



JCAST Chicago is a Proud Partner of Selah Freedom

Selah Freedom is excited to announce that they will be welcoming survivors of sex trafficking home for the holidays. For many young women, this will be their first holiday season experiencing safety, healing and love. This nonprofit organization is meeting the vital need for housing for this population, as there are no residential programs specifically for 18+ survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation in Chicago. 75% of survivors in their program do not return to the streets.

Selah Freedom is headquartered in Florida, where, with five years of proven success, they have established a two-phase/two-campus model for their life-changing Residential Program. They will be opening doors to their first campus this month and have recently been gifted a second home to open in the near future. One home is designed as an entry point for women, an Assessment Home, where they can "Selah" (a Hebrew word for "pause, rest, and reflect"), and decide if they are ready to commit to this life-changing program. The second home is long-term and provides residents with trauma therapy, counseling, life skills, a personalized education plan, nutrition, medical and legal aid, mentoring, and more.

JCAST Chicago sponsored a meditation room with a generous grant from the Richard Driehaus Foundation. Members of the Steering Committee were integral in preparing this zen space for the residents to pause, rest, and reflect. If you are interested in learning more about Selah Freedom, visit their [website](#) or contact [Jacqueline Babb](#) for information about our partnership and how to volunteer.

Don't Miss Women Hold Up Half the Sky

Running through January 22, 2017 at the Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, *Women Hold Up Half the Sky* identifies one of the central moral challenges of the 21st century - full equality for the world's women. It is inspired by the book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, by Pulitzer-prize winning authors, Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Like the bestselling book, the exhibition features ordinary women who have accomplished extraordinary things. It challenges visitors to open their eyes, minds, hearts, and most of all, to take action to improve women and girls' lives locally and worldwide. NCJW Chicago North Shore and JCAST Chicago are community partners of the exhibit. [Click here](#) for more information.



Support JCAST Chicago

[Click here](#) to donate to JCAST to help subsidize the cost of Dignity Bags or our other projects. Thank you for your support.

Steering Committee

JCAST Chicago is governed by a Steering Committee of dedicated individuals. If you would be interested in serving on the steering committee or one of our Action Teams, email info@jcastchicago.org.

Steering Committee:

Ronna Ash, Hadassah
Susan Block, Hadassah
Cathy Carmody, NCJW
Donna Fishman, NCJW, JCAST SC Co-Chair
Beth Gordon, Hakafa, NCJW
Donna Gutman, NCJW, ICJW, CEASE Network
Taal Hasak-Lowy, AJWS
Sara Kalish, NCJW
Betsy Lazerow, JCFS, JCARES
Carole Levine, NCJW
Rae Luskin, NCJW
Sherry Petlin, NCJW
Bonnie Ribet, NCJW
Susan Rifas, JUF, JWF, JCAST SC Co-Chair
Heather Ross, NCJW, Hakafa
Mara Ruff, JUF
Stacy Saef, NCJW
Deborah Zions, NCJW, SHALVA

Jacqueline Babb, Staff
Melissa Prober, Staff

JCAST Chicago January Blog

I am one of 500 attendees at a national nonprofit management

conference for students and educators. Days into stale coffee, too-cold rooms, and information beyond my saturation point, my world of being a professor and my world of being a sex-trafficking advocate collided.

The keynote speaker declared that slavery exists around us. Participants looked around bewildered, humbled. Certainly, our country has moved beyond forcing people into labor. Certainly not.

As students learned more about sex trafficking in the keynote address, eyes widened and students shifted uncomfortably in their seats. I relived my own experience learning about this modern form of slavery.

[Click here](#) for the full blog post:

Upcoming Events

Every Person Has a Voice: Exposing, Examining, and Eradicating Human Trafficking

January 23, 2017, 3:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago

This program will provide an in-depth look at issues, concerns and remedies aimed to address the exploitation of individuals through human trafficking both domestically and globally. Panelists and speakers will discuss what trafficking is, provide current research and trends concerning trafficking, and describe how ending demand is the key to preventing the further exploitation and abuse of individuals through sex trafficking. [Click here](#) to register.

Every Person Has a Voice is presented in connection with the Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section 2017 Human Trafficking Awareness Week. Other programs include:
CAASE Know Your Rights Training
January 24; 12:00-1:30 p.m.
A Path Appears, Episode One: Sex Trafficking in the USA
January 25; 12:00-1:30 p.m.
A Spotlight on Child Trafficking in Chicago
January 27; 12:00-1:00 p.m.

