

Overcoming Trauma to Fight for others

My name is Rita. I am a survivor of Childhood RAPE trafficking. I was trafficked by my dad from the age of 3- 13 out of my own home my own bedroom. Back then I did not know what was happening to me. I am sharing my story to educate people that this must stop and that training is needed to educate others.

Advocacy Matters

The more we Educate the more people will know that Trafficking needs to stop. IF we ignore that it is happening- we will keep on getting the same results. Change WILL happen if we continue to Spread the word what trafficking is.

The best practices that we have found to work for our area (which has a lot of rural areas) is to continue to speak to any organization that will have us. We talk and talk to get people to listen. Slowly it is changing, one community at a time.

YOU can make a difference!

[Human trafficking survivors and advocates call on Michigan Lawmakers to step up \(msn.com\)](#)

Education is Key to helping people understand what Trafficking is and is not.

We need to Put signs up in places that trafficked people go- so they can get help.

Rural Secrets



- It is easier to hide a child in the country.
- There is little way for a child to escape, no buses, even fewer police. I biked everywhere at 8 yrs old
- Generations of cover ups keep abuse hidden for many years.(45 yrs)

What could have helped ME

Neighbors saw the cars,

What would you have
done?

Doctor saw me- but was
part of my abuse... sadly

I went to an Allergist- did
they not see the bruises?



That “thing” that you run from

I did not understand until 7 years ago when my marriage ended and I went back to school that I realized what I grew up with was not normal. What happened to me, was wrong. The dark cloud nearly ate me up.



Upstanding Men in the community

My dad was a 32nd degree Mason. Top back middle. My grandpa 92 degree his dad front row- left . I am sure that some of these men abused me. To this day I do not like thick eye-brows or old spice after shave. The sight of big eye brows make me want to run and hide and the smell of Old Spice makes me want to throw up.

Page similar to the coded book my dad taught the other men at our table

MM DEGREE - 2d SECTION - 12 FELLOWCRAFT LOGS

Confusion
FC "w b, nothing t d today, n w l o, n d d o t TB.
KS " ----- not at work as usual".
MWKS (FC/) t i s n w l o f u, a i i s w c h n a p, o t o t b n d d o t
TB. f t r, m o u a i.
KS "----- where is our GMHA?"
FC - w d n k MWKS, h h n b s s h t y ---
KS "----- let him be found if possible."
[12 FC leave - on way out, inquire - h y s a o o GMHA? - n s h t y --]
FC - MWKS (FC/), d s h b m, h cannot b f i n a t t, n h o ---.
--- In Outside Hall - ROLL CALL ---
G.S. hands out rolls. Roll call. G.S. returns to report. 12 FC put on
White g & a. *** Raps - on outer door. enter 2 x 2, kneel & pray
FC "MWKS (FC/) --- w c t i y, t f o u FC's s t t a c, a b d o o t s o a
MM, w w m t i f c, a r M wages, e i a h c t extort t f o GMHA o t h l.
b r w h o t a o t c, 12 of us recanted. t o 3 s t p i t m d, a w f
t h t h l. w t h e r e f o r n a b y m c i w g a a, i t o o i, a c k n o w
l e d g i n g o p g, a h i y p."
KS "---- divide - travel 3E - 3W - 3N - 3S ----- r n w tidings"
----- meet SC & SFM -----
FC1 "h f, h y s a s p t w?" SFM "i h t"
FC2 "d t i y p." --- SFM "t a t b w f t t, seeking a p i E, b, n h
KS p, w n a t o o o, a r b i t c."
FC3 "y s t r b i t c?" SFM "y" FC "w w m report b i p o tidings"
3 FC return to KS
(FC) (/) "t f t w" -- w r -- "i b o w p a w e s t e r l y c, c d n t p of Joppa,
m a SFM o w h o m i e i h h s a s p t w, h i m t h h, 3, w f t a w w f
t, s a p i E, b, n h KS p, w n a t o o, a r b i t c." Disguise
[3 FC go out NE door - don disguises - reenter by outer door.]
AT GRAVE [dialogue #1]
FC3 "w b, i a t, i m s d a r (@) b i c g a f"
FC2 " --- w i a t"
FC1 " --- w c o u r s e s w p n?"
FC3 " w m n g a r, i w d, t 12 t w b p t d, h a 3 o t p f w u, w m u s t n g
a g t u t b p t d."
FC2 "---- w m t a n-w, o a s-w c, a b o ----"
FC1 "----a, a w w s w g?"
FC3 "----w w i l l g a s-w c"
FC2 "----w, c o b, w m b g ----"
FC3 "----hail, w m t a c a c i a c u s e? ----"
FC1 "----t g h b n b ----"
FC2 "----t h t a o a g ----"

