

Spotlight...

In the spotlight section, we would like to share stories of residents and exciting news about their progress. Read below for exciting news from one resident.

Mary (fictional name of resident) was deceived into coming to the United States. When she arrived, she was treated as a slave and controlled through physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

She escaped through the help of a good samaritan.

Her exploiter continued to search for her, even calling her family to find her new location.

She went into hiding and was referred to us.

When she arrived at Freedom House, she needed medical attention. After her physical condition improved, she began seeing a counselor. She was having nightmares and was not able to sleep well.

After spending a few weeks at Freedom House, she stopped having nightmares. She said, "I am happy here."

She started smiling and engaging with others. She went horseback riding and hiking with Freedom House volunteers. She became active with a local church. Now she is enrolled in classes to improve her English and vocational skills. She is happy and excited about her future.

Celebrating Freedom During the Anti-Trafficking Awareness Month



Freedom House hosted a community art project called "Images of Freedom" at Dolores Park Church on Saturday, January 15.

This event resulted in the creation of a mural. The mural is a collaborative art piece by survivors of human trafficking and those engaged in the fight against human trafficking. Contributors painted images that represented freedom. Images included butterflies, birds, hearts, safe house, sky, helping hands, flowers, rainbow and encouraging words.

Freedom House residents said that freedom "is a place where there is peace, love, family and hope. Not just a house but [what] I can call my home."

The mural was displayed at the Freedom Summit in Fremont on January 21-22.

Participating in the Freedom Summit

Freedom House was thrilled to be a part of Freedom Summit 2011. The Freedom Summit was organized by the Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition and Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in Fremont.

The Freedom Summit had over 1700 attendees! We were able to talk to a few hundred at the Freedom House table at the expo and during the breakout session we co-led on aftercare services.

We were excited to meet so many people ready to engage in the fight against human trafficking.





Enjoying Lunar New Year

Happy Lunar New Year! Freedom House sure had fun celebrating the lunar new year at the shelter home.

We had a potluck hot pot dinner, gifts and a rousing game of mahjong.

Here is what one volunteer had to say after spending time at the house: "THANK YOU for a wonderful evening of hot pot and mahjong! The residents seemed to have had a great time, and it was wonderful to hear laughter fill the room." Thanks to everyone who participated.

Needs of the House

If you have any of the items below, please email: info@freedom-house.us.com

- Sewing machine
- Car (in good condition)
- Transportation vouchers
- Lucky's or Safeway grocery cards
- Papertowels and toilet paper
- Dispensable hand soap
- Large cutting board
- Arts and crafts

Prayer Requests

Freedom House asks supporters to pray for the organization. Specific prayers can be found at:

www.freedom-house.us.com/pray.php

Learn about New Volunteer and Employment Opportunities

We are accepting applications for shelter volunteers.

The shelter volunteer training will be held on April 16th and 30th and May 7th, 14th and 21st.

If you are interested in participating, please email info@freedom-house.us.com.

Check out the Volunteer Opportunities on the website for more information. Check under the About Us tab: http://www.freedom-house.us.com/employment_volunteer.php.



Join us on Facebook!

Learn about news, events and how to get involved with Freedom House on our Facebook Page.

Freedom House daily updates the Facebook Page, so become a fan and join our cause!

See our page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Freedom-House/100717059938>

Attend Freedom House's 2nd Annual Benefit Dinner—Featuring a Talk by a Survivor and Music by Rachael Lampa

Freedom House is excited to announce that this year's annual benefit dinner will include dinner, a silent auction, a speech by a Human Trafficking Survivor and music by Rachael Lampa. The event will be hosted at 5:30pm at Korean Central Presbyterian Church, 50 Northridge Dr., Daly City, CA 94015. All proceeds will support the shelter home.

The menu will include braised pork, a variety of sides and a vegetarian option.

We have already received a number of exciting silent auction items that will be available for the evening including tickets for the Oakland A's game, Disneyland tickets, rock-climbing gym tickets, gift cards, violin lessons, photography session, gift certificate for a facial and more.

Join us for this exciting night:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1124261697>

Sharing on Valentine's Day



On Valentine's Day, we had another reason to throw a party at the home. Many volunteers sent valentines cards to the residents, other volunteers provided chocolate and treats. And the rest of the house cooked a big fondue banquet complete with cheese and chocolate fondue.

Each of the residents and volunteers shared how Valentine's Day is celebrated in their country.

Participants discussed the historical origins of the Valentine Saints, their martyrdom and the modern message of Valentine's Day that focuses on love and companionship.



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