haines
CEO

Jennifer Nodjak
Director of Marketing

Amanda Olavarria
COO

Laurie Sargent
Director of Food +
Beverage

Vanessa Torres
Director of Programs

Barbie Witt
Director of Finance + HR

Winnie Bosecker
Sherlarreya Brown
Nyla Clark
Michelle Clagg
Catherine Dela Cruz
Jess Doone
Christina Downing
Lyndzy Donovan
Demeah Dulaney

Kay Lena Edwards
Maya Elliott
Grace Figliomeni
Izzy Frohlich
Ashley Galdamez
Alysa Garcia
Courtney Halchak
Reginia Hensley
Clarisse Hoenshell
Kristen Horner
Marie Hines
Amber Johnson
Katie Kettlehake
Lindsey Kreamer
Amber Liebe
Michaela Miller
Destiny Needles
Johannes Rojahn
Chalet Rodriguez
Dorie Sessoms
Jewel Showalter
Jamie Slayton
Amanda Spencer
Susan Thompson
Jennifer Will
Laurie Wirth
Elizabeth Zuber





volunteers + mentors at work

Our community showed up in a big way this year. From early-morning kitchen shifts to late-night study sessions, our volunteers and mentors continue to show what community in action looks like.

This year, volunteers supported everything from rolling out hundreds of meals in the kitchen to helping us host events that connected survivors with community and opportunity.

Mentors guided women through court milestones, study goals, and first steps into new careers. Their steady presence created space for confidence to grow and for each woman to move at her own pace toward stability.

Together, this collective support shaped moments big and small, and reminded every participant that she doesn't walk this path alone.

441

volunteers
in 2025

56

new volunteers
received training

38

active
mentors

“

“I volunteer and mentor as I could easily have been in the same type of situation due to how I grew up. I want to give back to these survivors what I can to help them reach their goals. I want to pay forward to whatever karma allowed me to be able to support this group. The experiences humble me. I look at these beautiful and resilient people who open their hearts to me and feel blessed to be a part of their journey. It's a privilege and honor to be trusted by them, to meet their families, and to be included in their lives.”

FREEDOM VOLUNTEER

grant funders

We are grateful to the grant partners whose support sustains our mission and strengthens pathways to employment, healing, and long-term stability for survivors.



Together, we gave

Every name across these pages represents more than generosity. They reflect hope, opportunity, and second chances made possible through your support.

Eliza Ablovatski
Dawn Abshire
Accenture
Todd Adkins
Aerie Real Foundation
Patrick Ahern
Sarah Ahern
Cara Aigner
Laura Akgerman
Jennifer Albert
Crystal Allen
American Electric Power Foundation
American Home Foundation
American Online Giving Foundation
Aaron Anders
Nikita Anderson
Andrea Andrioff
Alex Anthony
Beth Anthony
Nilo Arcilla
Larry and Gay Armentrout
Don Armstrong
Karen Arnold
Lauren Arnoldin
Laurie Arsenaault
Kessashun Arthur
Connie Aschinger
Diane Ashworth
Jennifer Atkinson
Liz Auge
Alyshah Aziz
Alice Bailey
Kattie Bair
Shelagh Baker
Bank of America
Pam Barnard
Marie Barnett
Basi Italia
Constance Bauer
Katherine Bauer
Howard and Sally Baulch
Mindy Baumann
Jean C. Bay
Lynn Beatty
Mike Beaumont
Tina Beckett
Thomas Bedway
Tracy Bell
Jennifer Bennett
James Benseler
Lynsay Bensman
Kim Berg
Elizabeth Bergantino
Derek Bergman
Susan & James Berry
The Berry Family Foundation
Betsy and Bryan Ross Fund of the
Lurie Family Charitable Fund
Mackenzie Betts
Jaideep Bhati
Simi Bhullar
Ray and Nancy Bichimer Family Fund
Helen Bickell
Julia Biller

