
OPERATION
LIGHT SHINE

2024
ANNUAL REPORT



Rescue More Victims. Arrest More Offenders. Empower the Fight



MESSAGE FROM THE COO

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with deep gratitude for the unwavering commitment of our team, our partners, and every supporter who stood alongside Operation Light Shine this year. Together, we faced immense challenges, but we also witnessed extraordinary victories—lives rescued, predators brought to justice, and communities made safer through relentless action. Our INTERCEPT Task Forces have accomplished incredible results by equipping law enforcement with cutting-edge technology, specialized training, and critical operational support, enabling them to take down trafficking networks and bring justice to those who exploit the vulnerable. Every action, every donation, and every effort behind the scenes helped move our mission forward in ways words can't fully capture. For that, I am profoundly thankful.

But our work is far from done. At OLS, we believe in relentless progress—pushing boundaries, innovating, and standing in the gap where others cannot. We're committed to equipping law enforcement, empowering communities, and driving direct action to combat exploitation and trafficking at every level. As we move into 2025, I'm inspired by the potential that lies ahead. With your continued support, we will press forward with focus, resilience, and an unyielding belief that together, we can create lasting change.

Thank you for being part of this mission—let's keep shining the light where it's needed most.

Bryan Weight

Bryan Weight, COO



HOW WE DO IT



Operation Light Shine created the Inter-agency Child Exploitation and Persons Trafficking Task Force (INTERCEPT) to provide the resources, staffing, and support required to identify and rescue child victims, apprehend their offenders, and reduce the risk through public education and awareness. Our goal is to establish state-of-the-art facilities that bring together law enforcement, NGOs, prosecutors, victim services, and medical professionals in a multi-disciplinary approach to fight the exploitation and trafficking of children. The INTERCEPT task forces start at the grassroots level but will grow into world-class, first-of-their-kind workspaces, providing all the resources required to conduct investigations, plan and run operations, identify and rescue victims, educate parents and youth, process and analyze seized data, and serve the community.



YOUR IMPACT:

