

BIOGRAPHY

Carol Andersen, CEO

Carol Andersen is the CEO of Bloom, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing sanctuary and comprehensive care to heal, empower, and employ survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation. Bloom operates five homes in the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania, offering a continuum of care that includes emergency response, a two-year residential program, services for pregnant and parenting survivors, and independent living housing.

In 2016, Carol founded the Bloom program, opening a home in Bangor, Pennsylvania, to support women survivors. Following the merger of Truth for Women and Bloom in 2021, she became the CEO of the unified organization.

With a Bachelor of Science degree from Cairn University, Carol has dedicated over 15 years to working with women who have histories of sexual exploitation and violence. Her commitment to this cause was recognized in 2022 when she was named one of the Lehigh Valley Style Women of Influence.

Under Carol's leadership, Bloom has expanded its services to include direct-to-survivor outreach, community education, and prevention services, addressing the needs of male, child, and youth survivors as well.

The organization also operates social enterprises like the Bloom Creative Studio in Bangor, which leverages art as a healing tool and provides employment opportunities for survivors, and My Sister's Closet, a women's charity boutique that offers employment for survivors and supports Bloom's mission.

Carol's dedication to supporting survivors is evident in her advocacy and community involvement. She has emphasized the importance of healthcare providers in identifying and assisting trafficking victims, stating that they "may be one of the few professionals interacting with a victim while in captivity and, when trained, can play an important role in the victim's safe exit from a trafficking situation."

Through her leadership, Carol Andersen continues to make a significant impact in the fight against sex trafficking and exploitation, providing hope and healing to survivors in the community.