



THE PHOENIX ALLIANCE
RISE FROM ASHES

News from the *Nest*

Winter 2024



*January * February * March*

Developing Projects

We have two projects in development right now in North Carolina.

Our first project came as a request from the Guilford Juvenile Detention Center. They have asked if we might be able to bring a Vacation Bible School to the center this summer! We are extremely excited for the possibility and have been working to plan all the details. It's a bit different planning for a multi-day program in a building with limited space and restrictions on what can be brought inside, but we are working to see if it will be possible.

The second project is part of a long-held dream to bring a shelter home to our area. We hosted a family from Idaho for several days while they prayerfully considered moving here to come aboard the team and help make this dream a reality. As always, we are fully trusting in God to direct this potential partnership.

Please pray with us while we work through the details and wait to see how God is leading. Please pray that we will have wisdom in every new opportunity He brings.

First Quarter Fundraising Efforts

In March we held our first official fundraising event in Indiana, hosted by Emmanuel Community Church in Fort Wayne. Shaana, our NE Indiana Area Director, shared details of TPA's efforts over the last year as we supported survivors and worked to prevent human trafficking. We were pleased to see local social workers, probation officers, two trafficking detectives, two captains from vice and narcotics, three local judges, and the local sheriff in attendance. We were also blessed to have five area churches represented, all of which have since asked to schedule Shaana to speak to their respective congregations. One pastor has already connected us with a young woman needing to escape a trafficking situation. We recently added her as an active beneficiary.

Another unexpected result of our Indiana event came in the form of a comment from a law enforcement officer known to be strongly opposed to faith-based organizations. After hearing Shaana's passion for helping survivors find freedom and healing through the love of God, her heart softened. She shared, "This is the kind of God I could get behind." How blessed we are to see God working in this way! We will be praying for her to find hope and love in the truth of the Gospel.

In North Carolina, we wrapped up another successful 'Egg My Yard' fundraiser for Easter. Once again, many thousands of eggs were filled, delivered, and hidden in yards across Rockingham and Forsyth counties. A special thank-you to the "Thrive" young adult group from our church for filling eggs so quickly; there was nothing left for us to do! Our delivery teams all worked perfectly this year. Not one single report of team members getting lost, tripping down grassy hills, getting chased by dogs, stepping in pet mess, or backing into mailboxes. We have some serious egg-hiding professionals here in NC!

Our most sincere gratitude to all who were involved in these events. Up next is our second annual community yard sale in Eden, NC this summer. If you live in the area, start thinking about any desirable, sellable items you might want to donate. We'll release more details as the time approaches. Can't wait!

A View from our Board Chair

What a great privilege to serve on the board of The Phoenix Alliance. You might notice that my last name is the same as TPA's founders, Ethan and Kimberly Wheeler. Ethan is my nephew, and I couldn't be more proud.

In 1998 my wife Debbie and I, along with two of our children, moved to Thailand for a year of volunteer service. There we helped some Korean missionaries who were working with the Lahu "hill tribe" people in the northern Thailand mountains. I saw firsthand the extreme poverty and living conditions that these people endure. On visits to the south of the country, my heart was grieved to see so many young tribal girls being trafficked in the red-light districts of Bangkok. Then in 2004, we moved to the Philippines where there is also a huge trafficking problem.

Fast forward to 2015. Ethan and Kimberly invited us to their home in Kuna, Idaho, so they could pick our brains about living in Asia. They shared that they were preparing to answer a call of God. Ethan would leave his lucrative career as an AV Systems Engineer, and they would sell their home and possessions, moving their family of six to Thailand. There they would work with an anti-trafficking organization. They wanted any advice we could give them. While I'm sure they were hearing many voices questioning their sanity, we understood and tried to encourage them. In the years following, we watched their work with great interest.

Last year, Ethan asked me to consider joining the TPA Board of Directors. It was a no-brainer for me. Finally, I am able to contribute something more substantial to help alleviate the problem that grieved my heart all those years ago. I am so excited to join my fellow board members in supporting this worthwhile work in North Carolina, Indiana, and Thailand.

So, what is the current state of the organization? In the book "Nonprofit Lifecycles" by Susan Kenny Stevens, Dr. Stevens identifies seven stages in the life of an organization. The first two are the Idea stage and the Start-up stage. I believe The Phoenix Alliance has progressed beyond Start-up and has entered the Growth stage. This is characterized as a time when the organization's "...mission and programs have taken hold, but where service demand exceeds current structural and resource capabilities."

Those doors of opportunity are many, including the "big three" categories of TPA work: Prevention, Intervention and Advocacy. Shaana will be sharing more details of these amazing opportunities with our donor base.

Kimberly, serving as TPA Area Director for North Carolina, has built a strong working relationship with the Guilford County Juvenile Detention Center, and that work will continue to grow in 2024.

In Thailand, TPA is helping to support a new home for at-risk girls, called Arukah House. (Arukah is Hebrew for healing and restoration.) Arukah's founder is Kanya Musoe-Wheeler, Ethan and Kimberly's adopted daughter. Kanya will soon begin assisting beneficiaries with the process of trauma healing and discovering their identity in Christ.

As you can see, opportunities to serve abound. Every one of them takes resources of time and money. Won't you consider joining us by supporting and advocating for the work of the Phoenix Alliance in 2024? Surely this is what Jesus meant when he said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

God's richest blessings,
Ted Wheeler, TPA board chair