

October 20, 2020

Subject: Statement of Need on behalf of the Little Tree Project



To Whom It May Concern,

The National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance (NTSA) is a nonprofit organization supporting residential programs and agencies who are serving survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. NTSA provides extensive resources, comprehensive training, and most importantly, community for agencies who are members of the Alliance. There are 67 members of the Alliance and our network expands to nearly 200 throughout the country via our Alliance Referral System. The Little Tree Project (LTP) joined the Alliance as an Associate Member in February of 2020.

Estimates for the number of people at risk of becoming trafficking victims in the United States varies from 100,000 to 300,000. What is most consistently expressed is the dearth of qualified programs to aid survivors in their healing and restoration back into society. Also, the field of serving survivors of trafficking and exploitation is relatively 'young' with the average age of an organization being seven years old. The organizations working in the field of trafficking survivor rehabilitation, like LTP, know the difficulty of the work that stems from the degree of trauma endured by these survivors.

NTSA recognizes through our membership and our Alliance Referral System that there is a significant gap and limited access to services for survivors in Alabama. Currently, LTP is our only member in southern/coastal Alabama, with the next closest members being in Montgomery and Florida. There have been 14 referrals in the last two years that the candidate originated from Alabama.

Allana Chris, LTP Executive Director, and her team have been incredibly active members within our community by engaging in group collaborations, sharing their own resources, and building healthy relationships with other agencies. We believe that LTP is a much needed organization with very capable individuals who are providing prevention, rescue, rehabilitation, and restoration. NTSA fully supports and highly recommends the Little Tree Project as a recipient of private and public donations. It has been an absolute pleasure to walk alongside LTP in the journey to support survivors of trafficking and exploitation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Yao".

Melissa Yao
Executive Director
National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance

ShelteredAlliance.org

A community of service providers for survivors of human trafficking.

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The National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance is a qualified 501(c)3 organization. Federal Tax ID #84-2962806