

Our Story

REST was founded in 2009 by a small group of women who built relationships with people exploited for commercial sex to learn from them about the resources they needed in order to take steps toward freedom. As trust was built and needs were identified, REST committed to finding the resources within our community, and where they did not exist, to building them. That model has informed all of our efforts and still does today.

A consistent experience identified by victims of sexual exploitation was the lack of available and effective housing options designed specifically for them. In March 2012, we piloted the first long term residential program in King County WA's for adult survivors of sex trafficking. Our plan was to begin small, with the goal of added learning from the survivors we served and a forecast of future need.

In 2013, after tremendous feedback from residents, as well as outcomes that seemed to surpass what other agencies were able to accomplish, REST expanded the residential program to a six-bed program for single, pregnant or parenting women ages 18–30.



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For many of the residents, it has been the safety and stability they've needed to take steps toward a new future. But for some, and the many who never make it there, the step from the sex trade, homelessness and or drug addiction was too great, and they needed an intermediate step.

Victims, survivors, law enforcement, therapists, and other service agencies all agreed. There were numerous existing shelters, many of which we have used, but were either inadequate to provide the setting needed to consider long-term stabilization, or were so overrun with demand they simply did not have a bed to offer. We know first hand the hardship of this reality, and because of it, our team works for days, or sometimes weeks, finding placement.

In fact, between July 2015 and June 2016, there were no beds available in King County for nearly 40% of women who called the REST hotline looking for a safe place to stay. These brave women took an incredible risk and reached out for help only to be told, "There's no place for you to go tonight."

For more than two years, REST had been championing such a place. We called it the Emergency Receiving Center (ERC) and we were convinced closing this gap would be a game-changer for victims of human trafficking.



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We are thrilled to share we built and opened the ERC! The ERC serves adult women who are seeking to escape the sex trade and who have been referred to REST by partnering local law enforcement, referral agencies, and the REST 24-hour hotline. The ERC provides 30 days of emergency housing, intensive case management, and daytime drop-in programming to help guests begin to stabilize and consider what life free from exploitation looks and feels like.

Imagine when our 24-hour hotline rings with someone looking to escape a violent trafficker, having them hear, “There is a safe place for you to go tonight, and a team of people dedicated to helping you.”

Imagine the impact of increased coordination between social service agencies and local police who have an immediate place to bring victims of human trafficking when rescued.

Imagine a place where people who have escaped those same experiences are waiting to say, “If I did it, you can too.”



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Our Annual Outcomes

During our 2017 fiscal year, we accomplished a lot together. Thanks to the generosity of donors and volunteers, REST was able to provide critical services to 477 individuals seeking to escape from the sex trade.

3,142 nights of REST provided



In REST-provided housing.

- Approximately once every four days, someone new experiences an interruption from commercial sexual exploitation with our help.
- 231 have found community through our shelter, the REST house, and other services.
- Over 300 connections to supportive services with our help.
- Clients have achieved 675 self-identified goals such as earning a GED, finding stable housing, getting a driver's license, and much more.
- Over 5,100 interactions with a survivor of sex trafficking, or someone needing to support to escape the sex trade, including over 1,000 calls and texts to our REST hotline.



