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Former prostitutes share experiences with Shawcross



At times Arthur Shawcross was nice and other times he was the focus of nightmares that is what two former prostitutes have told a woman who helped them turn their lives around.

"There are two women who had interactions with the late Arthur Shawcross and have survived it," Jennifer Wolfley said.

Wolfley is the director of the Mary Magdaline Women's Outreach Center, and she has been counseling these two women for years. News 10NBC went with her to Lyell Avenue and met several of her clients.

The women who had relations with Shawcross are now off the streets, and they do not appear in this story. But Wolfley tells us both women had relations with Shawcross in the past on multiple occasions and at the time saw him as a friend.

"One client has shared with me that on numerous occasions, on the coldest night, on the streets he would come buy with mittens and gloves and befriend the women. He was never a stranger to the women on Lyell Avenue," Wolfley said.

Today the women lead very different lives, but Wolfley said the lifestyle they left some years ago still haunts them.

"These women suffer from P.T.S.D. (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). They have huge trust issues, nightmares prior to his death they were afraid perhaps he'd get out on another technicality and they were just petrified absolutely petrified," Wolfley said.

Wolfley told us both the women called her Tuesday when they heard about Shawcross's death, to talk about how lucky they are.

"They are reminded of their own mortality, the woulda,coulda,shouldas," Wolfley said. "It was a lot of 'my God that could've been me.' Right up there with other emotions 'thank God this monster is gone.'"

With the news of Shawcross' death, hopefully many of their fears will finally be put to rest. The women also told Wolfley that Shawcross was very personable and someone who also always wanted to be control of the situation.