Traded for the secrets in a black book

- As a child- I did not get to have friends over, If I did, my dad molested them.
- I was not allowed to go places where people might find out what was going on at our “perfect” home.
- I lived a double life. I was threatened daily. I was told the incest, abuse and rape was my fault. I was told it was what I was “made” for.
- I DESPISED being the Secret Keeper =(
- I’m Still here =)

Done with Lessons- I was the reward

- When my dad got done teaching the men what they were to learn for the night. They got to molest or rape me. I got used to it.
- Nothing I could do would stop them from coming into my room. Sometimes I hid. I put lego's on the floor to warn me that they were here. I put trash and dirty clothes around me.
- I know one time a man stood in the door quietly sobbing, at what my dad told him to do to me. That night no hands got me. My prayers worked.

Ways that people Cope

I was a work-aholic
I worked 4 part time jobs
and took 19 credits- at a
community college- if
someone told me I could
not do something- I would
just to prove them wrong.
I had no idea how to have
a TRUSTING relationship. I
wore a MASK

What are other ways that
people cope when they
are being Trafficked.

Are there always ways that
THEY choose or is it
chosen for them?



My life in Boxes

I learned to put my life in a box. My feelings went in one, my hopes and dreams in another....I slapped on a happy face and tried to do life. I did police work, security, had a family wrote for a newspaper and did photography and was a House Director at a sorority. Here is where the healing began. Laughter from some of the women and kindness ,was new to me. Going to school, helped me understand my past and meeting others helped me realize that I was not alone in this journey.



Grooming

Looking in the mirror to make yourself your best. A “groomer” fixes the person the way they want them to be to use them for a purpose that is not what the person being groomed wants. My grooming started at 3. I was told to be a “good little Girl”. I only got food, when I was a “good little girl”. Good little girls do what they are “told” like it or not. To this day I still have a little stash of food and I am a survivalist.

No Telling

- The one time I tried to tell at school I was 7, my dad stormed the school, yelling....
- He told the principal and the teacher what a rotten little girl I was
- He told them I was a great story teller
- He told them not to listen to anything I said
- The abuse got worse after that, he used my fears against me



Pump House

In 1st grade I told my teachers what my dad was allowing to happen to me. As punishment, he put me in the bottom of this pump house for hours. I was told that it was my fault because I was too pretty. The light was turned out, things crawled on me. Ladder was pulled up, a ticking clock was placed over the top- to this day I can not stand ticking clocks. I was not given dinner, from that day on- I learned to hide food and never tell anything that was happening.

12 signs from Shared Hope International- I had 6 of them

- Signs of physical abuse such as bruises or cuts
- Unexplained absences from class
- Less appropriately dressed than before
- Sexualized behavior
- Overly tired in class
- Withdrawn, depressed, distracted or checked out
- Bladder, kidney issues, Allergies and Asthma

Shared Hope International states 5 ways that victims are found

- Social Networks My dad was a Mason and we were traded with JW children. We were slapped across the face if we tried to know names of people. Drugs were put in food to make us sleep
- Neighborhood- where I lived my dad molested most of the kids within our country block
- Clubs my dad used the Masons and JW to molest and rape more children. They put us in rooms and picked which one of us they wanted behind the window
- School If I brought kids home bad things happened
- Internet did not exist back then



No Smile

My dad- I would try to smile pretending that my dad cared about me....how could a man who cared about his daughter allow her to be raped and abused by strange men at night?

How do we help kids in school

What could my teachers have done different?

What could my bus driver have done?

What could the school nurse have done?



Awful

I think I was 10 or 11 here? My mom was in the hospital and I had cut my hair. I wanted to be ugly so maybe the men would quit coming into my room. It did not work. My Asthma was bad at this point. I had to get allergy shots. I had constant bladder infections from the abuse. My mom had no idea that this was happening. Nobody had any idea what I endured at night. The teachers treated me awful, they would yell at me for falling asleep in class .



Stop the Sugar Coating its NOT HT its RAPE

A child who is trafficked, raped and molested starting at 3 will have a very warped sense of self. Untrained People want to automatically assume the child likes to act this way- as they get older. they don't . Look at the WHY are they acting that way. I honestly did not know how to NOT act this way.



Healing takes time

I was devastated to find out that my best friend was trafficked with me. I care about her, but it made me mad that she was taken to be traded as well. We are still friends and I don't get to see her much.



Surviving with toys

I played with fisher price toys to survive. Here families smiles were frozen and I pretended that they loved each other. My older sister said that we played hours and hours with these toys. Today they call it PLAY THERAPY. I put all the men in the castle dungeon. I lined them up and dropped them in the dungeon.



