BUSINESS PLAN

1. Executive Summary

Casa Milagro is a nonprofit agency providing holistic and compassionate aftercare services for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and for children at serious risk of sexual exploitation.

When children experience trauma, specifically sexual exploitation, they lose hope. They’ve lost trust in the adults in their lives, in their sense of security and well being and in the possibility of ever having a better future. This hopelessness can be renewed if their thoughts about being defined as a victim get redefined. Shifting these thoughts - from victim - to survivor - to thriver, require our vigilance as well as a consistently safe environment for them to live and learn new, healthier patterns of thinking.

The implementation of Phase One began in December of 2014 when we started identifying homeless CSEC victims, survivors and at-risk youth living on the streets of San Jose. We have been developing our relationship and building trust with them ever since. In an offer to address some of their immediate needs, we have been delivering food, clothing, blankets and toiletries to them, at least once per week. We provided 1,500 meals to 125 underage children and hundreds of youth between the ages of 18 and 25 years old in 2015.

Phase Two of our plan is to open a drop-in center in San José where we can provide these children with a hot meal, clothes, showers, and toiletries. In this center, we will be able to connect them to resources such as orphanages, foster homes, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, educational programs and technical training. More importantly we can provide them a chance to receive therapy and a place where they can feel that their lives matter and that someone cares about them. Legal assistance to help prosecute their abusers will also be provided. The drop-in center will enable us to reach and help more children than we ever could with just a safe house.

Phase Three is to find (or build) a safe house in Costa Rica that will accommodate young male victims of sex trafficking that are identified and sent by PANI (child protective services agency of Costa Rica). They will range in age between 12 and 17. We hope to house many youths in the long term, but we’ll begin with 4-6 over the course of a full
year, giving our trained and experienced professionals time to teach and reinforce the basic principles of self-love and self-acceptance, while meeting the children’s psychological, physical and spiritual needs.

After the first full year of individual documentation, Casa Milagro staff will be able to evaluate their ability to add four or more boys. A decision was made to focus on adolescent male victims, as two other nonprofits are currently building safe homes for females; and no program or services exists to help the male victims at all.

The possible locations of Hojancha and Monteverde were initially chosen strategically, as Casa Milagro has many strong relationships with residents, government and businesses in those areas. Both locations are far from where these children are being trafficked and from the danger presented by their pimps and families. A property has not yet been secured. Honestly, we’re now considering looking at locations closer to San Jose, which would allow easier access to medical and legal services for the children.

In our safe and loving environment, we will provide individual and group therapy, teach strong interpersonal and basic life skills, ensure all medical and dental needs are being met, inspire learning, and compassionately meet the spiritual needs of all the children.

Only through this holistic approach, can a sense of individual responsibility be established; giving these children the ability and desire to follow through on their path to adulthood with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Upon reaching their 18th birthday, the boys who are ready, will move out on their own. Casa Milagro will look for a halfway house or other option for those boys who are not yet ready to live on their own.

Future plans involve adding a safe home for girls, a school, and an administrative building.
The organization’s Theory of Change is based on a holistic approach, focusing simultaneously on the areas of Personal Development, Education, Health and Community.

Casa Milagro will create a safe environment that will be an invaluable resource to young survivors of sexual exploitation.

a. Goals

i. Drop-in Center:
   1. Offer a place where those under 18 years old go to get a decent meal, to shower, to get clothes and toiletries, or to rest on a day cot
   2. Connect the children to resources such as orphanages, foster homes, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, educational programs and technical training
   3. Offer a place where they can receive therapy and feel that their lives matter
ii. **Safe House:**

1. Offer a love-filled home where children can transform their lives through spiritual psychology-based individual & group therapy; mentorship; and inspirational education
2. Break the cycle of sexual abuse and violence these boys are experiencing and then later inflicting on other
3. Prepare the boys with the important life skills they will need to lead happy, healthy and productive lives once they leave our care at the age of 18

b. **Mission**

We exist to love, heal & empower children in Costa Rica who are at risk of, or who have been rescued from, human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

c. **Vision Statement**

We hold in our hearts the vision of a world free of sexual exploitation, where children are nurtured, inspired and loved.

