



## SAFE JOBS

**WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?** The prostituting of a child or youth (under 18) or the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel an adult into commercial sex work.

**IS IT A PROBLEM?** An estimated 300-500 children are prostituted yearly in greater Seattle.<sup>1</sup> The ages of 13-15 are typical for youth to first experience exploitation in prostitution.<sup>2</sup>

A lack of employment opportunities is one of the most serious barriers individuals face when attempting to rebuild their lives after escaping a trafficker.

*"But I can tell you that running was not the hard part. The hard part was choosing poverty. The hard part was starting over at age 26, with an eight-year-old girl, being homeless. The hard part was having a criminal record, a huge gap in job history, and more trauma than any person should live with. The hard part was, 'What now?'"*

**- Rebecca Bender, Trafficking Survivor**

### BENEFITS

- Discover a new pool of applicants for unmet employment needs
- Increase workplace diversity
- Potentially receive Work Opportunity Tax Credit
- Enhance employee engagement
- Receive public recognition from BEST
- Demonstrate your brand's commitment to the community

### SUPPORT FOR EMPLOYERS

- Support for your staff throughout the application and onboarding process
- Job applications from candidates who have been pre-screened
- Ongoing support for the employer and the employee from experienced professionals
- Diversity training for managers and staff



*"Employers often overlook young people who lack traditional qualifications. But for many of the young people involved in our job training programs, their life experiences have made them resilient, motivated, and loyal—all qualities that are a great benefit to employers who give them a chance."*

**- Melinda Giovengo, CEO, YouthCare**

## EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP

There are many ways your company can partner with BEST to provide opportunities for survivors and at-risk youth in the community.

### EMPLOYERS CAN:

- Grant interviews to candidates who have been pre-screened for job readiness and company fit
- Have your staff and managers attend diversity and equity training
- Donate time and services that your company provides to survivors and at-risk youth
- Provide an internship opportunity
- Share information with other organizations about hiring survivors and at-risk youth
- Provide BEST with feedback on how to improve and strengthen the Safe Jobs project
- Support the Safe Jobs project financially

*"Liletha Williams, a sex trafficking survivor who was first trafficked at 12-years-old, has worked for years helping survivors and now at-risk youth gain skills for employment. Recently, we asked her what she thinks businesses can do to help survivors, and her answer was simple: 'Hire us. Give us jobs.'"*

**- Paula Clapp, Founding Director, StolenYouth**



Safe Jobs works in partnership with:



Real Escape from  
the Sex Trade