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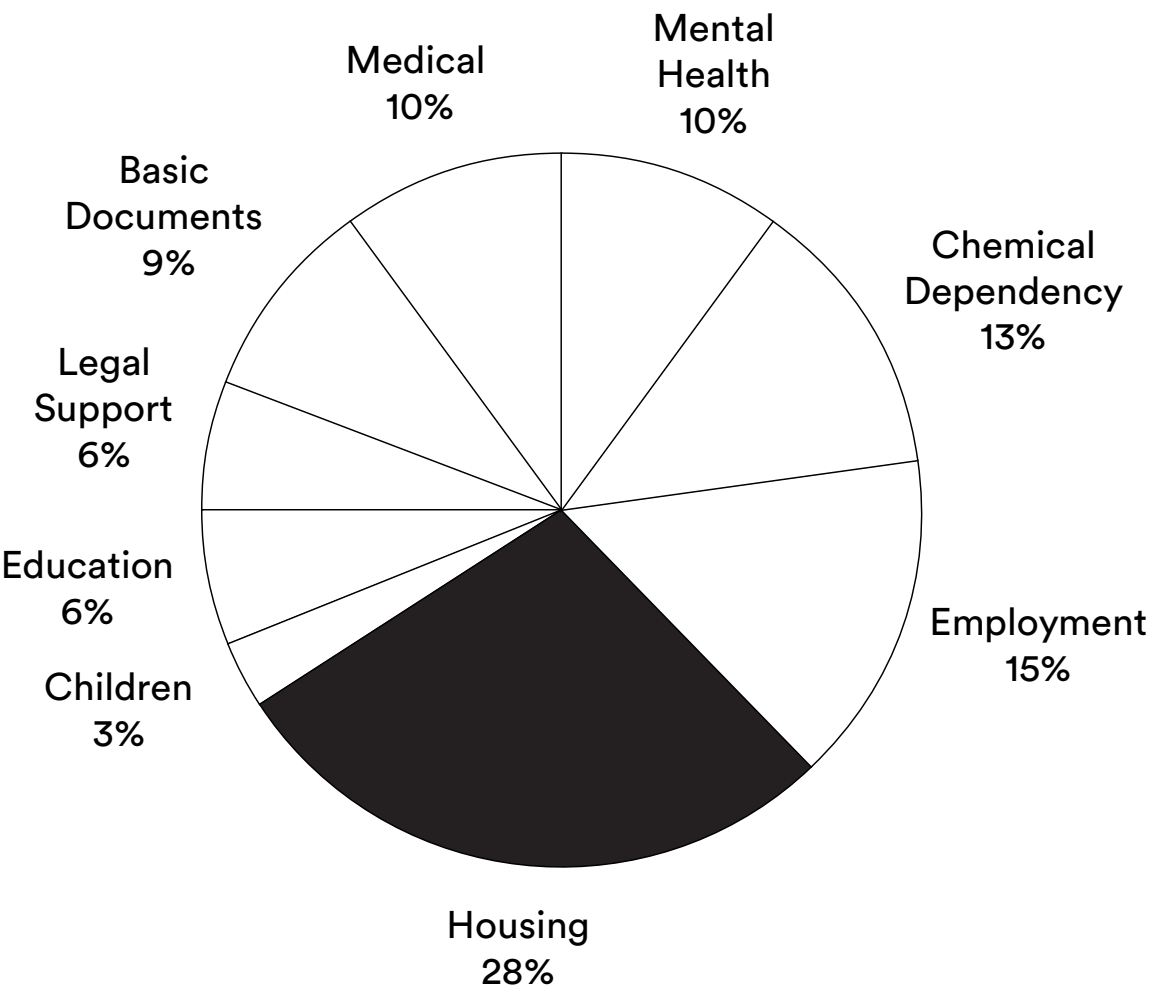
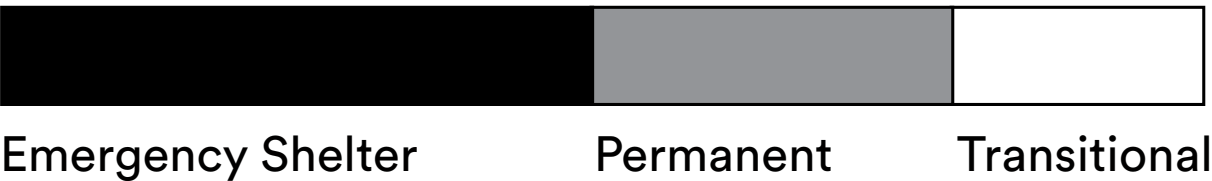
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Access to Services & Housing

Stable and secure housing continues to be one of the biggest barriers to successfully exiting the sex trade, which is why REST opened the first and only emergency shelter for adult sex trafficking survivors in Washington State.