[Click here](#) for more information on these programs.

The Sexual Trafficking of Humans in the U.S.

February 8, 2017 from 11:50 a.m.-1:50 p.m. (Please bring your lunch)
DePaul Center Room 8005: 1 E. Jackson, Chicago

Please join JLJS and The Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago for a thought-provoking CLE program about the sexual trafficking of humans in the U.S. JCAST Chicago will share their knowledge of the facts and IL and federal laws regarding sex trafficking and offer a call to action to lend your expertise, passion for social justice, and time to help end demand for paid sex and support survivors of sex trafficking.

[Click here](#) for more information on this program.

War Wounds: The Role of International Criminal Justice in Rebuilding the Rule of Law

February 3, 2017 from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



Featured Organization

Rockford Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

We are an organization that will work to change our community's perception and definition of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation is defined as someone, through the use of coercion, force or manipulation benefits financially from the sexual sale of another person. A pimp or a handler of the victims of prostitution and a strip club manager that benefits from dancers working and offering themselves for sale are considered traffickers. Local lingerie stores that do not really sell lingerie but offer sexual services are simply modern day brothels. Sexual exploitation is a crime. There are victims. RAASE, Inc. wants to change the community's perception of the crimes, protect those victims of sexual exploitation, and hold the violators accountable.

For more information, visit <http://raase.net/>.



Take Action!

Here are some things you can do today to take action against Sex Trafficking:

* [Like our Facebook Page](#)

* [Follow us on Twitter](#)

* Sign up for Action Alerts
[Visit our website](#) to keep up-to-date with the issues most relevant to you.
[Sign up](#) for JCAST Chicago, NCJW or Sex Trafficking Action Alerts today!

Following armed conflict, political strife, and natural disasters, nations are faced with the challenge of rebuilding. This Symposium is designed to facilitate discussion about some of the important issues facing nations during this process. Panelists will address national and cultural identity in the international criminal justice system and how culture influences notions of justice. Experts will also discuss how the international community should respond when UN peacekeepers commit crimes against civilians, as well as the current stand-off between the ICC and the African Union.

[Click here](#) for more information on this program.

Sexual Healing: Addressing the Sexual Issues of Abuse Survivors and Their Partners

January 31, 2017 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Temple Beth Israel: 3601 Dempster Street, Skokie

Sexual abuse and sexual assault often have a profound impact on the sexuality of survivors and of their partners. Many survivors find healing through therapy and other means, yet challenging relationships with sex often go unaddressed. Bringing together elements from the fields of sex therapy and trauma treatment, we will look at how PTSD may show up in sexual relationships and support clinicians to directly address these sexual impacts. The training will also include: preparing the client to work on sexual issues, applicable principles from trauma treatment, a focused, three-tier assessment, and intervention concepts and tools. Sponsored by JCARES, \$20 fee.

[Click here](#) for more information on this program.

Updates and Information

JCAST Chicago and NCJW Chicago North Shore have joined 36 other local organizations of The Partnership for a Safer Lake County.

[The Partnership for a Safer Lake County](#) is a community of organizations and individuals committed to ending violence in Lake County. Through public awareness, coordination of services, and advocacy, the Partnership will combat violence of all kinds including child abuse, elder abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, LGBTQ crimes, and domestic violence. It is something that must be done, and cannot be done working alone.

JCAST Chicago is honored to be a 2017 grant recipient from the Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.

The [Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago \(JWF\)](#) transforms the lives of individual Jewish women and girls through grantmaking and advocacy to further social change and strengthen families and communities. JWF is a leading force

*** Send a Letter**

Send a letter calling on local leaders and law enforcement to enforce laws and end demand. [Visit our website](#) to print out constructions and a sample letter.

*** Hang a Flyer**

Victims may visit bus stations, grocery stores, currency exchanges, and gas stations. Hang a poster featuring the hotline for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, and help them escape to safety! [Visit our website](#) for more information and to print flyers.

*** Write a Letter to the Editor**

Write a letter to the editor when you learn publicly about arrests of perpetrators of sex trafficking. Commending the media, the police departments involved, and local authorities keeps sex trafficking in the news and encourages more enforcement. [Visit our website](#) for a sample letter to the editor.



