



www.FreedomHouseSF.org

HOLIDAY MATCHING GRANT CHALLENGE Trafficking Survivors Count on Your Support

The season of giving has begun! As we count our blessings, Freedom House is grateful for your commitment to bring hope, restoration and a new life to human-trafficking survivors who live in our own backyard. Through your generous donations, healthy food, warm clothing, safe housing and educational opportunities are being provided to survivors who live at The Monarch for women in San Mateo County and The Nest for girls age 12 to 17 in Santa Clara County. We count on your financial support to meet their needs! We ask for your participation in this year's matching grant challenge! **Your donations instantly will be doubled up to the \$50,000 total** as we work toward the goal of receiving these vital matching grant funds. Between now and January 17, please contribute a monthly or one-time gift through our secure online payment system at www.FreedomHouseSF.org/Donate or mail your check to P.O. Box 2065, Burlingame, CA 94011. Freedom House is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit, which allows your gifts to be tax-deductible. During the holidays, please share with your friends and family how human trafficking exists in the United States and ways they can help build awareness. Together, we can make a difference in the fight against modern-day slavery...one human being at a time!



RESIDENTIAL SHELTER UPDATES:

The Nest: During the month of November, three new girls who had been rescued from the commercial sexual exploitation of children safely arrived at The Nest. The case-management team is working around the clock to provide therapeutic counseling, individualized care, educational resources and tutoring, and encouragement to all of the young residents at the six-bed home.



The Monarch: Survivors are successfully pursuing their goals to lead productive, independent lives while participating in The Monarch's long-term aftercare program. Residents currently are working part-time jobs, attending school or volunteering in the community. Thanksgiving dinner with all of the trimmings is being provided to the survivors by the Central Peninsula Church.

FREEDOM HOUSE IN THE COMMUNITY

Learn more about human-trafficking issues and how to become a Freedom House representative by attending the next volunteer training session, set for **Saturday, March 21**. Please contact Tina@FreedomHouseSF.org for details about the advocate and shelter volunteer training programs and to receive an application. Advocate volunteers educate the public about human trafficking and how Freedom House is providing safe housing and aftercare services to survivors of unpaid labor, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Freedom House shelter volunteers

work with survivors who reside at our two shelters. In December, our advocates are participating in many community events, including:
Dec. 2: Westmont High School student assembly, Campbell
Dec. 4: Crown Plaza Hotel Holiday Party, Foster City
Dec. 4: "Promote HER Business" meeting, Cupertino
Dec. 7: Los Gatos United Methodist Church Annual Christmas Faire
Dec. 11: Regional High School Model United Nations Conference, San Francisco



ADVOCATE VOLUNTEER

Judith Hamilton

After participating in a 30-week class on Social Justice in 2011, Judith says a quote by abolitionist William Wilberforce was embedded in her mind: "You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say you did not know." Her quest to learn more about the global injustice of human trafficking and how pervasive it was in California inspired Judith to attend the Global Forum and Freedom Summit conferences. She was introduced to Freedom House and decided to become an advocate to raise awareness and take a stand against this criminal social injustice. Judith reports, "The journey has been rewarding, surprising and challenging. Many advocacy presentations with local groups and two trips to Cambodia with a mission team from Los Altos Unified Methodist Church have indeed awakened people to the need to be concerned about this massive problem." We appreciate Judith's dedicated service to Freedom House and her commitment to being a strong advocate in the anti-human-trafficking movement.



SHELTER VOLUNTEER

Natalie Kwan

While in high school and later at Urbana, a large Christian conference for college students, Natalie learned about human trafficking through International Justice Mission, cementing a passion to speak out against violence against women and the objectification and "commodification" of their bodies. Natalie explored human-trafficking issues in law school, researching its causes, consequences and federal criminal laws that still are relatively new. After practicing law in the private sector, Natalie felt a renewed direction for her life, similar to that of founder Jaida Im. Natalie says, "law was lucrative, but left me empty." She recently stopped practicing law and is helping Freedom House and other non-profits in the hope to do something more meaningful and fulfilling in her life. Natalie summarizes, "I am here because I know everyone has a voice that is worthy of being heard and the ability to love and be loved -- sometimes we just need to help one another discover these qualities within ourselves."



SHELTER VOLUNTEER

Christine Chen

A few years ago, Christine watched the film "Lilya 4-Ever," a Swedish-Dane drama that examines the issue of sexual slavery through the experience of a young trafficked girl. The story greatly moved her, but Christine did not know how to contribute to any kind of solution at the time. The

issue of human trafficking became more prominent in the news, and again, she looked for ways to help. After a friend put her in touch with Freedom House, Christine instantly jumped at the opportunity to volunteer and directly connect with survivors. "I love attending Tuesday Night Dinner with the residents, where volunteers bring food and everyone sits down for a family-style meal," comments Christine. "I also enjoy working one-on-one, tutoring the residents and witnessing the various ways in which they improve and develop themselves." Christine is one of recent volunteer training graduates who already is making a significant impact in the lives of human-trafficking survivors.



About Freedom House:

Located in the San Francisco Bay Area, Freedom House is an independent 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 home and aftercare program of its kind in Northern California for adult female survivors. The Nest, located in Santa Clara County, is one of the few residential shelters in the country dedicated to helping girls, ages 12 to 17, who are survivors of the commercial sexual exploitation of children. 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, visit www.FreedomHouseSF.org

For more information:
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