



Spring 2025!

April

Ruthlake Farm bloomed with new life as blueberry bushes began to thrive. Satsuma trees would not let the blueberries outdo them as their gorgeous flowers decorated their rich green leaves. Beautiful blooms reinforce the purpose of Ruthlake Farm--new life, new dreams, and a new start for the survivors of human trafficking who will plant themselves in the fertile soil on the farm. The bee hives buzzed with activity as new residents investigated their home, meeting their neighbors for the first time (hope we made a good impression) and deciding what area of the farm will be their favorite foraging ground.



SAFE participated in Gallery Night in downtown Pensacola. The theme was "Vintage Vibes and Valor." What a wonderful night meeting new people, sharing our mission and working on a unique survivor-themed art project.



May

SAFE welcomed a new director, Marissa Osborne. She hit the ground running, and our team is excited to see what the future holds. Marissa has a passion for the mission of SAFE and envisions great things for the coming years. Welcome Marissa!



The SAFE training team held the first “Check into Change” event for hotels in the Destin area. This project is designed to engage with local hotel management on how SAFE in the Panhandle can support the hospitality industry in the fight against exploitation. The event was a great success, and we look forward to hosting another event soon! A big thank you to Jackacuda’s Restaurant for providing a room, very helpful staff, and delicious food!

Fairfield Inn & Suites in Destin welcomed members of the SAFE training staff to deliver our state-approved curriculum customized for the hospitality industry. Thank you to the management for allowing us the honor of training your employees. What an honor!



Line up for an autograph!

Team member Jared Cartee spoke on a podcast with JB who hosts “What the hell do I know?” and shared the mission of SAFE. He also spoke with Dave Fields who hosts the podcast called “Shoot me straight”. Our team is always eager to raise the awareness of our community on the issue of human trafficking and how each one of us can make an impact. Thank you to JB and Dave for welcoming Jared to their podcasts.

June

June 4, 2025, was honey harvesting day at the farm. What a beautiful day we were blessed with for this exciting event. Ruthlake Farm is our beautiful working farm where all profits generated go to SAFE in the Panhandle. Thank you to those who volunteered to help with this process! And thank you to all our hardworking bees who have produced this delicious resource. (They were not too happy with us for good reason!)



Our founder, Bruce Bailey spoke at the first Men’s Breakfast sponsored by Magdalene’s and United Way. This was an excellent opportunity for us to partner with fellow non-profits and educate the community with up-to-date statistics about the reality of human trafficking where we work, live, and play. There were about 70 men in attendance and an excellent article was in the June 12th issue of the Gulf Breeze News.



SAFE in the Panhandle participated in Gallery Night this month where the theme was Art and Freedom. Our team gave a special preview of some of the items that are produced on Ruthlake Farm. Samples of our artisan soap and delicious honey were available for a donation to SAFE in the Panhandle. The response was wonderful, and we can't wait for August when we will return once again to bring our mission to the community. Come and join us August 15th when the theme is Retro Rides & Art Vibes Car Show.



The final touches are taking place at the brand-new Emergency Intake Center with a projected opening of September 2025. Calls are already coming in for placement of women in need of a safe home. The Intake Center will be the only 24/7 safe home for women rescued from human trafficking in the state of Florida. Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who have given of their time, talents, and money to make our dream a reality.

News from SAFE

[Panama City News Herald](#)

Human trafficking scheme in Panama City Beach, Fort Walton Beach and Destin broken up

SAFE in the Panhandle's friend and supporter, Chief J. R. Talamantez was instrumental in the arrests in a human trafficking scheme taking place in our community. Thank you Chief for your work in the fight against exploitation in the Florida Panhandle.

Coming Soon!

Coming soon to our website: <https://www.safeinthepanhandle.com/> will be HT 101. This basic training will be available for free to anyone wanting to educate themselves on how to accurately identify and report suspected human trafficking situations.



The Ruthlake Farm website will soon be live. We will keep you updated on activities on the farm and when the launch of our retail store will take place. You will be able to support the work of SAFE in the Panhandle by purchasing wonderful gift items or treat yourself!