HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee honored Jaida Im with the 2013 Modern Day Abolitionist Award for her outstanding work in the field of victim assistance and protection. The San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking sponsors the annual award, which was presented during opening ceremonies for Human Trafficking Awareness Month at City Hall. Jaida also will receive recognition from the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women later this month.

FREEDOM SUMMIT 2013 (Jan. 25 - 26): The Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition's biennial event will motivate, educate and activate those in attendance towards deeper engagement in the abolitionist movement. During the conference, Jaida will be a guest speaker, and Freedom House will conduct a breakout session entitled: Changing Lives – One Survivor at a Time. For registration information, visit http://www.freedom-summit.org/2013/registration

HAPPY HOUR AT DEAR MOM SF: Freedom House is hosting an informal gathering at the popular Dear Mom SF night spot in the Mission District on Thursday, January 31, 6 - 9 p.m. Freedom House advocates Leah Cameron and Matt Anderson are organizing the event. To learn more, please click on our Facebook events page: https://www.facebook.com/events/116273878546225

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION
Next Training Begins on March 9th

Pro Bono Service Provider: Dr. Wayne W. Lee, DDS, FICOI, has served the residents at The Monarch by providing general dentistry, including oral surgery, endodontics and cosmetic dentistry, from his offices on Geary Boulevard in San Francisco. Dr. Lee takes time to listen to each of his patients' needs and caters his treatment plans to handle individual issues. His cultural sensitivity and trauma-informed awareness about the plight of human-trafficking survivors has made them feel welcome and secure in his care. His office staff warmly greets our survivors and discreetly manages their patient files. Dr. Lee's outgoing personality and excellent communications skills, in addition to his ability to speak several languages, have made the "trip to the dentist" a rewarding experience. We applaud his deep commitment to helping survivors restore their dignity and rebuild their lives.

Shelter Volunteers: Elsyre Muljono and Missy Laux are irreplaceable aides at The Monarch, participating in Tuesday Fellowship Dinners and spending extra time with new residents, even on holidays and on Christmas Day. Elsyre often serves as a translator and a life-skills coach when she isn't taking a resident to see the latest exhibit at the De Young Museum. Missy has deepened her commitment by reaching out to churches which are not acquainted with human-trafficking issues and how Freedom House is meeting the needs of survivors here in the Bay Area.

Freedom House Advocate: Judith Hamilton represents Freedom House in the South Bay. Due to her efforts as co-leader with Carol Damonte of the Los Altos United Methodist Church Human Trafficking Advocacy Group, Judith was instrumental in having Freedom House named as one of the recipients of LAUMC's Christmas Eve Offering to Advent Conspiracy.

Training: Applications are being accepted to participate in the March Advocacy and Shelter Volunteer Training programs. The joint orientation session is being held on Saturday, March 9, at the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church Café, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our advocates support outreach and development programs for The Monarch and The Nest throughout the Bay Area. To begin your rewarding journey as an advocate or shelter volunteer, please contact Tina Beauchamp at Tina@FreedomHouseSF.org
FREEDOM HOUSE 4TH ANNUAL GALA
Tickets Are Now on Sale

Buy your tickets today to attend the 4th Annual Freedom House Gala on Saturday evening, May 4, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Foster City. Take advantage of the early-bird discount pricing on individual tickets and tables of 10, saving you money between now and March 15. Gala sponsorship opportunities also are available. Francis Chan, pastor and best-selling author, will be the keynote speaker. Freedom House survivors will share their testimonies and success stories in person and via video.

This year's Gala will benefit both The Monarch, our home for adult female survivors in San Mateo County and The Nest, our upcoming shelter for girls ages 12 to 17 in Santa Clara County. Tickets may be purchased at http://freedomhouse2013.eventbrite.com

THE FREEDOM HOUSE BLOG IS HERE
Sarah Cho, AmeriCorps VISTA Member and Freedom House Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

How can we act if we do not know? This blog is an attempt to explore the issues beneath the issues, the far-reaching implications and the various responses to the world's fastest-growing criminal enterprise.

Sarah’s fresh perspective is shared regularly at http://freedomhousesf.blogspot.com

FREE TO LAUGH: LAUGH TO FREE
Saturday, March 2, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Bridges Community Church, Los Altos

Join us for a night of laughter at the first annual Bay Area comedy fundraiser to eradicate human trafficking, led by comedians Kenn Kington, Leland Klassen and Dana Daniels. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit Freedom House and New Day for Children. Click here to purchase tickets online: http://www.connectbcc.org/f2l

HOLIDAY GIVING CAMPAIGN EXCEEDED $100,000

The final numbers have been tallied, the results showing that the 2012 Holiday Giving Campaign surpassed all expectations, with more than $100,000 being raised. The anonymous $30,000 Matching Grant Challenge kicked off the campaign with much excitement, encouraging online donations and checks to be contributed by individuals, businesses, civic organizations and church groups.

We are deeply grateful to every Freedom House supporter who made a personal financial commitment, told a friend or family member about ways they can help survivors, or raised awareness at their workplace about human-trafficking issues in the Bay Area. Thank you for your efforts!

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, please visit www.FreedomHouseSF.org