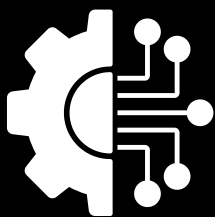
Funding Law Enforcement

\$2,522,282



Salary Reimbursements

\$1,864,954



Technology

\$503,812



Trainings

\$65,200

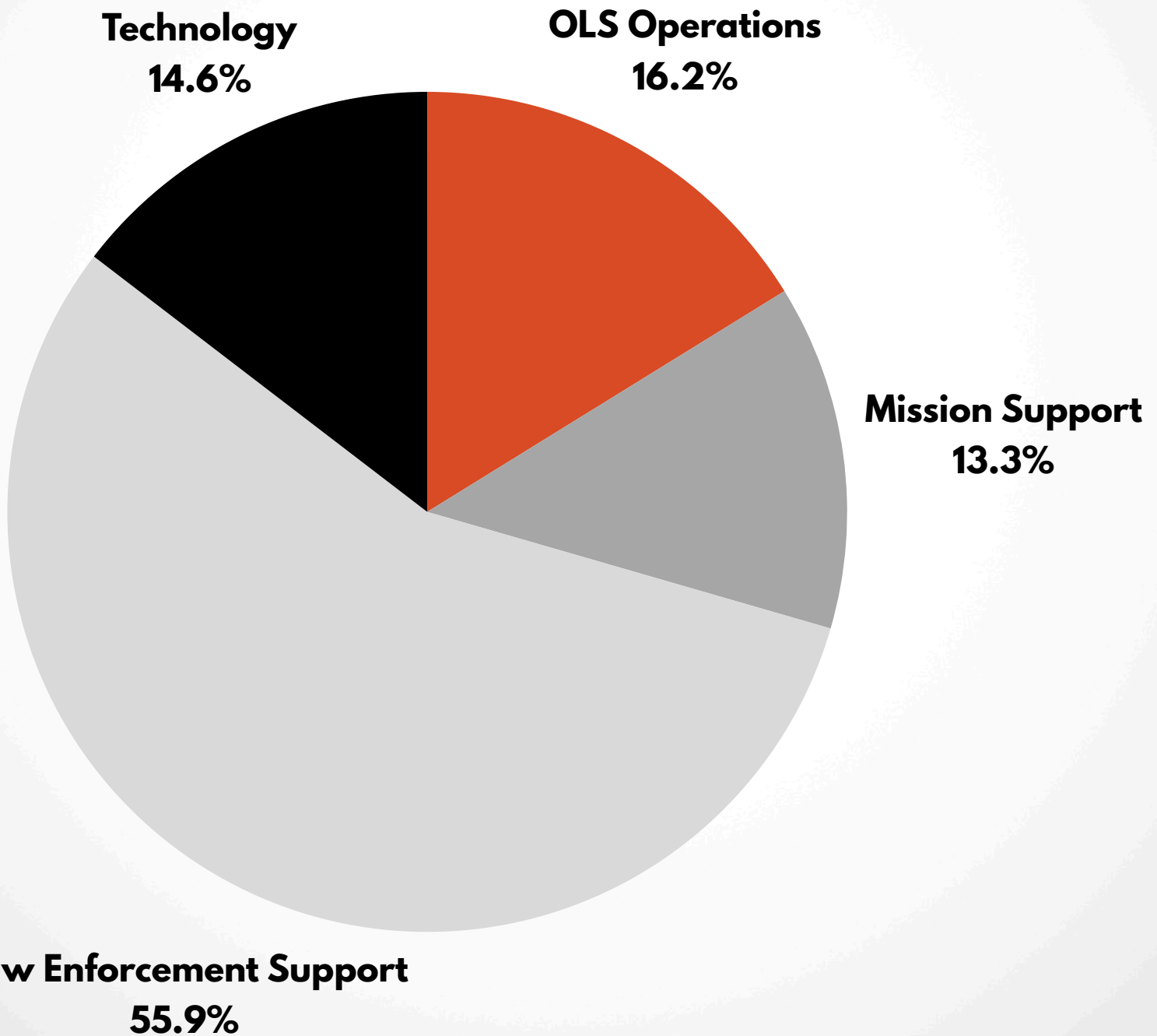


Task Force Facility

\$153,516

2024 TOTAL FUNDING RAISED

\$3,737,354





Because of You

Because of you, lives are being changed. Victims are being rescued, offenders are being held accountable, and law enforcement officers are better equipped to fight human trafficking and child exploitation. At Operation Light Shine, every success we've had is a direct result of the generosity and belief of supporters like you. Your support allows us to stand in the gap—empowering those on the front lines to save lives and protect the most vulnerable.

The impact of your support isn't just words—it's in the numbers. Every stat you see in this report represents real progress, real lives changed, and real hope restored. These results wouldn't be possible without you. But this fight isn't over, and as we grow, so does our ability to create more impact.

We need your continued support to help us reach further, equip more law enforcement partners, and protect more victims. Together, we are creating real change. Let's keep going—there are still lives counting on us.



