Rachel Briggs speaks at a Hostage US event
Dear Friends,

2018 marks the third anniversary of my arrival in the United States to stand up Hostage US. I could not be more proud of what we have achieved together; almost 50 families and hostages supported, 10 strategic partners recruited, 10 volunteers trained and deployed to this vital work, almost $1 million generated, 7 seminars and events held, numerous trainings delivered to organizations, and many thousands of miles traveled in service to our mission.

Our dedicated and compassionate team is led by Liz Frank who works tirelessly to ensure families and hostages get the help they need – for however long that takes. As Jason Rezaian, held in Iran for 18 months and released January 2016, says:

"Hostage US effectively helped my wife and I with very basic and essential needs, like finding proper medical care in those early days. But as time has gone on they have proven specifically adept at facilitating and advocating on my behalf to solve the real-world problems that stand between a former hostage and a normal life."

Demand for our service continues to rise and we are ambitious to do ever more and better for the people who need our help. That's why our new three-year strategic plan puts growth at its core – increased revenue generation, the recruitment of new strategic partners, and investment in our team.

We can only do this vital work because people like you step forward. Please get in touch, request a copy of our strategy and let’s discuss how you can help us to realize our ambitious vision. Together we can make life better for hostages and their families.

Rachel Briggs OBE
Americans kidnapped each year

200+

WHO
Overseas employees
Journalists
Contractors
Tourists
Aid workers
Faith based workers

WHERE
Countries in South and Central America, the Middle East, Africa and more.

“I cannot begin to express how important it was for us to have a Hostage US volunteer with us as we navigated the very frightening territory of handling the aftermath of our brother’s kidnap and murder. Our Hostage US volunteer helped us to articulate and frame our concerns in a way that was constructive. Her experience and expertise impressed those with whom we were dealing, and helped us to determine when to push them, and when to accept a small victory. She was our friend and confidante, our cheerleader and coach, and someone who took care of the little details for us so we could focus our attention and energy on the task at hand. With the help of Hostage US, we are bringing light to the challenges of hostage families in ways that will benefit others who find themselves in this terrible situation.

Sister of a kidnap victim
OUR MISSION

To ensure hostage families and returning hostages get the assistance they need through the direct provision of support and by helping them to access resources available from the government and other organizations.

To increase the capacity of employers to support hostage families and returning hostages through training and education.

To improve public recognition of the plight of hostage families and returning hostages.

Hostage US has a range of practical guides for families, hostages and organizations.

Former hostage David Rohde discusses his experience at a Hostage US seminar.
OUR FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Navigating a kidnapping is a terrifying and lonely experience. Hostage US helps families and former hostages to endure the challenges they face through care, professional services and practical problem solving.

Over the past year, we experienced a significant increase in demand for our services. We made a number of investments and developments to meet these growing needs:

Volunteers – we held two intensive in-person trainings for our team of 10 dedicated Family Support Volunteers. We held learning webinars and created topic specific guides to develop our volunteers' knowledge and skills. These amazing individuals walk alongside families and former hostages, helping them to make sense of what's happening, access our services, and connect with others who can help them.

Strategic partners – our strategic partners offer vital professional assistance free of charge, including legal support, financial advice, travel and medical assistance. We were pleased to welcome three new strategic partners: Massachusetts General Hospital which offers a full suite of physical and mental health services to returning hostages to the Northeast and two new legal partners, Sidley Austin LLP and Gilbert LLP.

Resources – while our personal service is vital, we know families and former hostages appreciate the resources they can access anytime on our website and in print. This past year, we redesigned the resource section of our website and updated our guides, videos, podcasts and other materials available to families and hostages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Families supported</th>
<th>Hours of pro bono support</th>
<th>Dollars in pro bono support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>$277,000</td>
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</table>
Starting in the weeks just after my release – a time when I felt the most insecure, vulnerable and confused – I was introduced to Hostage US as a resource. Two and a half years later its staff continues to be a source of support, comfort and practical assistance on challenges I’m not sure I could have managed otherwise.

A returning hostage is in a uniquely difficult situation in that life does not stop while s/he is in captivity.

Bills pile up, credit is destroyed, and business and personal relationships are strained, often beyond repair.

