

**Department of Social Services  
Annual Report on Youth for Tomorrow  
July 25, 2019**

**Report Mandate**

Item 346 (L) of the 2019 Appropriation Act provides:

- (1) “Out of this appropriation, \$100,000 the first year and \$100,00 the second year from the general fund shall be provided to contract with Youth for Tomorrow (YFT) to provide comprehensive, residential, education and counseling services to at-risk youth of the Commonwealth of Virginia who have been sexually exploited, including victims of sex trafficking.
- (2) “YFT shall submit monthly progress reports on activities conducted and progress achieved on outputs, outcomes and other functions/activities during the reporting period.
- (3) “On October 1 of each year, YFT shall provide an annual report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees that details program services, outputs and outcomes.”

This document is the State Fiscal Year 2019 year-end report submitted by Youth for Tomorrow.

**Background**

YFT is committed to servicing female victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST). According to Shared Hope International, DMST is the commercial sexual exploitation of American children within U.S. borders. It is the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act,” where the person is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years. The age of the victim is the critical issue, there is no requirement to prove force, fraud, or coercion used to secure the victim’s actions. The law recognizes the effect of psychological manipulation by the trafficker, as well as the effect of threats of harm which traffickers/pimps use to maintain control over their young victims. DMST includes but is not limited to the commercial sexual exploitation of children through prostitution, pornography, and/or stripping.

According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline, run by Polaris Project, Virginia ranks fourteenth in the nation for human trafficking cases. According to the NHTRC’s Virginia State Report for 2018, the NHTRC received a total of 191 calls identifying 98 Human Trafficking Cases, identifying 450 victims of both labor and sex trafficking. There 70 identified sex trafficking incidents of which 22 were minor victims of trafficking.

**Youth for Tomorrow Services Overview**

Since 2008, YFT has served more than 244 DMST victims. During this grant period, July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, the first DMST victim arrived, utilizing grant funds on November 18, 2016. YFT would like to attribute the latency in referrals due to many law enforcement changes that began early in the summer. Many of the FBI, Homeland Security and local police who referred residents were reassigned or offices were undergoing restructuring. For example, Detective Woolf, who had referred the vast majority of victims, was reassigned to the Missing and Exploited Children’s Division in the late spring of 2016. There was some confusion as to his

involvement in working on DMST cases until the fall of 2016, when he referred our first victim to be funded under the grant.

YFT served four DMST victims from Virginia in its Girls on a Journey (GOAJ) Program. The four girls served during this funding period were from each locality Norfolk, Annandale, Culpeper, and Loudoun/Fairfax County. The average length of stay (LOS) was eight months and the shortest was one month. The average age at intake was 16 years of age; the oldest was 17 and the youngest was 14. During this period, all but one girl made adequate progress, meeting more than 85% of their Individual Service Goals (ISP). One girl was hospitalized for suicide ideation and discharged to a locked-down facility. Three girls were successfully discharged from the program in 2019, having met all of their progress goals and successfully reuniting with family. The previous year of this funding, six victims were served. The first year of this funding, 13 DMST victims were served, totaling 22 girls since funding began in August 2013. Lastly, 14 additional girls were served in the GOAJ program from the state of Virginia and 20 from other states, but funded by other means, totaling 38 victims in the past 12 months.

In addition to being provided services specific to the need of DMST victims, three of the girls were enrolled in YFT's standard program, while two girls were enrolled in the Mommy and Me program as parenting teens. All three girls were referred to the program as DMST victims by law enforcement agencies for their respective jurisdictions (i.e., Fairfax County). In some cases, even after an agency identified the resident as a DMST victim at the time of enrollment, some girls were assessed by YFT clinical staff using the Intervene DMST assessment tool and all of the girls were assessed for trauma, using the Trauma Inventory.

### **Project Service Objectives & Outputs**

***Objective1:** Youth For Tomorrow clinical staff will provide individual counseling to minor victims of sex trafficking which address their victimization and enable them to develop coping skills which relate to the mental health aspects of their victimization (i.e., trust, attachment issues, self-image, self-esteem, trauma-bond, anxiety, etc.), preventing long term mental health impacts.*

YFT clinical staff provided 49 individual counseling sessions to four girls. In addition, family sessions were provided during this reporting period.