2024 STATS



Arrests

263



Indictments

144



ID/Rescues

166



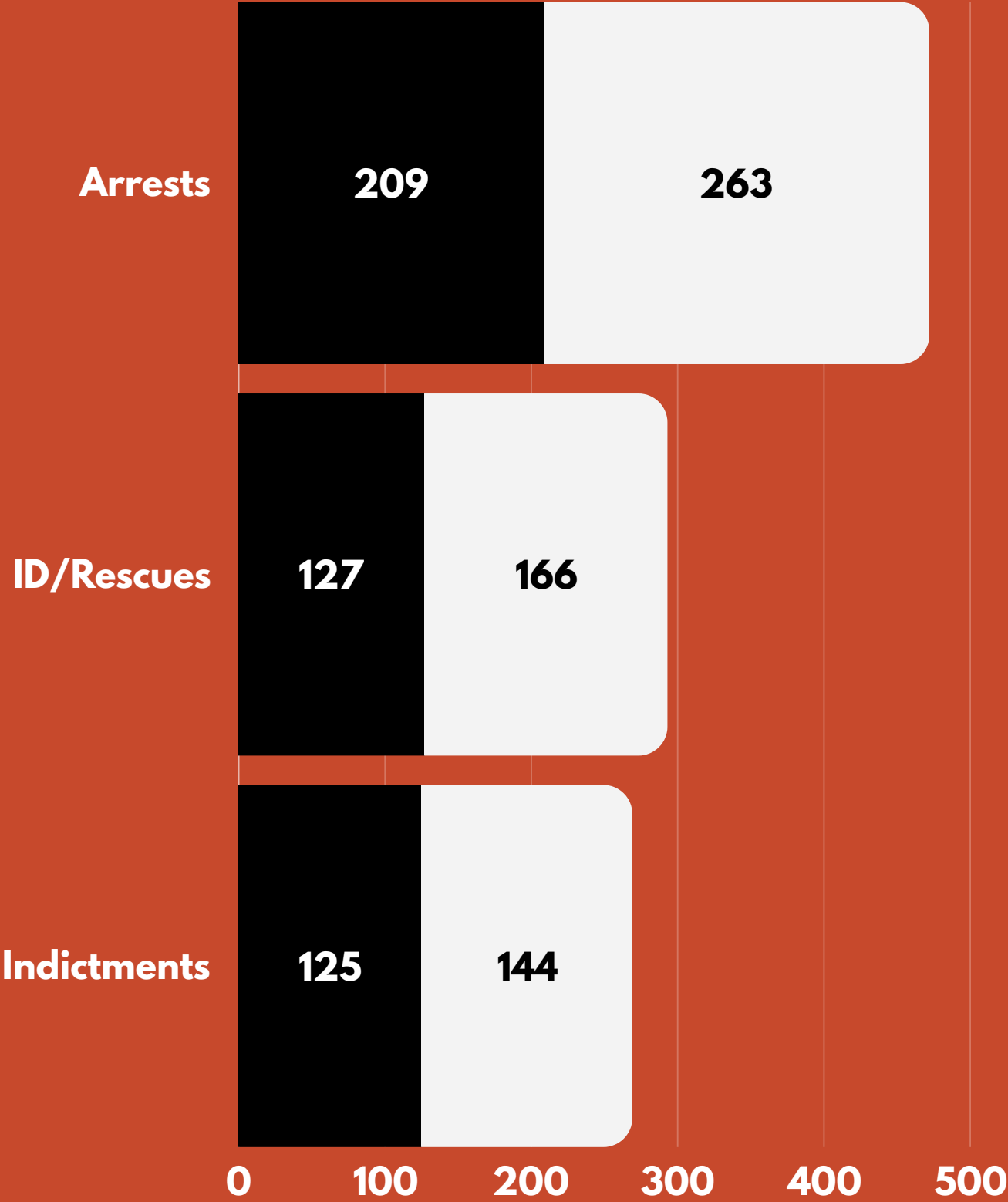
**Vid/Pics
Examined**

(ONLY ACCOUNTS 2 ITF LOCATIONS)