d. **Guiding Principles**

The following list reflects the principles which guide both our work with the children, and how we as an organization conduct ourselves.

i. The welfare of our children is our utmost priority
ii. The nature of the Universe and our natural human state is Love
iii. All of life is for Learning and Loving
iv. An ‘unresolved issue’ is anything that disturbs our peace
v. Unresolved issues are not bad, rather opportunities for spiritual growth
vi. Though others may behave inappropriately toward us, we have the power to choose our response and to heal any disturbance within ourselves
vii. While we are not responsible for the actions of others, we are completely responsible for our own experiences in life
viii. Physical world reality exists for Spiritual growth
ix. Spirit meets you at your point of action
x. Our beliefs determine our experiences
xi. The more we cultivate a healthy inner world, the greater our capacity to manifest an outer world that reflects our own inner reality
xii. The issue isn’t the issue: the real issue is how you are with yourself as you go through the issue
xiii. Healing is the application of Loving to the places inside that hurt
xiv. Every time an individual resolves a single issue, all of humanity moves forward in its evolution
xv. Spiritual growth is a process, not an event
xvi. Direct Experience is how belief is turned into Knowing
xvii. Judgment is self-condemnation - Self-forgiveness is freedom
xviii. Human experiences on earth is our school - the primary goal is to accept and master the lessons from this school
xix. A life filled with Acceptance is a life free of unnecessary emotional suffering

2. Organization Summary

Casa Milagro Foundation is a nonprofit organization registered as a 501(c)(3) in the United States, We have come together in a formal way to respond to the growing abuse of children through human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). In Costa Rica we are registered as Asociación Costarricense de Milagros (Costa Rican Miracle Association).

Both the US and Costa Rican Boards of Directors - along with our advisory panel - have experienced, talented and committed members who are dedicated to the success of these children, and the eradication of human trafficking.

Our first response to this alarming problem was to meet the basic needs of some of Costa Rica’s most vulnerable children: our endangered runaways and homeless children. To the best of our knowledge, there are no other organizations providing assistance to them. To meet this initial objective, we formed a team of volunteers to go out and get to know as many of these children as possible. Since December of 2014 we have been providing them with food, clothing, toiletries and blankets.

We expect to open the doors of a drop-in center in the Greater San José area for boys and for girls in February of 2017. We’ll be able to provide many more quality services in the drop-in center than we could ever do walking around on the streets.

Our third phase includes opening a safe house for boys aged 12 to 17 years old. Our goal is to have this safe house open during the first quarter of 2018.

Future plans involve adding a safehouse for girls, a day center, a school, and an administrative building. There is a keen sense of awareness by the Board of Directors that this model may be duplicated in other parts of Costa Rica or elsewhere.
a. Start-up Summary

We have already been operating since March of 2014, with Phase One being implemented in December of 2014.

i. Drop-in Center
We estimate we need ____ to open the doors of our Drop-in Center. This figure includes estimated costs for the first six months of operation: rent, utilities, legal fees, licensing costs, salaries, and the purchase of a used vehicle.

ii. Safe House
We estimate we need approximately ____ to open our Safe House. This figure includes estimated costs for the first twelve months of operation for 6 children, staff training, legal fees, licensing costs, the purchase of a vehicle, accounting fees, and other typical start-up costs. If no appropriate property can be identified to rent, this start-up cost will need to be adjusted to include the purchase of a property and the construction costs necessary to build something suitable.

3. Services

Casa Milagro will provide compassionate aftercare services for child and youth survivors - and those at risk of - commercial sexual exploitation. We will strive to give them an opportunity to heal, rebuild trust, build positive relationships, learn basic life skills and continue their education.

