



**NORTH CAROLINA
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COMMISSION**

Maggie Brewer
CHAIR

Christine S. Long
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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BIOGRAPHY

Dawn Ferrer

Dawn Ferrer is the former Executive Director of *A Safe Place*, a non-profit in Wilmington, NC, that works with sex trafficking survivors and women who have been commercially sexually exploited. She learned about domestic sex trafficking in one of her graduate classes at UNCW and started volunteering at *A Safe Place* in January 2015. Following graduation, she was hired as their case manager, was promoted to Program Director in 2017 and Executive Director in 2021. Dawn decided to leave *A Safe Place* in October 2024 to allow for her professional growth, but her heart remains with these survivors.

Dawn's experience includes developing and managing programs offered to survivors, establishing community partnerships, and facilitating community awareness programs. She is a human trafficking trainer in the southeastern region of NC for Trillium Health Resources where she trains Crisis Intervention Teams. This includes law enforcement, EMS, 911 Operators, and other professionals to educate them on how to identify and help survivors using a trauma-informed, person-centered approach. She is also a Board member of the North Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking and is honored to represent them on the Human Trafficking Commission Board. These positions allow her to continue supporting survivors.



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Dawn's major accomplishments during her time at A Safe Place include developing the policies and procedures for their former 12 bed Emergency Shelter and helping to develop the new long-term residential program called The Farm. She also developed the Minor Prevention Program, **EmpoweredMe!**, which is a 10-week after-school program for middle school girls. Dawn is still hopeful to take this program on a national level that will also serve boys with support from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Boys and Girls Club. She takes an active role in combatting homelessness in her community and is on the Board of the Cape Fear Continuum of Care. Dawn has been interviewed by many including the local news, podcasts, and bloggers relating to anti-trafficking and her main focus is to educate the community on this "hidden in plain sight" crime. Her new consulting business, Together Against Trafficking, will allow her to continue this mission and to help non-profits develop trauma-informed and person-centered programs that serve survivors as well as prevention programs that will help keep our youth safe.

Dawn is proud of her two daughters who have grown into wonderful, confident women. She is hopeful to become a grandma one day! She enjoys walking, spending time at the beach with her dog Rusty, planting flowers, hosting her wine group which has over 400 members, and spending time with friends. Her compassion for survivors and her passion for the anti-human trafficking movement will sustain her until retirement calls!