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## Freedom House Newsletter July 2014

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Wed, Jul 30, 2014 at 12:18 PM



## Newsletter - July 2014

[www.FreedomHouseSF.org](http://www.FreedomHouseSF.org)

### CONGRESSWOMAN JACKIE SPEIER VISITS THE MONARCH, ENCOURAGING SURVIVORS

Survivors who reside at The Monarch, the Freedom House shelter and aftercare program for women in San Mateo County, were delighted to welcome Congresswoman Jackie Speier into their home during a recent visit. She spent two hours at the "safe house," listening to the survivors share their individual stories and their efforts to create new lives for themselves. The Congresswoman discussed with the residents their current educational and vocational programs, employment and plans to pursue careers in such fields as nursing, retail and cosmetology. During the private meeting, Rep. Speier inspired the residents to move beyond their trauma by offering insight into her own personal journey, surviving the Jonestown massacre after being shot five times and later becoming a widow at an early age. Monarch residents also experienced having their voices heard, as Rep. Speier asked for their ideas on how government can better serve survivors. As Jaida Im, Freedom House founder, commented afterwards, "Congresswoman Jackie Speier is a true leader in the anti-human-trafficking movement. It is a tremendous honor to have her spend her valuable time making a positive impact on our residents."



### THE NEST IS ACCEPTING RESIDENTS

It's official. The Nest has passed all requirements set forth by the California Department of Social Services and the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, receiving a Group Home Rate Classification Level 12 (RCL-12) for a licensed group home facility. The Nest earned the rating based on its three program components: child care and supervision, social work activities and mental health treatment services. The therapeutic environment specifically is designed to meet the needs of

victims of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, making The Nest one of the few group homes in the country for CSEC youth. Residents are offered the care, education and recreational activities they need to rebuild their lives and recapture their stolen childhood. Your generous support has made The Nest a vital resource for girls, age 12 to 17, in Northern California.



### **"SWING FOR FREEDOM" SET FOR OCT. 10TH** **Los Lagos Golf Course, San Jose, 8:30 a.m.**

Help raise money for The Nest by spending the day playing golf at the beautiful Los Lagos Golf Course. You're guaranteed to have an enjoyable experience, as Jim Coles, a popular PGA teaching professional, will be on the course throughout the event, providing video golf lessons. Breakfast, lunch and a buffet dinner also are included. If you own a set of golf clubs and want to help Freedom House provide aftercare services to the young residents at The Nest, then you're exactly who we are looking for to join us on Friday, October 10, at "Swing for Freedom." For details, visit <http://www.freedomhousesf.org/events>. To sign up to play or learn more about this unique golf event, please contact [Golf@FreedomHouseSF.org](mailto:Golf@FreedomHouseSF.org)



### **VOLUNTEER TRAINING STARTS SEPT. 6TH** **Shelter Volunteer Applications Due Aug. 8th** **Advocate Volunteer Applications Due Aug. 29th**

Have you considered becoming a modern-day abolitionist? Would you like to directly provide love and support to the survivors who reside at The Monarch for women or The Nest for girls? If your answer is YES, now is the time to obtain a volunteer application and submit it before the approaching deadlines. Shelter Volunteers undergo a background check and interview process before they are selected to attend the 40-hour training course, which begins on Saturday, September 6, in the South Bay. Freedom House also has openings for those supporters who would like to become Advocate Volunteers and discuss human-trafficking issues with civic organizations, businesses, faith-based groups and college students. For volunteer information, please contact [Tina@FreedomHouseSF.org](mailto:Tina@FreedomHouseSF.org)



### **PRO-BONO SERVICE PROVIDERS** **Dr, Christopher Colgin and Sandi Rocco**

This dynamic couple heard about Freedom House through their church, Open Door, as a guest speaker talked about human trafficking and a home for survivors called Freedom House. When the speaker mentioned ways to help, Sandi was on board! She immediately volunteered by coaching residents in self-esteem, conflict resolution and communications. Sandi told her husband that they could do more and soon thereafter, Dr. Colgin began contributing his chiropractic services to the Freedom House residents who were in desperate need of adjustments. Located in Foster City, Colgin Chiropractic has been providing trafficking survivors



with pain-relieving therapies and treatments, enhancing the quality of their lives.

## **SHELTER VOLUNTEER**

### **Shadia Savo**

Shadia is a frequent volunteer at The Monarch, helping residents and staff with numerous projects. She has worked in a variety of fields - from investigating police officers to working as a residential counselor in the foster care system for youth with severe behavioral disorders. Shadia currently is a telephone operator at Children's Hospital in Oakland, a grad student in creative writing at SFSU, and the editor-in-chief of the literary journal Fourteen Hills. She loves origami, tap, and randomly breaking out in dance and song at not-so-appropriate times, like when she is teaching a class of undergraduate students.



## **ADVOCATE VOLUNTEER**

### **Tes Bansag**

Human-rights activist Tes Bansag is working to save the planet and the people on it. She comments, "Every day we toil and live in a bubble, forgetting and oblivious to the fact that there are real issues to face, like the underground world of human trafficking. It affects innocent lives not only in the Bay Area but all over the globe." Tes heard about Freedom House when attending a screening of the "Nefarious" film at Venture Christian Church. Since becoming an advocate, Tes has covered multiple awareness-building events, including Empowered at WestGate Church and the Yelp Customer Appreciation Day. In addition to Freedom House, Tes devotes her time to service in soup kitchens and community beautification projects. She currently is studying the culinary arts, with the hope of owning a restaurant and soup kitchens in the future.



## **CORRECTION:**

It has come to our attention that the article about AmazonSmile, which appeared in the May-June newsletter, contained an inaccurate statement. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Freedom House (TWBD, Inc.) and other organizations, not 5%. We sincerely regret the error and thank you for selecting TWBD, Inc. as your favorite charity as you shop AmazonSmile.

## **About Freedom House:**

Located in the San Francisco Bay Area, Freedom House is an independent 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. The Nest, located in Santa Clara County, is one of the few residential shelters in the country dedicated to helping girls ages 12 to 17. Through its pioneering aftercare model, Freedom House is breaking the cycle of human exploitation and creating new futures for survivors. To learn how you can become involved, visit [www.FreedomHouseSF.org](http://www.FreedomHouseSF.org)

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