In addition to meeting the basic needs of shelter, clothing and food, Casa Milagro will offer four core sets of specific services:

- **Individual and Group Therapy**: Our full-time psychologist has specialized training and experience in dealing with child trauma due to sexual abuse and exploitation. She facilitates trauma resolution and fosters healing and growth in weekly individual therapy sessions. Daily (M-F) group therapy sessions focus on providing specific coping and processing tools, peer-to-peer and self counseling skills, and a safe space to process as a group.

- **Mentorship Programs and Activities**: Casa Milagro’s full-time therapeutic mentor focuses on building strong relationships with the children. The relationship is utilized to establish a program of change in the young person's life. Through a variety of activities and one-on-one time, the mentor encourages mindfulness, experiencing joy, goal-setting, self discipline, and skill development that improves the young person's sense of hopefulness. (Additional mentors from the local community will be added as we
move forward.)

- **Health Advocacy Program**: Part of the Casa Milagro model of holistic health is ensuring all health needs of the youths are being addressed. Casa Milagro health advocates accompany youths to doctor and dentist appointments, ensuring proper care. Physical activities, exercise, yoga, etc. are also provided on a daily basis. These tasks will be done by staff members, interns, and community volunteers who have been properly screened and trained.

- **Tutoring and Educational Assistance**: The school dropout rate of child victims of sexual exploitation is estimated to be about 73%. Jobs are scarce, especially among those who are untrained and unskilled. Learning disabilities are common and few teachers have the necessary skills to provide the support needed to help these youths succeed. Educational resources and referrals will be provided for the youth in our Drop-in Center.

Casa Milagro will require the residents of the Safe House to continue their education in an onsite classroom setting. A dedicated teacher will manage the homeschool program and our Education Advisory Board will oversee the inspirational education of all the children. All effort will be made to match the boys with educational and learning opportunities to match their interests and passions.

4. **Market Analysis Summary**

Casa Milagro offers valuable and necessary services to vulnerable boys and girls, where no other services exist. Casa Milagro provides an opportunity to make a dramatic difference in their lives by offering therapy, mentorship, educational assistance and health advocacy.

These services provide a framework for future success. Youth will develop an inner awareness of their strengths that move them toward developing a healthy transition into adulthood.

a. **Market Segmentation**

Casa Milagro has a couple of market focuses that are key to the program’s success:

i. The primary market focus is on **youth** who are victims, survivors, or at-risk of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) who are nearly always overcoming major trauma, poverty, unstable home life or homelessness, inconsistent or non-existing academic lives, and sometimes addictions. Casa Milagro programs foster positive changes through a holistic
approach to healing, self-discipline, skill development and the creation of positive relationships.

ii. Marketing also attracts mentors and volunteers from the area because they care about kids and their community. The typical mentor-volunteer relationship demands a commitment instilled in the potential mentor-volunteer. The mentor-volunteer relationship will be clearly outlined, highlighting the necessary deep commitment this role requires. For most mentor-volunteers, this experience changes their lives, taps their inner resources, builds their own self-confidence, and challenges their convictions and beliefs.

iii. Our tertiary focus is on the community. Our dream would be to eradicate human trafficking and all forms of child abuse. Marketing also builds awareness about the overall problem of commercial sexual exploitation. The more people who are aware how to identify children at risk and who know what to do to help, the more children’s lives we can impact in very positive ways.

b. Target Market Segment Strategy

The target market for Casa Milagro are young victims of commercial sexual exploitation ages 12 to 17. Casa Milagro has created a set of four core services to assist these youths in healing and basic skill building that will lead to future success and a happy, healthy adulthood.