326,482,877

More Lives Protected: 2023 to 2024 Growth

● 2023 ● 2024



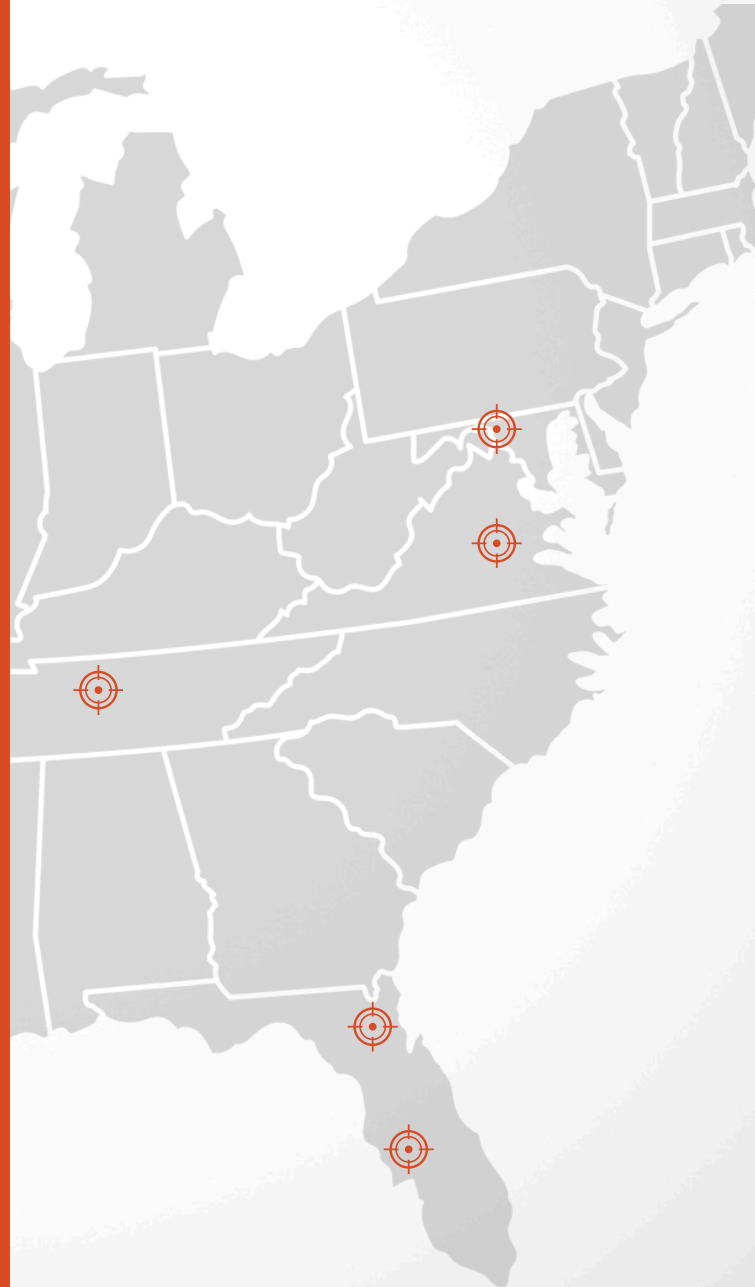
CURRENT LOCATIONS



- 🎯 MIDDLE TENNESSEE, Nashville
- 🎯 NORTH FLORIDA, Jacksonville
- 🎯 SOUTH FLORIDA, Fort Myers
- 🎯 NORTH MARYLAND, Frederick
- 🎯 CENTRAL VIRGINIA, Richmond

The INTERCEPT Task Forces are essential in the fight against child exploitation and human trafficking, making impactful progress every day. They save lives, ensure accountability, and never waver in their pursuit of justice. With numerous investigations underway, their relentless dedication to shielding the vulnerable from exploitation knows no bounds.

By supporting Operation Light Shine, you directly empower INTERCEPT Task Forces with the cutting-edge technology, critical resources, and operational support needed to dismantle trafficking networks and protect the innocent. Together, OLS and INTERCEPT stand as a united front, working tirelessly to build a safer world where every individual can thrive without fear. Join us in this mission—because your support drives the fight for justice and freedom.

