



C.H.A.I.S – Quarterly(ish) Letter From the Director

Dear CHAIS Volunteers, Supporters and Donors,

I am so pleased and feel so privileged to be able to write this letter to you all. This is the first quarterly letter to be written and the beginning of more to come, (don't worry, you won't be inundated with countless emails). As this is the first email of this type, I want to capture the entirety of 2024; our volunteers accomplishments, growth of our working board of directors and organizational committees, deployments on both sides of the organization, and a brief fiscal recap.

As you all know, we are a young organization, busy with both constructing a strong foundation for future growth and simultaneously running real operations to help those in need. Never before, in the history of the organization have we gained so much ground and helped so many people in such a short amount of time. 2024 is a year where I can honestly say that we have truly gained traction, making real headway as we strive to fulfill our mission and our purpose.

What is our mission? Great question!

“Compassionately provide k9 teams to protect the unprotected, empower those who dare to speak out against their abusers, and rescue those in need by delivering professional level handlers and k9s to our community.”

What is our purpose? I'm glad you asked, because we have three purposes!

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| <p><i>Provide therapy and emotional support dogs to victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, sexual and physical abuses as they testify in court.</i></p> | <p><i>Provide personal security dogs and handlers to victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, sexual and physical abuses as they testify in court.</i></p> | <p><i>Provide tracking, trailing, HRD and airscent dogs, working in conjunction with private and public agencies, to aid in SAR operations both domestically and globally, in all terrains, and weather conditions.</i></p> |
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I am so proud to say that through the hard work and dedication from each one of you, we have met our mission objectives and fulfilled our purposes. Let's take a deep dive into the organization, take a look at the work that has been done and what is on our plate for the remainder of Q4 2024 and moving into 2025!

Our mission and purpose is fulfilled and funded entirely through the generosity of our donors. We have never and will never collect compensation from the people we help or the agencies that we work with. To our donors specifically, thank you for helping us, help others.

The Organization:

Three new board members have joined the executive team, bringing with them unique and beneficial skill sets and qualities. We now have 6 board members driving the direction of our non-profit organization. We have also formed two critical committees, the fundraising committee and the SAR/R (Search and Rescue/Recovery) committee.

- Kelli Dolittle has joined us! Kelli is the director of operations at Morison Kids, an organization providing a residential living facility, therapy services, educational services to juvenile female sex trafficking survivors, ensuring their safety as they navigate their way back into a healthy lifestyle. The contacts and knowledge she brings has been invaluable as we introduce ourselves to various DA's and advocacy groups who will help us partner with survivors that need our help.
- Sarah Aeschliman has joined the board! Sarah is an aspiring HRD K9 handler, an advocacy handler and experienced marketer. Sarah has jumped into the organization feet first, taking over our social media - growing the accounts by over 30% and establishing contacts nationwide which have helped us in our national disaster deployments. Sarah designed our HRD certification, documentation and training program for our HRD dogs, approved by the board in August of this year.
- Sara Baughn has joined the board! Sara is a forensics specialist with over 30 years of forensics investigation experience, currently working with Oregon State Police. Her expertise in forensics, experience within law enforcement, and document management, has been a huge help to the organization as we ensure we are delivering a product to law enforcement, disaster management teams and advocacy groups that is unmatched in the non-profit sector.
- Lastly (but by my no means least), Alayna Lawson and Amy Larson have taken on the leadership roles of being the advocacy volunteer coordinator and the Search and Rescue/Recovery Committee leader, respectively. These roles provide the leadership and direction for the critical workforce that is responsible for all of the achievements we will talk about in the next few paragraphs.

Fundraising:

CHAIS embarked on two fundraising efforts this year. The first was a very well planned and successful online auction that generated over \$3000 for the purchase of harnesses for our K9 Advocacy, Therapy and Protection Dogs. The second was a very short notice fundraising effort to fund our HRD team's deployment to the disaster area created by Hurricane Helene, which generated over \$9000 of donations. A portion of these funds was given back to the Helene survivors through Grindstone Ministries who is maintaining ongoing work in the affected areas.

Search and Rescue / Search and Recovery:

A SOP for Human Remains Detection was created, establishing firm guidelines for training of HRD Dogs, documentation of that training and testing/certification for our HRD teams.

A 16 hour training course was created for prospective HRD handlers as part of the mandatory training curriculum.

A volunteer application has been created and final details are being worked out so that we can recruit and bring on new SAR/R volunteers.

We have had 4 deployments this year.