5. Strategy and Implementation Strategy

a. Focuses for Program Implementation

i. An analysis to determine the needs of the target population, as well as research to find out which, if any of these needs are being met by the government and/or other non-governmental organizations.
   1. Our analysis so far has shown us that neither the government, nor other nonprofits, are even attempting to meet the needs of these children.
   2. We’ve determined that a study is needed and are working with a researcher to come up with the funds to pay for a quality study.

ii. Development of our relationships within the government and with other NGOs, both in Costa Rica and internationally.
   1. We have built some great relationships over the last nearly two years and continue to work on this.

iii. Development of fundraising strategies.
1. Casa Milagro’s potential funding sources include private donations, federal (CR) assistance, grants from private and family foundations, and business sponsorships. The following funding sources have been identified:
   a. GoFundMe or Kickstarter crowdsource / social media campaign.
   b. Grants are available worldwide for human trafficking (commercial sexual exploitation) victims.
   c. PANI (child protective services) is likely to offer monthly financial assistance to pay for a mentor, psychologist, social worker and food.
   d. The CR federal government has a fund earmarked for human trafficking that has yet to be allocated. There is a possibility that we’ll have access to some of these funds.
   e. Junta Proteccion Social (Board for Social Justice) is likely to offer a certain level of annual support and might help with larger, one-time purchases such as vehicles.
   f. Fundraising Events.
   g. Presentations to churches, community groups, etc.
   iv. Identification and preparation of an appropriate facilities to use as our drop-in center and safe house.
   v. Recruitment of board members, advisors, interns and volunteers.
   vi. Training of board members, volunteers, interns and staff.
   vii. Securing licensing by PANI, the government child welfare department.

6. **Marketing Strategy**

Casa Milagro’s marketing goal is to raise the visibility of programs to ensure that:

   a. PANI and NGOs refer child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation;
   b. Child victims will use the services;
   c. Funding sources will support the program and future growth;
   d. Community members will volunteer to be mentors.

The marketing strategy will be to successfully sell this resource to the nonprofit NGOs working in the streets with the target population, as well as PANI who is ultimately responsible for the welfare of these youths. This will be accomplished by building and maintaining relationships with those in a position to be able to make referrals to the program.

Brochures, informational community workshops, and gatherings of celebrations will be developed to sell the benefits of the program and to build awareness of the project to potential referrers, volunteers and donors.
A marketing effort will also be implemented to attract, train and retain quality community mentors for the program. The program’s mentor recruiter/trainer will make presentations to area churches and civic groups, selling the benefit of working with Casa Milagro. Reward activities will be planned for mentors. These activities will be used to recruit new mentors from the friends and associates of current mentors.

The core of the marketing strategy will be the creation of the program’s (local Costa Rica) Board of Directors who will be chartered with the responsibility of selling the benefits of the program with the community.

7. Management Summary

Casa Milagro’s management team will consist of the Boards of Directors of both the USA and Costa Rican organizations, and the organization’s Executive Director. An Advisory Panel will be assembled to manage and grow the organization and programs.

a. USA Board of Directors

i. Founder / Board President, Scott Pralinsky grew up in the United States where he served in the US Air Force Chaplain Service for 13 years. He worked as well for the Mayor of Boston with drug dealers and gang members in the streets of Mattapan for two years, and in Romania for several months with orphans after President Ceausescu and his wife were assassinated. Scott moved to Costa Rica in 2003 and founded the Casa Milagro Foundation in 2005, which focused for 10 years on bringing in volunteer support to help orphans, the indigenous, rural communities, sea turtles and federal conservations efforts. After working as Director of Operations for the now defunct, and previously only existing safe house in Costa Rica, for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, he changed his focus to help those victims who now have no support at all. Scott completed his graduate work in Spiritual Psychology from the University of Santa Monica in 2005. He holds dual US/CR citizenship.

ii. Secretary, Kate Hayes Kate Hayes is a Director at Echoing Green, whose mission is to unleash next generation talent to solve the world’s biggest problems. She is currently leading Echoing Green’s newest program, Direct Impact, which is designed to prepare high-potential young corporate leaders for nonprofit board service through an experiential four-month leadership program. Prior to joining Echoing Green, Kate worked in the national office of Minds Matter, an academic mentoring organization whose mission is to prepare high-potential youth from low-income families for college success. Kate graduated with a degree in
Behavioral Neuroscience from Northeastern University. Kate is currently the Chair of the Young Alumni Committee and a member of the Executive Committee at the Northfield Mount Hermon School. She works to develop meaningful, lifelong connections for young alumni through activities, events, and networking experiences.