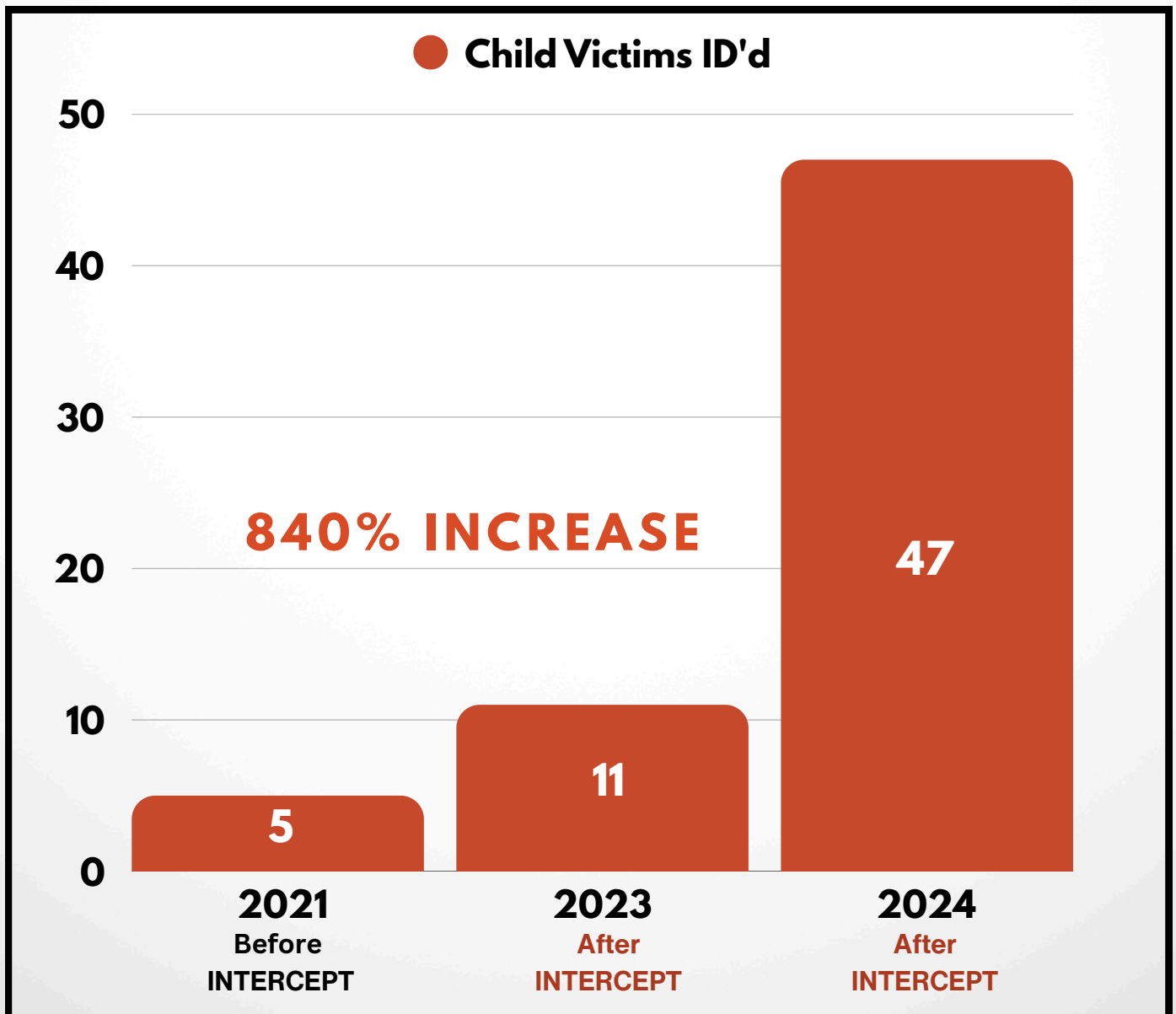


IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

Through their partnership with Operation Light Shine and the INTERCEPT Task Force, the Collier County Sheriff's Office has seen a 840% increase in victims identified and rescued. This incredible growth is a direct result of providing law enforcement with the tools, technology, and support they need to take action.

Together, we're empowering local agencies to make a real difference—bringing justice to more victims, protecting communities, and proving that with the right resources, lives are saved.

SOUTHWEST, FL. COLLIER COUNTY SHERRIFS OFFICE



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



“The battle that Operation Light Shine and the INTERCEPT Task Forces fights is truly heartbreaking. As parents of four, what this organization hears, sees and rescues on a daily basis is unimaginable. Unfortunately, we believe this war is far from over and we are blessed and fortunate enough to be able to financially help this wonderful organization.”

