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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
LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

In April of this year, I had the honor of taking over as executive director. Having worked alongside our dedicated founding executive director, Rachel Briggs, since the launch of Hostage US, I have gained a deep understanding of the nuanced challenges and needs of families and former hostages that aided my transition to the executive director.

While this year has been a challenging time for the world, and particularly for those we serve, I am proud of the work that the Hostage US team has carried out to ensure families continue to receive superior support even amidst a pandemic. With your help, we answered over 45 inquiries from families this year. That is over 45 families and former hostages faced with navigating a kidnapping – the complexities, the confusion, the secrecy and the fear. We were there to walk alongside these families through the worst time in their lives. With your support – through financial contributions or contributions of time and services – we delivered world-class support to this underserved group of people.

As the demand for our services continues to grow, I am proud to lead our team and work with our dedicated volunteers, partners and donors to ensure no family walks through a hostage-taking alone.

There is work to do, and I look forward to sharing our future successes, which we can only accomplish with your help. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission.

Liz Frank
Executive Director

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.
OUR IMPACT

This year, we continued to improve our services for hostages and their families, and we are proud of what we have accomplished with your help. As the need for Hostage US grows, we will remain focused on expanding our programs and building our support services.

45
We received 45 inquiries for support from families and former hostages

3.75
We received 3.75 inquiries for support each month on average

1.75
We spend 1.75 years supporting family members or former hostages on average

15
We supported families with loved ones currently or previously held in 15 countries across the globe

11
We have 11 strategic partners who offer families and hostages pro bono professional services
We have 10 highly trained Family Support Volunteers who work directly with families.

We supported families and former hostages from 16 states across the US.

We had 95 organizations and individuals attend an event, seminar or training.

Hostage US thinks of the family first and last, whether that takes the form of practical needs, counseling support, putting you in touch with other people who have been through the experience, or helping you learn about your situation.

The work and dedication that Hostage US brought to us during my father’s case is something my family and I will forever be grateful for and will never forget.

Son of a former hostage

Wife of a former hostage

We created over 20 topic-specific resources and guides for families going through a hostage-taking.
FAMILY AND HOSTAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Hostage US is proud to support a growing number of families in a time when we are seeing an increase in Americans held hostage or wrongfully detained around the world. In the past year, Hostage US responded to over 45 inquiries from families. We continue to walk alongside these families and offer our support both during and after the kidnapping.

We connect each family member or former hostage with a Family Support Volunteer. Through our Family Support Volunteer team and our support program, we provide families with:

- Information and resources
- Personal and emotional support
- Practical support and problem solving
- Connections to pro bono professional services
- Pro bono legal assistance
- Pro bono financial advisory
- Connections to counselors
- Connections to media experts
- Connections to geopolitical experts
- Medical care for returned hostages
For a very long time, I was on a lonely journey and was often in doubt if anything could magically bring peace to my life again, and anything I did or did not do could hurt my husband being held hostage. Until Hostage US reached out and traveled by train to see me. They listened to my story carefully; I felt supported. Since then, my Hostage US contact has become my advisor on difficult decisions. He pieced together the puzzles on my mind, offered insightful advice and gave me unreserved support whenever I needed it. At midnight when I received the news that my husband was on the plane flying home, I called my Hostage US contact. The next morning, he accompanied me to receive a visa to see my husband. In the festive streets before Christmas, we were overjoyed that the ordeal had ended. My Hostage US contact is a trusted friend, a strategist with knowledge and vision. I am very grateful for the help from Hostage US.

Wife of a former hostage
EDUCATION PROGRAM

Hostage US offers an education program to help organizations learn how to support their employees should one be taken hostage while working abroad.

When working in dangerous areas, many organizations have thought through their employee hostage-taking response plan, yet have not considered the need to provide support for the employee's family, fellow employees at home, or the employee when they return.

We hold seminars and tailored training for organizations to prepare you to support your employees should your organization experience a hostage-taking. Our seminars and training can help to answer:

- Who will tell the family that their loved one was taken hostage, and how will the conversation go?
- Who will be the point of contact for the family within your organization?
- What can you offer the family as they navigate the hostage-taking?
- What happens when your employee returns home?
- How will your employee be reintegrated back to work?
- How will the hostage-taking impact colleagues and other stakeholders?

Learn more at hostageus.org/organizations/
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Komendat, President
The Boeing Company

Amy Manson, Secretary

Tim Phillips, Treasurer
Phillips and Company Advisors

David Bowker
WilmerHale

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

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American Airlines

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Georgetown University Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection

Emily Lenzner
Motion Picture Association

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

Mark Ricks
Double Wood Farm

Ambassador Dana Shell Smith
Georgetown University Senior Non-Resident Fellow

John Smith
Hostage International
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.

**FOUNDING PARTNERS**

**JAMES W. FOLEY LEGACY FOUNDATION**

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The members of the Hostage US Advisory Council bring first-hand experience, professional expertise and the highest levels of integrity to serving our mission. We are proud to acknowledge the individuals who serve on the council and thank them for their ongoing support.

