As a young girl, Faria was very close with her family and adored her older brothers. When they were old enough, her brothers joined the Oromo Liberation Front, but the higher they rose in the ranks and the more successful they were in their positions, the more she and her family became targets for retribution by the ruling government.

And one night, the unthinkable happened. Faria was awoken by shouting and gunfire. When she ran outside she was captured and forced to watch her beloved parents and brothers be murdered, and her home burned down. She was just a teenager.

Her captors abandoned her to fend for herself. Terrified and alone, Faria fled to a refugee camp in Kenya where she thought she would be safe. But instead, she was forced into sex work, and contracted HIV. That young girl who once found so much joy playing with her brothers was now a ghost of her former self. To get away from the nightmares that haunted her dreams, she fled again, this time to seek asylum in Minnesota. But the trauma of the past she was so desperate to forget followed her.

Faria’s life was plagued by extreme sadness, PTSD, and Major Depression. She also was dealing with untreated HIV. Faria was desperate for help, and she found that help at CVT. Her past will always be part of her story, but Faria is no longer held captive to the memories of her trauma. She still has a long journey of healing ahead of her, but she’s not facing it alone anymore.

This year, CVT will help nearly 30,000 survivors and family members, like Faria, know that they are not alone in their pain. To offer healing, capacity development, and advocacy on such a large scale this year, it will take $26 million dollars.