



## Compassion Coalition

### Ways to Connect with Stopping Prostitution

*“By the grace of God, we need to engage the heart of the church to obey the second greatest commandment [“Love your neighbor as yourself”, Mark 12:31]. And that love needs to be sincere, because girls and guys on the street can certainly sense when it’s not.”*

*~Paula Phillips, Volunteer with Angelic Ministries & Teen Challenge*

### Make a Difference Through Prayer

- Pray for the volunteers and staff of programs working with prostitutes to serve with the wisdom, grace, compassion, love, patience and power of Christ. May they experience God's protection, and the assurance that the darkness cannot overcome the light of Christ.
- Praise God for the stories of women who have experienced a life-transforming encounter with the Savior and with those who serve in His name, and are now living in new freedom and hope.
- Pray for those still trapped in the bondage of prostitution -- both prostitutes and customers. May God anoint the church to "bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes ... and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair" (Isaiah 61:3).
- Pray for call girls or escorts who have more money and status than street-walkers, but may still struggle with similar issues of substance abuse, physical abuse and feelings of worthlessness.
- Pray for the police officers who interact with prostitutes, and for greater collaboration between public and private agencies in order to stop the cycle of prostitution and incarceration.
- Pray for children of prostitutes – for their health and safety, for their relationships with their mom, and for their self-image. Pray they find the joy of meeting Jesus personally and that their lives can be guided by his faithful love and the embrace of God's people.
- Pray for more churches to get involved in restoring women and men involved in this lifestyle, confronting the prostitution industry, and providing women viable alternatives for supporting their families.
- Pray for adequate resources for substance abuse rehabilitation, housing, job training, long-term counseling and other services necessary for the recovery of former prostitutes.
- Pray for transformation in the lives of pimps, drug dealers and those in the pornography industry who profit from the work of prostitutes.



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### **Make a Difference Through Your Church**

- Partner with one of the organizations listed below that serves prostitutes and others working and living in the streets. Empower their work through fundraising, collecting items to donate, responding to emergency requests for aid and prayer, helping clients through child care, transportation and mentoring, celebrating holidays, birthdays and personal milestones, providing support and encouragement to staff, maintaining and improving facilities, and doing whatever it takes to bring renewed hope into people's lives.
- Work with police to explore what your church can do to connect with prostitutes after their release from jail, before they get pulled into the lifestyle once again.
- Safe, stable housing is one of the greatest needs for prostitutes in recovery. Collaborate with a nonprofit working with former prostitutes to sponsor a home for transitional or long-term residence.
- Street prostitution is strongly linked with drug addiction. Offer support to women who are getting help with substance abuse so they can escape the need to sell themselves for drugs. Circle the women in a rehabilitation program with encouragement, prayer, food and rewards for meeting recovery goals. Often there is a need for financial support to cover treatment costs as well.
- Minister to runaways and youth aging out of foster care, who are particularly at risk of ending up as prostitutes. Connect with people who are trained to address issues of sexual and physical abuse, which can push young people into the street. Contact the Runaway Shelter (Child & Family Tennessee, 523-2689) for more information about how to get involved. Refer to the chapter on foster care for information about ministry to older foster kids.
- Provide counseling, prenatal care, and emotional and spiritual support for prostitutes who become pregnant. Reach out to the children of prostitutes and help to restore healthy family relationships where possible. As moms, these women love their families but may not know any other way to provide for them. If, however, you suspect that abuse is involved or that children are in danger, call the Central Intake Child Abuse Hotline, 1-877-237-0004, to file a report.
- Because of the rise in prostitution among immigrants, there is a demand for translators among agencies that come into contact with prostitutes. If you speak a language other than English, this can be an invaluable service.
- Become informed about sexual trafficking and how it affects Knoxville. Immigrants and runaways are especially vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Join others in this community and around the country in advocating for greater protections, planning interventions, and providing after-care for victims.
- Start an intercessory team to pray earnestly and diligently against the natural and supernatural forces that keep women trapped in prostitution.
- Reduce the demand for prostitution by addressing the issue of sexual fidelity within



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the church, and providing counseling and referrals to promote healthy, God-honoring sexual behavior.

