ANNUAL REPORT 2019

HOSTAGE US
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 the 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.
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José Freig of American Airlines, speaks at a Hostage US fundraising event
Dave Komendat, President of the Hostage US Board of Directors at our 2019 Annual Reception
LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This has been another rewarding year for Hostage US as we grow our services for American hostages and their families. More than 50 people reached out for our help in cases past and present relating to Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Venezuela and Mexico. Our dedicated team of Family Support Volunteers serve with a level of care, kindness, and professionalism that all hostages and their families deserve.

One of the things I am most proud of is seeing our partnership with Massachusetts General Hospital flourish. This year, they received their first former hostage for several days of tests and treatments to allow him to make the best possible start to his recovery. He was flown to Boston by American Airlines, who continue to give generously to help those in need.

We cannot do this vital work without the support of our donors. This year we held our first Annual Reception, bringing together over 200 people hosted by Sidley Austin LLP in Washington DC. Twenty-five sponsors and our silent auction donors helped us to raise much needed funds to further our mission. A generous anonymous donor offered a $25,000 match, which was doubled on the night by The Boeing Company.

Our work is done by a community – staff, volunteers, Board and Advisory Council members, donors, strategic partners – who come together to help strangers in need. I continue to be humbled by the generosity of the American people and am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this wonderful country.

Rachel Briggs OBE

No family should suffer in silence. No hostage should recover without support.

Join with Hostage US to ensure hostages and families get the support they need.
“Hostage US has given me, a wife of a hostage, not only aid but comfort during these long, ever-more difficult years. The thorny legal and financial complications I’ve faced have been largely resolved through the advice and legal work of K&L Gates LLP and White & Case LLP, and the guidance of Phillips & Company.

We have encountered legal situations so unique that there is no precedent or case law, and the lawyers and judges alike have struggled through the process. All along Hostage US has monitored the firms’ progress in helping me.

More important to me than all of this is Hostage US wise counseling, based on long experience with hostages and their families, when I find myself at a loss and unable to make a decision.”

Wife of a hostage being held in the Middle East
FAMILY AND HOSTAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Hostage US is proud to support a growing number of American families at a time when we are seeing more and more hostage taking and illegal detention cases. In the past year, Hostage US responded to over 50 inquiries from families for advice and support. We continue to walk alongside them throughout the entirety of the kidnapping and help the hostage to recover when they return home.

We connect each with a member of our Family Support team to provide assistance during and after the kidnapping, and can:

- Discuss what the family is experiencing;
- Help them to think through key decisions they need to make;
- Link them with others who have been through something similar;
- Go to government meetings to support and take notes;
- Help arrange travel and logistics for trips in the US related to the kidnapping;
- Work with a family to access our network to solve practical problems including our Board, Advisory Council and wider network of partners and supporters.

In addition to our day-to-day support and problem solving, we connect families with the following professional services delivered free of charge by our strategic partners:

- Pro bono legal help
- Pro bono financial advisory
- Identify mental health practitioners
- Connections to media experts
- Connections to country experts
- Medical care for returned hostages
FAMILY AND HOSTAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM

This year, we were able to deliver the following for hostages and their families thanks to your support:

- **50+** We responded to over 50 inquiries from families and former hostages

- **400+** Our partners provided over 400 hours of pro bono services assisting with legal issues, financial challenges and other practical problems

- **$325,000** Our partners delivered over $325,000 in pro bono services to support families and former hostages

**New resources**

- **15** New resources for hostages and families including insights on media, financial challenges, and more
- **12** New guides for our volunteers to help them deliver the best quality care and support

**Training for our team**

- **10** Dedicated Family Support Volunteers who work directly with families
- **2** Intensive in-person training courses for our team
- **1** New pilot program with George Washington University Hospital to support our team in this difficult work

**Advisory Council, Board of Directors and Strategic Partners**

- **40** Advisory Council members with a range of experience from government and media to former hostages
- **15** Board members offering their expertise on challenges and issues that families are facing
- **11** Strategic Partners offering pro bono services and support
Imagine receiving an overseas phone call from your loved one's employer telling you as gingerly as possible that there's been no communication from them for two days. Or, imagine that your spouse never came home on the day they were scheduled to arrive…

These are just a few examples of what takes place when a loved one is taken hostage in a foreign country. Panic, fear, dread, and isolation are just a few of the emotions.

I personally experienced these feelings when my husband was held for five years. This is why I volunteer for Hostage US.