iii. **Treasurer, Danyelle Kara Smith** is from Boone, North Carolina, a small town in the Appalachian Mountains of the United States. She graduated from Appalachian State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Global Studies: Peace, Conflict, and Human Rights in 2013. During her studies she worked for the non-profit Liberty in North Korea as a traveling representative and studied abroad in Costa Rica at Universidad Veritas. It was during those years that she learned about modern day human trafficking. As I learned about the commercial sexual exploitation of children she was appalled that so many children are exploited and began to focus her studies on the issue as her passion grew. Since graduating, she has worked in different sectors including a group home for children which further taught her that there is a lot of change needed in the way our society addresses children’s rights issues. Danyelle is currently working in the insurance industry as a business management consultant and plans to pursue a Master’s in Social Work in the Fall of 2017. Her goal is to have a career in fighting CSEC. Outside of work, she enjoys all things outdoors. Whenever possible she enjoys rock climbing, cycling, backpacking and traveling.

iv. **Lamia Sadek** studied business management and information technology and has a Masters in Training and Development from North Carolina State University. She holds a PhD in Global Leadership. Lamia started her career in business development and finance, but after working as a regional finance manager for a large for-profit corporation, she decided to pursue her true passion and work in the nonprofit sector. She has worked throughout the United States, Middle East, Australia, and Europe on issues ranging from economic development to gender equity and youth empowerment. Lamia served as Managing Director with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and previously worked with Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), Pepsi and IBM. In 2010, Lamia was among an international humanitarian delegation to Gaza. She spoke at the United Nation's CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) on challenges facing leadership of marginalized groups and indigenous women.

v. **Marian Hanna** was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Marian graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a Bachelor's
of Science in Psychology with a concentration in Neuroscience and Behavior, as well as a minor in Biological Anthropology. She is currently attending graduate school at Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine to obtain her Master of Public Health in Disaster Management this May of 2017. Due to Marian’s mission-driven spirit and commitment to offering support to others, she hopes to combine her knowledge of public health and medicine towards becoming a physician. Marian has over a decade of experience in charitable efforts and a powerful desire to promote humanitarian causes that positively influence the lives of individuals in need. In her free time, Marian loves yoga, traveling, hiking, surfing, and scuba diving.

vi. **Lorna Bastos** was born and raised in Costa Rica. She has worked as a psychologist in two large, non-governmental orphanages, providing care to orphans who were victims of sexual abuse - some of whom were also drug addicts. Lorna has also worked in a dual role as the Director of Operations & Psychologist for two years at the only previously existing safe house for sexually exploited children in Costa Rica. Lorna is now just a few months short of her law degree. Helping these children is her passion.

vii. **Matt Paquette** from New Hampshire, is in his last year of his MBA with a concentration in Marketing. Matt and his girlfriend, Ashlyn, came to volunteer with Casa Milagro a few years ago. Since then, Matt has returned a couple of times to continue to help. He also helps supervise and lead our marketing interns.

b. **Costa Rica Board of Directors**

i. **Founder / Board President, Scott Pralinsky** grew up in the United States where he served in the US Air Force Chaplain Service for 13 years. He worked as well for the Mayor of Boston with drug dealers and gang members in the streets of Mattapan for two years, and in Romania for several months with orphans after President Ceausescu and his wife were assassinated. Scott moved to Costa Rica in 2003 and founded the Casa Milagro Foundation in 2005, which focused for 10 years on bringing in volunteer support to help orphans, the indigenous, rural communities, sea turtles and federal conservations efforts. After working as Director of Operations for the now defunct, and previously only existing safe house in Costa Rica, for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, he changed his focus to help those victims who now have no support at all. Scott completed his graduate work in Spiritual Psychology from the
University of Santa Monica in 2005. He holds dual US/CR citizenship.

