

# Advocacy Initiative for Dwelle Collaborative: An Occupational Therapy Program for Survivors of Human Trafficking



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 Community Site Mentor: Esther Suh, OT/L, Co-Founder

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Dwelle Collaborative is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Los Angeles, CA. They are the first OT-based program combating human trafficking since 2015. OT services are provided pro bono to women who have been in vulnerable situations and are ready to start a new life to "live + do well". Treatments include life and job skills training, mentorship, and health and wellness support to help them integrate into the community and lead successful, productive lives (Dwelle Collaborative, n.d.).



## IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Funding for sustainability and growth
- Time to develop evidence-based research and further program development
- Website/social media management

## STUDY PURPOSE

To increase funding, manage media, develop evidence-based research, and build strong relationships with community providers to expand and advocate for Dwelle as an OT provider and resource for trafficking survivors.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain, manage, and expand Dwelle's media outlooks.
2. Evaluate Dwelle's OT program's effectiveness on developing life and job skills for survivors of human trafficking.
3. Provide a sustainability plan for Dwelle's continued growth.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

- Survivors endure traumatic experiences that may lead to troubles with functional abilities, behaviors, self-identity, and occupational performance (National Human Trafficking Hotline, n.d.; Edgelow et al., 2019)
- Occupational marginalization, deprivation, imbalance, and alienation are experienced at every stage of the trafficking process contributing to physical, social, emotional, and psychological problems (George & Stanley, 2019).
- Insufficient understanding of OT as an applicable mental health care profession can be attributed to the lack of recognition in media outlets and minimal research in combating human trafficking (Walsh, 2018).
- A social enterprise is sustainable with a stable competitive advantage, a human resource management system, and human capital (Sadatsafavi & Walewski, 2013).

## METHODS

### Design

Pretest-posttest study

### Participants

Dwelle's executive director, Esther Suh

### Data Collection

Customized Satisfaction Survey using a 5-point Likert scale and in-person discussion

