



**Sara\*, 14, escaped from human trafficking and returned home, where she and her family found the help they so desperately needed at Klingberg. Here is their story...**

Imagine being a girl, 14 years old. Life as a teenager is hard, and on top of that, your neighborhood isn't safe and you don't get along with your mom or your younger sister. You start sneaking out at night, just to get away. It isn't safe, but you don't care. Eventually, you run away from home altogether. It's your cousin who sells you into sex trafficking in New York City.

Or maybe you're a mom, trying to raise two girls on your own. You didn't grow up in a stable home and don't know how to create one for your children, but you're doing the best you can. And then your older daughter runs away.

Perhaps you are still in elementary school, and your big sister doesn't come home one night. You used to fight a lot, but at least she was always there. Now you're all alone, and you worry about your future.

**You start sneaking out at night... and it's your cousin who sells you into sex trafficking.**

**This is just one of the families that Klingberg is transforming.**

The 14-year-old, Sara, was able to escape from trafficking and make her way back home, where the family got connected with Klingberg Family Centers. When she came to us, Sara's dress and demeanor spoke of darkness and pain. She was safe, but recovery and restoration were still far away.

Starting with listening and seeking to understand, Klingberg's therapists have helped each member of the family learn healthier ways of communicating with each other, and together the family has begun to work through the painful and difficult issues that led to their dangerous situation. With help from Klingberg, they have made a plan to support one another and keep each other safe. Together, they are going through the long and difficult process of restoration, and it is changing their lives for the better.

Today, Sara is doing well in high school, looking forward to graduation and planning to attend college for elementary education. She no longer has reason to sneak out; instead, she has begun to believe that she is worthy of safety and a promising future. Her mom can see the progress and knows how to encourage her. Her younger sister is less anxious. The whole family is being transformed. Sara's life is no longer characterized by desperation, but by hopefulness.

**Sara and her whole family are being transformed.**

**Here at Klingberg, we know that trauma affects the whole family, but it is never too late to reverse the damage. Your gift will help us bring healing and restoration to people like Sara and her family through our programs helping those affected by trauma, abuse, neglect, and severe family issues.**



*\*Not her real name.*