Knowing that I’m able to be there just to listen, or to refer someone for financial help, mental health counseling or other countless issues is extremely gratifying. To help someone get through this terrible ordeal makes the effort all worthwhile.

*Judy Gross, wife of a former hostage held for five years*

*Family Support Volunteer with Hostage US*
SEMINARS

Hostage US runs daylong seminars in New York City and Washington, DC to educate organizations on best practices in handling the human dynamics of hostage cases overseas. Attendees hear from speakers including former hostages and family members, senior government and private sector representatives and psychologists. Our events this year were kindly hosted by K&L Gates and Morgan Stanley. Get in touch if you are interested in hosting an event.

“ A kidnapping incident might represent a low probability event for most companies, however, it will undoubtedly have a very high impact on the family and company involved. My company has never experienced the kidnapping of an employee, but I know that time will be the enemy in responding quickly and effectively. As a result it was imperative to have a solid plan in place today. Although I addressed a number of kidnappings during my career in the FBI, I had little insight into the type of support a family requires both during their loved one's time in captivity and the re-integration process after the victim is recovered. Attending the Hostage US seminar provided me with an incredible portfolio of information, to include government resources that are available to address kidnappings. The kidnapping plan we now have in place has enhanced our state of readiness and is a direct outcome of my attendance at the Hostage US seminar.”

Mike Mason, Chief Security Officer at Verizon and Hostage US Board Member

“A very powerful and effective day”

“These sorts of seminars are really valuable because of the variety and type of presenters. This was an exceptional forum”

“One of the best informational sessions I have attended in quite some time, will highly recommend to other colleagues.”
TRAINING

Hostage US offers tailored training delivered on site to help organizations plan for the human side of kidnapping. Our training helps you to answer these critical questions:

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 of a crisis like this?

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?

For more information, visit hostageus.org/organizations/training or contact us at info@hostageus.org

“We work in and travel to many places in the world where kidnapping presents a risk to our employees. Hostage US provided training to a group of foundation leaders and individuals involved in incident management, to include Security, Legal, Communications, and HR. The training filled a critical gap for us in understanding the unique needs of kidnapping victims and their families and surfaced opportunities for us to strengthen our preparation for such an event.”

Shana Tarbell, Chief Security Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Jen Easterly, former Special Assistant to President Obama and Senior Director for Counterterrorism and Hostage US Advisory Council at our New York City seminar
YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY, 2018

50+ inquiries from families and former hostages during the year

AUGUST

Former hostage, Michael Scott Moore, speaks at our event in Los Angeles at Sony Pictures Studios

SEPTEMBER

Ambassador Dana Shell Smith, former US Ambassador to Qatar, joined the Hostage US Board of Directors

OCTOBER

Lisa Monaco, former Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Advisor to President Barack Obama delivered the keynote address at our seminar at Morgan Stanley in New York City

375+ people attended Hostage US events around the country

NOVEMBER

Hostage US donor and Advisory Council Member, Gwendolyn van Paasschen, hosted our Donors Recognition Dinner in her home in Washington, DC

50+ inquiries from families and former hostages during the year

DECEMBER

“As 2018 draws to a close, at least 25 American families face the prospect of the holidays without their loved one. They will wake up on Christmas Day not knowing whether their loved one is alive or dead, joy replaced by fear, hope by helplessness,” said Rachel Briggs, Hostage US Executive Director, The Washington Post, December 2018
OCTOBER, 2019

MARCH

The Hostage US running team fielded 10 runners, raising $8,249 from 83 donations

APRIL

Hostage US held its first Annual Reception bringing together 200 people, 25 sponsors and guest speakers, including Jason Rezaian of The Washington Post, who was held in Iran for 18 months

MAY

Mary McCord, former Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security addressed our Annual Summit in Washington, DC, kindly hosted by K&L Gates LLP

Rachel Briggs and Michael Scott Moore spoke at The Pacific Council in Los Angeles

JUNE

Hostage US match campaign raised $87,675 in 60 days from 135 donors

200+ Americans are kidnapped overseas every year

400+ individuals and organizations donated this year
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Komendat, President
The Boeing Company

Amy Manson, Secretary

Tim Phillips, Treasurer
Phillips & Co.