### **Make a Difference as a Volunteer**

There are many organizations that serve people trapped in prostitution and others in crisis. Below is a selected list of opportunities for ministering to prostitutes and stopping prostitution. For other opportunities, see the chapters on addiction and poverty.

Angelic Ministries: 523-8884, <http://www.angelicministries.com>

*Extends the love of Jesus to those who are poor and struggling, through food, clothing, furniture and household items, counseling services, vocational training, haircuts, and other forms of assistance, as well as opportunities for Bible study, prayer and worship.*

- Work in the warehouse sorting donations, stocking shelves, keeping things clean, and serving clients.
- Spend time visiting with women and offering prayer, and giving haircuts if you have this skill.
- Families and groups: Collect items for Cleaning Starter Kits (buckets filled with home cleaning supplies), Kitchen Boxes (kitchen and house ware items), or Food Boxes.
- Help lead or just share in weekly worship services, help with the meal following the service, or provide transportation to services (with class B license).

Beacon of Hope Crisis Center (Teen Challenge): 546-8933, [www.tcofetn.org](http://www.tcofetn.org)

*Temporary housing for ladies preparing to enter a long-term residential rehabilitation program.*

- Provide transportation to medical appointments and other errands.
- Ladies' groups: lead Bible Studies and worship services, help on field trips, or assist with crafts and jewelry.
- Families: Help with gardening, mowing, or house cleaning; collect personal items for the ladies.

Destination Hope: 688-9636 (contact via Lost Sheep Ministry),

<http://www.jcmmissions.com/DestinationHope.html>

*A collaboration of four Christ-centered ministries (Lost Sheep Ministry, Teen Challenge,*



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*Jesus Centered Ministries, and A Hand up for Women) sharing a common mission: to assist and mentor women until they are spiritually strong, financially capable, self-sufficient, and ready to give back to others.*

Faithful & True of Knoxville (Ebenezer Counseling Center): 670-0988,

<http://www.ebenzercounseling.com/faithful>

*A weekly accountability support group for men dealing with sexual temptation, who are recovering from addictions to pornography, extra-marital affairs and other sexual struggles.*

Family Crisis Center (Child & Family Tennessee): 637-8000, [www.child-family.org](http://www.child-family.org)

*Provides holistic, comprehensive services for people threatened by abuse. Offers victims emergency shelter, transitional housing, support groups, children's services, counseling, and advocacy, as well as resources needed for their ongoing safety needs.*

- Respond to calls that come into the 24-hour crisis line.
- Mentor the mothers and children living in the shelter by spending time together in structured activities such as game nights or picnics. Care for children while their mom runs errands.
- Women: Offer makeovers and massages to the residents, or teach hobbies like crochet and dance.
- Families: Cook and share a meal with the mothers and children living at the shelter.

A Hand Up For Women (Knox County Christian Women's Job Corps): 219-0104,

[www.ahandupforwomen.org](http://www.ahandupforwomen.org)

*Provides services and relationships that empower women to develop economic self-sufficiency and realize their potential in every area of life.*

- Women: Befriend and serve as mentor to a participant, providing support, encouragement, and accountability throughout her time in the program and beyond.
- Lead classes on life skills, financial management, or job readiness.
- Teach basic computer skills like Microsoft Word and Excel and how to navigate the internet.
- Prepare a meal for participants, work in the clothing room, or help staff with mailings.