### Data Analysis

Quantitative and qualitative data

Satisfaction Survey

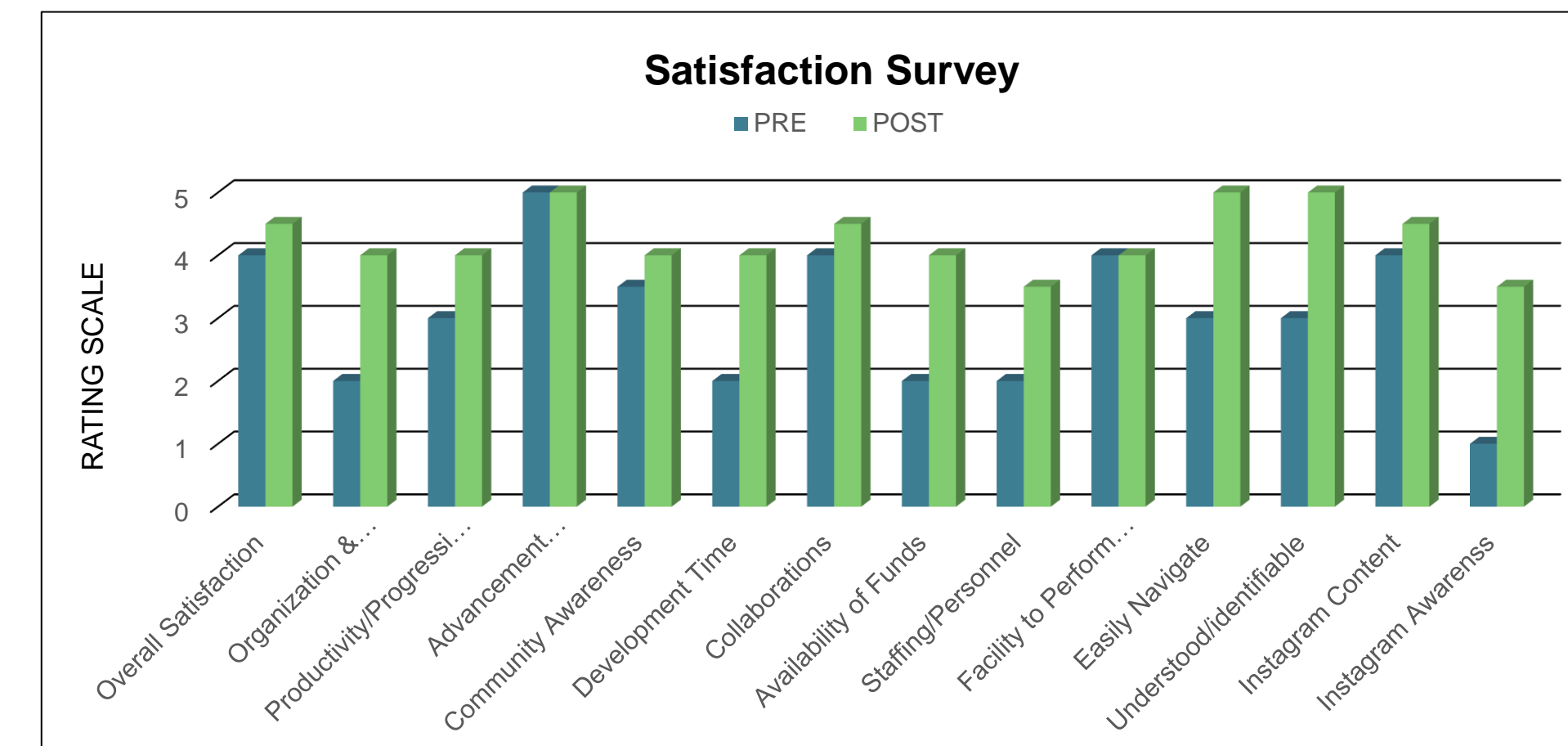
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This survey is intended to assist in improving and growing the organization. Please rate your level of satisfaction for each question as accurately as possible by selecting between 1 and 5 (1=extremely dissatisfied, 3 = extremely satisfied). If you do not understand a question, please answer to the best of your knowledge and leave a comment below.

	Extremely Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied
Program					
Overall satisfaction					
Organization and management					
Productivity/Progression rate					
Opportunities for advancement					
Community awareness					
Adequate time for Program Development					
Collaborative efforts with organizations and persons					
Resources					
Availability of funds/funding					
Staffing, Personnel					
Facility layout for adequate work					
Skills to be performed					
Media					
Ease to navigate					
Content is easily understood and identifiable					
Language content					
Instagram awareness					

Comments:

## OUTCOMES



- Overall satisfaction rated a 4.5/5 implying there is always room for growth
- 50% increase in program organization and arrangement, time for further development, funding, ease of navigation on website, and Instagram awareness.

