

POSITIVE PEER ~ Dallas Grassbaugh

"No matter how dark it seems, you can always turn it around and help someone fro

Things got pretty dark for Dallas. After being homeless and struggling with addiction for most of her teen years, life really took a dive when she started being trafficked. She even got to a point that she was in fear for her life.

Dallas wants people to know that Human Trafficking doesn't always involve drugs and prostitution but it does always involve some kind of force and coercion. Age, gender, and nationality do not matter. Traffickers bait, scam and make promises, and they tend to target the youth and the homeless.

Dallas was just about to be sold and sent to Texas when she gathered all the courage she had and found a way to call a police officer and was rescued in Albuquerque. She got on methadone, moved to Santa Fe, and became a client of Sojourners with The Life Link where she was able to get safe housing. She was also able to testify against her trafficker. He was found guilty and is serving a fifteen year jail sentence. (This is low because NM has lenient HT laws. This is one thing that Dallas is focusing on in her advocacy work).

After graduating from the Sojourners program, Dallas became a CPSW. Her peer work is powerful in that she now helps girls and women who are in the same situation she was in. She works with the girls that have been referred by the FBI or homeland secure and gets them into safe housing. She works with them closely every day during this tender time and helps them on their first steps to recovering their lives. Whether it's helping them get food stamps, IDs, or setting goals and getting on their feet again, her main objective is to help them find some stability with the issues they are facing while helping them reintegrate back into society.

While Dallas maintains her recovery by spending time in self care, communicating with her supervisor, attending counseling sessions and NA meetings, she is also very excited to continue to work for Sojourners and she wants to help spread the program to other communities in Colorado and beyond. In addition, she also wants to help set up programs for juveniles. At this point kids that have been trafficked, have to get the care they need in substance abuse treatment programs which doesn't offer them exactly what they need due to the trauma during the trafficking. She is involved in the [Blue Heart Campaign](#) and is proud that Sojourners is involved in doing Human Trafficking (HT) Trainings for law enforcement, schools, hotels, etc. And if that wasn't enough she helps with the HT hotline calls!

Human Trafficking Hotline: 505-GET FREE

