

U.S. TRAINING CENTER UNITED STATES

Long before the formal establishment of WAR, Int'l, its earliest programs began in our founder's kitchen, where she rocked wounded women and whispered words of hope and healing into their lives. Now, decades later, rescued and at-risk women gather in the kitchen of WAR, Int'l seeking job skills, stable employment or simply a safe haven to heal and start over. In our own humble headquarters, WAR, Int'l is piloting a program to offer protection and empowerment to those at risk in our own American neighborhoods, in the land of the free. As these women rewrite the past, rebuild, and dream again, WAR, Int'l works toward its own dreams of expanding the US Training Center program. In the face of staggering need and a steady flow of requests to take more rescued women—like four survivors a month from one state alone—WAR, Int'l plans to grow the program according to our successful international model, adding counseling, child care, health services, scholarships and more. When you invest in this program, you invest in the rescue and empowerment of those in our own communities, in stretching our circles of protection ever wider but ever closer as well.



STORIES OF RESCUE & EMPOWERMENT

COUNTRY: UNITED STATES • PROGRAM: MICRO-ENTERPRISE



Hope

We bid Hope in our conference room. She had bolted into the WAR boutique, trying to outrun her trafficker. She had been sold from Michigan to Mexico. When she finally escaped and returned home, she also returned to her trafficker's hometown. WAR, Int'l formed a circle around Hope, provided safety, medical care, a pro bono lawyer, and relocated her to a safehouse in Chicago. Though Hope now lives in safety, WAR, Int'l staff wished we could walk with her through the healing process, at our own shelter, in our own programs.



Monique

We met Monique on outreach in the bars of Grand Rapids. Staff mentioned we could help her seek alternative employment, should she desire it. At nine the next morning, she was at the WAR, Int'l headquarters. After trying in vain to write a resume for someone who had only known the abuse of the red light district, WAR hired her on and the pilot program was born. Now, Monique repairs jewelry and designs beautiful new product, earning a reference that will blot out the brokenness of her past. As she works with dignity in a safe place, she works toward a new future for her and her children.

*For more stories of rescue & empowerment, please visit our story gallery at www.warinternational.org/story-gallery
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