

## GEMSHISTORY

Founded in 1999 by Rachel Lloyd, a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation, **GEMS** was created in response to the overwhelming need for services targeted at sexually exploited young women.

From a one-woman kitchen table project, **GEMS** has grown to a nationally recognized and acclaimed organization and now is one of the largest providers of services to commercially sexually exploited and domestically trafficked youth in the US. GEMS' vision is to end the commercial exploitation and trafficking of children. GEMS advocates at the local, state and national level to promote policies that support young women who have been commercially sexually exploited and domestically trafficked.

**GEMS** is grateful for the support of: The Clark Foundation, The Pinkerton Foundation, Global Fund for Children, The Public Welfare Foundation, The Fledgling Fund, Hedge Funds Care, New York Women's Foundation, Deerfield Management, The Ms Foundation for Women as well as the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, NYS Office of Children and Family Services, and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development.



## GETTINGINVOLVED

GEMS relies on the generous support, participation and encouragement we receive from the community. There are many ways to be a part of GEMS.

### DONATE

Support the mission and vision of GEMS with a financial donation through our website: **[www.gems-girls.org](http://www.gems-girls.org)**

We also accept donations of new or gently used clothes, toys or house wares.

### EDUCATE

Get others involved in the fight to end commercial sexual exploitation by booking GEMS to speak at your school, workplace or community organization.

### VOLUNTEER

Give the gift of your time to help GEMS end the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Fill out a volunteer application on our website.

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**Gem (jem):**  
**1) a precious stone.**  
**2) an object of great beauty and worth**

## ABOUT GEMS

Girls Educational and Mentoring Services' (GEMS) mission is to empower girls and young women, ages 12-21, who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking to exit the commercial sex industry and develop to their full potential. GEMS is committed to ending commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking of children and youth by changing individual lives, transforming public perception, and revolutionizing the systems and policies that impact sexually exploited youth.

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**GEMS is the only organization in New York State specifically designed to serve girls and young women who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking.**

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### FACTS ABOUT CSEC

- In New York City alone there are an estimated 2,200 children victimized by commercial sexual exploitation annually (OCFS 2007 Prevalence Study).
- 100,000—300,000 children are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation each year in the United States (Estes & Wiener, 2001).
- The most common age of entry into the commercial sex industry in the US is 12 years old (www.usdoj.gov).
- The majority of victimized youth have run away from home, or were running away from a foster care home, cccjjuvenile detention center or group home (Estes and Wiener, 2001).
- 70-90% of commercially sexually exploited children have a history of child sexual abuse (Murphy, 1993).

## GEMS SERVICES

GEMS supports and empowers young women and girls who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation, and provides a continuum of services including:

- **Street Outreach**
- **Court Advocacy and Alternatives to Incarceration Program**
- **Comprehensive Case Management**
- **Individual Counseling**
- **Education, Recreational and Therapeutic Groups**
- **Youth Employment and Leadership Training**
- **Transitional & Crisis Housing**
- **Referral Services**

We utilize a holistic trauma-informed treatment model in our programs to address girls' and young women's complex needs throughout their transition and development. We believe that all young women have great beauty and worth, and the potential for future success. The voices and experiences of youth survivors are integral to the development and implementation of all GEMS' programming.



## ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

GEMS' ten years of direct service experience with trafficked and commercially sexually exploited girls and young women have resulted in an unparalleled knowledge base.

Drawing upon this extensive expertise, GEMS provides trainings, presentations and consulting to community groups and youth-serving organizations and institutions. These educational programs and materials increase awareness within the general public and develop the capacity of youth-serving professionals to directly address issue of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking.

### YOUTH PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Our peer-led education program raises youth awareness about the realities of commercial sexual exploitation and provides strategies to identify situations that may lead to exploitation and trafficking.

### STAFF TRAINING & CONSULTING

Our professional development program trains youth-serving professionals to identify signs of exploitation, intervention techniques for traumatized clients, and assisting girls and young women in escaping commercial sexual exploitation of children.

### MULTI-MEDIA CURRICULA

GEMS' nationally acclaimed videos, *Making of a Girl*, *Breaking the Silence* and the *Swinging T/* Showtime produced documentary *Very Young Girls* videos and accompanying curricula are all excellent resources for training and public awareness.