

CUPERTINO MAYOR SUPPORTS HUMAN-TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

Cupertino Mayor Rod Sinks recently met with Jaida Im, Freedom House founder and executive director, at City Hall to present an iPad for use at the residential shelters. "It is important to empower our survivors with the latest technology to further educate them as they move forward with their lives," Mayor Sinks commented. "We are grateful for the work Freedom House does and are delighted to highlight and bring to the attention of people one of the organizations that is working hard to bring comfort and shelter to the individuals who need it most."

Freedom House operates two shelter and aftercare programs in the San Francisco Bay Area: The Nest for girls, ages 12 to 17, in Santa Clara County, and The Monarch for women in San Mateo County. To contribute to the well-being of local survivors, visit www.FreedomHouseSF.org/donate.



SEPTEMBER IS BACK-TO-SCHOOL MONTH

Program participants at The Monarch eagerly returned to college and adult education classes this month to continue their studies. They are setting the bar quite high, with top test scores and academic honors. All residents at The Nest are attending public school and receiving personalized tutoring from shelter volunteers. A new class of advocate volunteers completed their training and already are staffing information tables at community functions. Shelter volunteer trainees have reached the halfway mark in their 40-hour course, and soon will be directly working with survivors at both The Nest and The Monarch. We salute our survivors and volunteers on their efforts to make the upcoming academic year a tremendous success.



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR Katelyn Do

Please welcome Katelyn Do, who is in charge of the organization's advocacy outreach projects and shelter volunteer coordination. A Cal grad and a long-time Bay Area resident, Katelyn worked in higher education as a financial aid counselor and an elementary school special ed teacher prior to joining Freedom House. She is passionate about teaching, social justice and travel. In 2013, Katelyn attended the benefit concert for The Nest and was stirred into action. "Human trafficking has been on my heart since I was a sophomore in college, and I've always wanted to be more involved in fighting against such heart-wrenching exploitation." In her personal life, Katelyn enjoys serving at her church, being in nature, and watching prank shows/videos like "The Carbonara Effect," a magic, hidden-camera show. "It's truly

amazing how easily we humans get tricked or come up with ways to baffle the brain," she comments. Katelyn is a self-described bookworm, who likes to dream about amazing adventures in far-away places. Since joining the staff, Katelyn has been busy lining up education and awareness-building opportunities. To invite Freedom House to participate in your business, civic or faith-based events, please contact Katelyn@FreedomHouseSF.org.



Freedom House in the Community:

* September 26: "3Strands Break Free Run" in Folsom. Freedom House is honored to be one of the beneficiaries of this race to end human trafficking. To learn more about the 5K, 10K, 9.8 Miler or the Kid's Fun Run, please visit <https://register.racepartner.com/BreakFreeRunFolsom>

* September 27: Peninsula Covenant Church, Redwood City, "Ministry Fair"

* October 18: Sunnyvale Community Church, "Missions Faire"

* October 24: United Nations Association Film Festival, Stanford University

* October 29: Soroptimist International of Los Gatos-Saratoga "Awakening Women's Potential" Luncheon, Villa Ragusa, Campbell

SHELTER VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Karen Yu

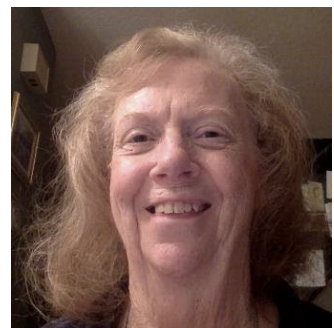
Karen began her involvement with fighting human trafficking after she learned from a National Prayer Day event that there are women who are slaves in the massage parlors in San Francisco in the 21st century. The injustice outraged her and her search for a way to fight trafficking led her to Freedom House, where she has been a volunteer since its beginning. Having attended the organization's first volunteer training program in 2010, Karen has been a continuous presence at The Monarch shelter. Karen enjoys being involved with the survivors and staff because she says it provides her with "the opportunity to bring the women God's physical, emotional and spiritual freedom." She also enables the survivors to have a bit of financial freedom by teaching them how to make jewelry and seeing the creative pieces offered at advocacy events. Freedom House is grateful for the hundreds of hours of dedicated service Karen has generously donated to The Monarch during the past five years.



SHELTER VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Nola Hackett

Nola first became aware of human trafficking when Gary Haugen spoke at her church (Menlo Park Presbyterian Church) and learned more about this heinous crime and Freedom House in a church focus group. During her 2014 shelter volunteer training, she remembers feeling "petrified" and unqualified to be a volunteer. "I thought, these women need a 24/7 counselor! I don't have anything to offer them." After having met the survivors, Nola realized she needn't be afraid. "The women are delightful, committed to their healing, and take advantage of the opportunities that Freedom House provides." She has transported survivors to appointments, baked with them, attended family dinners at The Monarch, and participated in outings. Using her Spanish-language abilities, Nola often assists staff by providing translation services. A retired teacher, having taught kindergarten in California and adults in Barcelona, Spain, Nola serves as an instrumental member of The Nest education committee. She inspires survivors to value their education. "I got to teach at the school where I attended K-6th grade in Redwood City, and have my former 6th grade teacher be my principal -- both being life-long dreams come true." Nola recently has been sidelined by some medical issues, but is eager to "get back in the game" and be with survivors again soon. Her contributions to Freedom House are invaluable.



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 home 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. Please visit www.FreedomHouseSF.org for further information.