

Empowering Lives Through Prevention Education

The Problem:

Every year, thousands of children are lured into the trap of human trafficking and online exploitation.

- Florida ranks 3rd in the nation for calls to the Hotline
- Average age targeted online is 10-13

According to the NCMEC, in 2024 there were **37 million reports** of online Child Sexual Abuse Material. Many families and communities lack the tools, knowledge, and resources to recognize the signs or know how to act before it's too late.



The Impact:

According to Child Mind Institute, approximately two-thirds of children report encountering harmful experiences online, including exposure to inappropriate content, cyber-bullying, and grooming. This can lead to isolation, substance abuse, and long-term emotional distress causing:

- **Anxiety and Fear:** Victims may develop chronic anxiety, often feeling unsafe or constantly on edge.
- **Depression:** Feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and worthlessness are common, particularly if exploitation involves coercion or betrayal of trust.
- **Chronic Mental Health Issues:** Many survivors face long-term mental health conditions, such as complex PTSD or chronic depression.
- **Insecurity and unresolved trauma** may affect career progression and personal relationships into adulthood.



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THE SOLUTION

Educate. Empower. Prevent.

A coordinated professional educational approach to interrupting the exploitation and normalization of children sharing personal information and explicit photos online through...

- **Educational Programs:** Teach children online safety and how to recognize exploitation.
- **Parental/Community Support:** Create a safe, supportive environment for children
- **Resources:** Provide access to local resources and immediate crisis support.

At Paving the Way Foundation, we focus on those three critical areas:

- **Educate:** Provide training and resources to students, families and communities, raising awareness of the dangers of human trafficking and online exploitation.
- **Empower:** Equipping children with tools to recognize risks, take action, and protect themselves and others through school partnerships and after school programs.
- **Prevent:** Provide children, families and communities, with the tools to identify and respond to these threats; creating safe environments and empowering action.

Over the past nine years, we've educated over 45,000 children and families, making a lasting impact across Central Florida and around the country. 90% of youth surveyed recommend our training!

These programs disrupt exploitation, empower families, and save children's lives.