Resources

Books:

Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery by Siddharth Kara

Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World where Girls are not for Sale by Rachel Lloyd

The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men Who Buy it by Victor Malarek

The Natashas: Inside the Global Sex Trade by Victor Malarek

Women Hold up Half the Sky: Turing Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Sheryl Wudunn and Nicholas Kristof

Podcasts:

IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast to End Human Trafficking Each week, the IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast features a an inspiring speaker who may educate you in your work to end human

committed to a vision of a safe, healthy, and inclusive world for Jewish women and girls. Pushing the agenda beyond social service, JWF employs a proven model for advancing systemic change. Since inception, JWF has awarded over \$3.5 million in grants to 153 projects in Chicago, Israel, and all over the world. We invest our philanthropic dollars in the security, safety, and overall potential of Jewish women and girls, thereby advancing their quality of life and that of their families and communities.

Our grant is intended to achieve the following goals:

- Build a successful Jewish community coalition against sex trafficking in Metro Chicago.
- Increase awareness and knowledge among the Jewish community about sex trafficking and the role Jews can play in preventing it.
- Increase engagement of the Jewish community in advocacy actions for state and federal public
- Influence policies that end demand and provide services to teen and adult female victims
- Increase engagement of the Jewish community in services related to victims of sex trafficking.

JCAST Chicago plans to achieve these objectives through meaningful volunteer opportunities for the Jewish community to get involved with advocacy and direct service. We also plan to continue our wide-scale education efforts in the Jewish and secular communities.

trafficking around the globe. [Click here](#) for a link to the website.

Websites:

[Polaris Project](#)
[National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#)
[URI North America](#)
[Heartland Alliance](#)
[STOP-IT Initiative Against Human Trafficking](#)
[American Jewish World Service](#)
[Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation](#)
[Selah Freedom](#)
[National Domestic Workers Alliance](#)

TAKE ACTION

Toiletry and Gift Card Donations Needed Year-round!

Donation Drop off locations:

Encore & More: 1107 Central Ave, Wilmette
Hadassah Thrift Shop, 405 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield
Hadassah Office, 60 Revere Dr #800, Northbrook
Temple Shalom, 3480 N Lake Shore Dr, Chicago

If you or your organization would consider organizing a collection drive or a packing program, please contact Beth Gordon bbgordon1@gmail.com or Donna Fishman at donna@jcastchicago.org.

Street Dignity Bag Packing List:

These items are needed in small, travel sizes. One of each item will be packed in a gallon ziploc "street survival" bag. These items may be packed in ziploc or other small tote bag, or donated in bulk. (You might even Ask your local businesses if they have items to donate and share this list.)

toothbrush and toothpaste (* ask your dentist!)
hand sanitizer
hand lotion
granola or power bar
pack of tissues
Gallon Ziploc Bags
\$5 McDonald's Gift Cards

Prevention Bag Packing List:

The Dreamcatcher Foundation regularly visits girls living in at-

risk communities, including teen-aged single mothers. These items may be packed in a tote bag and donated in bulk.

shampoo
liquid body soap
dove soap
deodorant
lotion or moisturizer
perfumed body spray
Gift or tote bags

* Bulk items, hotel toiletries and gift cards to McDonalds (\$5), Target, Dollar Store, CVS or Walgreens (any amount) are always welcome*

JCAST Chicago on the Move

JCAST Chicago has been busy giving presentations across the Chicago Metropolitan area, for Jewish and secular groups. Please help JCAST secure speaking "gigs" at Jewish organizations. Contact Donna at info@jcastchicago.org with names and contacts at synagogues, chavurot, and other Jewish organizations.

Sex Trafficking in the News

More and more our news feeds are filled with stories about sex trafficking - some positive and some negative. Here are a few article links that may be of interest.

- [Chicago Man Charged in Killing of Teenage Girl He Met Online](#)
- [New Charges Against Backpage CEO](#)
- [Five Harmful Myths About Human Trafficking](#)
- [Human Trafficking Requires Acknowledgement to Combat](#)
- [A New Front Against Domestic Abuse: The Hairstylist's Chair](#)
- [Not the Same Story](#)
- [Suburban Family Shares Their Story on Sex Trafficking in Hopes of Warning Others](#)
- [Marian Hatcher of Cook County Sheriff's Office Receives Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
- [Backpage.com Removes Adult Ads Hours Before Senate Hearing](#)
- [Uber Driver Saves 16 Year Old Girl From Sex Trafficking](#)

Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago
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