‘LOVE DOES’ SPIRIT TRANSFORMS 2015 GALA

Freedom House Founder and Executive Director Jaida Im and keynote speaker Bob Goff, author of “Love Does” (pictured), offered inspirational messages during the 6th annual Gala at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City on April 25th. Jaida provided an enlightening update on Freedom House’s progress over the past year, while Mr. Goff, a respected attorney and international activist, brought both laughter and tears from the audience with stories from his illustrious career as he expressed his passion to help others. Supervisory Special Agent Doug Hunt accepted the Guardian Award on behalf of the FBI San Francisco Division for its leadership in fighting human trafficking and crimes against children. Highlighting the event was the emotional testimony of survivor “CP,” a 2015 graduate of The Monarch aftercare program, who received a standing ovation for her courage to share her personal journey. Mark your calendars now to attend the Freedom House 7th Annual Gala and Charity Auction on Saturday evening, April 30, 2016.

VOLUNTEERS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT GALA

More than 100 volunteers came together to plan and create a stellar evening. Freedom House advocate Matt Anderson (pictured) returned as Master of Ceremonies, and Pastor Filipe Santos, South Bay Church, and broadcaster Ted Williams shared their personal support of the shelter programs. Special appreciation goes to the committee leads: Jen Baker (Sponsors), Flora Baik (Raffle), Tina Beauchamp and Leah Cameron (Auctions), Christian Cablay (AV), Don Chin and Karl Im (Videos), Annie Foyle (Registration), Young Hsu (Volunteers), Miranda Hudson (Decorations), Sarah Lee Chow (Fund-A-Need), Crystal Moscoso (Graphic Designs), Lindsey Smedley (Visual Displays), Mark Wang (Facebook promotional campaign) and Karen Yu (Survivor Jewelry). Gala photography was provided by Royce Dove and his team at Blurred Line Photography, including Freedom House shelter volunteer Rachel Morman.

FREEDOM HOUSE SHELTER UPDATES

The Monarch, based in San Mateo County, currently is supporting international and U.S.-born survivors of domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Monarch residents are pursuing their goals to become independent, self-sufficient women by studying for final exams at community college, learning to speak English and enrolling in vocational training. The popular survivor-made jewelry program continues to provide survivors with funds for savings accounts and their future life beyond Freedom House.

The Nest, located in Santa Clara County, has expanded its reach to serve adolescent survivors who have been rescued throughout Northern California. To help support the physical and emotional growth of each resident as she learns new forms of self-expression and ways to let go of physical and emotional trauma, The Nest recently received funding from Los Altos United Methodist Church for year-long YMCA membership for the girls to utilize the local facilities, including gym equipment and swimming pool, and engage in group exercise classes ranging from aerobics to Zumba.

SHELTER VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Lynne Wong

Lynne, the mother of two young children, joined Freedom House in 2013 as a shelter volunteer. She says she was drawn to the cause by the frequency of news stories about human trafficking, and her heart broke for the victims. “In the past, I always acted as a monetary donor to a cause but never passionately and physically stood for it. This time, I could not stand on the sidelines any longer. Instead, I wanted to be out there to show the survivors they are cared for. God answered my prayer, as a friend told me about Freedom House.” With the support of her husband and her in-laws, Lynne had the time free to take the shelter volunteer training. She especially enjoys Tuesday Night Dinner at The Monarch, which she attends once a month. “I love to bring food to share with the residents and other volunteers, and enjoy hearing stories and jokes over the dining room table. After
dinner, we sometimes do Bible study or pray together, or simply watch a show and hang out.”
Lynne says she also is proud to share with others the challenges a human-trafficking survivor faces and to raise awareness in her own community about the issue.

**ADVOCATE AND SHELTER VOLUNTEER**
Stefanie Chow

Stefanie moved to the Bay Area in September 2014 to be closer to her Sacramento-based parents while running her corporate training business. She specializes in working with teams of non-millennial managers and their millennial employees to boost engagement in the workplace. Stefanie learned about human trafficking through Not For Sale and reached out to Freedom House. She believes people should not be defined by their past or by labels that others place on them, and her passion is equipping individuals with the life skills they need to become the people they want to be. To Stefanie, the most rewarding part about spending time with the women at The Monarch is seeing the small glimpses of happiness in their eyes about their present and their confidence about their future. In addition to serving as a volunteer, Stefanie likes to watch Broadway musicals, go indoor rock climbing and perform stand-up comedy.

**FREEDOM HOUSE IN THE COMMUNITY**
Join Freedom House at the "Sweet Justice Run" on Sunday, May 31, at 2:00 p.m. at the Linda Vista Park in Cupertino, which is being organized by Agnes Chan and Jonathan Kimura of Great Exchange Covenant Church. Freedom House representative Leslie Peay will be speaking about our shelter and aftercare programs before the half-mile run/walk fundraiser begins. All attendees will be treated to sweet ice cream during this family-friendly event benefiting Freedom House and BAATC. For event details: [www.tiny.cc/sweetjusticerun](http://www.tiny.cc/sweetjusticerun)

**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.