Ripping out the walls and starting over

I finally found an EXCELLENT TRAUMA therapist who helped me unpack the boxes and start the healing and really feeling. A band aid will not fix the past. I can help others get healing sooner and I have learned to heal

4-28-97

DEAR BROTHER ROBERTSON

ENCLOSED IS A CHECK WHICH I
BELIEVE YOU SAID WOULD BRING ME
UP TO DATE.

I GOT YOUR MESSAGE ON MY
ANSWERING MACHINE BUT LOST YOUR
PHONE NUMBER.

SORRY TO READ ABOUT CHARLES
STAFFORD PASSING. HE WAS
MASTER WHEN I JOINED THE
LODGE. HE WAS ALSO SCOUT
MASTER WHEN I BELONGED TO
THE SCOUTS YEARS BEFORE THAT.

THANKS FOR EVERY THING

pleading

A man who received a warning letter from my dad, wrote back. He was the secretary and he had to collect money.

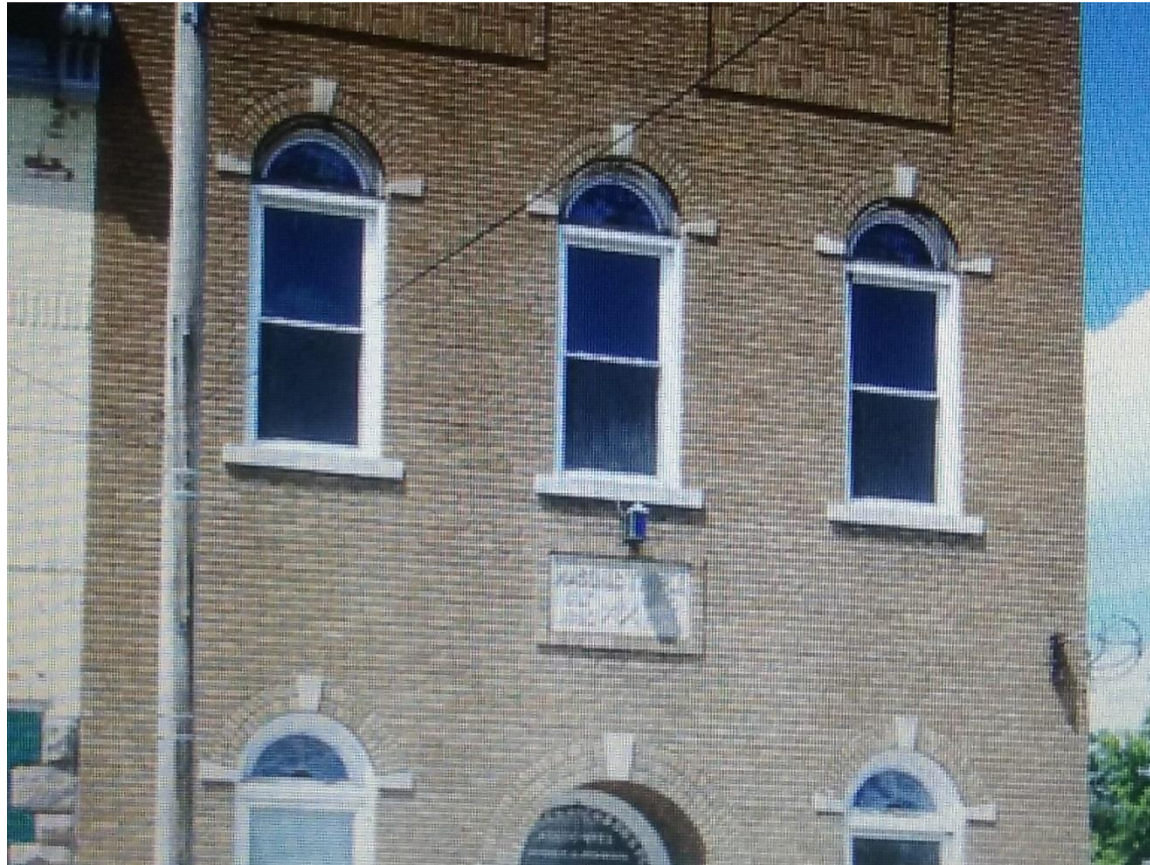
Five Thousand years Moses said:
"Pick up your shovel mount your
ass or camel, and I will lead you to
the promised land."

Five thousand years later Truman said,
"Lay down your shovel, sit on your
ass and light up your camel - this
is the promised land."

And now, if you don't watch out,
will take away your
shovel, sell your camel, kick your ass,
and take away your promised land.

warning

This is a letter that men got when they did not pay the dues they owed this group.