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Knox County Health Department: 215-5000, [www.knoxcounty.org/health](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health)

*A state agency that identifies and responds to public health needs affecting Knox County. Free and confidential sexually transmitted disease testing, treatment, and educational services are available. Disease intervention specialists follow up with those who test positive to help prevent and control STDs in our community.*

Lost Sheep Ministry: 688-9636, <http://www.lostsheepministry.org>

*A Christian mobile ministry that connects with lost, hurting, and forgotten children of God. Provides food, clothing, addiction rehabilitation guidance, referrals and spiritual nurture by coordinating assistance from churches and social agencies.*

- Share food, drinks, clothing, hygiene products, kindness and a willingness to listen in love, every Wednesday night under the McGhee Street Interstate Bridge.
- Provide administrative support or drive a ministry van.
- Families or groups: Sort clothes, wash vans, restock the distribution center, and assist with food preparation at the ministry site.

Men Seeking Sexual Integrity (Celebrate Recovery at Cokesbury): 693-0353,

<http://www.cclive.org>

*A support group for men struggling with sexual addictions. There is also a 12 step group focused on this addiction on Monday evenings at the Cokesbury Center.*

Runaway Shelter and Transitional Living Program (Child & Family Tennessee): 523-2689, <http://www.child-family.org>

*Helps prevent troubled youth from turning to prostitution by providing a safety net of runaway prevention, crisis intervention, safe shelter, housing, and counseling services for runaway and homeless teenagers and young adults.*

- Spend time listening to, caring for and sharing activities with youth. Extend love, healing, and support to their families.
- Become a surrogate family to a youth, in order to make a longer-term commitment to offer guidance and support for older teenagers as they transition into adulthood.
- Families: Practice a ministry of presence as you cook a meal, organize a game night, or host a picnic for youth and young adults in the program.

Saturday Night Guardian Angel Program (Lost Sheep Ministry): 599-0464

Ways to Connect: An excerpt from Compassion Coalition's 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Salt & Light Guidebook



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*Meets every Saturday night, 11p.m. to 4a.m., at the James White Parkway by Jackson Avenue. A team of volunteers offers emergency medical care, food, friendship, prayer, Christian witness and a safe space for prostitutes, runaway youth, homeless persons, and others on the street.*

- Donate or prepare food for the ministry.
- Join the volunteer team during the all-night vigil, and demonstrate Jesus' love to people in the bars and on the streets. Be prepared to listen, care and witness without passing judgment.
- Volunteers with medical skills are especially welcome.

Serenity Shelter (Knox Area Rescue Ministries): 971-4673, [www.karm.org](http://www.karm.org)

*Long-term residence for single women in crisis fleeing domestic violence and other circumstances. The shelter's location is undisclosed for security reasons. Offers recovery services including job skills training, individual/group counseling, and addiction treatment programs.*

- Help prepare and serve meals, and spend time visiting with residents. Become a special friend and mentor to a woman who seeks to change her life.
- Families: Support the ministry by donating gently used furniture, clothing, and other goods to a KARM Thrift Store (call 521-0770 to schedule a donation pick-up).
- Learn about current volunteer needs at [www.karm.org](http://www.karm.org) or through a monthly “KARM Encounter” (to register, call 633-7624).

Teen Challenge of East Tennessee: 546-8933, <http://www.tcofetn.org>

*Offers Christian counseling for women in crisis and people with life-controlling problems, pointing them toward solutions rooted in Jesus Christ and connecting them with residential drug and alcohol treatment programs.*

- Serve as a counselor (if you know the Bible well, and are willing to take a training course).
- Help the staff by answering phones or helping to write newsletters and appeals.
- Families or groups: Help with painting or lawn care.

Water Angel Ministries, Inc.: 524-5194, <http://www.waterangelsministries.com>

*Serves women in crisis, homeless persons and all others in need by meeting needs while encouraging a personal relationship with Christ.*

- Help people achieve their goals by tutoring them for the GED, working with them to



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- get into an apartment, or providing job training and job placement.
- **Groups:** Participate in the weekly Sunday service through personal testimonies and/or music.
  - **Families:** Serve lunch together, or work in the clothing room, the food pantry or the children's area on Sunday afternoons.