Jerry & Julie Wamsley

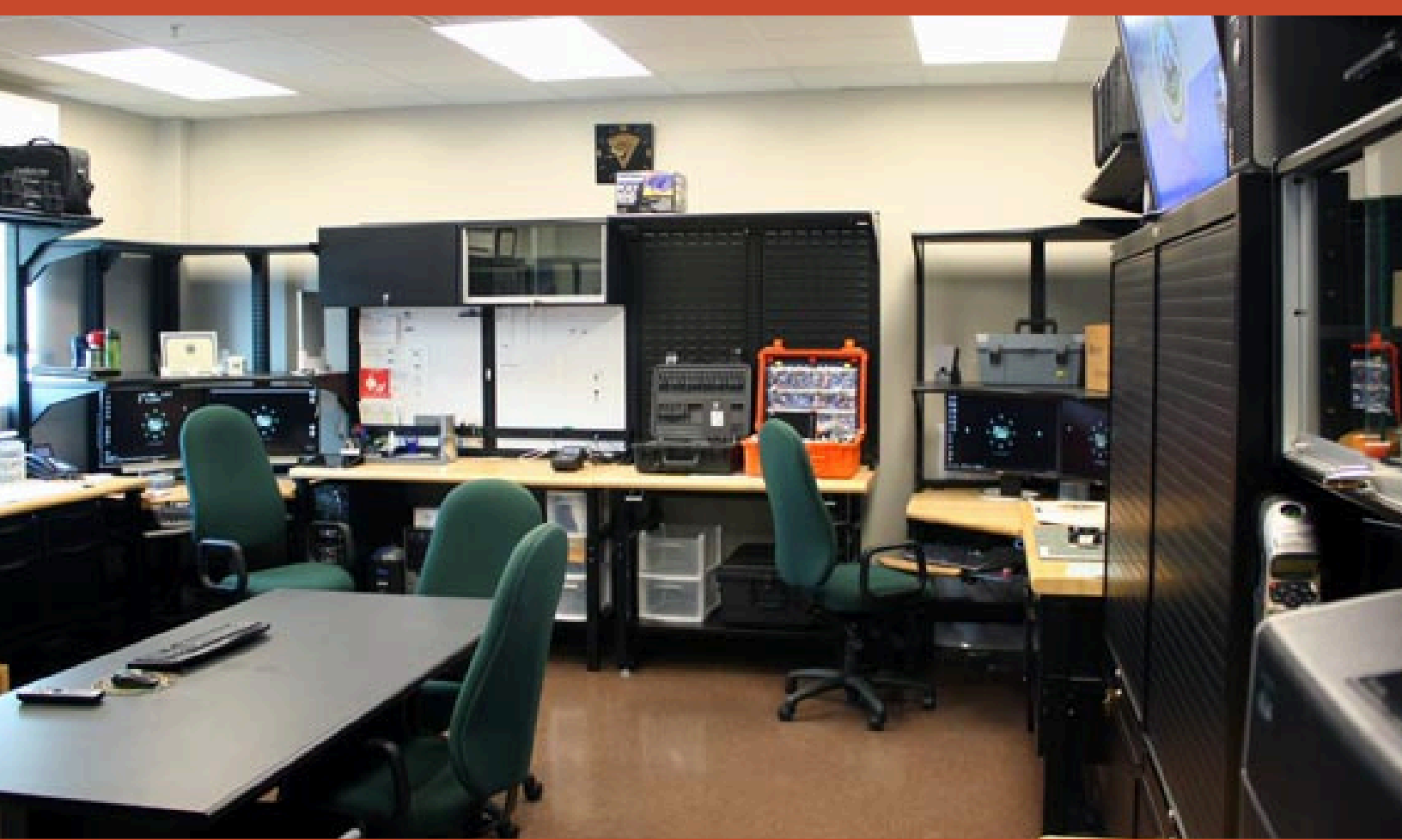
At Operation Light Shine, our supporters are the heart of everything we do. You are more than a financial contributor—you are a partner in our mission to combat exploitation and trafficking. Your belief in our work empowers law enforcement, accelerates rescues, and strengthens entire communities. Because of you, hope is restored where darkness once prevailed. We are honored to have you as part of the OLS family, standing with us every step of the way. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and impact. Together, we are changing lives.



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

TIM TEBOW **FOUNDATION™**

The Tim Tebow Foundation's significant financial support and critical partnership in 2024 have been vital to our mission. Their commitment has empowered INTERCEPT Task Forces with essential resources, technology, and collaboration needed to rescue victims and combat child exploitation and human trafficking.



