## JUNE 2020 | ISSUE **X**



# **REDEEMED FOR A CAUSE**

NEW PARTNERSHIPS, COVID RESPONSE, AND MORE

# **MOVING FORWARD ONE STEP AT A TIME**

#### TACKLING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

We are proud to announce that we partnered with the **City of Philadelphia Department of Health** to install the **first ever sharp needle disposal box** in South Philadelphia. **Harm reduction strategies** are critical in keeping our communities healthy and combatting the opioid epidemic.

#### **RESPONDING TO COVID-19**

With hard times hitting our communities, we have fought to maintain and expand our basic-needs programs. Our partnership with the **Shared Food Program** remains strong and we were able to distribute more than **1,500 meals** to families in South Philadelphia communities. We collaborated with **M.E.A.N.S.**, who graciously provided us will **200 meals** in addition to our normal distribution. We will continue to administer meals every **Tuesday in July**.



your hearts to love.

- Mother Theresa

Additionally, due to this pandemic, there is a **shortage of feminine products** available in local stores. This could lead to an increase of exploitation

stores. This could lead to an increase of exploitation of those who are in desperate need. We sought to keep these women and girls safe through distributing over **200 care packages** and **250 harm reduction kits**. Our friends at **Days for Girls** (Wayne, PA) and **Lynette Medley** of **No More Secrets: A Realistic Approach to Sexual Health** joined our efforts in serving the community by offering women and girls who participate in our food distribution over **3,000 feminine hygiene products, menstrual kits, undergarments, and masks.** 

#### **EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS**

We held trainings in **intimate partner violence** (IPV) and **substance abuse**. In these trainings, we defined IPV, coercion, as well as the **difference between a victim and a survivor**. We learned to recognize the signs of IPV and coercion, that individuals can be **vulnerable in their addictive state**, and how we should assist them with their concerns. We were provided individuals needing assistance with the **IPV hotline number** and **WOAR**. In addition, Sakinah Love spoke to undergraduate students at **Villanova University** about working to become school counselors, as well as the risks and the barriers of human trafficking to use in their future practice of helping our future leaders.

Exciting news! We are in collaboration with Duke University, specifically adding our expertise to the Last Girl Project—a major study on domestic minor sex trafficking in the United States—and employing a new virtual intern. Hear from our intern:

"Hello! My name is Elle and I am a rising senior at Duke. I am majoring in Biology and Global Health and minoring in Chemistry. I've worked on public health projects across the globe, but never in our country. When I heard of RFAC, their mission, and what they've accomplished, I knew that I had to contribute. And here we are."

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

1-888-373-7888



AS WE MOVE INTO JULY, LET US BE MINDFUL OF OTHERS AND THE STRUGGLES THAT MANY OF US ARE NOW ENDURING DUE TO THIS PANDEMIC. BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER AND PRACTICE SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCING TO HELP END THIS VIRAL OUTBREAK. BE SAFE AND STAY HEALTHY.

### **IN PENNSLYVANIA**

There were **275 human trafficking** cases reported in 2019.

>>> 213 involved sex trafficking

>>> 26 involved labor trafficking

>>> 61 involved minors

>>> 131 involved adults

NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.

Margaret Mead

# **GET INVOLVED**

At **Redeemed for a Cause**, well-being is at the forefront of what we're **working together** towards. Our programs and activities are designed to be a **catalyst** that helps community members reach their goals and **fulfill their potential**. Learn more about the impact we have and join us in bringing about **positive change**.

www.redeemedforacause.org

## **IN OUR NEXT ISSUE**

Hear about our third-year anniversary and the continual support from the population we serve as the city goes from yellow phase to green







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