In our case, Hostage US effectively helped my wife and I with very basic and essential needs, like finding proper medical care in those early days. But as time has gone on they have proven specifically adept at facilitating and advocating on my behalf to solve the real-world problems that stand between a former hostage and a normal life.

For me that has meant providing me with resources – via partner Phillips & Co – to stop the damage being done to my personal finances, reverse those trends, and begin to move forward into a life of growth.

I cannot overstate how important it has been for me to feel that, once again, I am able to be a competent and effective provider for my family and that we are building for our future. Stability, for the returning hostage, is one pillar of a healthy transition.

Hostage US has provided this assistance gracefully and without judgement. Each situation is different, and they understand that every no two paths to recovery will ever be exactly the same.”

Jason Rezaian, held in Iran for 18 months and released in January, 2016
OUR SEMINARS

Hostage US runs daylong seminars around the country to educate organizations on best practices in handling the human dynamics of hostage cases overseas. Attendees hear from a range of speakers including: US Government officials on latest policy developments, senior business executives and legal teams on duty of care, former hostages and family members on first-hand accounts, psychiatrists on trauma and mental health support, and many more.

Thanks to Morgan Stanley, K&L Gates and Dentons for hosting events for Hostage US in the past year. Get in touch if you are interested in hosting an event.

What attendees say about Hostage US seminars:

“ One of the best training sessions I have ever attended in 10+ years in emergency response!”

“Great - it gave us a new perspective on all traumatic experiences that we previously have not spent enough time on - I hope we make some changes based on what we learned.”
OUR TRAINING

What is my organization's duty of care when an employee is kidnapped overseas?

Is my organization's Human Resources team ready to respond to the unique challenges a crisis like this brings?

Who will take care of the hostage's family? Security? Legal? Human Resources?

How should family liaison and hostage aftercare be incorporated into my overall kidnap plan?

How can my organization leverage Hostage US, both now and during a crisis?

Our tailored training arms organizations with the knowledge and expertise to deliver effective family support when an employee is kidnapped. Delivered to your team on-site and focused on your needs, we offer anything from half-day to two-day trainings. Training starts from $4,000. For more information, visit hostageus.org/organizations or contact us at info@hostageus.org

“As a result of our expansion into areas of the world in which kidnappings occur with alarming frequency, we decided we would benefit from Hostage US training. We have highly effective relationships with law enforcement, officials and government agencies, but the Hostage US training focused on the most important aspect of kidnappings after the recovery of the victim. The manner in which the needs of the victim family and the kidnap survivor are addressed are both critical topics. The Hostage US training introduced the Verizon audience to challenges few of us had previously considered and I have no doubt that my company is now better prepared to holistically respond to a kidnapping incident as a direct result of this critical training.”

Michael A. Mason, Chief Security Officer, Verizon

“Hostage US is more than a charity, and much more than a set of committed professionals – they provide a completely unbiased, impartial and independent support function to families and organizations, whether during a kidnapping or years after it has ended. Hostage US bespoke training should be a key component to all US organizations that send employees overseas. No crisis management plan can be said to be complete without it.”

Chief Security Officer (CSO) at a Fortune 500 (Fintech)
FINANCIALS

Hostage US received pro bono support valued at $287,617 during 2017-2018. We would like to thank the following for their assistance to Hostage US and the families and hostages we support:

Dentons LLP  Sidley Austin LLP
International Security Management Association  John Smith
K&L Gates LLP  Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc.
Morgan Stanley  White & Case LLP
IN THE NEWS

Hostage US is thankful for journalists, academics, think tanks and others who are helping to shine a light on hostage taking. So much of the pain and suffering caused by kidnapping is endured silently by families and returning hostages.

Hostage US comments in the media to improve understanding about the plight of hostages and their families. We do not comment on individual cases and do not advocate on kidnapping policy. Rather we share our experiences to bring public attention to the issue of kidnapping.

Hostage US has been featured in a number of media outlets over the past year including the Associated Press, FOX News, and *The Washington Post*.

