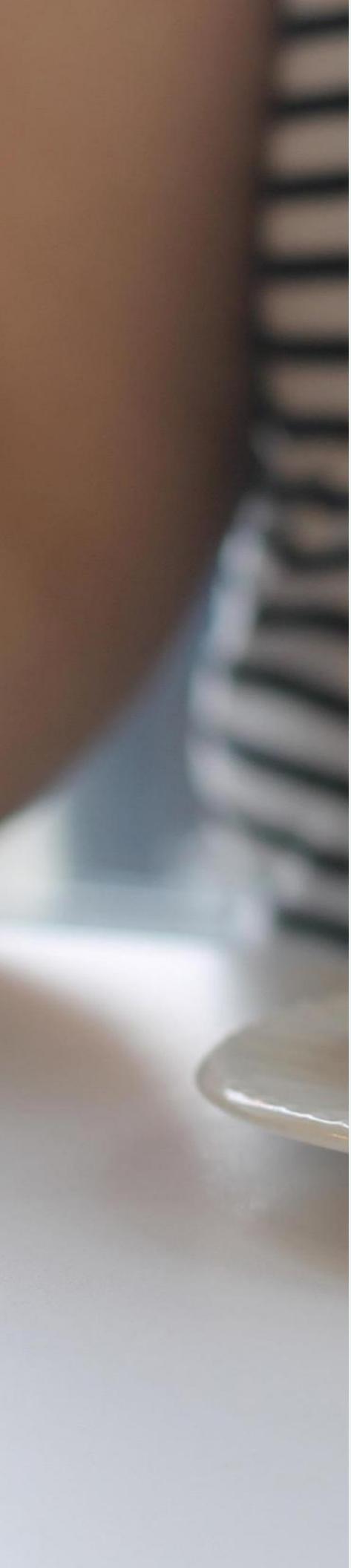
freedom a la cart

café + bakery + catering

2025 IMPACT REPORT




freedom
A LA CART



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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




as stron
as the
woman
next to
me.

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.



32%
were trafficked before age 15

83%
have children

70%
were sexually abused as a minor

60%
have mental health challenges

96%
have been in jail or prison

Data collected from a Freedom a la Cart internal survey of program participants.

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.