David Bowker
WilmerHale

Rachel Briggs OBE
Hostage US Executive Director

Don Cipriani
Ignite Philanthropy: Inspiring the End to Violence Against Girls and Boys

José Freig
American Airlines

Joshua Geltzer
Georgetown’s Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection

Jack Lichtenstein
JDL Advisory

Michael Mason
Verizon

Lisa Monaco
O’Melveny & Myers; Reiss Center on Law and Security, New York University School of Law

Michael Scott Moore
Author and former hostage

Kristen Mulvihill
Freelance Illustrator and Photo Editor

Peter Pedraza
The Boeing Company

Ambassador Dana Shell Smith
Georgetown Senior Non-Resident Fellow

John Smith
Hostage International

FOUNDING PARTNERS

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

JAMES W. FOLEY LEGACY FOUNDATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hostage US is proud and privileged to draw on our Advisory Council members who bring first-hand experience, professional expertise and the highest levels of integrity to serving our mission.

Terry Anderson • Emma Beals • Liz Chamberlin • Col Chris Costa (Ret.) • Gene Delaune MD • Jen Easterly • Charlie Eisen • Diane Foley • John Foley • Christopher Fonzone • Scott Gilbert • Scotty Greenwood • Flo Groberg • Judy Gross • Delphine Halgand • Roy Hallums • Millancy Harris • Luke Hartig • Kelly Johnstone • Jim Le Blanc • Diane Lebson • Eric Lebson • Mary McCord • David McCraw • David McGowan • Bernadette Meehan • Bonnie Michelman • Jim O'Brien • Frank Ochberg • Louis O'Neill • Alan Orlob • Bob Pritchard • Nick Rasmussen • David Rohde • Barry Rosen • Tom Sanderson • Marlis Saunders • Jordan Somers • Paula Somers • Gwendolyn van Paasschen

“For inspiration in dealing with hostage matters, I have walked by the FDR Memorial in the quiet of night, reflecting on the Four Freedoms enunciated by President Roosevelt. The fourth – freedom from fear— translates in hostage terms to a world free of this heinous crime; one which denies human beings of their freedom; robs families of loved ones; and leaves them never knowing whether release is even a possibility. Not knowing is the cruelest punishment of all. I’m proud to serve as a member of the Hostage US Advisory Council; providing hostages and families with the support to cope in these most challenging of times.”

Col Christopher P. Costa (Ret.)
Former Special Assistant to the President of the United States for Counterterrorism and Hostage US Advisory Council member
Hostage US would like to thank our strategic partners for their continued efforts in providing support to families and returned hostages.
SPOTLIGHT ON PHILLIPS & COMPANY

Phillips & Company is a financial firm that has been in existence for over 25 years. We specialize in supporting our clients with thoughtful, innovative and holistic advise that goes well beyond just managing a portfolio. We are strong advocates on issues around tax, estate planning and financial wellness as well as portfolio management for our thousands of clients.

Our work with Hostage US is centered around what we call “financial reintegration”. Families that are going through a high stakes, extremely stressful experience like the taking of a loved one, seldom have the resources, skill and capacity to also cope with the various financial stressors they are placed under. That is certainly the case for the hostage as well.

We strive to minimize the burdens of tax matters, credit ratings, investment management, debt negotiation and other financial issues that are ongoing during or after captivity. We have discussed tax filings with the IRS, negotiated lease payments, improved credit reports, assisted in asset movement along with budgeting and family planning matters; all to support the hostage and their family.

Our mission is to improve the lives and financial strength of the people we serve and as such that mission works well with the Hostage US mission to support hostages and their families.

Tim Phillips  
President, Phillips & Company  
Board Member, Hostage US
Hostage US would like to thank the following donors for their generosity in supporting our efforts to help families and returned hostages. We would also like to thank our founding partners, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation and Hostage International for their support.

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<td>Jack and Susan Lichtenstein</td>
<td>Bernadette Meehan</td>
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<td>Michael Scott Moore</td>
<td>Brett Mott</td>
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<td>Peggy O'Neill</td>
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<td>Tracey Oshiro</td>
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<td>Lisa Arfaa</td>
<td>Erik Rohde</td>
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<td>José Freig</td>
<td>Arnold &amp; Porter</td>
<td>Barry Rosen</td>
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<td>John Bellinger</td>
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<td>Two Lives: The Stephen Sotloff</td>
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2019 ANNUAL RECEPTION

Our first Annual Reception was hosted by Sidley Austin LLP and brought together 200 supporters, including donors, senior US Government officials, journalists and those impacted directly by hostage taking. Jason Rezaian, Tehran Bureau Chief for *The Washington Post* when he was detained in Iran for 18 months, spoke about the challenges former hostages face in rebuilding their lives, and the support he and his wife, Yegi, received from Hostage US.