- 6/10/24 - 6/13/24: K9 Tulip/Huffman with Support Woods deployed on behalf of the family to San Marco's Creek, CA to search for the remains of Kyle Doan.
- 7/15/24,: K9 Tulip/Huffman with Support Woods deployed to various locations on various dates to work on behalf of Clark Co Sheriff's Office and family to look for the remains of Jamie Grissim.
- 9/20/24 - 9/21/24: K9 Tulip/Huffman with Support Woods, Larson, Aeschliman and Bernt deployed to Sequim on behalf of PNWMPP and Clallam Co Sheriff's Office to look for the remains of Charissa Caster.
- 10/3/24 - 10/10/24: K9 Tulip/Huffman with Support Jacobs deployed to Tennessee and N. Carolina to aid in the disaster relief efforts in Washington County and Carter County. The team deployed with FEMA NV TF1, Washington Co EMS, Carter County EMS, Johnson City Fire Department, Elizabethton City Fire Department, and TEMA to search for victim remains in Elk River Canyon and the Nolichucky River.

CHAIS 2024 Advocacy Work Summary

Dog Days

In 2024 CHAIS provided 2 Demonstration Events for trafficking survivors and community partners working in Human Trafficking. Each event was approximately 3 hours each, engagement was great, and participants expressed feeling very excited to make the connection with CHAIS.

Through these 2 events we were able to connect with:

- 18 youth survivors, 8 of those survivors made specific requests for escorts for upcoming court dates
- 5 Victim's Advocates working specifically with Human Trafficking Survivors
- 9 staff from Portland Public School District working with high risk and high acuity youth
- 4 detectives and 2 Sergeants with Portland Police Bureau's Human Trafficking Unit
- The Multnomah County ADA who acts as the lead prosecutor for Human Trafficking Cases in Multnomah County.

Survivor Escorts

In 2024 CHAIS was requested to provide survivor escorts by 7 youth, for 11 separate court appearances. Several of these appearances were postponed and pushed out later in the year or early next year (which is not uncommon), however CHAIS did provide 6 escorts in person and were able to attend 100% of the scheduled appearances that took place.

Survivors, attorneys, judges and other court staff have been very receptive and supportive of CHAIS escorts, and CHAIS is building a very positive reputation in the legal community so far.

CHAIS has connected with the Multnomah County ADA who is the lead prosecutor for Human Trafficking cases in Multnomah County and have discussed collaborating on the development of new legislation that would ensure that survivors would have a legal right to have certified therapy animal support in court, which would minimize any concerns that access to organizations like CHAIS could be limited or denied.

CHAIS in collaboration with the SAGE program was able to provide specific training for 8 CHAIS volunteers, this training covered Basic Understanding of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Dynamics of Abusive Relationships, Cognitive & Emotional Impact of Trauma, and training specific to their roles as handlers in the courtroom.

Community Collaboration/Networking

CHAIS attended the 3rd Quarter Multnomah County Sex Trafficking Networking meeting on September 10th, there were approximately 20 community partners present for the presentation. Participants were very receptive to services being offered by CHAIS, and very enthusiastic about sharing this resource with the survivors they work with. Information was also sent out to approximately 100 additional community partners who were not in attendance for that presentation.

Subsequent feedback was very positive, several participants communicated that the establishment of a relationship with CHAIS felt very exciting and very positive, and that they are very pleased to have made this connection.

Financial Synopsis

Our official financials are only up to date through September (as October has yet to be tabulated). That said, I can provide rough numbers that bring us up to our current date in October. These are unofficial numbers but as October was a very strong month for us both for donations and deployments, I thought it important.

Total Contributions Jan - Oct 20, 2024 are \$16,114.33
Total Expenses Jan - Oct 20, 2024 are \$10,775.50
Available Cash Balance as of Oct 20, 2024 - \$15,554.71

Planned expenses:

Starlink and Starlink Battery for communications Re SAR/R (Estimated Cost \$1200)
Misc Contractor and Business expenses

Our major expenses were harnesses for our advocacy dogs, airline, rental car and lodging expenses for the Helene Deployment, advertising (apparel and other SWAG for sale and gifts), accounting and business contractor fees, liability insurance and lastly a \$701.25 pay it forward donation to another non-profit group (Grindstone Ministries) who is still working in the Helene disaster zones.

Conclusion

Thank you, thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Everyone who is receiving this message has played a critical role in our YTD 2024 achievements, and amazingly we aren't done with the year! I feel strongly that we have maintained focus and vigilance over ensuring that the donations that have come in have been used wisely, frugally and in absolute concurrence with our Mission and Purpose.

I am so proud of this organization, I am so proud of all of your accomplishments.

I will leave you with this...

*“When bad men combine, the good must associate,
else they will fall one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in
a contemptible struggle.”*

-Edmund Burke

We are not done, there is no finish line. We are at the beginning of things and sadly, there are so many that still need our help. So many people who need comfort, rescue and closure. This team, this organization, our supporters and benefactors are the group of people that will find those in need and through our incredible dogs be the beacon of light and hope in a seemingly endless sea of darkness.

Most Sincerely,

Jensen Huffman

Jensen Huffman
CHAIS Executive Director