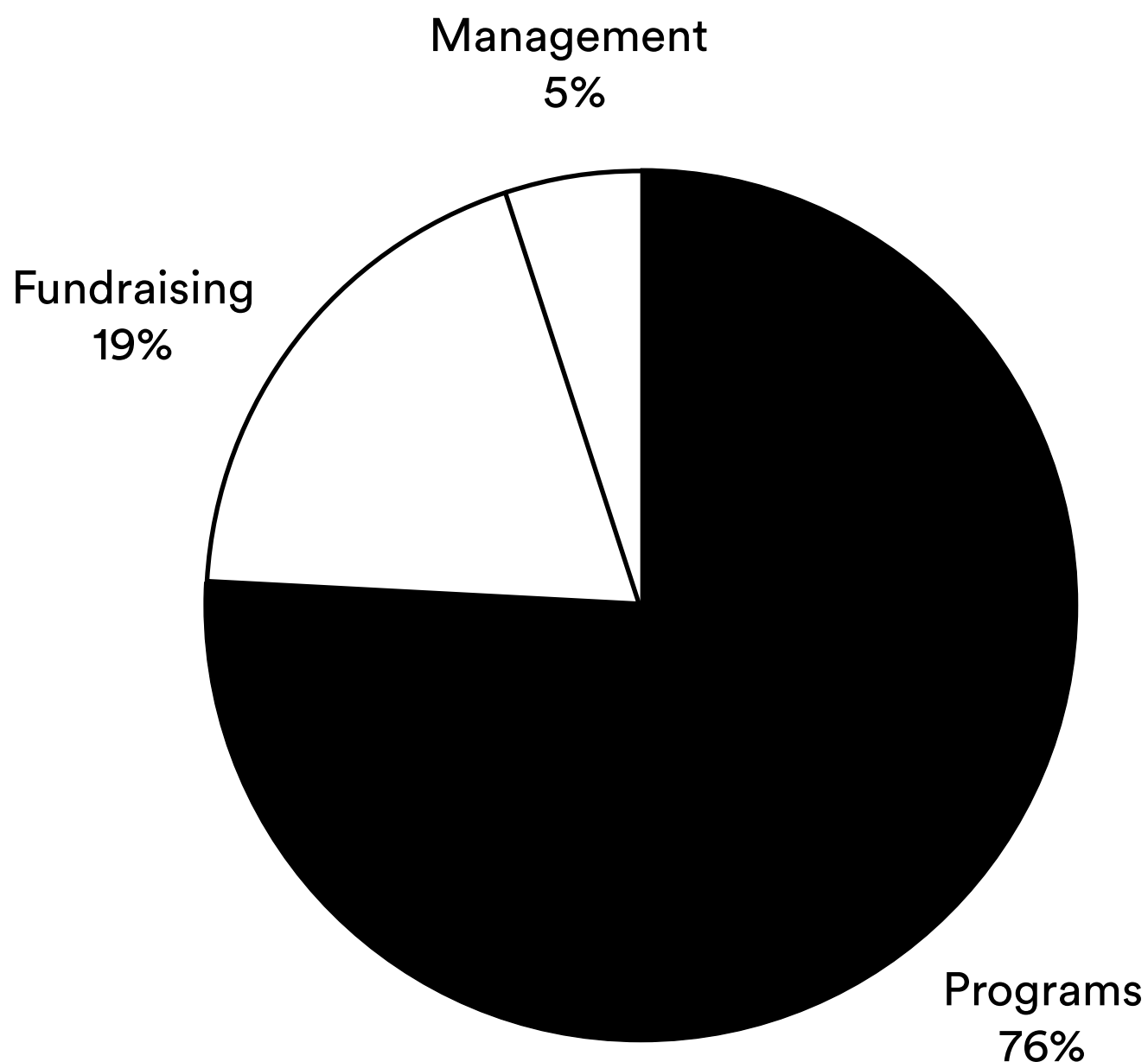
Housing by type



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Our Budget

REST is deeply committed to financial transparency, sound fiscal policies and practices, and discerning stewardship. Our goal is simple—freedom, safety, and hope for victims of human trafficking and people exploited by the sex trade.