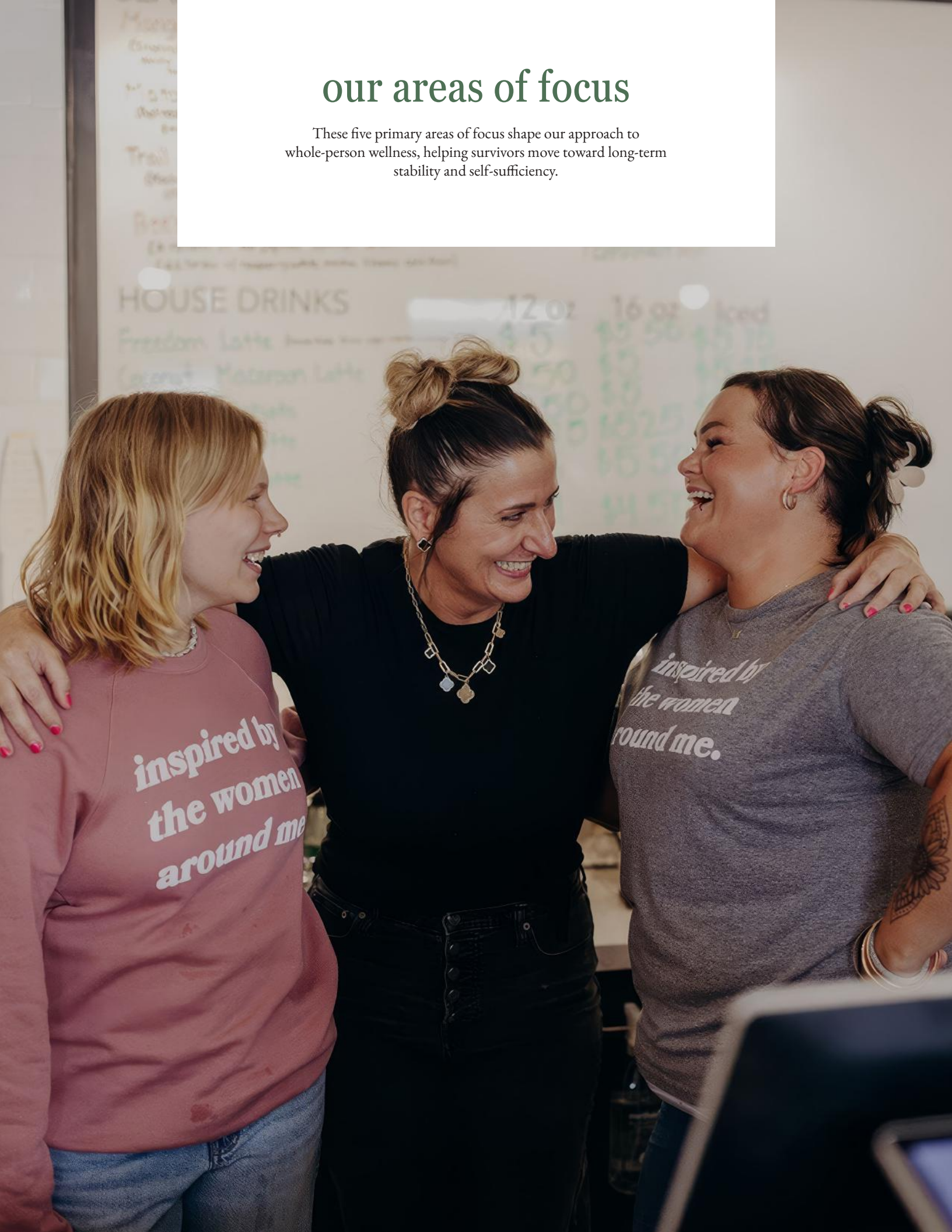
the continuum of care

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	freedom A LA CART	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.




eat up
UMBUS



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


LILLY,
THIS ONE'S
FOR YOU



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 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.

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.

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!"

CAFE 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

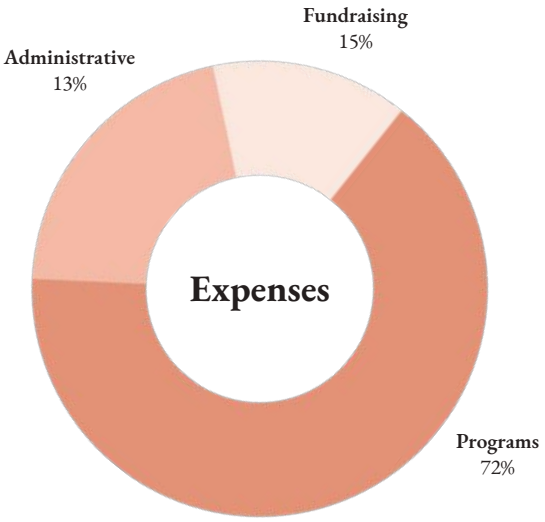
"The mission and action for survivors along with the top-notch food brings me back to Freedom every time we have an office event and need a tasty and reasonably priced meal. Thank you for always getting the orders perfect and having such a wonderful demeanor! Keep up the hard work!"

CATERING CUSTOMER

2025 financials

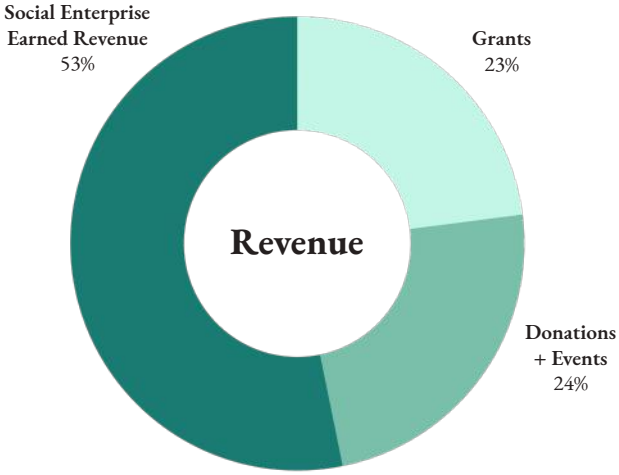
Freedom a la Cart operates with a commitment to financial responsibility and long-term sustainability.

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."

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