ii. **Vice President, Dr. Gioconda Batres Méndez**, graduated as Medical Surgeon at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and a psychiatrist at the University of Costa Rica. Since 1991 she has been Director of the Regional Program against Domestic Violence of the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, where she developed and published her theories on sexual abuse and gender violence. Dr. Batres is a guest professor at Latin American universities and a lecturer in numerous forums and congresses. She has published seven books and a large number of articles in magazines. (Her most recent book is about the commercial sexual exploitation of minors.) She is one of the most recognized Latin American experts in the treatment of sexual abuse and its perpetrators. She has been a member of multiple commissions that advise governments on issues of sexual violence, gender violence and legislation. Dr. Batres is an International Consultant for PAHO / WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, European Union, and a Dutch Cooperation. Since 1978 she has been in private practice.

iii. **Treasurer, Victor Raudez** is the owner of Raudez & Associates, an accounting firm in the Province of Cartago. Victor has many years experience as a financial expert, and is very active in his church community.

iv. **Secretary, Rachel Fiske** is a wellness professional with extensive experience in one on one consultations, menu and supplementation programs, and lifestyle changes. She specializes in areas such as weight management, adrenal health, immune support, GI problems, and hormonal balance. Rachel conducts individual and group consultation/education sessions via phone and skype. She also has years of experience as a professional health writer, and produces articles, eBooks, and meal plans. Contact her directly for writing samples, and to discuss the details of your project. Additionally, Rachel works in the field of nonprofit public health, and this is where her real passion lies. She strives to bridge the gap between integrative medicine and class, and strongly believes that natural medicine should be available to everybody.

v. **Controller, Kaitlyn Bagnato Statile** was born and raised in Mississippi. She moved to Georgia before high school and thereafter attended The University of Georgia where she graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Public Relations and a minor in Sociology. She then moved to Tallahassee, Florida where she attended Florida State University College
of Law. After law school she and her now husband traveled around the world for 6 months. Upon return back to the U.S., she accepted a job as an Assistant State Attorney in Pinellas County, Florida where she served for almost 4 years. She worked with victims and handled specialized cases of child and sexual abuse. She transitioned into civil litigation as an attorney at Shumaker, Loop and Kendrick, LLP. Kaitlyn and her husband Joe welcomed their first daughter, Luciana in September of 2015. In 2016, her husband’s career brought their family to Costa Rica.

vi. **Rina Jimenez Vargas** has experience sitting on and working with many boards of directors in Costa Rica. In addition to helping us at Casa Milagro, Rina also sits on the board of Aldeas SOS, which works for the rights of children and adolescents and runs 3 orphanages in Costa Rica. Rina also works at the Tree of Life School in Santa Ana.

vii. **Emma Lees** is originally from the UK where she graduated in History and Politics and subsequently worked for Shelter (the housing/homelessness charity) The Prince’s Trust (working with disadvantaged young people), and volunteered in a rural school in Northern India. She then went on to work for The Labour Party where she became Regional Director of the North of England and also Campaign Manager for the North West of England. Following this her husband decided to travel for a year around the world and subsequently lived in Brisbane, Australia where they had their 2 children. In Australia Emma became a volunteer for Beyond Blue (mental health Charity) and The Australian Cancer Council and opened her own online jewellery business. In 2015 they moved to Costa Rica due to her husband’s work where Emma was considering starting her own not for profit, until she came across the issues that Casa Milagro highlight and the scale of the problem here.

viii. Manuel Acuña has a background in accounting, but has worked in tourism and as a taxi driver for more than 20 years. He has always been involved with volunteering, community work, and advocating for those who can’t speak for their own rights.

ix. **Laura Virginia Vega Guzmán**, originally from Nicaragua, is a homemaker who cares deeply about our vulnerable children.