TECHNOLOGY EMPOWERING INTERCEPT TASK FORCES

Operation Light Shine equips INTERCEPT Task Forces with cutting-edge technology to empower their fight against child exploitation and human trafficking. The tools we provide are carefully selected to enhance efficiency, improve investigative outcomes, and enable faster identification and rescue of victims. In addition to these operational benefits, the technology also plays a vital role in safeguarding the mental well-being of investigators by reducing their exposure to traumatic material. Key technologies include:

- **Magnet Automate:** Currently deployed at our Northeast and Southwest Florida Task Forces, Magnet Automate streamlines digital forensics workflows by automating repetitive tasks, such as processing evidence and running analysis software. Over the course of a year, this tool saves thousands of hours in lost time, allowing investigators to focus on case-critical work. By minimizing direct exposure to graphic content, Magnet Automate also supports the mental health of investigators.
- **Paradigm by Pathfinder Labs:** Paradigm utilizes advanced artificial intelligence tools to aggregate and analyze vast amounts of investigative data, uncovering connections and patterns that are often difficult for humans to detect. Our task forces have praised Paradigm's ability to manage and analyze previously complex data, enabling investigators to focus on actionable insights while reducing the stress of manually processing overwhelming datasets.
- **BitMindz Forensic Workstations:** BitMindz builds state-of-the-art systems tailored to the unique needs of both digital forensic examiners and investigators within our task forces. These high-performance workstations enable the efficient processing of large datasets and advanced investigative tasks, ensuring investigators have the tools needed to reduce their workload and mitigate the emotional toll of their work. The team at BitMindz is deeply committed to supporting our mission and the well-being of our task forces.
- **Magnet Griffeye Analyze DI Pro:** A powerful multimedia analysis tool that helps investigators manage, review, and analyze image and video evidence to identify key leads in cases involving child exploitation. The software's intuitive features streamline workflows, helping to limit exposure to traumatic content.



NORTHEAST FLORIDA INTERCEPT TASK FORCE: A Landmark Opening

In 2024, Operation Light Shine proudly opened our Northeast Florida INTERCEPT Task Force location—a pivotal step in the fight against human trafficking and exploitation. More than just a workspace, this state-of-the-art facility brings law enforcement, forensic experts, and community partners together under one roof to combat these crimes more effectively.

The facility features a dedicated digital forensics lab, equipping investigators with advanced tools to process evidence quickly and identify victims and offenders faster. It also includes training rooms to keep law enforcement at the forefront of investigative techniques and a soft interview room to provide victims with a safe, supportive environment during difficult moments.

With an open workspace design, the task force fosters real-time collaboration among detectives and forensic examiners, improving case outcomes and accelerating investigations. The Northeast Florida INTERCEPT Task Force is more than a building—it's a symbol of what's possible when we equip law enforcement with the tools and support needed to protect the most vulnerable.



EVENT SPOTLIGHT

In March of 2024, our Chief of Law Enforcement Enterprise & Technology, Jim Cole, represented Operation Light Shine in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee during the hearing titled A Voice for the Voiceless - CSAM Identification. Alongside Tim Tebow, this impactful testimony shed light on the urgent need for advanced tools and resources to combat child sexual exploitation. By advocating for systemic change and highlighting the importance of the INTERCEPT Task Forces, this opportunity elevated OLS's national profile, strengthened relationships with policymakers, and amplified support for our mission to Equip, Empower, and Educate law enforcement agencies.

CASE SPOTLIGHT



“United States v. John Balch, Jane Campbell, Ashley Tibbs, Amber Ricketts, and Destiny Somersall is a case example of the benefits of the INTERCEPT Task Force model. This case highlights the success of a multi-state, multi-jurisdictional and cross agency investigation. John W. Balch, age 76, balch sexually exploited six minors between the ages of 3 and 15 years old Between 2017 and 2022. Balch paid the victims’ mothers to produce images and videos of the victims engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The exploitation also included paying the victims’ mothers to perform sex acts on their prepubescent children, record the abuse, and send the files to Balch. Balch also admitted that he paid one of the mothers to transport her 15-year-old daughter to engage in sex acts with Balch in a hotel room.