Laurie Billing
Amanda Blaine
John & Joy Bledsoe
Dan Bloch
David Bloomfield
Shelby Bobst
Sheila Boddie
Zuzana Bohrer
Jodi Bopp
Carol Boster
Boulevard Presbyterian Church
Paul Boyer
Darnita Bradley
Benjamin Britton
Kim Brooks
Nancy Brower
Jodie Brown
Jim Browning
Marla Bump
Jacqueline Bunke
Tricia Buskirk
Sara Byler
Molly Byrne
Dennis and Connie Cahill
Calzuro
Paulo Cambraia
Cameron Mitchell Restaurants
Teresa Canupp
Katie Capka
Mary Capoccia
Nancy Cardenas
Cardinal Health
Eric Cataline
Casey Cathcart
Brenda Chaney
Lurie Family Charitable Fund
Charities Aid Foundation of
America C/O CyberGrants
Jennifer Chenderlin
Paul Chenderlin
Maurice Chodash
Deborah Chou
Church of the Messiah
United Methodist
Linda Ciciretto
City of Columbus
Erica Clark
Trevor Clark
Heather Clingerman
Carol Clinton
Kelly Clouse
Tess Coakley
Kara Coates
Susan Cochran
Theresa Cockrell
Nancy Cofer
The Columbus Foundation
Judith & John Connelly
Nancy Conner
Cameron Connor
Katy Conrad
Laura Contrucci
Courtney Cooke
Jeff & Amy Cope

Corna Kokosing Construction
Company
Halie Cotterman
Lisa Courice
Michael and Paige Crane
Erin McCaffrey Crespo
Sally Cress
Crimson Foundation
Ray and Phylis Crook Family Fund
Sarah Cua
Catherine Cunningham
Kirk Cupp
James Cushing
Angela Daff
Ione Damasco
Amanda Damratoski
Kristi Daraban
Andrea Daugherty
Dave Thomas Foundation
for Adoption
Nancy Davidson
Kacie Davis
Michael Davis
Kathleen Day
Carla DeBoard
Sallie Debolt
Deloitte Foundation
Cynthia Dembroski
Akeem Denny
Designer Brands Foundation
Diamond Hill
Duane Dickey
Mary and Tim Dillow
Kathryn and Tom Dindo
Peter DiPiazza
Toni Disabato
Ryan Dolan
Jared Dominak
Courtney Dougherty
Deanna Douglass
Jim Downing
David Downs
Dr. Patty's Legacy Fund
Margaret Drorbaugh
Michelle Duffey
Marjorie Duffy
Amelia Dunlap
Kathleen Dunn
Catherine Durrenberg
Karen Dwyer
Jaclyn Dynia
Cheryl Dzubak
Stacia Eckenwiler
Amy Edgar
Erin Edwards
Nancy Edwards
Sandra Edwards
Jeff Eisenman
Saree and Brian Ellis
Katie Ellison
Kristina Emick
Keli English
Theresa Eriksen
Patrice Etter

Barbara Failing
Jackie Faulkenberry
Sandra Felice
Sylvia Fergus
Fidelity
Amy Figliomeni
Cosimo Figliomeni
Margaret Figliomeni
Victoria Figliomeni
Financial Wellness Fund
Steve Finger
Deborah Fiorito
Marion Fisher
Michael & Ann Flaherty
Shannon Flynn
Forbes
Jacklyn Ford
Kathleen Fowler
Victoria Fox
Jamie Franchi
Franklin County Board
of Commissioners
Grace Franklin
Susan Frappier
Fred and Nancy Zantello Fund
Abigail Fredelake
Sandy Freer
Gabby Frohlich
Izzy Frohlich
Susan Fromkes
Mary Beth Fry
Linda Gabel
Barbara Galantowicz
Kathleen Garber
Krissy Garner
Kate Gaylord
Alison Gehred
Doris Genzen
Larry George
Jens Gerard
Jennifer Gericke
Patty Gill
Daniel Ginis
Carrie E. Glaeden
Katherine Goldberg
Jami Goldstein
Eileen Goodman
Gordon Food Service
Heather Goss
Lynn Goss
Grange Insurance Gives
Megan Granson
Lawrence Green
Ron and Louisa Green
Melissa Greenwald
Louie Greenwell
Arlene Griffith
Jackie Grimm
Christina Grote
Michelle Gubola
Ashley Gullett

