



[www.FreedomHouseSF.org](http://www.FreedomHouseSF.org)

## **FREEDOM HOUSE: A PLACE CALLED HOME** **Local Survivors Experience Love and Support**

Why do we believe in our mission to bring hope, restoration and a new life to survivors of human trafficking? It's because our faith is renewed each day as we witness miracles happen in the lives of the women and adolescent girls we serve. Many of our survivors have been rescued from cold streets, unclean motel rooms, bondage and servitude to now enjoy the warmth and tranquility of a peaceful environment in which to ponder their hope for a future. As you reflect on your blessings, please take a moment and see the holidays through the eyes of a former Freedom House program participant. Inspired by a true story, filmmaker Ray Lin and volunteers reenacted the experience to create the poignant video. This season, we offer an encore presentation of "What Does Home Mean to You?" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bu2XbnWVtmQ&noredirect=1>



## **HOLIDAY MATCHING GRANT CHALLENGE** **Help Raise Vital Funds for Survivor Services**

Over the holidays, double the impact of your charitable gift to Freedom House by making a donation during our Matching Grant Challenge. Every dollar instantly will be doubled by an anonymous group of kind supporters who have pledged up to \$30,000 in matching funds. Your contribution generates important funding for safe housing, food, clothing, counseling, individualized case management, education and employment opportunities for survivors who stay at The Monarch (San Mateo County) and The Nest (Santa Clara County). This annual fundraiser runs through January 17, allowing time for you to share your commitment to help survivors who want to become independent and self-sufficient. To contribute: [www.FreedomHouseSF.org/Donate](http://www.FreedomHouseSF.org/Donate)



### **There Are Many Ways to Give**

**Donate By Mail:** If you prefer to make a financial gift by mail, please send your check made payable to Freedom House at P.O. Box 2065, Burlingame, CA 94011.

**Donate Your Vehicle:** Freedom House welcomes your donations of cars, trucks, boats, RVs, jet skis, snowmobiles or motorcycles. Visit [www.DonationLine.com](http://www.DonationLine.com) to view the alphabetical charity listings, then select Freedom House as your preferred organization. DonationLine will arrange a free pick-up, no matter if the vehicle is running or not!

**Donate Gifts of Stock:** Instruct your broker or banker to transfer a stock gift to our Charles Schwab account by using the transfer information located at [www.FreedomHouseSF.org/Donate](http://www.FreedomHouseSF.org/Donate)

**Donate through AmazonSmile:** Shop online at AmazonSmile and help raise funds for the

survivors we serve. Log-in by using your existing Amazon account information, then scroll down to find your favorite charity. Freedom House is listed under its corporate name: TWBD, Inc. You'll receive the same bargains and benefits you appreciate at Amazon, while knowing that 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases will be donated. To shop: <https://smile.amazon.com>

**Donate via Employer Matching Programs:** Freedom House has been recognized to receive workplace giving, some matching dollar for dollar, from the following companies through their employee matching-grant programs: Apple, Blue Shield of California, Cisco, Dolby, Electronic Arts, Esurance, FICO, GAP, Genentech, Google, Nintendo, Oracle, Pfizer, Qualcomm, Sony Mobile Communications and Yahoo! If your company offers philanthropic support to non-profits, please recommend Freedom House as a future recipient.

## **SURVIVOR "WISH LISTS" COME TRUE**

The spirit of giving has captured the hearts and imagination of individuals, faith-based organizations and businesses that have joined together to provide the most joyful day at the two shelter homes. Case managers and counselors attentively listened as each survivor revealed her "wish list." The desired items were shared with supporters throughout the Bay Area who worked to fulfill every request. Clothing, music, jewelry, high-tech gadgets, and gift cards to favorite retail stores and websites were coveted presents. Irwin & Associates (pictured) created personal stockings for each survivor to hang near the decorated trees. Abundant Life Christian Fellowship, Berkeley Anti-Trafficking Coalition at Cal, BonJOY Box, Central Peninsula Church Women's Bible Study, Google co-workers, Lam Research, Palo Alto Vineyard Church, and a host of caring individuals generously donated to this year's holiday endeavor.



## **ADVOCATE VOLUNTEER TRAINING** **Saturday, February 6, 2016**

Due to demand, Freedom House is holding a special four-hour training class on Saturday, February 6, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., for those who primarily want to "table" at community events and share information about human trafficking. In May, the in-depth eight-hour advocate training session will be held, which also prepares volunteers to speak before civic organizations, businesses and college classes. The 40-hour shelter volunteer training program also will commence in May. To become an advocate in February, contact Tina Beauchamp (Tina@FreedomHouseSF.org) to receive an application and arrange for an interview.



## **SHELTER VOLUNTEER** **Elyse May**

Monarch shelter volunteer Elyse May, a 27-year-old working at Google, says her first encounter with survivors was on a volunteer trip to Nepal focused on finding tech solutions to combat human trafficking. When she returned to the Bay Area, though, she found that trafficking was a problem right here at home. While technology can empower women to build better futures for themselves, she believes, Freedom House has taught her the importance of human contact in changing individual lives. Her favorite experience as a volunteer, she says, was taking three Monarch women on an outing to Fort Funston. "Seeing the endless blue ocean and feeling the wind hitting their faces," she says, "the girls were safe, free, happy, and hopeful about the doors that Freedom House helped them open. I'm forever changed because of Freedom House, and thrilled that I've been able to make the women smile, forget about their past, and dream big about their futures."



## SHELTER VOLUNTEER

### Manon Hessels

A former social worker in the Netherlands, Manon Hessels has served as a shelter volunteer at The Monarch since October. Prior to moving to the Bay Area eight years ago with her husband and two daughters, Manon had worked at shelters for runaway teenagers and therapeutic programs for youth with ADHD, autism and social/emotional problems. Throughout her experiences, what really moved her was her job at a group home for teenagers who were unaccompanied refugees from war zones in their native countries. She learned that many of them were survivors of human trafficking. Early this year, Manon attended a showing of the documentary "In Plain Sight," and afterwards stopped by the Freedom House information table. She immediately knew that working with Freedom House was the opportunity for which she had been searching. "As in my previous work with the refugees," Manon says, "I feel greatly inspired by the resilience of the women at The Monarch." She adds, "Working at Freedom House for me unlocks a true feeling of being a part of the essence and meaning of life."



### About Freedom House:

Located in the San Francisco Bay Area, Freedom House is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (TWBD, Inc., Tax ID #27-0248325), with a mission to bring hope, restoration and a new life to survivors of human trafficking by providing housing and long-term aftercare services. In August 2010, Freedom House launched The Monarch, the first safe house and aftercare program of its kind in Northern California for adult female survivors. The Nest, which opened in 2014, is one of the few residential shelters in the country dedicated to helping girls ages 12 to 17 who are survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. Through its pioneering aftercare model, Freedom House is breaking the cycle of human exploitation and creating new futures for survivors. To learn how you can become involved in the fight against modern-day slavery, visit [www.FreedomHouseSF.org](http://www.FreedomHouseSF.org)

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