***Objective2:** Youth For Tomorrow clinical staff will provide group counseling related to victimization. Clinical staff will also identify other group therapy needs such as substance, chemical education, etc.*

YFT provided 7 group counseling sessions to one of the four girls during this reporting period. Group counseling included GOAJ, chemical education, 12-Step and Anger management groups.

***Objective 3:** Youth For Tomorrow will provide residential services to minor victims of sex trafficking, ensuring 24- hour, supervision process group related to cooperation and social skills development; life skills education and recreation.*

YFT residential staff provided 119 hours of recreational activities and leisure activities during this reporting period.

**Objective 4:** *Youth For Tomorrow will enroll minor victim of sex trafficking into the residential school, providing special education services when required and secondary level course work in-line with Virginia Department of Education Standards.*

YFT educational staff provided 442 hours of educational instruction during the period of project funding.

**Objective 5:** *Youth For Tomorrow will ensure that minor victims meet regularly with their family, parents or legal guardians. Victims will be allowed phone calls and visitation as well as home visit off campus. Family will participate in family counseling.*

YFT case managers coordinated 4 home visits and 9 on-campus visits.

**Objective 6:** *An individual service plan will be completed within 30 days of admissions, which outlines the minor victims service needs as related to her primary reason for placement (sex trafficking); clinical, education and life skills assessments; and transition plan.*

YFT case managers developed ISPs for each of the four residents. ISPs can be found in the residents' files.

**Objective 7:** *Minor victims will participate in weekly life skills instruction based on the ARISE Life Management Skills curriculum. These skills will ensure victims are able to eventually live independently.*

YFT residential staff provided 34 hours of life skills activities during this reporting period.

**Objective 8:** *Youth For Tomorrow case management staff will identify long-term partnerships with local service providers who offer medical and mental health services to residents, when needed.*

YFT has a memorandum of agreement with Greater Prince William Community Health Center to provide medical services to clients.

**Objective 9:** *Youth For Tomorrow nursing staff will provide first aid, medication management, coordinate medical service or refer residents to community agencies for medical services. Victims placed at YFT require medical services related, but not limited to pediatrics, gynecology, dental, and eye care.*

YFT nursing staff coordinated 8 doctor's visits during this reporting period.

## **Service Outcomes**

YFT's GOAJ program has served 38 adolescent girls in the last 12 months (a 66% increase from the previous year), including the 4 girls directly benefiting from VDSS funding this past year. Of those 38, 31 stayed in the GOAJ program for more than 60 days and were included in the outcomes below:

- 89% met more than 85% of their individual treatment plan goals;
- Four are currently receiving some type of after care services from YFT including, counseling, educational supports, and living supports;
- Fourteen girls obtained their high school diploma or GED; and,
- 89% have successfully transitioned into the community (i.e., reside at home, maintained employment, and/or enrolled in school).

### **Conclusion**

YFT reports that they are the only facility in Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region that offers safe and secure housing, along with counseling, education, and medical and dental care for victims of sexual crimes against minors. YFT is licensed to provide care to residents 18 years of age and up to 21 years of age who receive services from the local departments of social services or other public agencies.

The \$100,000 grant appropriation through VDSS has served four teenage female victims from Virginia consisting of 12 months of services during this grant period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. YFT has matched dollar for dollar funding provided by VDSS through the General Assembly appropriation to serve these victims. For example, the 24/7 average cost per child for these comprehensive services is \$16,698/ month. These professional services include:

- State-supervised residential services
- Therapeutic services provided by licensed clinicians
- Professional nursing care
- Transportation for required medical/dental treatment
- Case management services
- Accredited secondary education services on campus (i.e. secure environment)

The 14 months of aggregate services provided to these girls comes to \$233,772 of which VDSS grant reimbursement is \$100,000 (42%) with YFT providing the remainder of \$133,772 (58%) under the current grant. State funding is important in supplementing the cost of financially serving this victimized population. Additional funding ensures more victims trying to recover from this type of violence will receive the safe, secure, therapeutic, medical and case management services they require.