After getting the news of my son’s capture, I felt absolutely helpless. I felt like life was hopeless. What could I do? How could I ever help my son, I wondered. As a family, we started contacting every government agency we could think of.

It wasn’t long after I was introduced to Hostage US. I finally felt like someone understands and cares. Their support has been amazing. They are always available and ready to help. The personal encouragement has truly been a blessing. It has made such a difference just knowing someone is there to help with support and knowledge to help navigate through this most horrible situation.

I will be forever grateful for all the phone calls and support I have received. Just knowing they are here until my son is released makes this a tiny bit easier.

MOTHER OF A WRONGFUL DETAINEE
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Dear Friends,

It has been a trying year. For families with loved ones who have remained in captivity throughout the pandemic, it has been a time of increased anxiety and terrifying thoughts about the safety of their loved ones abroad. While we, back home, were able to remain connected virtually, these families did not have that luxury.

Despite the challenges, this year has also been rewarding and inspiring. You stood with Hostage US and our mission to support hostages, wrongful detainees, and their families through this unimaginable time. We grew our partnerships with accountants and mental health practitioners to offer professional services to families. We expanded our resource library by 16 new guide sheets for families and former captives. And over this year, we fielded 56 inquiries from families navigating a kidnapping.

Shifting to a virtual world did not impact the support we delivered or our level of care for families and former captives. Families remained able to confide in our team, receive professional services from our pro bono partners, and get help in solving the myriad issues that arise because of a kidnapping or wrongful detention.

Just as our services were unwavering this year, your support, whether through contributions of money, time, professional services, or interest in the topic, remained steady; for that, I am incredibly grateful. Our mission is essential, and it is vital that we have a community of individuals like you ready to help a family going through the most challenging time in their lives. I am proud of the work we do together.

With thanks,

Liz Frank
Executive Director

Thank you for your thoughtful words and dedication to our plight. So few people can really understand the magnitude of what our family is going through. It is such a relief to work with someone who understands.

WIFE OF A WRONGFUL DETAINEE
RESPONDING TO

THE NEED

Over 200 Americans are estimated to be taken hostage abroad each year, and many more are wrongfully detained. This experience is terrifying for everyone involved. Family members have a steep learning curve when they learn news of their loved one. As they work tirelessly to bring this person home, unforeseen issues arise, and families are quickly overwhelmed and often left wondering who can help. Similarly, when a former hostage or wrongful detainee returns home, navigating reintegration challenges can be confusing, exhausting, and seem insurmountable.

Hostage US stands ready to assist, ensuring that no family or former captive has to go through this experience alone. We are entirely confidential and entirely free of cost, thanks to our network of pro bono professionals, volunteers, and supporters.

We offer solutions, connections, information, and resources so that the people we support feel empowered to take positive and practical steps forward.

I was all in on day one. Since joining the Hostage US staff, I have seen dedicated and compassionate people come together to provide tangible support for former captives and their families. It is inspiring and humbling to join this group of hardworking volunteers and supporters and to engage with the people and organizations supporting our efforts.

In my role overseeing the Family Support Program, it is my pleasure and privilege to offer personal support and professional connections to the people we serve.

WINNIE LEE, HOSTAGE US PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Hostage US is dedicated to serving families of US citizens and lawful permanent residents taken abroad throughout the kidnapping or wrongful detention. We also support former captives when they return home and throughout the reintegration process. Our approach is tailored to the specific needs of the people we support, meeting them where they are. Because of this, our assistance varies by case, but our mission is consistent: we are family first, family last.

Our team of professional Family Support Volunteers offers individualized support to each person we serve. This single point of contact connects former captives and their families with pro bono professional support and resources from our network of law firms, financial advisory firms, mental health practitioners, media experts, regional and subject matter experts, and medical care. These volunteers also offer a safe space to talk through experiences and think through critical decisions. They are available to attend government meetings, make travel arrangements, help solve practical challenges, and connect people who have been through similar experiences. Hostage US is there every step of the way.

Hostage US also provides educational opportunities to organizations and groups working in the global space. We teach employers about the human dynamics of a kidnapping or wrongful detention through our seminars, trainings, and custom consulting services. Hostage US helps organizations understand best practices in family support and hostage reintegration.
Our strategic partners donated over 337 pro bono hours to support families.

Our strategic partners provided pro bono services valued over $186,195 for families and hostages.

We have 13 strategic partners who offer families and hostages pro bono professional services.

We created or updated over 16 topic-specific resources and guides for families going through a hostage-taking.

This year, we provided ongoing support to 44 families and former captives.

