



The Underground New England (UGNE) is a faith-based initiative dedicated to ending human trafficking and sexual exploitation throughout Connecticut and New England. One of our core services is mentoring survivors of trafficking. We mentor by coming alongside men and women on their journey to freedom, creating a safe, consistent place for them as they take their steps towards healing and wholeness. Our mentors help mentees with both large and small goals, such as finding safe and affordable housing, gaining employment, celebrating milestones, and being a calm presence in an otherwise overwhelming world. One of our highest values is bridging the church to the ministry of the anti-trafficking movement.

The Church Care Partnership supplements UGNE's mentoring services by sponsoring men and women in our care, helping them to know their value and worth, and recognize that they are not alone in their journey. Church groups work in partnership with us, drawing on the gifts and talents of the faith community without duplicating existing services and resources.

Through this partnership, churches are able to sponsor men and women by providing prayer and practical support. It is a way for the church to very tangibly be the hands and feet of Christ. These needs range from blankets in the winter, to pots and pans, to phone bills (a basic necessity nowadays), to a stuffed animal to help them sleep through the night.

We know that for some, religious trauma is a tragic piece of the story; we have witnessed church sponsorship begin rewriting their narrative about God and Church. When a mentor brings a blanket, gas card, or lamp that the church provided we are able to show them through your kindness what God's love looks like. Sponsoring a survivor both meets their physical needs and begins the work of spiritual healing.

Our partnership is a two-way relationship on behalf of the survivors we mentor. As a sponsor, you will receive updates once a month regarding prayer requests, life updates, and practical needs they have. We honor confidentiality and therefore we cannot share personal information, but you should know that your care is healing their heart in ways it's impossible to fully capture or communicate. It is deeply humbling and joyful to witness the impact church sponsorships have made on the men and women we mentor.