JACKLINE'S STORY

HELPING-HAND 2024 ANTI-TRAFFICKING

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The Salvation Army in Uganda is running a project focused on raising awareness, strengthening community capacity and supporting survivors of human trafficking. Jackline is a member of the group in Lwanda. She shared her story:

'Things were not going well. I needed work so I could pay for my children to go to school... so we could live a better life, and find a new place to live. Our place was falling down. I reached a point where I thought about taking my own life. The situation I was going through was so hard.'



It was when Jackline was at her lowest that a man visited her village with the promise of well paid domestic work in Kenya. It seemed like the answer to the family's problems so Jackline left her children with her husband and set off. But the job was not what she hoped for.

'I worked for 3 months and I didn't get a single penny. At night I had to sleep on the floor. They were really hard on me. One night, the owner came back home. Suddenly he grabbed me. He held on to me but I pushed him off and ran away.'

Jackline was able to travel back to Uganda but returning home was very hard. Her father had died while she was away and her husband had been seeing someone else. The Salvation Army was already running a group in Jackline's village to educate people about the dangers of human trafficking and support survivors who have returned. When members of the group heard about Jackline's return they got in touch.

'They talked to us as a family and we got counselling. As well as the counselling, they promised to support us.'

The group also runs a savings and loan scheme and Jackline is one of the treasurers.

'I feel so happy about this project. The group has given me so much knowledge - about avoiding human trafficking and they've also helped me save some money. In the future I hope I will have saved a good amount of money that will help all of us.'



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In her spare time, Jackline now tells people about her story to raise awareness.

'We go door to door telling people about human trafficking and we support each other sharing this information in our communities. We have really seen a difference. It is still a problem further away but in our area it no longer happens.'

Learn more about Helping-Hand 2024: <u>salvationist.org.uk/helpinghand</u>





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