

**APPLY NOW FOR FALL VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

Before you begin to enjoy the summer months, please take a moment to consider how you personally can take steps to build awareness about human trafficking or directly engage with local survivors. Freedom House offers several opportunities for you to become a modern-day abolitionist and make a significant difference in the lives of local survivors. On **September 12th**, the semi-annual Freedom House training program begins for those who wish to become an effective advocate or work with the survivors who reside at the two Freedom House residential shelters: The Nest for adolescent girls and The Monarch for women.



**Advocate Volunteers** represent the Freedom House organization throughout the Bay Area as they discuss human-trafficking issues with civic and faith-based organizations, high school and college students and businesses. Advocates also staff information tables at community events, educating the public about the horrendous crime. Advocate candidates will attend an eight-hour training on September 12th. To learn more about the advocacy program and to receive an application, please send an email to Operations Director Tina Beauchamp at [Tina@FreedomHouseSF.org](mailto:Tina@FreedomHouseSF.org).

**Shelter Volunteers** provide the much-needed love, care and support to trafficking survivors at both shelters. Volunteers assist with family dinners, parties, arts-and-crafts, tutoring sessions, educational and recreational outings, and other fun activities after completing the **40-hour training**, which is being conducted in San Mateo County over the following days:

Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 17, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 24, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 26, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

To be considered for one of the limited Shelter Volunteer positions, applicants must submit a completed volunteer application packet no later than August 10th. Upon review by the Selection Committee, finalists will be invited for in-person interviews and to present a LiveScan background check. To request an application, please send an email to [Tina@FreedomHouseSF.org](mailto:Tina@FreedomHouseSF.org).

**FREEDOM HOUSE SHELTER UPDATES**

**The Monarch** recently celebrated two major achievements by its residents: one survivor made the Dean's List with a straight A average, while another was offered a part-time job before entering college in the fall. Several church partners enhanced the shelter environment during the spring. Menlo Park Presbyterian Church provided exterior painting, storage cabinets, earthquake-proof shelving and new curtains and towels. Peninsula Covenant Church painted the interior rooms and updated the living room with beautiful new furniture. Central Peninsula Church built a large barbeque pit in the backyard and even furnished the charcoal briquettes, lighter fluid and delicious tri-tip steaks for the kick-off BBQ. Freedom House is grateful for their support!



**The Nest** provides a nurturing environment for girls 12 to 17 who have endured commercial sexual exploitation. Last month, Nest residents attended a speech by Nick Vujicic, the Australian Christian evangelist and motivational speaker born with tetra-amelia syndrome, a rare disorder characterized by the absence of all four limbs. The girls were deeply moved by his empowering message, which focused on living with a disability, hope and finding meaning in life. During MPPC's Compassion Weekend, Nest residents had a wish fulfilled as team members planted a vegetable garden at the shelter. The girls enthusiastically are watching the vines as they grow! The church also updated the shelter with a new freezer and fans for the warm summer temperatures.

## SHELTER VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Jaclyn Blackwell

Jaclyn comments about her experiences after completing the spring volunteer training course: "I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with the ladies at Freedom House. The reality that human trafficking takes place right under our noses, struck a chord and motivated me to help both in awareness and working with the survivors. My heart is drawn to Freedom House because of their mission to provide a safe place for woman to heal and grow. I have loved my time with the ladies through family dinners, hiking and sharing stories. I look forward to many more outings and shared experiences!"



## SHELTER VOLUNTEER

### Sarah Laughlin

Sarah is an English teacher who grew up in Kentucky, spent a few years in Ireland, then India. She found her way to California nearly three years ago, and after her season of moving and transition, she was eager to find ways to invest in her new setting. "I had heard of human trafficking just as I was finishing high school," Sarah says. "For a few years, I did a bit of research and shared what I was learning with friends, but always wondered how I could help in a more tangible way. When I moved to San Jose, I discovered Freedom House through a Google search. I was so happy to find a program that offered training and the opportunity to be a part of the process of healing for survivors. Working with the residents and staff at The Monarch and The Nest has been a valuable way for me to connect with my new community."



## FREEDOM HOUSE IN THE COMMUNITY

Join your fellow abolitionists at the "**Break Free Run**" in Sonoma on Saturday morning, June 27, at Depot Park. Race-day registration begins at 6:55 a.m., with NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Michael McDowell (#95) on hand to greet participants. The fun 5K run/walk begins at 8:00 a.m. For event information and registration, please visit <http://www.breakfree.org/sonoma>

### **About Freedom House:**

Located in the San Francisco Bay Area, Freedom House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (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 of human trafficking. The Nest, located in Santa Clara County, is one of the few residential shelters in the country dedicated to helping adolescent girls who have been sexually exploited for commercial purposes. Through its pioneering aftercare model, Freedom House is breaking the cycle of exploitation and creating new futures for human-trafficking survivors.

Visit [www.FreedomHouseSF.org](http://www.FreedomHouseSF.org) for further information.