

## **"STRIKE OUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING"** **Jeremy Affeldt to Highlight Annual Gala**

On Saturday evening, April 30, Bay Area abolitionists will come together to raise vital funds for local survivors of human trafficking by attending the Freedom House 7th Annual Gala at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City. Jeremy Affeldt, the recently retired relief pitcher with the San Francisco Giants, is the Gala's keynote speaker.

"Jeremy Affeldt is a leading sports figure in the fight against modern-day slavery. His pitching abilities helped the San Francisco Giants capture three World Series titles, and his voice continues to bring national attention to the plight of survivors of human trafficking. We are honored to team up with Jeremy at the upcoming Freedom House Gala," comments Jaida Im, Freedom House founder and executive director.

Highlighting the evening will be the personal testimony of a recent survivor-graduate of The Monarch shelter and aftercare program. Gala tickets are \$150 per person and \$1,500 for a table of ten. Student tickets are \$75 each. Sponsorship packages also are available.

For tickets, visit [www.FreedomHouseSF.org/Events](http://www.FreedomHouseSF.org/Events). If you prefer to purchase by mail, kindly send your check made payable to Freedom House at PO Box 2065, Burlingame, CA 94011. If you have any questions, please contact [Gala@FreedomHouseSF.org](mailto:Gala@FreedomHouseSF.org).

### **Charity Auction Donations Are Being Sought**

Support the Gala's silent auction by contributing gift baskets, specialty items, recreational experiences, or gift certificates. It's a great way to promote your business or service. For auction details, email [Gala@FreedomHouseSF.org](mailto:Gala@FreedomHouseSF.org).

### **Volunteer to Help at Gala**

Join the fun and volunteer to assist with the auction check-out and Fund-A-Need during the Gala festivities. Freedom House offers a special \$75 volunteer dinner ticket to those who contribute their time during the Gala evening. To learn more about Gala volunteer opportunities, please contact [Katelyn@FreedomHouseSF.org](mailto:Katelyn@FreedomHouseSF.org).

## **SHELTER UPDATES**

The adolescent girls at **The Nest** in Santa Clara County are focused on their education while receiving therapeutic counseling and special mentoring. At **The Monarch** in San Mateo County, a new survivor arrived who was a 10-year victim of domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. She quickly is bonding with her fellow survivors. She is involved in English-as-a-Second-Language classes and her T-Visa application. In addition to working on their personal goals, many survivors are finding time to volunteer at various community organization to help those who are not as fortunate. We thank our Freedom House shelter volunteers, who are positive role models to the many survivors we serve!





## SISTERHOOD SOIRÉE BENEFIT FOR SURVIVORS

**Sunday, March 14, 1:00 p.m., Treasure Island**

Enjoy a beautiful day at the SFGG Rugby Clubhouse on Treasure Island as you participate in partner-style workouts and a goal-setting workshop, while contributing to Freedom House. Wine, water and healthy treats will be served. The Sisterhood Soiree is sponsored by JuliaWellsness.com, The Worldwide Women's Circle and Rachel Felt Fitness. The suggested donation is \$50. Text 'Sisterhood' to 78263 to purchase tickets. For details, contact [JuliaWellsness@gmail.com](mailto:JuliaWellsness@gmail.com)



## USE YOUR FEET FOR FREEDOM 5K

**Saturday, April 16, in Palo Alto**

Take a step toward ending human trafficking by participating in the upcoming Use Your Feet for Freedom 5k run/walk, being held on Saturday, April 16, at 8:00 a.m. Charming Mitchell Park in Palo Alto is the setting for the event, which is perfect for runners or families to enjoy. Palo Alto Vineyard Church is hosting its third 5k fundraiser, benefiting Freedom House. Early registration fee is \$35. After April 2, it becomes \$40. To register: <http://tinyurl.com/zt24cvl>



## MEET OUR GALA'S CO-HOSTS

**Leslie Peay, Shelter and Advocate Volunteer**

A Freedom House volunteer since 2012, Leslie works professionally in recreation and cultural arts programming. After first learning of Freedom House at the 2011 Freedom Summit, her deep spiritual conviction, compassion and desire grew to help the women at the Monarch on their healing journey as a shelter volunteer. A certified fitness trainer, dancer, and musician, she offers mind/body exercise as well as aromatherapy, self-esteem and goal-setting activities for the survivors, saying she loves the "butterfly" moments when she hears the women share their dreams. As an advocate, Leslie serves at tabling events, speaks to groups about human trafficking and leads advocacy training sessions. A life coach in training, Leslie is a member of the African-American Community Health Advisory Committee in San Mateo. Leslie's favorite scripture: *He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 2 Corin 1:4 (NLT)* Leslie once again will be joining Matt Anderson as co-host at the Gala, being held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City on April 30.



**Matt Anderson, Shelter and Advocate Volunteer**

After earning a BA in philosophy and art history, Matt changed gears by pursuing a career as a Coast Guard officer. He sailed on long-range patrols in the Bering Sea and the North Pacific, where he first encountered human trafficking first-hand on a factory fishing trawler on the high seas. Later, while

earning a master's degree in strategic intelligence, he wrote a thesis on smuggling issues in North Africa and the Mediterranean, including human-trafficking trends. He felt drawn to help survivors, and has enjoyed the chance to work with them one-on-one. A volunteer at Freedom House since 2012, Matt takes survivors on hiking outings, helps with maintenance projects, and uses his pickup truck to move furniture to and from both shelters. Matt also speaks to audiences to build awareness about human-trafficking issues. Although still a Coast Guard reservist, his civilian career is as a Department of Homeland Security intelligence officer, where his work focuses on terrorism and international crime, including human trafficking. Matt lives in San Francisco with his wife, Jesseca.



### **UPCOMING ADVOCATE AND SHELTER VOLUNTEER TRAINING:**

Do you want to personally get involved with the anti-human-trafficking movement? Would you like to learn more about the issues or directly work with local survivors? Freedom House is offering its next volunteer training course, beginning on **Saturday, May 7**, in San Mateo County. Advocate trainees will participate in an eight-hour training, while those who want to become shelter volunteers, will need to complete the required 40-hour class to become certified. To learn more about the volunteer program and how to receive an application, please email [Tina@FreedomHouseSF.org](mailto:Tina@FreedomHouseSF.org).

### **FREEDOM HOUSE IN THE COMMUNITY:**

March 20: Sisterhood Soiree, SFGG Rugby Clubhouse, Treasure Island  
March 24: Westmont College student group, San Francisco  
April 1: Silicon Valley Prayer Breakfast, Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara  
April 3: Palo Alto Vineyard Church, Palo Alto  
April 7: Stand for Freedom, Santa Clara University  
April 10: "Foster Together," South Bay Church, San Jose  
April 16: Walk Against Rape, San Francisco  
April 16: "Use Your Feet for Freedom," Palo Alto

To request a Freedom House advocate to speak before your organization, school or business, please contact [Katelyn@FreedomHouseSF.org](mailto:Katelyn@FreedomHouseSF.org)

### **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 direct services. In August 2010, Freedom House launched the Monarch, the first "safe house" and long-term aftercare program of its kind in Northern California for adult female survivors of human trafficking. It assists U.S.-born and international survivors of unpaid labor, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. The Nest, which opened in 2014, 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 human exploitation and creating new futures for survivors. For more information about Freedom House, please visit [www.FreedomHouseSF.org](http://www.FreedomHouseSF.org).