



## **FREEDOM HOUSE TO OPEN ‘THE NEST’ FOR MINORS IN 2013**

*Freedom House Expands Its Leadership in Providing Long-Term Aftercare Services to Human-Trafficking Survivors of All Ages*

**BURLINGAME, CALIF., November 1, 2012** -- Freedom House, the first organization to provide safe housing and long-term aftercare to adult female survivors of human trafficking in Northern California, today announced plans to expand its services by creating The Nest, a residential shelter for girls ages 12 to 17. Set to open in Santa Clara County in late 2013, The Nest will be one of the few shelters in the country dedicated exclusively to minors who have survived human trafficking.

Jaida Im, founder and executive director of Freedom House, will guide The Nest endeavor while continuing to oversee The Monarch, the non-profit's home for women in San Mateo County, and to serve as an advocate for the rights of human-trafficking survivors. Cheryl Hock, The Nest co-founder and director of partnerships at Freedom House, will prepare The Nest for occupancy and lead the capital campaign for the new shelter.

“The Nest extends the depth of our commitment to take action and meet the challenges facing human-trafficking survivors of all ages through the creation of a safe home and enriching environment for minors,” said Jaida Im. “After opening The Monarch in 2010, we quickly recognized this critical need, as few comprehensive solutions are available in the Bay Area.”

“Freedom House is the aftercare role model in Northern California and the perfect provider to address the needs of middle and high school-aged trafficking survivors who need longer-term care in a family-style setting,” comments Cheryl Hock. “Law enforcement, community partners and faith-based groups already are helping us to identify ways we can work together to begin the process of restoration for these young survivors.”

The shelter location is being renovated to create living quarters for six residents and live-in staff. Once opened, The Nest will offer professional counseling, case management, academic and life-skills education, and recreational activities designed to allow these survivors to recapture their interrupted youth.

### **About Freedom House**

Located in the San Francisco Bay Area, Freedom House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization 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 in Northern California for adult female survivors of human trafficking. The Nest, its innovative residential shelter for minors, is scheduled to open in late 2013. Through its pioneering aftercare model, Freedom House is breaking the cycle of human exploitation and creating new futures for survivors of all ages. For more information about Freedom House, please visit [www.FreedomHouseSF.org](http://www.FreedomHouseSF.org).