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

We supported families with loved ones currently or previously held in 14 countries across the globe.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Komendat, President
The Boeing Company

Amy Manson, Secretary

Tim Phillips, Treasurer
Phillips and Company Advisors

David Bowker
WilmerHale

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

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Verizon, Retired

Lisa Monaco

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
Spearfish Maritime Security

ADVISORY COUNCIL


FOUNDING PARTNERS

JAMES W. FOLEY LEGACY FOUNDATION
Hostage US received pro bono support valued at $186,195 during the 2020-2021 financial year. In addition to our strategic partners listed above who offered generous pro bono support, we would like to thank the following people for their assistance to Hostage US and the families and hostages we support: Frank Hamilton, Sarah Keating, and Microsoft.
## OUR DONORS

### $50,000+
- The Boeing Company
- Double Wood Farm

### $20,000-49,999
- Brahmmaputra Foundation
- Global Medical Response
- Poklon Foundation
- Gwendolyn van Paasschen

### $10,000-$19,999
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Dell, Inc.
- Global Strategies Incorporated
- David and Kelli Komendat
- Michael Mason
- Mark Ricks
- Verizon Communications
- Pamela Wright

### $5,000-$9,999
- Anonymous
- BAE Systems
- William Clements
- Daon
- International Security Foundation (ISF)
- Carol and Richard Johns
- Amy Manson and James Keating
- Northrop Grumman
- Orbis Operations
- PepsiCo, Inc.
- Phillips & Company
- John Sanders
- Uline

### $1,000-$2,499
- Conoco Phillips
- Charles Eisen
- Jolie and John Frank
- Jose Freig
- Robert Geltzer
- Rick Harmon
- Donnie Lee
- Emily Lenzner
- Jack and Susan Lichtenstein
- Mission Solutions Group
- Mari Bonnemaison and Brooks Moore
- Peter Nostrand
- Peter Pedraza
- Greg Piantanida
- Gregg Roark
- Tom Sanderson
- Michael Scott Moore
- John Smith
- Jim Snyder
- Tony Wilkey

### $2,500-$4,999
- Corning Foundation
- Steve Harrold
- Paul & Yvonne Herring
- Johnson & Johnson
- K&L Gates
- David McCraw
- Morgan Stanley

### $250-$999
HOW YOU CAN
GET INVOLVED

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

Subscribe to our newsletter, follow us on social media, and reach out to discuss ways to get more involved.

Volunteer with us to ensure that families and former captives get the support they need.

Whether as an individual or strategic partner, join our network to directly assist those we serve.

Create a birthday campaign on Facebook. Host an event or organize a run. Choose Hostage US as your beneficiary for Amazon Smile. We can help you brainstorm.

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

Every year, over 200 Americans are taken hostage abroad, and many more are wrongfully detained. Help us spread awareness by talking with your friends, community, and employer.

LEVELS OF SUPPORT

The cost of accessing hospital treatment for four returning hostages $10,000
The annual cost of training our team to deliver support to families $5,000
The cost of operating our 24/7 helpline for one year $2,500
The costs of bringing a family to Washington, DC to advocate for their loved one $1,000
The cost of operating our 24/7 helpline for one month $200
The cost of one session of trauma counseling for a former hostage $100
The cost of providing a hostage family with guides and resources on how to cope $35
I’m extremely grateful for the support my family and I received from Hostage US. The staff were compassionate and understanding, and at the same time professional and methodical in their approach. They took the time to learn about my needs when I returned and offered me resources, gave me encouragement, and continue to reach out to me to ensure my well-being.

FORMER WRONGFUL DETAINEE

We felt contributing to Hostage US is a way we can really make a difference/impact for Americans held abroad and their families. It is something our family can do to help. I grew up in a military family and the mantra “no one left behind” was really ingrained in my values, and that ideal is one of many that make me proud to be an American. I particularly like your mission of support, knowledge sharing, and training, while avoiding getting involved in ransom payments and extraction missions.

HOSTAGE US DONOR

I would like to thank Hostage US for all the assistance and help they have given me. When I returned from Iran, I had no one to assist me to get my personal and financial affairs back in order after such a long stint unjustly imprisoned in Iran. I was alone and trying to put the broken pieces of my life back together. Eventually, I was referred to Hostage US and informed they may be able to assist me in resolving some of the issues I was dealing with which helped me recover financially.

FORMER HOSTAGE
After learning about Hostage US, I immediately wanted to be a part of its good work. Having lived and worked overseas with my husband and son, I know the risks that Americans abroad are facing. Sometimes corporations, nonprofits, and government agencies are confronted with a catastrophic event involving their personnel that they are not prepared to handle. Desperate victims and their families are left without the information or contacts they need to deal with the very real physical, emotional, and financial difficulties which result when a person is taken hostage or wrongfully detained in a foreign country. These difficulties often continue after returning home.

Hostage US plays a crucial role by briefing organizations on how to prepare for this kind of unexpected crisis, and most importantly, by empowering former hostages and their families to navigate a path forward so they can rebuild what has been lost or significantly damaged. Working with Hostage US, I can attest to how important this lifeline can be.

FAMILY SUPPORT VOLUNTEER

I quickly found how gratifying it is to make a difference for people who have endured what seems to me to be an almost unimaginable experience. I’ve always taken my personal liberties for granted, and I realize I’ve been fortunate to be in that position. I’ve also never been scared for the physical well-being of a family member, which must be terrifying. Any small comfort I can bring to anyone who has experienced that is well worth the time it takes.

JIM DUTY, CPA, THE ROSELINE GROUP