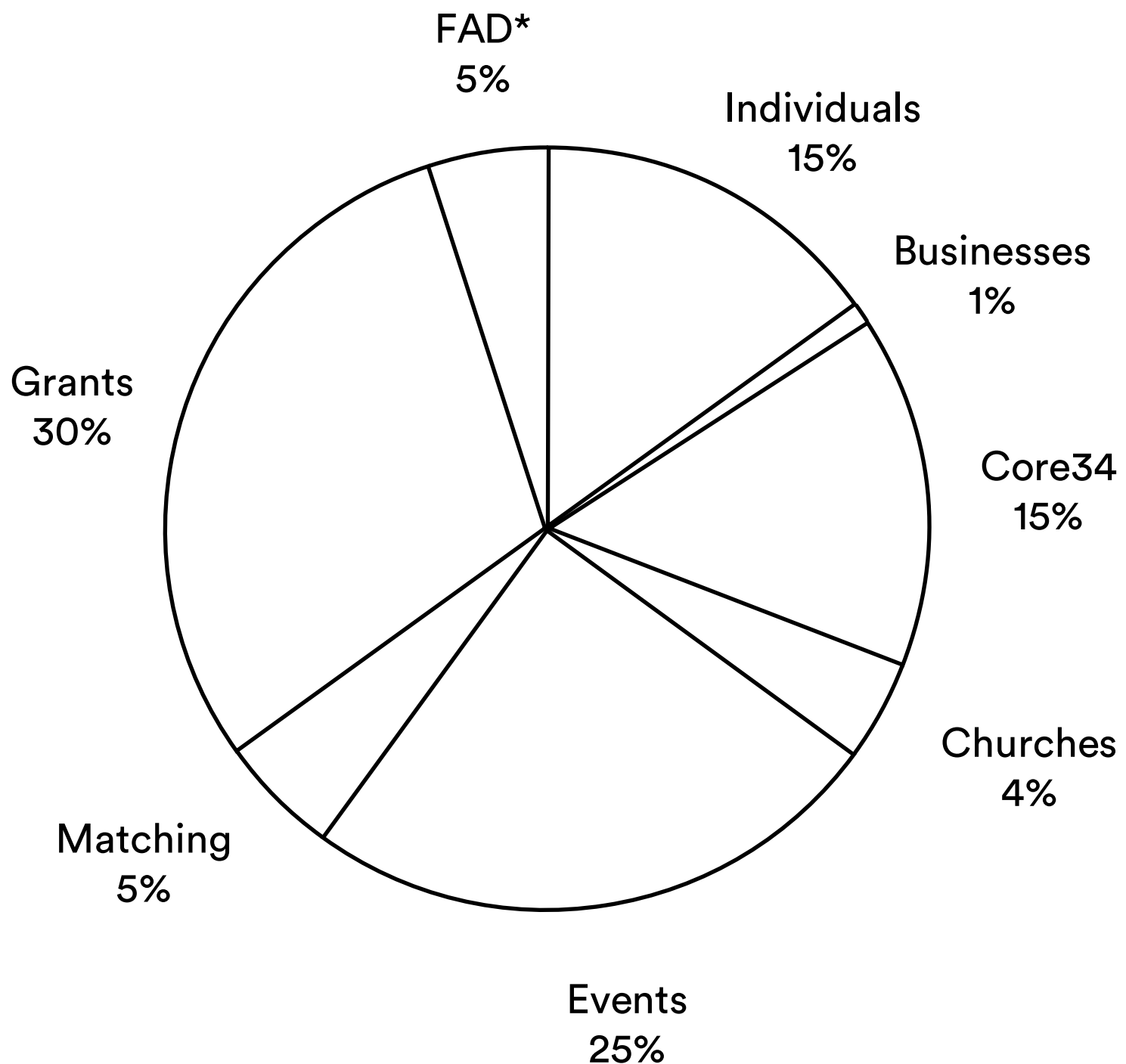
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Projected FY17 Income

We're grateful for our individual supporters, foundations, churches, and business partners who share our vision for a community free from sexual exploitation. Our work is not possible without you!



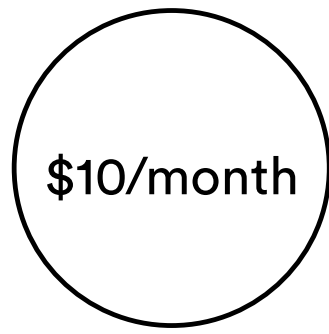
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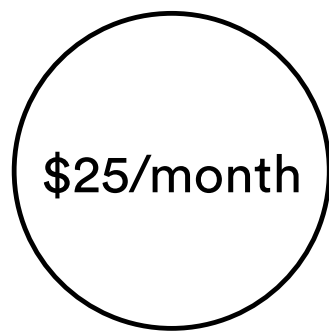
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Our Giving Partners

When a survivor of sex trafficking looks for help, if she is in our region, she often turns to REST. Why? Because the word has spread that REST is the go-to place for safe and supportive care to exit the sex trade, escape a trafficker, and begin the long road of healing. Help us continue to say, “Yes! There is help and hope for you here.”



Provides one week of dinners at the drop-in center.



Helps one survivor escape to an out-of-state, safe location.

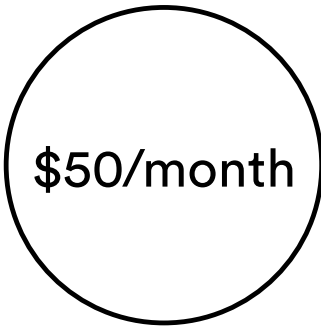
Partner with us today and become a monthly donor at iwantrest.com/donate



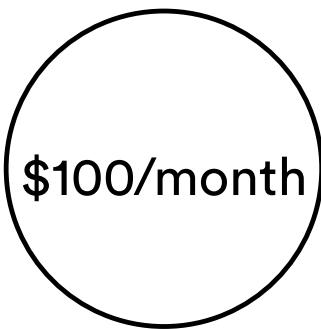
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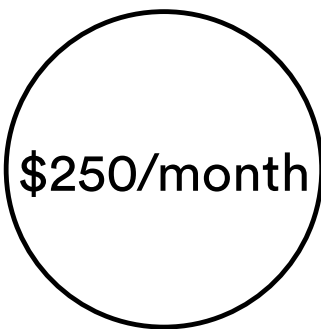
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Provides one survivor access to a job training program or professional certification.



Provides transportation to critical support service meetings for 60 case management clients.



Provides life skills training for all residents at the REST House for one year.

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