2025 donors

Janice Guo
Bethany Hahn-Ambrosius
Hunter Haines
Paula and Jerry Haines
Shepard Haines
Elaine Hairston
Melissa Hamilton
Nancy Hamman
Tracy Hammar
Seth Hargrove
Kim and Jim Haring
Amy Harlacher
Robin Harriman
Michelle Harrison
Austin Hawley
Karen Haylor
James Head and Kevin Gallagher
Mark Headlee
Billy Hedrick
Gretchen Heilmann
Daniel J Heinmiller
Sue Helmreich
Susie Herb
Tricia Herban
Joan Herbers
Paul Herbert
Cathy Hess
Victoria Hicks
Robert Hill
Hilliard Presbyterian Church
Rebecca McGrath Hinkle
Brandi Hinojosa
Marcia Hirsh
Jeffrey Hisem
Connie Hodgdon
Phil Hodson
Rachel Hoffman
Douglass Hoke
Melissa Holden
Marnie Holder
Horn Charitable Trust
Kelly Hothem
Laura Houser
Douglas Howard
Kevin and Karen Howard
J. Patrick & Carolyn Huber
Klay & Amy Huddleston
Danielle Hudson
Angela Hughes
Hultin Family Fund
Travis Hunt
Lloyd D. Hunter Memorial Fund
Huntington National Bank
Samantha Hutcheson
Stacy Hyatt
Christine Iammarino
George J. Igel & Co., Inc.
Igel Family Charitable Fund
IGS Energy
Susan Imel
Ann Ingraham Dwyer
Janet Ingraham Dwyer

Allyson Irving
Manoj Iyer
Heather Jackson
JACO Advisory Group
David Jacob
Trish Jacquemin
Mayur Jadhav
Maggie James
Scott Jared
Kristen Jaremback
Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams
The Jensen Project
Susan Johnson
Jones Day
Isabelle Jones
Maria Jones
Ramon Jones
Jessica Jordan
Jessica Joseph
Linda Julia
Jeff Jurca
Daphne Kackloudis
Amber Kaden
Pamela Kallner
Olga Karasik
Governor John and Mrs.
Karen Kasich
Jetta Kaune
Randy Keefer
Karen Keenan
Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter
Becky Keglweitsch
Marcia and James Keim
Terrance and Michele Kelley
Barbara Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. Rory Kemp
Barbara Kent
Jane and Tom Kettlehake
Katie Kettlehake
Kellie Kidd
Gary Kiefer
Robert Kiger
Daniel and Alexis Killoren
Darla King
Katie Kinnison
Kathie Kisor
Tom Kisor
Kitchen Solvers Columbus
Amy Klaben
Debra Knapke
Mark Koenig
Nikhil Kohli
Rosemarie Konrath
Konrath-Wharton Family Fund
Beth and Peter Korda
Thomas Koronowski
Kathryn Kram
Susan Krantz
Kroger Community Rewards
Doug and Laurie Kruppa
Beth Kruse
Marjorie Kruse

Karl Kuespert
Kathy Kuhns
Amber M Kula
Kimberly Lancaster
Karen Lane
Annie Lange
Shannon Langford
Monica Larson
Paige Laskey
Amy and Dave Lauerhass
Varsey Laurelle
Hannah Lee
Rylan Lee
Scott J & Susan S Leemaster
Brett Leevey
Jennifer Lehe
Joseph Lehner
Kristy Leigh
David and Cathy Levy
Matt and Rhonda Lewis
Casey Liddy
Stacy Lilly
Bruce and Sharon Lippman
Jeffrey Lipps
Kathy Lipschutz
Tiffany Lipscomb-Jackson
Sue Llende
Matt Lofy
Christina Longbrake
Jennifer Lopez
Sandra Losco
Gerlinde Lott
Phyllis Love
Catherine Loveland
Kathy Ludlam
Anita Luich
Todd Lykins
Amy Lyle
Elizabeth Lyle
Martha Maas
Ann MacDonald
Meghan Mader
Darlene Magold
Robin Mahler
Leslie Main
Michelle and Mark Malik
Catherine Malkin
David Malley
Regina Malley
Terry Kennedy Mancini
Stacey Manifold
Tani Mann
Alison Marker
Marker, Inc.
Wendy and Steve Marroni
Barbara Marshall
Joan Mast
Traci Mathew
Lois Maxfield
Ariane May
Alicia Maynard
Rachel Mazur

