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Through a pandemic, global conflicts, and economic uncertainty, you stood with us and supported our mission to serve Americans taken hostage and wrongfully detained abroad and their families. The past few years have proved difficult, but with your help, Hostage US is more successful than ever, supporting the highest number of families and former captives during our 2023 fiscal year than ever before.

The need for our services remains, and the problem is increasing.

Being an American is an asset, not only to those with residency or citizenship but also to those looking to gain money or political sway by taking captives. Americans continue to be taken and held by criminal groups, gangs, and terrorists for monetary or other demands. Alarmingly, an increasing number are being taken by state actors and governments for political demands and held as wrongful detainees.

Hostage US remains steadfast in our goal to serve, support, and resource. As the only organization providing holistic care during and after captivity, we connect with families and former captives to address challenges and solve problems as they arise because of a hostage-taking or wrongful detention, which you will read more about in this Annual Report.

I am proud to share this report outlining our accomplishments over the past year, and thank you for joining us to ensure we are here to serve hostages, wrongful detainees, and their families.

With thanks,

Liz Cathcart
Executive Director
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.

Learn more: About Hostage US

“Since day one, Hostage US gave me the most outstanding support I could ever imagine. My Hostage US Support Coordinator and the Hostage US staff have been supporting me in all my physical and mental healing, and helping me to rebuild my finances with things like taxes, credit cards, and bank accounts.

When you come back, you find your life twisted because the world continues spinning, but your life was on pause. You have to fill the gap, and Hostage US was there with us, supporting us in that journey.”

Former Wrongful Detainee
ABOUT US

OUR PROGRAMS

Support Program
At the heart of Hostage US is the Support Program, which works directly with families of wrongful detainees and hostages, and former captives when they return home. The program is designed to give families the assistance they need when they need it most and to help returnees rebuild their lives once they are home. Through the hard work of a team of highly-trained volunteers and partnerships with industry experts, families and former captives have access to health care, financial management, legal support, mental health services, and, most importantly, a supporter who will be by their side every step of the way.

Learn more: [Hostage US Support Program](#)

Education Program
Education is essential to our mission. Employers who send their people to high-risk countries must know how to support their employees and the employee’s family should one be taken hostage or wrongfully detained abroad. As the trend of governments and state actors wrongfully detaining Americans for political reasons increases, understanding how to support employees in this situation is imperative. Hostage US works closely with the private sector through information sessions, training, and conferences to ensure employers have the capacity to assist their employees and meet their duty of care in these situations.

Learn more: [Hostage US Education Program](#)

"Besides being able to share freely, there was some great information available to us that was helpful in understanding what my husband was probably experiencing and what it might be like when he returns home."

FAMILY MEMBER
When a loved one is taken hostage or wrongfully detained in a foreign country, family members often find themselves lost and alone.

- Where do you go when the life of a loved one is in imminent danger in a country where you don’t speak the language or understand the culture?
- How do you manage their affairs while they’re in captivity?
- What affairs even need to be addressed, and what are the legalities of doing so?
- The list goes on.

Since 2016, Hostage US has been working with families and former captives living in this nightmare. Through years of experience, we have developed programs tailored to assist families and former captives so they are well-informed, prepared to tackle challenges, and armed with the tools needed to find answers. Working one-on-one with our volunteer Support Coordinators, family members and former captives have someone with whom they can talk about their situation. They are given resources intended to guide them, and they are introduced to pro bono professional service providers who are experienced in similar situations and understand the unique nature of their circumstances.

Former captives often come home to a life they no longer recognize, crippling legal battles, and mental and physical ailments ranging from an inability to focus to malnutrition to orthopedic injuries. Thanks to our partner organizations, Hostage US can support these individuals by assisting with securing medical insurance, funds to pay for therapy, legal support to address missed payments such as child support or taxes, and financial management assistance to help get their credit back in order so that they can rebuild their lives.

“HOSTAGE US HELPED ME BY BEING THERE - AN ORGANIZATION WITH EXPERIENCE, KNOWING WHAT MY FAMILY AND I WERE GOING THROUGH, AND BEING A SOUNDING BOARD WHERE I COULD VENT MY FEELINGS, BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE, WITHOUT BEING JUDGED.”

FAMILY MEMBER
BY THE NUMBERS

OUR IMPACT

We Responded to 80 Inquiries for Support in Fiscal Year 2023

$1,750,000+
Through our strategic partnerships, we have connected families with over $1,750,000 worth of pro-bono services since our launch in 2016

375+
We have responded to over 375 inquiries for support since our launch in 2016

56
We have created 56 topic-specific resources

55
Families & Captive We Currently Support
(by fiscal year-end, June 30, 2023)

31
Former Detention Cases

20
Active Detention Cases

2
Former Hostage Cases

2
Active Hostage Cases

100%
Of respondents to our annual evaluation, 100% revealed that they received the help that they needed, felt understood, received clear communications in a timely manner, and were treated with respect.

