**Volunteer Spotlight: Alexis “Lexi” Rubino**

This month, we’d like to thank our volunteer, Alexis “Lexi” Rubino, for her gifts of time and dedication to our mission at Bloom. In 2017, Alexis attended our Tasting for Truth fundraising event and heard former CEO Kim Checkeye share the “traumatic” story of what a survivor experienced during her time of being trafficked, and Alexis knew immediately that she wanted to get involved with our organization as a volunteer.

“I am on the steering committee for events we host each year to raise awareness and funds for the Bloom organization. I was truly impressed with the committee's hard work and spreading the word. The 2021 Kentucky Derby Event benefiting Bloom reached our goal of $100k. I also volunteer numerous hours to help with projects around the Heather House and spend time with the survivors.”

Alexis feels that her volunteer efforts not only benefit our individual survivors, but also have a far-reaching impact on our Lehigh Valley community. “A well-known benefit of volunteering with any organization is the impact you make on the community. This is by raising awareness and educating people of the community what Bloom is about and what we are doing to help the survivors. But, most importantly, doing what I do for Bloom lets the survivors know I am here for them, their community is here for them, and together we are here to help them with whatever they need, and help put an end to this horrific crime called sex trafficking.”

“Through Bloom, I have met so many wonderful people who are a part of the organization. I had the privilege to bond with the survivors as well as spend quality time with them (birthday parties, dinners, shopping trips). Sharing stories and my experience with Bloom allowed my close friends and family members to also step up and volunteer as well as provide important necessities.”