Our $25,000 match challenge offered by a generous anonymous donor was doubled on the evening by The Boeing Company and the 60-day match campaign raised almost $90,000.

Thank you to our 2019 Annual Reception sponsors and silent auction donors:

**Platinum Sponsor**

The Brahmaputra Foundation

**Gold Sponsors**

American Medical Response, The Boeing Company, Double Wood Farm

**Silver Sponsors**

Anonymous, Airlines for America, Aon, BAE Systems, BlackRock, Coca Cola, GSG Protective Services, Hilton, International Spy Museum, Massachusetts General Hospital, McDonald's, Macquarie Group, Northrop Grumman, Novelis, Orbis Operations, PepsiCo, Snap Inc

**Bronze Sponsors**

American Airlines, International Security Management Association (ISMA), NATA Compliance Services, WilmerHale
Hostage US received pro bono support valued at $328,667 during the 2018-2019 financial year. We would like to thank the following people and organizations for their assistance to Hostage US and the families and hostages we support:

American Airlines, Inc.
Annelise Moore
David Katzenstein
Dentons LLP
Gilbert LLP
International Security Management Association
K&L Gates LLP
Massachusetts General Hospital
Morgan Stanley
Phillips & Co.
Sidley Austin LLP
Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc.
White & Case LLP
SUPPORT OUR MISSION

$100
The cost to send informational guides and resources to a family

$500
The cost of a preliminary mental health session for a family or former hostage

$1,000
The costs of bringing a family to Washington, DC to advocate for their loved one

$2,500
The cost of operating our 24/7 helpline for one year

$5,000
The annual cost of training our team to deliver support to families

$10,000
The cost of accessing hospital treatment for four returning hostages

“I am pleased to support Hostage US in their quest to provide needed care and guidance to those impacted. I respect their diligent approach during times when people feel like they may have no one there for them. Hostage US has a simple mission that allows them to be there for others. I am inspired to stand along with them and hopeful others will join us.”

Mark Ricks, Double Wood Farm
CORPORATE PARTNERS

Corporate partnerships are critical to Hostage US.

Corporate investment ensures we never have to turn away a hostage or family in need. Through their generosity, we can help those impacted by this terrifying crime to navigate their way through the emotional, practical and routine challenges and do their best job advocating for their loved one’s release. It allows us to continue expanding our resources, including films and guides on how to cope, handle the media or return to work following release.

We build strong and lasting partnerships with our corporate partners; many include Hostage US in their kidnap policy and turn to us for advice and guidance when they have a staff member kidnapped while working overseas.

If you are interested in learning more about our Annual Giving program, please contact Rachel Briggs at rachel@hostageus.org.

“Hostage US and Global Medical Response share a common goal; the support of individuals and families during a critical time of need. The financial and medical transportation assistance we provide to them aligns perfectly with GMR's mission of providing care to the world at a moment's notice. Along with our subsidiary, American Medical Response, we are proud to support and donate to Hostage US.”

Erik Rohde, President Southeast Region, Global Medical Response

“I personally support Hostage US because I've experienced first-hand the life-changing difference this group of dedicated volunteers makes in the lives of victims and their families. I'm proud that my employer, The Boeing Company, is a longstanding and generous supporter of this vital cause and demonstrates leadership on this issue. From a duty of care perspective, we understand the importance of having an organization like Hostage US available and viable to offer us the unique and specialized guidance we would need if confronted with a situation like this.”

Dave Komendat, The Boeing Company, and President, Hostage US Board of Directors
GET INVOLVED

Host a Facebook Fundraiser

Just like Scott Blake, Cris Bohanski, Rachel Briggs, Kristen Mulvihill, Jeremy Rodrigues, and Michael Scott Moore did last year, you can host a Facebook fundraiser for Hostage US – for your birthday or for the Holiday season.

Shop through AmazonSmile

Simply start your shopping at smile.amazon.com, choose Hostage US as your chosen nonprofit, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the value of your purchase to Hostage US.

Join the Hostage US half marathon and 5km running team in March, 2020 in Washington DC

Train with us in the lead up to the race, join us for our team happy hour and help us raise funds as we run the Rock n Roll Half Marathon and 5km on March 28, 2020.

If you are planning another race, get in touch and we can help create an online fundraiser to raise funds for Hostage US. Scott Blake raised nearly $3,000 during his race in the spring of 2019.

If you have ideas about ways to get involved, please contact Rachel Briggs at rachel@hostageus.org