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From Darkness to Light

A hero doesn't always have to start out by being great. They might have a past that helps them become who they are now. Leslie King was one of those people. She is a survivor of human trafficking and a Michigan hero.

Leslie King endured 20 painful years of human trafficking in the shadows of Grand Rapids. Surrounded by so much hate, pain, and destruction she chose courage and broke free from the world that was consuming her. Emerging from darkness into the light, she wanted to help others. God promised her that even in her lowest lows, he will be with her every step of the way. She was there to make an impact. Her legacy and impact will be left through her organization, Sacred Beginnings.

Sacred Beginnings is an organization that helps people who have gone through similar things Leslie has been through. Instead of running from her past Leslie decided to make a difference in the community she is in. She goes out into Grand Rapids at night and helps those who are being trafficked and helps them escape. She wants others to know that they are loved and not alone in this world. I admire that she reaches out to others who are lost in darkness, bringing them back into the light.

Leslie is selfless, brave, faithful, and hardworking. Even when the path she was on was hard and seemed impossible, she fought, she survived, she walked toward the light. She stepped out of her trauma and is making a difference. One Bible verse that makes me think of her is Ephesians 5:8: "For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light".

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I had the privilege to meet Leslie King. When my parents were about to sell our old vehicle, a friend from our church connected us to Sacred Beginnings. Our friend from church knows Leslie, and we were told by her that a lady in Grand Rapids by the name of Ms. Lane had recently broken free from trafficking. She had a baby, a new job, but didn't have a car. So, instead of selling our car, we gave it to Ms. Lane. By doing so I hope we gave her what she needed most: a spark of hope.

Upon talking to Leslie, she gave us a book about her autobiography *When Angels Fight*. Her story showed me that we can stand up for things that we know are wrong, take action, and stand up for what we believe is right in the eyes of our Savior.

Leslie King is a Michigan hero to me, showing me and teaching me that you don't have to be defined by your past, that you can take action and be brave. The spark can ignite a world of hope. With God, there is nothing you can't overcome.