x. **Sofia Mora Guzmán**, also hailing from Nicaragua, is a full-time student.

c. **Advisors**
i. **Steven Procopio, ACSW, LICSW** is a trainer and consultant for males with complex trauma. His expertise is in the area of childhood sexual abuse, sexual assault and commercial sexual exploitation. Steven brings extensive experience in public health, with a focus on HIV/AIDS, homelessness and youth services. His present professional work is with boys, adolescent males and men with a trauma history, with a focus on childhood sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation. He is the founder of the first free standing program to serve commercially sexually exploited boys, adolescent males and trans youth in the United States. He is a trainer/consultant with the Department of Justice - Office of Victims of Crime, working with OVC grantees on the issue of male victimization over the lifespan. A graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, Steven is an adjunct instructor at the Boston University School of Social Work.

ii. **Mo Vear** was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Mo traveled east to attend Notre Dame College in Baltimore, Maryland, where she majored in marketing and minored in music. Upon graduating, she traveled to the West coast to begin her professional career in Merchandising and Licensing at Paramount Pictures Studios in Hollywood, California. After working for several years on the corporate side of entertainment, Mo transitioned into television and film production and eventually segued into feature film development where she worked with talent and literary agents to acquire screenplay and manuscript materials and collaborate with writers to develop them into feature films. Discovering her own passion for writing, editing and developing, she moved back to Chicago where she attended graduate school at DePaul University. After receiving her Masters Degree in Writing, she worked on independent writing projects and on developing a greater sense of humor - a requirement for marriage and the raising of small creatures: two boys who inspired her to launch her web site: [www.humorwithmo.com](http://www.humorwithmo.com). Humor, after all, is the weapon against all absurdity and the road to sanity.

iii. **Kathi Mudd** brings to Casa Milagro a wealth of invaluable nonprofit experience. She graduated from Perdue University with a BA in Communications/Public Relations. Kathi took on many roles at the Chicago Zoological Society, Children’s Memorial Medical Center Foundation, The Names Project, Glenbrook Hospital, Resurrection and St. Gregory High Schools. Those roles included all areas of non-profit development and marketing including fundraising, grant writing, special event management, volunteer coordination, capital campaign design and implementation and consulting. Kathi is married, the mother of two young...
men ages 21 and 18, and works as a part-time fitness instructor.

iv. **Julie Stanley** is a devoted advocate for children’s social emotional, physical and academic development. She was born in 1969, in North Central Massachusetts, and has remained in this area her entire life. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and began her career as an Early Childhood Coordinator, connecting young children and their families to early care and education community and public school services. In 1995 she completed her Masters Degree with Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts in Curriculum Theory and Development. In 1996, after spending time raising her own children at home, she returned to public school teaching, obtaining her Massachusetts State Teaching Licenses in the areas of Elementary Education 1-6, Early Childhood Education PreK-2, and Moderate Special Needs N-9. Throughout her years teaching, she consistently worked with a high-risk population of students identified by poverty, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and addiction and physical and sexual abuse. In 2014 she completed a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Behavior Analysis and became a national Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She has supported children's growth through nurturing her own children, fostering children through the Department of Children and Families of Massachusetts, and hosting international exchange students in her home. Julie's passion is to support children's growth while scaffolding families with necessary skills and resources to offer children the richest environment possible in which to grow. She firmly believes all children do well when they can and deserve the best possible circumstances to live, grow and learn. She enjoys being outside, connecting with nature through swimming, kayaking, biking and walking in the woods.