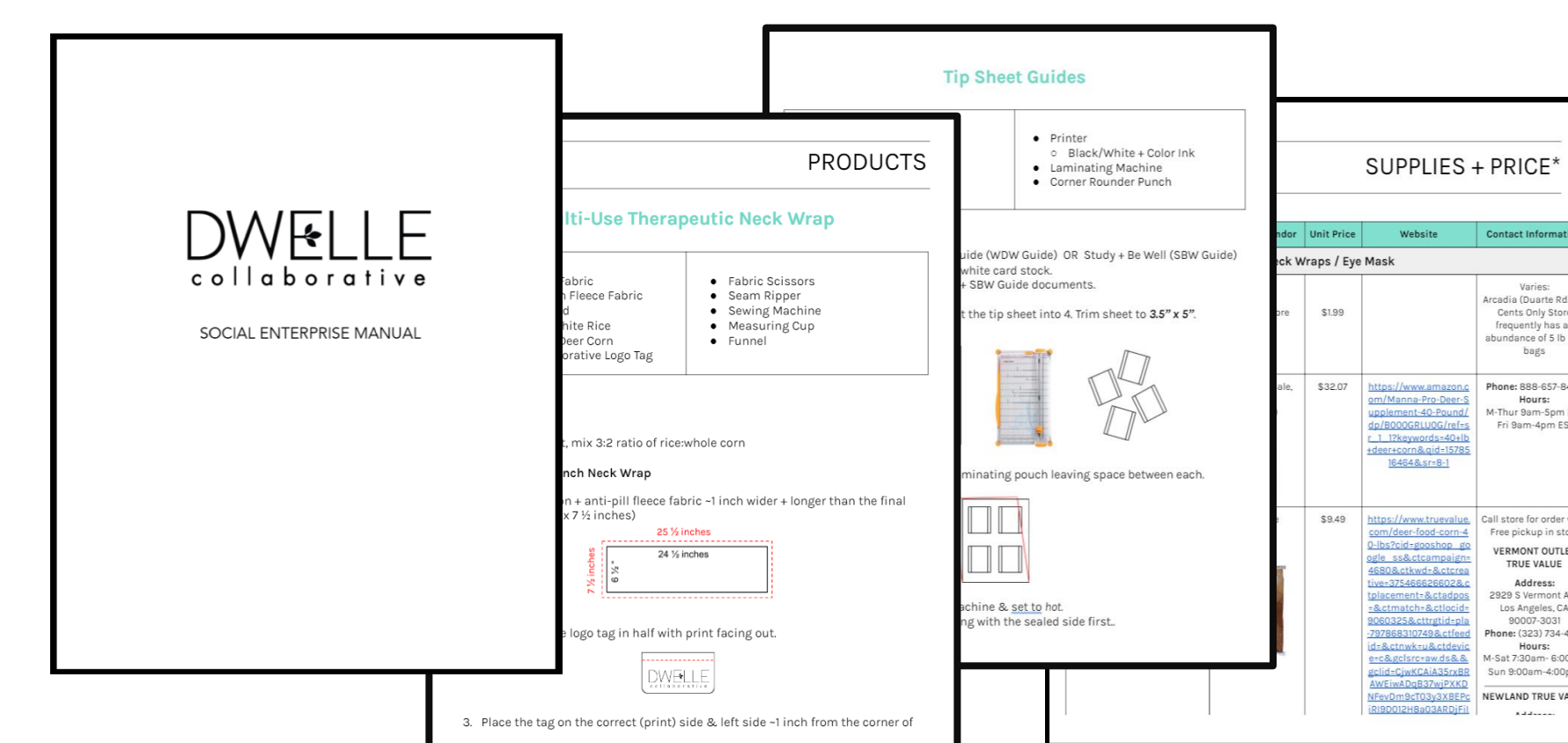
## SCHOLARLY DELIVERABLES

### Social Enterprise Products

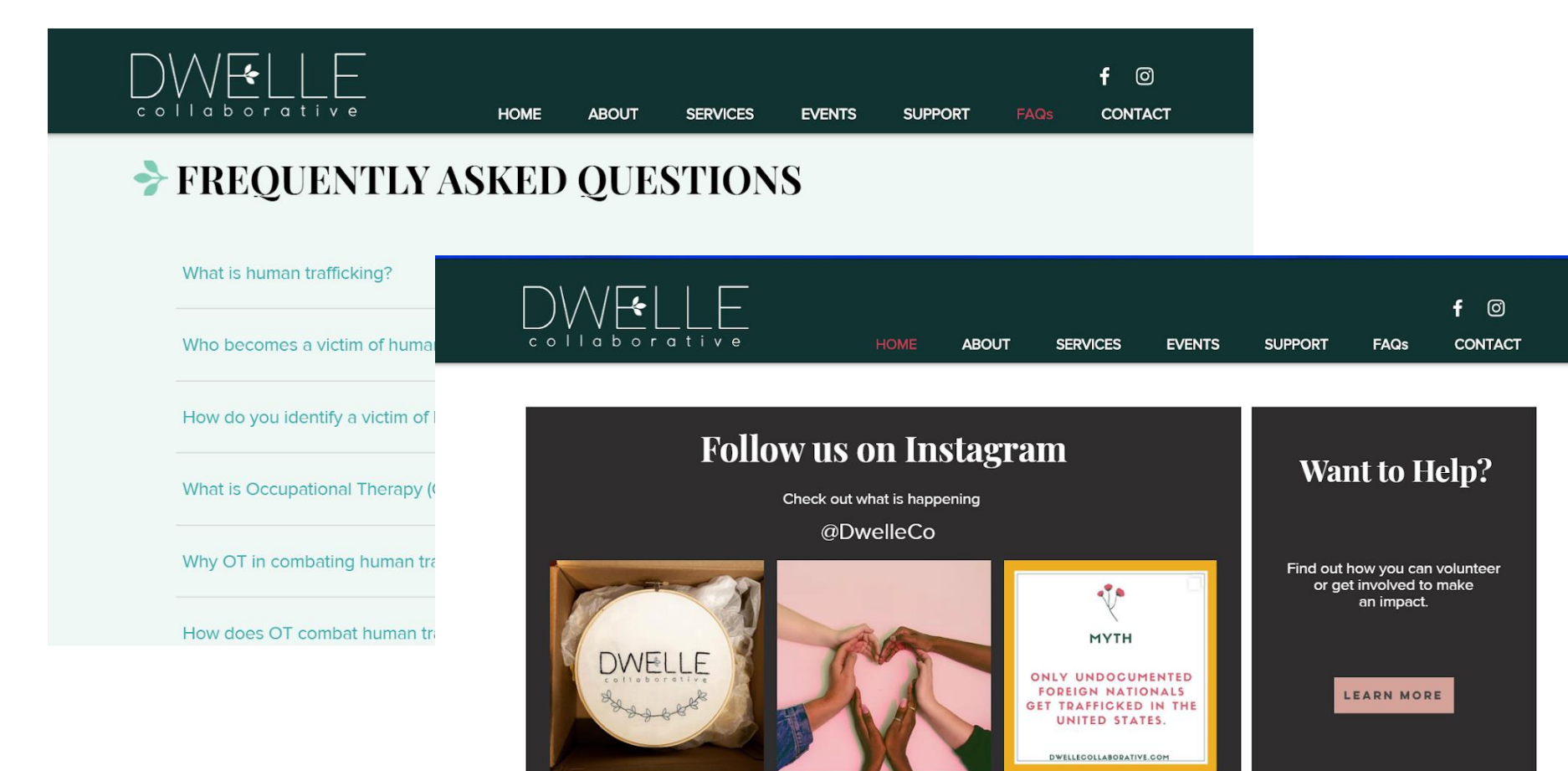
"Work + Do Well" Collection



### Social Enterprise Manual



### Website/Social Media Updates



## DISCUSSION

The OTD/S was able to advocate and raise awareness for Dwelle successfully. Esther was very satisfied with the initiative's outcomes.

Daily connections were established with many individuals and organizations through networking events and community meetings. Dwelle's website was modified and updated. It now includes a FAQs page with human trafficking, OT, and OTs role in combatting human trafficking facts. Increased awareness was seen on their Instagram page due to the content posted, hashtags, and rise in followers.

Dwelle's funding source was identified with the establishment of their social enterprise. The social enterprise is envisioned to provide job training, mentorship, and the skills required for employment to survivors. With survivors in mind, products were created to promote a healthy work life and wellness. A case study rough draft has been initiated to inform, educate, engage, and connect the community with the profession of OT and their role in mental health.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Launch Dwelle's online shop
- In-services in LA and surrounding counties
- Release student wellness collection
- Complete and submit preliminary case study for publication

## REFERENCES

Available upon request

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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