



## My Life My Choice - A Division of Justice Resource Institute

Current

989 Commonwealth Avenue Boston MA 02215

**Incorporation Year:** 1973

[www.fightingexploitation.org](http://www.fightingexploitation.org)

**Organization Contact:** lgrace@jri.iorg Lisa Goldblatt Grace

Human Services Victims' Services

**CEO/Executive Director:** Ms. Lisa Goldblatt Grace

**Board Chair:** Ms. Carolina Avellaneda Fisher College

**Mission Statement:** The mission of My Life My Choice is to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of adolescents through survivor-led programs that educate and empower youth to find their voice and create a positive life path. We believe that children have a fundamental human right to live their lives free from exploitation—without fear that adults will prey on their vulnerabilities. We empower youth to be agents of change in their own lives and in the movement to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

**Needs Statement:** MLMC's top five most pressing needs are:

- Additional funding to support increased staff time for mentors and prevention group facilitators to reach more girls in Massachusetts with potentially life-saving services and information.
- A larger facility to provide work space for our growing staff and allow us to offer onsite programming for exploited youth.
- Opportunities to increase our earned income through providing organizations/youth service providers with training and consultation around the issue of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.
- Additional in-kind donations to provide our mentees with real world experiences that allow them to bond with their mentors and experience positive, fun activities. Examples include: theater tickets, movie passes, museum passes, restaurant gift certificates, etc.
- Partnerships with foundations and corporations who are willing to help sponsor our annual event, Turn on the Light, which raises funds and awareness to support My Life My Choice programming.

**Impact Statement:** My Life My Choice is a leader in the fight to end commercial sexual exploitation and is the only anti-human trafficking organization in Massachusetts employing a survivor-led model proven effective in helping youth leave harmful situations and build new lives for themselves. My Life My Choice is a groundbreaking, nationally recognized initiative designed to stem the tide of commercial sexual exploitation of adolescent girls. The central goals of our work are:

- Empower youth to protect themselves from the commercial sex industry and its predators.
- Support survivors in rebuilding their lives, finding their voice, and becoming leaders.
- Educate and mobilize a powerful network of allies to prevent exploitation

We have successfully trained over 8,000 youth providers in Massachusetts and nationally, have provided prevention groups to more than 1,900 girls, and mentored over 350 girls in the Greater Boston area. We have trained facilitators on our Prevention Curriculum in 27 states.

In 2006, My Life My Choice was recognized by the United States Department of Justice as a national model for sex trafficking prevention and in 2010, My Life My Choice was named one of Root Cause's Social Innovators for the year. One of our most profound systemic accomplishments occurred in 2011 when My Life My Choice helped draft Massachusetts' anti-trafficking legislation. Enacted in February 2012, this legislation ensures that minors who have been exploited receive specialized services, not jail time. Under the new act, we have seen an enormous uptick in referrals, as more minors are being identified as victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Most recently, My Life My Choice was featured in a documentary by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn called "A Path Appears".

**Full-time Staff:** 14

**Volunteers:** 60

(excludes part-time staff)

**Programs Detailed on Profile**

Survivor Mentoring  
Exploitation Prevention Initiative  
Training for youth service providers

**Projected Revenue:** \$1,247,549.00

**Projected Expenses:** \$1,247,549.00

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$1,067,546	\$636,107	\$563,373
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$977,637	\$639,315	\$490,464

**Top Funding Sources**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Top Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</b>	--	--	--
<b>Second Highest Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</b>	--	--	--
<b>Third Highest Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</b>	--	--	--