

In Memory of Barbara Amaya

Barbara Amaya was a renowned survivor advocate whose work significantly impacted the fight against human trafficking. She was a fierce supporter and mentor for other survivors, and her journey from victim to advocate was both inspiring and transformative. Barbara actively participated in legislative advocacy, working hard to create and promote policies to protect victims.

She dedicated over a decade to sharing her own truths while motivating and training various professionals who worked with survivors. Barbara was internationally known for her advocacy and authored the book "Nobody's Girl". She also won several awards for her work in the anti-human trafficking movement.

In late 2019, Barbara was diagnosed with CML Leukemia. Despite her failing health, Barbara continued to advocate for change and conduct professional development classes for those working with survivors. Barbara's mission was to prevent others from experiencing the same trauma she endured.



In memory of Barbara, there should be a call for better housing programs for survivors with chronic health conditions. Human Trafficking programs should also provide a continuum of support, addressing the unique challenges survivors face, such as medical complications and housing instability; ensuring no survivor has to battle illness while struggling to avoid homelessness at any point in their life. As a fellow participant in the Faces of Human Trafficking series and a vital leader in the anti-trafficking movement, we salute her work and continued impact