“There were changes in the landscape that became abundantly and tragically clear in the summer of 2014 when a number of American journalists and aid workers were so brutally murdered by ISIS. It also became clear that the government really needed to improve how it was interacting with and communicating and supporting families.” said Lisa Monaco, Hostage US Board of Directors

*Associated Press, May 2018*

“By the U.S. government’s own admission, there were many problems relating to their engagement with families around this time, mixed messages from different parts of government,” Hostage US Executive Director Rachel Briggs told Fox News. “President Obama ordered a review of the U.S. government’s handling of hostages’ cases in late 2014, which... led to a range of policy and procedural changes. The review came about largely because families themselves were vocal in their criticisms, and they should take the credit for the changes they brought about.”

*Fox News, March 2018*
I am honored to be part of Hostage US and to contribute to its important mission of providing support, care and professional services to families and hostages. I have witnessed the extraordinary courage and determination of families who suffer the absence of a loved one and the challenges facing both returning hostages and their families when their loved one comes home. Hostage US seeks to fill an important gap in the services that government and others can provide. It places families first and works as an independent advocate and resource for those going through the worst of times.”

**Lisa Monaco**

“The network of former captives maintained by Hostage US is a psychological lifeline. After my release, I found that talking to ex-hostages was more important than standard therapy. For families to hear from people who have walked through the same confusing wilderness is also crucial. American hostages, and their families, are lucky to have an outfit like Hostage US to help behind the scenes.”

**Michael Scott Moore**
OUR FOUNDING PARTNERS

We would like to thank our founding partners; the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation and Hostage UK. We are grateful for their support and collaboration.

“American hostage families desperately need both the confidential services of Hostage US and the advocacy work of the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation with the US government to address the complexities of hostage return and their families’ support. I am so grateful that the compassionate and skilled work of Hostage US continues. I commend the extraordinary work of Rachel Briggs and Liz Frank in making this a vibrant part of Jim’s legacy”

Diane Foley, mother of journalist James Foley, murdered in Syria in 2014
Founder and President, James W. Foley Legacy Foundation
jamesfoleyfoundation.com

“We at Hostage UK are delighted and proud to have helped found Hostage US. Its progress over the last two years from a standing start has been remarkable and everyone involved is to be congratulated on their commitment to helping US citizens caught up in the horror of a kidnap situation. We look forward to our continuing co-operation in supporting hostages and their families.”

Terry Waite CBE, Co-founder and President, Hostage UK
hostageuk.org

JAMES W. FOLEY LEGACY FOUNDATION
Hostage US would like to thank our strategic partners for their continued efforts in providing support to families and returned hostages.
Thanks to the stewardship of Hostage US Advisory Council member, Bonnie Michelman, Hostage US welcomed Massachusetts General Hospital to our group of strategic partners in 2018.

Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) provides non-urgent, comprehensive, outpatient health care for returning hostages in the Northeast region of the United States. The support and treatment offered includes three primary components.

Returning hostages receive a full medical exam, complete with blood tests and consultations with a dietician and physical therapist to address medical needs, malnutrition, and the effects of atrophy or other injuries sustained during captivity.

Individuals receive comprehensive dental and oral hygiene treatment, including a full check-up, an appointment with a hygienist, and on-going dental treatment for up to 6 months after release.

Former hostages and their families have access to mental health assessments to determine their needs; those who are local receive treatment from MGH and those who live further away are offered referrals to support closer to home.

We hope to replicate this partnership with other hospitals across the US. Please get in touch if you are interested in helping us to build this network.
OUR DONORS

Hostage US would like to thank the following donors for their generosity in supporting our continued efforts to help families and returned hostages. We would also like to thank our founding partners, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation and Hostage UK for their continued support.

$250 - $499
Rachel Briggs
Candy Group
Constance Chatfield-Taylor
Gene Delaune
Erich Ferrari
Samvada and Jeff Frank
Kathy Gest
Don Foley and Louise Hilsen
Mike Howard
Jim LeBlanc
Rose Littlejohn
Frank Marshall
Kristen Mulvihill
Julia Nesheiwat
Alan Orlob
Jonathan and Lara Phillippe
Corrie Shanahan
Joel Simon