Terry Anderson • Emma Beals • Liz Chamberlin • Col Chris Costa (Ret.)
Gene Delaune, M.D. • Jen Easterly • Charlie Eisen • Diane Foley • John Foley
Christopher Fonzone • Scott Gilbert • Flo Groberg • Judy Gross • Delphine Halgand
Roy Hallums • Millancy Harris • Luke Hartig • Kelly Johnstone • Jim LeBlanc
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
STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Our strategic partners further our mission and efforts to provide support to families and returned hostages. We are grateful for their partnership and support.

American Airlines  DENTONS
Gilbert LLP  ISMA
JAMES W. FOLEY LEGACY FOUNDATION  K&L GATES
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL  Phillips & Company
SIDLEY  WakeMed

WHITE & CASE
Hostage US received pro bono support valued at $232,000 during the 2019-2020 financial year. We would like to thank the following people, organizations and strategic partners for their assistance to Hostage US and the families and hostages we support:

American Airlines  
BNY Mellon  
Jerry Brennan and SMR Group  
Dell Technologies  
Dentons LLP  
Alex Fram-Schwartz  
Gilbert LLP  
International Security Management Association  
K&L Gates LLP  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Microsoft  
Phillips and Company Advisors  
Tamara Schlesinger  
Sidley Austin LLP  
Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc.  
White & Case LLP
SUPPORT OUR MISSION

$35
The cost of providing a hostage family with guides and resources

$100
The cost of one session of trauma counseling for a former hostage

$200
The cost of operating our 24/7 helpline for one month

$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
We would like to thank the following donors for their generosity in supporting our mission, along with our founding partners, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation and Hostage International for their support.

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<th>$40,000+</th>
<th>$5,000-$9,999</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Boeing Company</td>
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<td>BAE Systems</td>
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<td>Corning Foundation</td>
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<td>Josh Geltzer and Katherine Boone</td>
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<td>Hilton</td>
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<td>Amy Manson and James Keating</td>
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<td>McDonald’s Corporation</td>
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<td>Poklon Foundation</td>
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<td>The Coca-Cola Company</td>
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<td>$10,000-$19,999</td>
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<td>Dell, Inc.</td>
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<td>Dave and Kelli Komendat</td>
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$2,500-$4,999
Evolv Technology
Focus Point International, Inc.
José Freig
Goldman Sachs & Co.
Steve Harrold
International Spy Museum
International Security Management Association (ISMA)
Michael Mason
David McCraw
Tim and Kristen Phillips
The Walt Disney Company
White & Case LLP
WilmerHale LLP

$1,000 - $2,499
American Airlines
David Bowker
John Fitzpatrick
Louise Hilsen and Donald J. Foley
Jolie and John Frank
Judy and Alan Gross
Paul Herring
Emily Lenzner
Jack and Susan Lichtenstein
Mission Solutions Group
Lisa Monaco
Gregg and Beth Roark
Michael Scott Moore
Ambassador Dana Shell Smith
WarnerMedia Global Security

$250 - $999
2 Lives: Steven Joel Sotloff Memorial Foundation
ASIS International
Bank of America
Brad Brekke
Rachel Briggs
Don Cipriani
Charlie Eisen
Christian Hudson
Joan Kalin
Frank Lagerstedt
Thomas and Andrea Langer
Eric and Diane Lebson
Anne Manson
Frank and Florence Marshall
David McGowan
Bernadette Meehan
NS Nathaniel
Ng Wong Hing Family
Jim O’Brien
Peter Pedraza
Jonathan and Lara Phillippe
Bob Pritchard
Jeremy Rodrigues
Marlis Saunders
Jim Snyder
Damon Walsh
When my brother was arrested on false charges, our family was immediately cast into an unfamiliar sea. We had to learn to navigate the US government but also deal with his personal affairs while he was imprisoned, never mind our own emotions and concerns while we advocated on his behalf. Soon after, we discovered Hostage US, and they have become a vital and on-going part of our family’s response to my brother's wrongful detention. They have supported us individually, provided useful resources via their network, and I know they will be there for my brother when he returns home.

Family member of a wrongful detainee
GET INVOLVED

Donate
We rely on donations to keep our programs going and to ensure families get the support they deserve.

Stay Connected
Join our newsletter mailing list through our website. Follow us on social media. Reach out to discuss ways to get more involved.

Volunteer
Hostage US delivers services through a network of individuals and organizations. We maintain strategic partnerships with law firms, financial advisory firms, hospitals, mental health practitioners and media experts who offer their services on a pro bono basis to families and former hostages. Consider joining our network as an individual and offer services directly to families or as an organization and become a strategic partner.

Fundraise
Consider creating an online birthday campaign through Facebook or GoFundMe. Run a race and hold an online campaign to raise funds. Host an online or in-person fundraising event with your network. Set Hostage US as your chosen Amazon Smile nonprofit at smile.amazon.com, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the value of all purchases to Hostage US.

Give at work
If your employer offers a payroll deduction program benefiting nonprofits, select Hostage US as the charity of your choice.

Spread awareness
Every year, over 200 American families face the reality of having a loved one taken hostage. Help us to spread awareness of the needs of families and former hostages facing this terrifying ordeal by talking with your friends, community and employer.

In whatever way you choose to be involved with Hostage US, we are grateful for your support - thank you.