8. **Personnel Plan**

Our Executive Director, Scott Pralinsky, and our soon to be Director of Operations, Lorna Bastos, are Costa Rican citizens and psychologists. Both have extensive experience working with trauma in children, and worked previously in the only other safe house for sexually exploited children in Costa Rica, which no longer exists. Once Scott and Lorna determined that the former safe house was a dangerous place for the children due to multiple human rights violations perpetrated by the founder, they worked together to safely remove the children and convinced the Costa Rican government to pull their license. This, of course, left no safe house at all for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation. This is how Casa Milagro was inspired.
- **Executive Director, Scott Pralinsky** grew up in the United States where he served in the US Air Force Chaplain Service for 13 years. He worked as well for the City of Boston with drug dealers and gang members in the streets of Mattapan for two years, and in Romania for several months with orphans after President Ceausescu and his wife were assassinated. Scott moved to Costa Rica in 2003 and founded the Casa Milagro Foundation in 2005, which focused for 10 years on bringing in volunteer support to help orphans, the indigenous, rural communities, sea turtles and federal conservations efforts. After working as Director of Operations for the now defunct only existing safe house in Costa Rica for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, he changed his focus to help those victims who now have no support at all. Scott completed his graduate work in Spiritual Psychology from the University of Santa Monica in 2005. He holds dual US/CR citizenship.

- **Drop-in Center Director of Operations** - Position not filled yet. This person will be directly responsible to ensure we have the right amount of trained staff, interns and volunteers. They will supervise all of the services being offered by Casa Milagro in the Center.

- **Safe House Director of Operations, Lorna Bastos** was born and raised in Costa Rica. She has worked as a psychologist in two large, state-run orphanages, and worked in a dual role as the Director of Operations & Psychologist for two years at the only previously existing safe house for sexually exploited children in Costa Rica. Lorna is now just a few months short of her law degree. Helping these children is her passion.

- **Licensed Psychologist for Drop-in Center** - Position not yet filled. This staff psychologist will provide weekly and emergency individual therapy for the boys and girls in the Center, as well as group therapy sessions on a regular basis.

- **Licensed Psychologist for Safe House** - Position not yet filled. This staff psychologist will provide weekly and emergency individual therapy for the boys, as well as group therapy sessions five times per week.

- **Teacher / Tutor** - Position not yet filled. The teacher will be responsible for inspiring the boys to learn. In addition to their own creative learning programs, they will use the government homeschooling program, “Maestro en Casa” to help each student graduate high school. The teacher will also link up the boys with other training programs to match their dreams and talents.
- **Therapeutic Mentor** - The person in this position will work directly with the children in the Drop-in Center as a mentor, will implement specific plans outlined by the staff psychologist, and will train mentor volunteers.

- **Direct Caregivers** - Positions not yet filled. These direct caregivers, called “Tias” or “Tios” (Aunt or Uncle) will handle the housekeeping, cooking & overnight supervision of the boys in the Safe House.

9. **Financial Plan**

Once we have our locations secured, and trained staff in place, written plans and licensing by the government, we will be entitled to a certain limited amount of government funding. This funding won’t cover 100% of our costs, but it will go a long way to our being able to successfully manage our programs.

We’re still researching how much funding we can expect for the Drop-in Center.

Based upon the level of support provided to the current safe house for girls in Costa Rica, we can safely make the following assumptions:

- a. **PANI** (child protective services) of Costa Rica will likely donate about $550 per child per month to help cover their basic costs.

- b. **Junta Proteccion Social** (Board for Social Justice) will likely donate about $30,000 - $40,000 per year toward needed equipment, improvements and for staff costs.

**Appendix**

A. **Forecasted Budget - Drop In Center**
## Drop-in Center Budget - 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Entry</td>
<td>Deposit, etc.</td>
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<td>Rent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
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<td>Dir of Operations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Psychologist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Therap. Mentor</td>
<td>11,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>71,000</td>
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<td>Salary Expenses</td>
<td>Taxes, etc.</td>
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<td>Liability Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auto</td>
<td>Purchase price - used van</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Safety Inspection</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gas</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>Translation Services and other Consultants</td>
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<td>Supplies - Office</td>
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<td>Supplies - Program Spt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture &amp; Fixtures</td>
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<td>Food for children</td>
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