The Frederick INTERCEPT team worked together in leading 19 search warrants in three states among FBI. HSI, Frederick Police Department, Frederick County Sheriff’s Office, Hagerstown Police, Maryland State Police, Martinsburg Police, and Jacksonville Police. Our taskforce was able to achieve early deconfliction and efficient forensics because of the INTERCEPT model. As a result we could quickly identify and rescue victims and maximize prosecution.”



Joyce King
Chief Council
MD States Attorneys Office, Fredrick MD
INTERCEPT Task Force

TECHNOLOGY SPOTLIGHT



In 2024, we implemented CaseScan, a revolutionary technology that transforms how investigators work both on-scene and in the lab. On-scene, CaseScan enables rapid identification of CSAM, including first-generation content, allowing investigators to uncover new production material and facilitate victim rescues in real time. In the lab, it accelerates case triaging by quickly pinpointing devices containing CSAM, significantly narrowing down key evidence. By reducing investigators' prolonged exposure to sensitive material, CaseScan not only boosts efficiency but also prioritizes their mental well-being, making it a true game-changer in the fight against exploitation.



"The first time we used CaseScan, it immediately located numerous CSAM files that were first-generation files produced by the suspect using his camera of his daughter. These files would not have been located by other tools, which is going to accelerate our ability to find hands-on child victims of our offenders much more quickly and effectively. We appreciate Operation Light Shine equipping us with these powerful new technologies."

Lt. Wade Williams
Collier County Sheriff's Office
Criminal Investigations Division
INTERCEPT Task Force

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Operation Light Shine was proud to form a partnership with Bark in 2024, uniting in our mission to safeguard children in today's complex digital world. Bark's cutting-edge technology helps detect potential online threats, enabling families and law enforcement to intervene before harm occurs. This partnership empowers us to take a proactive approach in protecting vulnerable children, addressing digital dangers that put them at risk.

Together, we are creating safer online environments where children can explore, learn, and connect without fear. This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to shielding kids from exploitation and ensuring they have the opportunity to thrive in a secure and supportive world.



"Partnering with Operation Light Shine allows us to amplify our shared commitment to protecting children. At Bark, we're proud to support the critical work OLS does to empower law enforcement and communities in shielding kids from harm. Together, we're creating a stronger, safer future for children, both online and in the real world."

Titania Jordan

BARK

Chief Parenting Officer + CMO

LOOK INTO 2025

In 2025, we refuse to slow down—because the fight against human trafficking and child exploitation demands that we push harder, go further, and do more.

Our mission is clear: rescue more victims, empower more law enforcement, and prevent exploitation and trafficking before it happens. This year, we are committed to expanding our reach by opening at least three new INTERCEPT Task Force locations, giving more agencies the resources they need to dismantle trafficking networks and bring justice to the vulnerable.

PROPOSED NEW I.T.F. LOCATIONS

ALABAMA

Tuscaloosa



FLORIDA

Tampa Bay



NEW YORK

Brooklyn



TENNESSEE

MID WEST



But our work doesn't stop there. Prevention is just as critical as intervention. That's why we are launching a comprehensive education curriculum—designed to proactively equip communities, schools, and families with the knowledge to identify risks, take action, and protect children before they ever become victims.

This is a year of bold action, and we need you with us. Your continued support fuels these life-saving initiatives, expands our reach, and ensures that no child is left unprotected. Together, we will shine the light even brighter in 2025.



JOIN US

We envision a world where every person is safe from exploitation and trafficking—a world where children can grow up free from fear and where law enforcement has the tools and support they need, regardless of financial limitations.

Because safety should never depend on funding—it should be a right.

At Operation Light Shine, we won't stop until this vision becomes reality. Your unwavering support fuels our mission, drives rescues, and empowers law enforcement to bring justice where it's needed most. Thank you for standing with us in 2024—and for the journey ahead. Together, we are making hope possible.

DONATE 

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THANK
YOU

www.operationlightshine.org
