

MOSAIC MOMENTUM

August 2023



MOSAIC
FAMILY SERVICES

Hello everyone,

I am excited to introduce myself to all the friends of Mosaic! My name is Amy A. Watson, and I started as the Clinical Director of Mosaic Family Services in April 2023. It has been amazing so far working with such a diverse group of individuals with a shared passion for helping the most vulnerable survivors. I have been welcomed with open arms and have learned so much about how Mosaic assists refugees, immigrants, at-risk youth, and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking with many quality programs.

I have been a Licensed Professional Counselor for 25 years, and over my career I have provided trauma therapy for foster and adopted children and their families in my private practice. I have also worked at many nonprofit organizations in leadership and clinical director roles. My goal is to allow all trauma survivors the opportunity to heal and be more in control of their lives. As a clinical director, I enjoy collaborating with the whole agency to teach counselors and interns how to do trauma counseling with clients and provide guidance and training where I can to ensure the best clinical practices within Mosaic. It is definitely a team approach!

I am an open-door person and love to talk, maybe a little too much. I welcome any friend of Mosaic to reach out if they want to know more about the counseling program. I was blessed with an awesome team of counselors and have watched my first set of interns complete their first semester. We could definitely not serve as many counseling clients without our dedicated interns. Thank you for supporting Mosaic so we can continue providing trauma-informed services to survivors!

Respectfully,

Amy A. Watson, MS, LPC-S



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'Sound of Freedom' is a good conversation starter, but there's a lot more to say.

In July, the movie *Sound of Freedom* was released and brought human trafficking to the forefront of many viewers' minds. As an organization deeply committed to meeting the needs of survivors, Mosaic Family Services is glad to see that this movie has grown attention and sparked concern for human trafficking, but it's important we take the conversation deeper.

Human trafficking is a very real and devastating crime with an estimated 27.6 million victims worldwide according to the U.S. State Department, and approximately 313,000 victims in Texas alone.

It's easy to only know the trafficking narrative we see in movies and social

media: the one that involves kidnapping, white vans, and cages. But the reality is much more complex.

In most situations, victims are trafficked by someone they know, like a family member, friend, community member or employer. This is especially true with child trafficking.

Human trafficking often involves gaining a person's trust before using that trust to exploit them. Though anyone can fall victim to trafficking, those facing instability and unmet needs are particularly vulnerable, including those living in poverty or unstable living situations, those with histories of abuse and violence, children in the foster care

system, runaway youths, immigrants, refugees and racial or sexual minorities. In fact, many survivors don't self-identify as victims of human trafficking.

To truly end human trafficking, we need a holistic approach that addresses the systemic and root causes of trafficking, education and protection for these vulnerable populations. We also need more awareness and education about the reality of trafficking, and the elements and dynamics that make it so prevalent in our community.

Want to learn more about human trafficking? We want to help! Reach out to development@mosaicervices.org to schedule a training or presentation.

You give survivors the chance to break free

Like so many immigrants, Chioma was excited, nervous, and hopeful about moving to the United States. Originally from Nigeria, Chioma obtained a temporary visa and moved to the U.S. to join her fiancé in North Texas. Once settled, the two married, and things took an immediate turn for the worse. Chioma's new husband became psychologically abusive and kept Chioma from living a normal life.

Chioma had moved to the U.S. with a temporary visa, but once here, her husband refused to let her complete the immigration process. He wanted to make sure Chioma was stuck here illegally, and he used her status to threaten and control her.

Even though she was alone in a new country, Chioma knew her husband's behavior was abusive and that she needed to escape. Chioma called Mosaic's crisis hotline, and shelter

advocates quickly approved her to move into Mosaic House. While living at Mosaic House, Chioma sought counseling from the onsite counselor and began to process and heal from the trauma she'd endured.

Chioma's case manager connected her with a free legal provider to move forward with her divorce and immigration application process. During her divorce trial, Chioma gained spousal support from her husband. This outcome is rare in Texas, but the judge saw how her abuser prevented Chioma from obtaining necessary immigration documents and how this, in turn, prevented Chioma from working and providing for herself. The divorce was granted, and Chioma was a free woman.

After six months, Chioma moved out of Mosaic House, ready to stand on her own two feet. A year later, Chioma received her residency documents, and she was

able to pursue her dreams of starting her own business.

She is grateful for the support she received at Mosaic and excited to move forward with her new business and the loving community she has found.



Daniela's flower business is blooming with purpose!

When you purchase a beautiful bouquet from Castillo De Flores, you're not only supporting a local business, but also giving back to survivors of domestic and sexual violence!

Daniela started Castillo De Flores while she was a student, but it has since grown to be a blooming business.

Not only is Daniela a local business owner, but she's also a former Mosaic intern and passionate advocate for survivors of domestic violence!

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Castillo De Flores had a pop-up shop where they handed out information and resources about domestic violence. The event was a huge success, and Castillo De

Flores donated \$800 in proceeds from the event to survivors at Mosaic!

"I selected Mosaic as the recipient because of the way Mosaic helps survivors heal and regain their livelihoods. As an intern, I saw first hand how the work Mosaic does is changing the community and breaking the cycles of abuse."

We are so grateful to Daniela and Castillo De Flores for the work they're doing to help survivors find strength and healing!

You can see more of Daniela's beautiful blooms and find out about her upcoming pop up shops by following her on Instagram and TikTok, @castillodeflores7.

To order a bouquet, you can visit her

website: <https://www.castillodeflores.com>.



Volunteer Spotlight: Bank of Texas is guiding giving!

We love our partnership with Bank of Texas! This year, our partnership grew even more and Mosaic was the recipient of their annual Guide the Giving initiative.

Guide the Giving provides Bank of Texas employees in the Dallas region the opportunity to nominate and vote for nonprofits making an impact in the community to receive this award. We are so excited and grateful to be this year's winner!

In addition their generous gift, Bank of Texas employees are volunteering their time to provide financial literacy classes to clients at Mosaic House and nonresidential clients. These classes are critical to empowering clients toward self-sufficiency.

Thank you so much to all the employees at Bank of Texas for choosing Mosaic and for giving dignity, freedom and justice to survivors!



COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS
— NTX —
GIVING DAY
9.21.23 presented by amazon

It's that time of year again! North Texas Giving Day 2023 is right around the corner and this year, you can make an even bigger impact on the lives of the refugees and survivors.

Here are some ways you can get involved this year:

1. Give with purpose on September 21- Your gift matters! Donate to Mosaic between 6 a.m. and midnight to be part of the movement.
2. Not available on September 21? No worries! Make your gift early between September 1 and September 20!
3. Spread the word to your friends and loved ones about Mosaic and NTX Giving Day! Don't forget to tag us on social media if you're posting online!

For more information on how you can help Mosaic on NTX Giving Day, please reach out to Momtaz Begum at momtazb@mosaicsservices.org.

Thank you once again for your continued support of Mosaic Family Services and the North Texas community!

You can visit Mosaic's NTX Giving Day page by scanning the QR code below.

