



First Fruit Ministries Receives \$500,000 Grant for Trafficking Victims

Wilmington, NC – The Office for Victims of Crime, a component of the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs announced on Tuesday, August 4, that First Fruit Ministries will receive a \$500,000 grant to support their mission of outreach and supportive housing for victims of human trafficking. First Fruit Ministries, located in Wilmington, is one of 73 organizations receiving grants totaling over \$35 million. This announcement was made by Advisors to the President, Ivanka Trump and Attorney General Bill Barr.

Says Lee Anna Stoker, co-founder and Executive Director of First Fruit Ministries, “I am completely overwhelmed by the possibilities this funding opens for trafficking survivors and for our local community. We will increase and expand First Fruit Ministries’ outreach and supportive housing. Beyond that, this grant will allow C.A.S.T., the Collaborative Against Sex Trafficking led by First Fruit, to coordinate a network of those who care passionately about this cause in the Wilmington area. Real impact happens when local stakeholders become a team and train their eyes on the ultimate goal: ending trafficking and restoring survivors.”

ABOUT FIRST FRUIT MINISTRIES

Food, Shelter, Friendship: First Fruit Ministries shares God’s unconditional love through outreach and supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness or trafficking. Founded by Rick and Lee Anna Stoker over 20 years ago, First Fruit Ministries began as a street outreach to people living under bridges and in the woods of our community, women and girls caught in the commercial sex industry and human trafficking, and to our local gangs. First Fruit Ministries’ work is for people with a passion to see those who are poor, who feel broken and have nowhere to go, the unseen on our streets who are lost in cycles of physical disability, mental health crisis, substance abuse captivity, and emotional trauma, set free.

The purpose of First Fruit Ministries is no less than to reach out to this hurting community with unconditional love, with hot meals, with medical care on the streets, and with emotional care that is consistent and trustworthy; and to give a warm home and a stable platform for personal growth to those ready to break free.

First Fruit Ministries
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