

2017 Grant Recipient: MISSEY
Update to our Members
July 17, 2018

On September 21, 2017, Impact 100 East Bay members awarded our inaugural grant of \$57,000 to MISSEY, Inc. (Motivating, Inspiring, Supporting, Serving Sexually Exploited Youth). To remind yourself or learn about MISSEY and their project, please review their Executive Summary from 2017, which is posted on the Previous Grants Recipients page of our website (<http://www.impact100eastbay.org/grants/grant-finalists/>).

Following last year's award ceremony, members of the Impact Board and the leaders of Impact's Grant Committee met with MISSEY leaders and Board President to agree upon and sign a contract. The original start date for the pilot with Annie Cannons was January 30, 2018.

We were advised before that date that Annie Cannons had lost a key member of their staff, who was critical to the pilot's success. MISSEY was advising us that the start date would be delayed, and we agreed upon May 21 as a new date.

MISSEY had originally nominated over 22 girls for the pilot. The delay in initiation and various life events for the nominees, along with ongoing dialogue with Annie Cannons, led MISSEY leaders to re-think their initial plan of launching up to 10 girls at once in the program. After seeking and gaining our support, they altered the pilot to a "wave" approach over a longer period of time.

The first wave of 3 girls began the program on May 21. Two have successfully completed the initial 6-week training and are now in the first period of paid contract work directly for Annie Cannons. When this initial contract is complete, follow-on opportunities exist for continued contract work with Annie Cannons or a position with an outside firm, which will be assisted by Annie Cannons. The third girl was unable to complete wave 1 due to conflicts with her current position, but plans to participate in wave 2, which is anticipated for the Fall.

Per terms of our contract, MISSEY has up to 2 years to spend our grant on their pilot. We look forward to continued dialogue with MISSEY as they plan wave 2 and bring another group of young women, who have suffered from sexual exploitation/trafficking, into this new and creative pilot. In our last conversation with Holly Joshi, the Executive Director of MISSEY, they are encouraged that through this pilot they will learn how to do more than support and serve these young women. Ultimately, they want to consistently provide a tangible means to a better future through skill development in partnership with other non-profits, such as Annie Cannons.

Please take a moment to read a recent letter from Holly Joshi, expressing their thanks to Impact 100 East Bay members:



424 Jefferson Street Oakland, CA 94607 | 510-251-2070 | 866-585-7819 (f) |

March 26, 2018

Denise Coyne and Carol Nitz
Impact 100 East Bay
P.O. Box 2889
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Dear Denise and Carol,

I am writing to formally thank Impact 100 East Bay for awarding a \$55,000 2017 grant in support of our pilot tech training program, Project S.O.S. We appreciate your generosity and partnership in our continued work to empower survivors of commercial sexual exploitation.

MISSEY was founded in 2007 by two survivors and two allies. Together, they established our nonprofit organization as a survivor-informed, community-based response to the San Francisco Bay Area's epidemic of commercial sexual exploitation. For the past ten years, we have assisted hundreds of vulnerable youth in freeing themselves from exploitation and abuse. Through intensive success coaching and a daily drop-in center, we offer our youth safe spaces, healthy relationships, and meaningful opportunities to thrive as leaders and change agents in their own lives. We have spent every day committed to advocating for and with commercially sexually exploited youth and working with them to create impactful systemic change. Support from Impact 100 East Bay enables us to continue our crucial work with our amazing, resilient, and brilliant young people.

In addition to our direct service work, we have trained thousands of youth serving professionals on identifying and addressing human trafficking through victim-centered, trauma-informed, and socially conscious trainings. Recently, we have expanded our training efforts to focus on prevention work. We are currently working in partnership with Oakland Unified School District to deliver a prevention and resiliency-building curriculum to young people in schools. In September 2017, we moved into our new home! It is big and homey and our young people love it. Our new location, in a cul-de-sac next door to DreamCatchers Youth Shelter and Roots' Dream Youth Clinic, has allowed us to strengthen our ability to provide holistic, wraparound supports.

MISSEY envisions a world free from sexual exploitation and oppression. We strongly believe it takes a village to heal from the experiences of commercial sexual exploitation. We look forward to rolling out Project S.O.S. in the coming month so that 10 MISSEY youth can learn to code in a trauma-informed, supportive environment at AnnieCannons. Thank you for choosing to stand with us as we forge ahead to support survivors on their pathways to safety, healing, and liberation.

In partnership,