The Mccullough Family Fund
Stephen McEnery
Glenn McEntyre Jr.
Julie McGurer
John McKay
Monica McKay
Jean McKee
Diann Mckenzie
Joseph McKinley
Joyce McKinniss
Sean McKinniss
Leah McLaughlin
Susan McNeil
Wendy McWherter
Amy Meader
Wendy Medwick
Anee T Melvin
Richard Merkel
Chris Metzger
Leah Meyers
Liz Meyers
MGF Sourcing
Midtown Area Real Estate
Association
Mike Miely
Leslie Mihalov
Candace Miller
Charles Miller
Kristen Miller
Leslie Miller
Roger & Mary Kelly Minner
Allison Mitsui
Heather Monkmeyer
Krystine Monnett
Janet Leigh Monseur Durr
Fran Montgomery
Melita Moore
Sarah Moore
Ralph Mordocco
Amanda Morgan
Margaret Morris
Liz Mueller
Muirfield Green Homeowners
Association
Gail Mullett
Sheryl Munson
Molly Murguia
Pam Murphy
Robin Myers
Lisa Naoom
John Narcross
Nationwide
Patricia Nauseda
Jennifer Nelson
New Hope International Church
Mandolyn Newell
Sandra S. Nicholson Fund
Marie Nicol
Shelby Nix
Andria Noble
Amy Noltemeyer
Wendy O'Donnell

2025 donors

Charles M. Oellermann
Mark Ogden
Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association
OhioHealth
The Ohio State University
College of Social Work
Amanda and Max Olavarria
Theresa Olson
Scott and Chad Oman
Correy O'Neal
Jordan Osborn
Carol Oswald
Oxford Industries
Karen and Eric Pacht
Richard Palumbo
Shirley Palumbo
Park National Bank
Cathy Park
Chelle and David Parker
Jennifer Parsons
Leslie Parsons
Andrew R. Patton
Janice Patton
PayPal Giving Fund
Sarah A Perkins
Ashley Peters
Katelyn Lee Phadke
Alan Pham
Julie Phelps
Amanda Piccolini
Joyce Piccolini
Pickerington Area Chamber
of Commerce
Lewis Pierotti
Jason Pierson
Marsha Pierson
Gay Pinnell
Marjory Pizzuti
Joan Pogalies
Pohler & Keck, LLC
Sue Pohler
Barbara Poplis
Eboni Porter
Mandy Powell
Terri Power
Kara Kelly Prem
Jane Presutti
Kenzie Prickett
Melinda Prickett
Todd Prince
Patti Pringle
Amanda Prophet
Meredith Puckett
Jesse Pullen
Joan Purvis
Quantum Health Inc
Jaelah Raley
Ellen Rapkin
Lynn Raymond
Dona Reaser
REDF
Amanda Reed
The Reinberger Foundation

