

## 5 Services That Make the SA Program Model Unique

There are five key points that make this model unique no matter where it is delivered:

1. The SA program model is designed to meet the *specific recovery needs* of sexually exploited/trafficked youth and women. This population faces very different recovery issues than, let's say, women exiting spousal abuse. It is well known throughout the recovery industry that sexually exploited/trafficked youth and women have the highest amount of barriers to overcome. Such barriers include childhood abuse and abandonment, addictions, educational and employment gaps, learning disabilities, fetal alcohol syndrome/effect, and trauma experienced while in the sex trade (which has been assessed to be at the same level as soldiers returning from war). Programs are offered in a non-clinical atmosphere to facilitate the building of relationships and community – two components essential to connecting and integrating this population to the community at large. In addition, intakes are performed on a continuous basis (i.e. potential participants do not need to wait for the next program cycle to begin) because SA has found that there is a small window of opportunity to get these young women attached to a program once they make the initial decision to seek recovery. The program curriculum is also structured to allow entry at any point.
2. The SA program model is designed to offer *long-term services* to this population (upwards of 7 years). Youth and women with so many barriers to entering mainstream society need program support that extends past the average service delivery timeframe (6 months to one year) in order to learn to live financially independently and to grow to become contributing members of society.
3. The SA program model offers services not only to sexually exploited/trafficked youth and women, but also provides space *for their children*. While services are not directly given to these children, mothers are able to bring them into the housing and day program facilities and receive support and guidance while parenting. By supporting these youth and women in their parenting, the SA program model is equipping them to stop the cycle of abuse in the lives of their children and to recover as a family.
4. The SA program model is designed to offer *services to trafficked youth and women* as they come alongside local sexually exploited youth, women and their children. Even if these youth/women do not speak the language of the country in which the program is located, SA programs offer an 'Advanced Program' where the program delivery is tailored to the needs of the individual. The program emphasis for trafficked women is on learning language skills, dealing with their legal/status issues, and then on their

recovery issues. The programs are delivered through community contacts and volunteers under the supervision of a qualified staff.

The 'Advanced Program' is also made available to participants that are sick (terminally or otherwise), that have special learning needs or that are Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Effect. Participants in the 'Advanced Program' still participate in certain classes within the Day Program, however because of their illness or disability they also receive specialized programming as needed.

5. The SA program model provides a *home-like environment* where live-in volunteers share their lives with program participants as if they were their own family members. This vocational position makes a huge statement to program participants: those who live with them choose to do so without pay, just because they love to spend their lives with them. This is much more meaningful and effective than having staff that go off shift, leaving the participant behind for the day. This is the added touch that makes the SA program model a place where lives are healed.