

FREEDOM HOUSE OPENS SECOND SHELTER FOR HUMAN-TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS;

'The Nest' Is Set to Serve Minors in the San Francisco Bay Area

BURLINGAME, CALIF, January 15, 2014 – Freedom House, the leading provider of safe housing and long-term aftercare services for human-trafficking survivors in Northern California, today announced the opening of The Nest, its residential shelter for girls ages 12 to 17. Based in Santa Clara County, The Nest is one of the few shelters in the country exclusively dedicated to helping middle-school- and high-school-aged girls recover from the trauma they have endured while being held captive.

Since 2010, Freedom House has aided adult female survivors through The Monarch, its safe home and aftercare program in San Mateo County.

“The commercial sexual exploitation of children is pervasive in the United States, with an estimated 100,000 American-born minors trafficked annually and an additional 300,000 at risk,” said Jaida Im, Freedom House founder and executive director. “More than half the adult survivors with whom we have worked at The Monarch were trafficked or sexually abused starting when they were teenagers or younger. Freedom House is committed to taking action and breaking the cycle of abuse.”

Freedom House offers a holistic care program, including therapeutic counseling and individualized case management to address the unique needs of survivors. Homeschooling, life-skills courses and recreational activities are among the services that will be provided to minors. The Nest will accommodate six survivors and live-in staff.

To make a survivor referral to The Nest, please telephone 408.826.4436.

About Freedom House:

Located in the San Francisco Bay Area, Freedom House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to bring hope, restoration, and a new life to human-trafficking survivors by providing housing and long-term aftercare services. In August 2010, Freedom House launched The Monarch in San Mateo County, the first safe home and aftercare program of its kind in Northern California for adult female survivors of human trafficking. The Nest, its innovative residential shelter for girls aged 12 to 17, is located in Santa Clara County. Through its pioneering aftercare model, Freedom House is breaking the cycle of human exploitation and creating new futures for survivors of all ages. For more information about Freedom House, please visit www.FreedomHouseSF.org.