$500 - $999
Dave Bowker
Don Cipriani
Charlie Eisen
Robert L Geltzer
Judy and Alan Gross
Paul Herring
John Laughlin
Barry and Barbara Rosen
Edward Silverman
Two Lives: The Stephen Sotloff Memorial Fund
$1,000 - $2,499
Anonymous
Phil and Susan Aronson
Bridgestone Americas, Inc.
Jolie and John Frank
Alfredo Frohlich
Scott Gilbert
Jack and Susan Lichtenstein
David McCraw
Lisa Monaco
Peggy O'Neill
Peter Pedraza
Gregg and Beth Roark
John and Judy Varrone
Kelly Widelska
SOS Security

$2,500 - $4,999
BAE Systems, Inc.
José and Arely Freig
Steve Harrold
PepsiCo, Inc.
Tiffany & Co.
Tokio Marine HCC

$5,000 - $9,999
Joshua Geltzer and Katherine Boone
S&P Global

$10,000 - 19,999
Amy and James Keating
Anonymous
Dave and Kelli Komendat
Tim and Kristen Phillips

$20,000 - $29,999
Double Wood Farm
Gwendolyn van Paasschen

$30,000+
The Boeing Company
Government of Canada
James W. Foley Legacy Foundation
In November, Hostage US Advisory Council member, Gwendolyn van Paasschen, hosted a donors’ appreciation dinner at her home in Washington, DC. We were joined by Jason and Yegi Rezaian who shared their experience of being held in Iran and the challenges of returning from captivity.

“Families whose loved ones are taken hostage are subject to unimaginable trauma, horror, and devastating uncertainty, sometimes lasting years. They face innumerable obstacles, some trivial made suddenly disproportionately difficult and others insurmountable. The individualized support, compassionate judgment, and experienced service provided by Hostage US is essential to their ability to live each day one at a time both during and after the events that darken their lives. I am proud to support Hostage US in its vital mission.”

Gwendolyn van Paasschen, Hostage US Advisory Council member and donor
SUPPORT OUR MISSION

In March 2018, eight runners completed the DC half marathon and 5km and raised $14,800 for Hostage US. If you are interested in running in March 2019, or would like to take part in another race to raise funds, get in touch!

“Having heard stories of former hostages and their families, I gained a deeper understanding of the critical need for Hostage US and the support it provides. I was proud to run a half-marathon and help raise funds. Running alongside the team of Hostage US staff and volunteers was a great way to support such a worthy cause. Count me in for 2019!”

Eric Behna

If you are interested in hosting an event, whether a dinner, happy hour, coffee morning or something else or have an idea about getting involved, raising money or helping to spread the word about Hostage US, get in touch!

We would love to hear from you.
SUPPORT OUR MISSION

We are grateful to our corporate donors that support our mission. Join them by making one of the following commitments:

Make a corporate donation – publicly or anonymously

Commission training in family support and hostage reintegration for your organization

Become a strategic partner and lend your expertise free of charge

Take part in our corporate giving program:

**Leadership Supporters - $40,000+**
- Program naming opportunity
- Five (5) seats at private VIP donors’ dinner in Washington, DC

**Diamond Supporters - $20,000+**
- Annual private briefing by Hostage US Executive Director for corporate leadership
- Two (2) seats at private VIP donors’ dinner in Washington, DC
- Verbal recognition of support at Hostage US seminars

**Gold Supporters - $10,000+**
- Recognition as a corporate supporter on banners for Hostage US seminars
- One (1) seat at private VIP donors’ dinner in Washington, DC
- One (1) seat at Hostage US seminar

**Silver Supporters - $5,000+**
- Recognition as a corporate supporter in printed materials for Hostage US seminars

**Bronze Supporters - $2,500+**
- Listing for one (1) year on the Hostage US website
- Listing in Hostage US annual report and annual donor listing

Donors at each level receive benefits of the previous levels

Hostage US is a nonprofit 501c3 corporation. All donations are tax deductible.
The Year Ahead

Sign up to our newsletter to receive more information about our activities and developments:

- Fundraising events near you
- Seminars in New York City and Washington, DC
- Our first annual reception in Washington, DC in April, 2019
- Additions to our staff and volunteer teams
- Opportunities to join our group of strategic partners

Please follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter to keep updated on our news and events

Facebook: facebook.com/hostageus
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/hostage-us
Twitter: @HostageUS