17
We have 17 trained volunteer Support Coordinators, 7 of whom were added to the team this fiscal year

16
This year, we supported hostages, wrongful detainees, and their families with cases in 16 different countries

25
Since 2016, Hostage US has worked on cases associated with 25 different countries

55
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(by fiscal year-end, June 30, 2023)

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dave Komendat, President  
The Boeing Company, Retired

Amy Manson, Secretary

Tim Phillips, Treasurer  
Phillips and Company Advisors

David Bowker  
WilmerHale

José Freig  
American Airlines

Laura Hoffner  
Concentric

Emily Lenzner  
Motion Picture Association

Jack Lichtenstein  
JDL Advisory

Michael Mason  
Verizon, Retired

Michael Scott Moore  
Author and former hostage

Peter Pedraza  
The Boeing Company

Tom Sanderson  
Tom Sanderson Consulting

Ambassador Dana Shell Smith  
Georgetown University Senior Non-Resident Fellow

John Smith  
Spearfish Maritime Security

Trey Lackey  
Mars, Inc

**ADVISORY COUNCIL**


**FINANCIALS**

- $380,189 Support Program
- $55,213 General and Administrative
- $52,233 Fundraising
- $487,635 Total Expenses

Support & Revenue
- $83,500 Foundations
- $28,250 Corporations
- $110,207 Individuals
- $136,617 Special Event Income from Corporations and Individuals
- $202,723 Pro Bono/ In Kind Support
- $5,553 Interest Income
- $566,850 Total Support & Revenue

*Expenses include pro bono/ in kind expenses

*This is an unaudited report
STRATEGIC PARTNERS

We want to thank our Strategic Partners shown below and others who offered pro bono legal counsel, financial advisory, news subscriptions, travel, mental healthcare, and physical healthcare valued at $202,723 during the 2023 fiscal year. We would also like to thank Tammy Weitzman and Haleh Keypour for donating their time and services to those we support.
OUR DONORS

$50,000+
Double Wood Farm

$20,000+
Boone Family Foundation
ISF (International Security Foundation)
Gwendolyn van Paasschen

$10,000+
The Boeing Company
Dell
Dave and Kelli Komendat
Poklon Foundation
Mark Ricks
Stryker Corporation
Uline

$5,000+
Allied Universal Security Services
AT&T Asset Protection
BAE Systems
Bridgestone Americas
Daon
Steve Harrold
Hui Huliau
Amy Manson and James Keating
Michael Mason
Northrop Grumman
Phillips & Company
Tim and Kristen Phillips
Tom Sanderson
Texas Rangers Foundation

$2,500+
American Airlines
Anonymous
ASIS International
Assurant
Corning Foundation
Jose Freig
FTI Consulting
Trey Lackey
John and Diane Laughlin
David McCraw
PlanePeople
Eddie Silverman
SMR (Security Management Resources)
The Walt Disney Company

$1,000+
David Sheon and Michal Fishman
Christian Hudson
International Foundation of Protection Officers
Emily Lenzner
Mary Rose McCaffrey
Lisa Monaco
Peter Pedraza
The Ross Family Charitable Fund
Joshua Walker

$500+
Steve Harrold
Hui Huliau
Amy Manson and James Keating
Michael Mason
Northrop Grumman
Phillips & Company
Tim and Kristen Phillips
Tom Sanderson
Texas Rangers Foundation

$250+

Friends of Hostage US
HOW TO
GET INVOLVED

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

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

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

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

Fundraise
Create a birthday campaign on Facebook. Host an event or organize a run. We can help you brainstorm ways to fundraise.

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, more Americans are taken hostage or wrongfully detained abroad. Help us spread awareness by talking with your friends, community, and employer.

COST OF SERVICES

$10,000 The annual cost of accessing hospital treatment for returning hostages
$6,000 The cost of training our team to deliver support to families
$3,500 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
$200 The cost of operating our 24/7 helpline for one month
$100 The cost of one session of trauma counseling for a former hostage
$35 The cost of providing a hostage family with guides and information on how to cope
HOSTAGE US HAS BEEN ONE OF, IF NOT MY BIGGEST, SUPPORTER. NO MATTER WHAT I ASKED FOR, THEY HELPED ME IN MY TRANSITION BACK TO SANITY AND FREEDOM. I CONSIDER MY SUPPORT COORDINATOR A DEAR FRIEND AND WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO HER AND HOSTAGE US. I CAN’T SPEAK HIGHLY ENOUGH ABOUT THESE PEOPLE AND THIS ORGANIZATION.

FORMER WRONGFUL DETAINEE