



StATUSA's Open Palms Program

Who We Are

StATUSA is a charity-based, registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to help survivors of sexual exploitation heal, dream, and succeed using evidence-based, trauma-focused treatment programs.

Survivors in Jail

Our Human Advocate Program in NC jails identified an alarming number of women in our jails that are survivors of sexual exploitation and proved that they are the most vulnerable and underserved group in the U.S that is targeted by sex traffickers. We also discovered that the crimes these women committed and their addictions were linked to unhealthy responses to their past trauma. This means that incarceration is not the answer. It does not identify or treat the underlying cause of their crimes. As a result, our criminal justice system has perpetuated recidivism and re-victimization for these women. Trauma experts agree that these trauma survivors need trauma focused treatment in order to have a real chance of breaking free from the cycles of sexual exploitation and drug abuse. However, with little to no resources available to treat their trauma-specific needs, the system is actually causing their continuing poor decision making and creating a revolving door for them as well as increasing social costs.

StATUSA's Open Palms Progress Development Center

StATUSA's Open Palms Progress Development Center is designed to help prevent the incarceration and further victimization of survivors of sexual exploitation. Open Palms will provide safe, short-term housing, immediate psychological and substance abuse treatment, and referrals to aftercare programs, including our Life Skills Program, that will help survivors heal and achieve their life goals.



Our Guests

While StATUSA primarily focuses on helping survivors of sex trafficking, this voluntary program will be open to women who are survivors of all forms of sexual exploitation. Our guests must also be at least 18 years old and, if necessary, allowed by the criminal justice system to enter this program either as an alternative to jail or as a provision of sentencing.

How We Support Our Guests

Open Palms Progress Development Center will be a 10 months program that uses strategic partnerships to meet the complex needs of our guests. Palms Health and Wellness, LLC will provide the trauma and addiction counseling. We will use a telemedicine platform to provide medical assessments, addiction recovery services, and treatment to survivors pre and post-release from jail. Sex trafficking survivors will be housed at a secure and confidential site. StATUSA will provide trauma-informed care, medical attention, case management, coaching, family rehabilitation, community support, life skill classes, and unconditional love and support to all guests enrolled in the Open Palms Progress Development Center.