

# ally's STORY



Ally was 15 years old and living in a group home in Providence when she met her boyfriend, 31-year-old David. She was frustrated with life in the group home and felt the workers **only noticed her when she was doing something wrong. In contrast, David showered her with love and attention.** When he suggested she move in with him, Ally didn't think twice. She knew she could spend weekends with David and still go back to the group home without losing her place to stay.

At first, **Ally loved living with David but their relationship soon grew violent and he began pressuring her to contribute financially.** Ally wanted to help out but she didn't feel comfortable with his suggestion that she sleep with men for money. He said they needed the money to continue to be able to stay together in his apartment. She was afraid to leave the group home completely, but scared of what might happen to her if she didn't do what David asked. **Afraid for her life,** Ally had no choice but to leave the group home for good.

**After Ally had been missing for nearly a week, her DCYF worker, who had recently attended a sex trafficking presentation and recognized the warning signs,** reached out to Day One's Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) Coordinator. The MDT Coordinator arranged a meeting with Providence

Police, Homeland Security, Ally's mother, DCYF worker, and her group home staff, to share concerns. After reviewing information from Ally's social media accounts, which shed some light on where she may be going, a recovery plan was put in place. The team decided to send police to David's house early on a Saturday morning to try and recover Ally. Since the DCYF worker had a good relationship with Ally, and got to know who her boyfriend was, Providence Police were able to recover Ally while David was arrested.

Ally was brought to Hasbro Children's Hospital for medical evaluation. She was cooperative with the police and able to give full statements at the hospital about what had happened to her.

**The MDT met the following day with DCYF, police, and hospital staff to come up with the best plan to keep Ally safe.** Ally agreed to meet with a clinician at Day One and was placed in group care, with the goal of reuniting with her mother after working on her trauma. The MDT met frequently and communicated daily to help do what was best for Ally.

Two months after being placed in group care, and meeting with a clinician weekly, Ally was placed back home with her mother. **Now 16, she is attending school regularly and enjoying her time back home.**

\*All identifying information has been changed

Day One

IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT

*In 2014, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children estimated that 1 in 6 endangered runaways reported to them were likely sex trafficking victims.* Through a statewide task force to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Rhode Island, Day One is educating the community and helping CSEC survivors rebuild their lives.

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