



In 2017, Abby co-founded Empower Her Network to address a gap in services for domestic survivors of human trafficking, donating money towards the pilot program. It took off! Within eight short months, EHN had expanded from New York City to Tampa and Atlanta. By the end of the year, services will also be available in Akron and Los Angeles.

# EMPOWER HER NETWORK

## What is Empower Her Network?

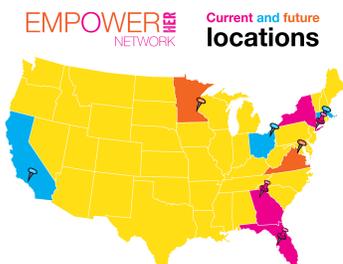
Empower Her Network (EHN) collaborates with ready survivors of human trafficking who find themselves in the same vulnerable circumstance that led to their initial exploitation by removing housing barriers, financing education, and uncovering employment opportunities.

The key to EHN's early and ongoing success is rooted in its strong partnerships with residential shelters that reach a point where they have provided all the basic needs, therapeutic support, and social services available and it is time for the survivor to move on. It is a delicate moment: independence is possible but barriers abound. Our strategic partners nominate ready survivors who are at this critical juncture so that we can assist in paving a path that accounts for housing, education, and/or employment. Destination: Her choice.

## An Example:

Harriet\* is a 26-year-old, native Guatemalan. She was kidnapped at age 11, trafficked to Mexico, then trafficked to Florida. After 9 years, she escaped to a Walmart parking lot in 2015. At a partner shelter, she received her T-Visa, therapeutic support, and short-term residence. Harriet was able to secure a full-time job at a coffee shop, and was ready to move into her first apartment, but could not afford the initial first month/last month/security deposit required. When her time at the shelter was up, she slept on a friend's couch in a small apartment—her livelihood dependent on someone else.

Empower Her Network partnered with Harriet to break down the housing barrier by paying the last month and security deposit, and buying essential furnishings. Harriet now works with EHN staff weekly on her goals: feeling safe at home and taking English classes. When she's fluent, she hopes to pursue a vocational path that will increase her wages.



New Open: New York, NY; Tampa, FL; Atlanta, GA  
Opening in 2018: Akron, OH; Los Angeles, CA; Hartford, CT  
Opening in 2019: Minneapolis, MN; Washington D.C.

[www.empowerhernetwork.org](http://www.empowerhernetwork.org)

\*For their privacy, we refer to the survivors we work with as Harriet in honor of the determined and indefatigable Harriet Tubman.