Final Sacrifice

The Last place abuse happened. I was 13. Myself and a boy were wearing white and we were chosen as sexual sacrifices. I lost count after being raped 30 times everyone was wearing Klu Klux Klan white so you could not see anyone's faces. To this day- I do not like any kind of masks.



Galesburg

This is part of the inside of the building. Where the final sacrifice happened. The Eastern Stars had dinners, the wives were required to cook. Girls were in rainbow clubs. I never liked going ever. But if I did the abuse increased.

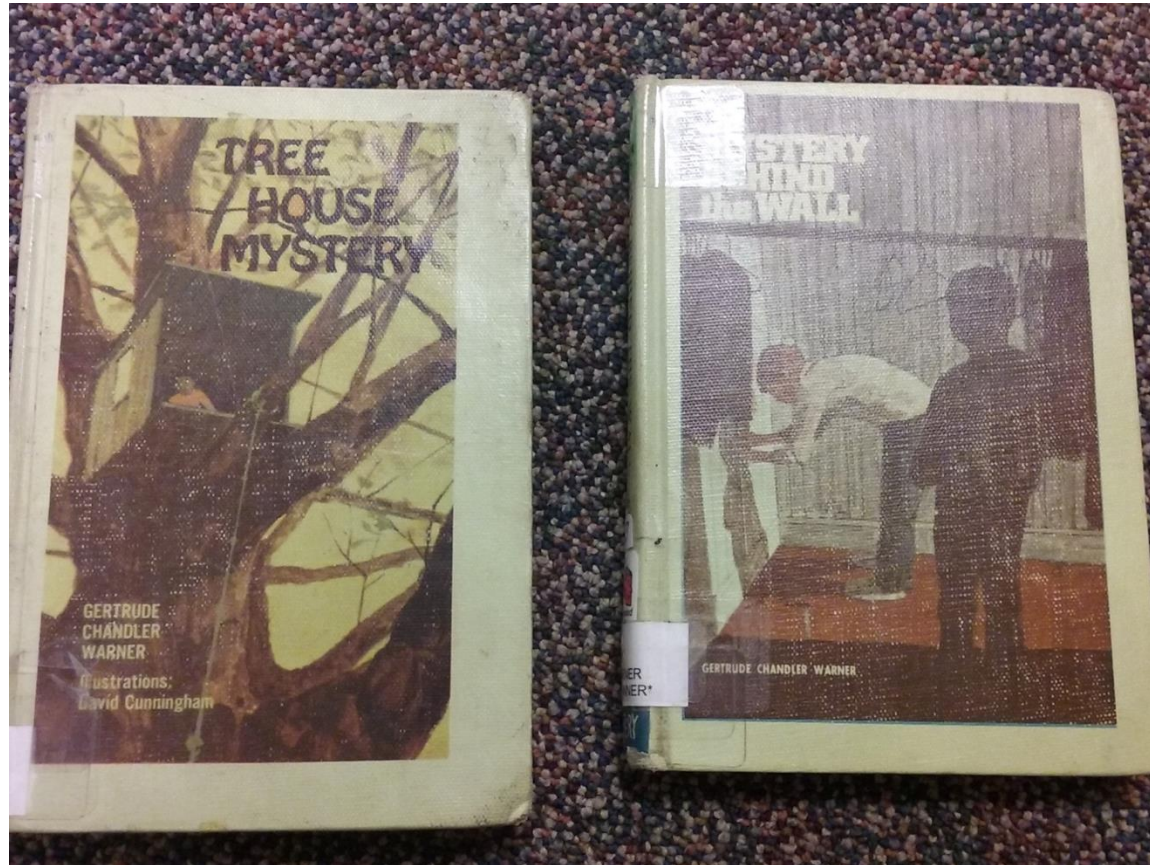
the promised land.

Five thousand years later Truman said,
"Lay down your shovel, sit on your
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And now, if you don't watch out,
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shovel, sell your camel, kick your ass,
and take away your promised land.

P.S. I am glad that I am an American
I am glad that I am free,
I wish I were a little dog
and Eisenhower were a tree.

Warning 2



Surviving with books

I stayed at the library as long as I could to block out what was happening. I lived by the railroad tracks growing up so I fell in love with the boxcar children. I pretended in my head that someone really loved me and wanted me and would keep the bad people away. Reality bites



Healing takes work

Healing takes a lot of work, it is so worth it!!!! Speaking out is part of my healing. I no longer have to be silent. The past will not define me. I never got Justice for what happened to me- part of my healing is helping others get justice.



Part of my healing was to attend a survivors retreat. I love the water. I like to go to Lake Michigan every couple of years and ride a 4 wheeler around. I love nature, kayaking, hiking and campfires with friends.



Thank You for Listening today

I am continuing to move forward and heal. My past will not define me. I will continue to speak out and educate and assist others in their journey