Allison Reynolds
Kristen Ricart
Anne Rice
Eileen Rittenhouse
Elisha Roberts-Cofer
Tamara Robinette
Katie Robinson
Megumi Robinson
Samantha Rolf
Jennifer Roncone
Laura M. Rosene and R. Scott
Toop Family Foundation Fund
Dolores Roscow
Andrew Rosenthal
Betsy Ross
The Ross Foundation, Inc
Amy Rouse
Louise Rucker
Rosaura Ruiz
Mary Beth Ruttan
Beverly Ryan
Debbie Ryan
Lauren Sabo
Lisa Sadler
David Sarver
Melissa Schaadt
Olivia Schlabach
Jeff Schlaeger
Christopher Schlie
Andrea Schmitt
Duncan Schoenberg
Erika Schoff
Sherri Scholl
Kelsey Schott
Philip Schroeder
David Scott
Jeffrey Sczpanski
Betsy Sebastian
Kathy Seibert
Carla Sell
Stephanie Senyak
Dorie Sessoms
Sharp Family Giving Fund
Dan Sharpe
Harriet Shea
Kathy and Kieran Sherry
Andrea Shkane
Lesley Shryock
Peter Shuler
Rose Shuler
The Siemer Family Foundation
Jeanne Siersdorfer
Kari Simmons
Amy Simonds
Joseph Sipl
Justine Skestos
Heather Slattery
Carol Smathers
Morgan Smathers
Betty Smith
Ellen Smith
Mary Beth Smith
Stephen Smith

Tina Smith
Lisa Smucker
Luann Snyder
Teri Lynn Snyder
Anita Somani
Alexis Sova
Matthew Spanos
Kelly Sparks
Lunetta Spivey
St. Luke Lutheran Church
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
Renata Staff
Lynn Stan
State of Ohio
Chelsea Steffes
Janet and Charlie Steitz
Katie Steitz
Kathryn Stephens
George Stevens
Amy Stevenson
Michala Stewart
Judith Stillwell
Shelby Stoddart
Delphine Stoute
John Strand
Dorothy Striker
Katherine Struve
Julie Stuart
Kristina Stuecher
Taylor Surface
Amanda Suttle
Caroline Tatalovich
William Taylor
Katia Tenney
Charlie Thacker
Jodi and James Thomas
Lesley Thomas
Colin Thompson
Jackie Thompson
Melissa Tidwell
Jennifer Tiell
Linda Tisdale
Sara Tobin
Joyce Toner
Tony R. Wells Foundation
Analisa Trares
Jack Tressoline
Susan Trianfo
Megan Trigg
Katarina Triguba
Trinity Financial Advisors
Beverly Trout and Douglas Wittig
TSG Advice Partners
Denise Tumblin
Cheryl Turnbull
Turner Construction
Laurence Turner
United Way of Central Ohio
Niccol Valentine
Linda Van Aman
Sue Van Woerkom
Victoria Vazquez
Christa Viets

Ronald and Susan Vleck
Rachel Volland
Elli Wachtman
Diana Wafe
Chelsea Wagner
Margo Wakefield
Heidi Wallace
Takia Waller
Andrew Wapner
Kelly Warmbrodt
Dana Watts
Cindee Waugaman
Scott Weddendorf
Gwen Weihe
Christopher Welker
Shayla Werner
Daniel Wesley
Diana Westhoff
Amanda White
Kelly & Brian Wicker
Rebecca Wiggins
Robert Wiggins
Kathleen Wightman
Kathleen Wilde
Andrea Wilkins
Williams Family Charitable Fund
Carolyn Williams Jacob
Clifford Williams
Dianne Williams
Evan Williams
Laura Williams
Robert Williams
Wilson Family Fund
Ashley Wilson
Caven Wilson
Jennie Wilson
Natalie Wilson
Ronald Wilson
Andrew Wineapple
Barbie Witt
Susan Wolford
Wolf's Ridge Brewing, LLC
Jason Woltja
Brandon Wood
Krista Wood
William Woodfin
Bonita Woodin
Worthington Hills Womens Club
MaryBeth Wozniak
Wright Patt Credit Union
Gloria Wylie
Evelyne Yarborough
Nancy Yates
Laura Yost
Susan Yost
Andy Young
Christina Young
Jessica Yuzwa
James and Mary Zeier
Donna M Zianni
Rose Zuber

123 E. Spring Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614.992.3252
freedomalacart.org



@freedomalacart



explore
more

