



JCAST Chicago May Blog

Selah Freedom

Selah Freedom is a national organization that offers prevention, outreach and safe housing to survivors of sex trafficking. Selah is a Hebrew word which means to pause, rest and reflect. Here in the Chicago area, Selah Freedom provides a safe residence for survivors to discover who they are, set goals and re-launch their lives.

We met at a Selah training meeting that all the volunteers are required to attend. We really connected in our passions to help these women and to make a direct impact on their lives. Our first volunteer opportunity was in April, where we planned a meal and worked with the residents to prepare it. They were so excited and grateful. They embraced us and we embraced them. We so enjoyed sitting around the table and sharing the meal that we had all prepared together. It felt like we had an immediate connection with them. Next time we will bring more new and unusual cooking experiences with us.

We are looking forward to further developing our relationship with these women and discovering other ways to help them realize their life goals. We are grateful to NCJW and JCAST for introducing us to this very worthwhile organization where we can interact with the people we are supporting.

Cheryl Susman
Joan Zahnle

We welcome Cheryl and Joan to the JCAST Chicago Steering Committee

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

Upcoming Events*

Selah Freedom Volunteer Connect Meeting

When: Wednesday, July 12 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Where: Willow Creek North Shore (4th and 5th Grade Room)
2200 Shermer Rd. Glenview

About This Event:

This meeting gives you an opportunity to learn more about all of the volunteer opportunities at Selah Freedom and meet our staff.

Selah Freedom Care Team Training

When: Wednesday, July 12 from 7:30 - 9:00 PM
Where: Willow Creek North Shore (4th and 5th Grade Room)
2200 Shermer Rd. Glenview

About This Event:

Volunteer opportunities with survivors include teaching life skills, tutoring, cooking meals, leading AA or NA groups, arts/crafts activities, fitness group, game/movie nights, decorating for special birthdays and holidays and more.

Selah Freedom Volunteer Connect Meeting

When: Saturday, July 15 from 9:30 - 10:30 AM
Where: Fourth Presbyterian Church
126 E. Chestnut Street (at Michigan Avenue) Chicago

About This Event:

This meeting gives you an opportunity to learn more about all of the volunteer opportunities at Selah Freedom and meet our staff.

DONATE »

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 Co-Chairs:

Donna Fishman, NCJW
Susan Rifas, JUF, JWF

Steering Committee:

Ronna Ash, Hadassah
Susan Block, Hadassah
Cathy Carmody, NCJW
Donna Gutman, NCJW, ICJW, CEASE Network
Sara Kalish, Chicago Parks Foundation
Betsy Lazerow, JCFS, JCARES
Carole Levine, NCJW
Rae Luskin, NCJW
Sherry Petlin, NCJW
Bonnie Ribet, NCJW
Heather Ross, NCJW, Hakafa
Mara Ruff, JUF
Stacy Saef, NCJW
Cheryl Susman, NCJW CNS
Joan Zahnle, NCJW CNS
Deborah Zions, NCJW, SHALVA

Haley Braun, Intern

Selah Freedom Core Values Training

When: Thursday, July 20 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Where: This training will be hosted via Zoom Video Chat and a link will be provided.

About This Event:

Core Value Training is important for all volunteers to attend in order to create a strong united support for the survivors we serve at Selah Freedom. This training will be presented by Laurie Swink, VP of Culture and Co- Founder of Selah Freedom. It is a one time mandatory training for all volunteers.

To RSVP email: Volunteer@SelahFreedom.com

Film Screening: I am Jane Doe

When: Monday, May 22 Doors open at 5:30 PM Screening begins at 6:30 PM

Where: Columbia College Chicago

1104 S Wabash Ave, 8th Floor

About this Event:

"I AM JANE DOE" chronicles the epic battle that several American mothers are waging on behalf of their middle-school daughters, victims of sex trafficking on backpage.com. Narrated by Academy Award-nominee Jessica Chastain, directed by award-winning filmmaker Mary Mazzio, and produced by Mazzio along with Academy Award-nominee, Alec Sokolow, the documentary reveals how, after rescuing their daughters, these mothers filed lawsuits against Backpage. The film follows the journey in real time, and includes interviews with US Senators and lawyers, as well as former editors and writers from the Village Voice, ex-CIA analysts, FBI agents, and others involved with these cases. It is a gut-wrenching human story and a fresh look at the social and legal issues surrounding child sex trafficking. Watch the trailer and learn more about the film here - <http://www.iamjanedofilm.com>

Register here:

<http://bakerxchange.com/rv/ff00302da845b70926709bd94344ae7ea74fbc5>

Teen Dating Violence: Strategies for Prevention, Intervention, and Support

When: Tuesday, June 27 from 9:00am - 12:00pm

Where: JCFS/Abe and Ida Cooper Center

6639 North Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, IL

About this event:

This dynamic session will provide an overview of Teen Dating Violence (TDV). The presenter will explore the unique strengths and challenges that young people experience as they enter friendships and dating relationships. We will examine the dynamics and warning signs of TDV, its impact on young people, the barriers that many youth face when reporting, as well as strategies for engaging youth to build healthy relationships. The session will include an opportunity to practice interventions using safety planning and support skills. We will also discuss mandated reporting requirements and organizational policies that impact our role as professionals. This session combines presentation and small group work.

For more information and to

register: http://jcfs.formstack.com/forms/jcares_training_form

7th Annual Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force Conference

When: Thursday - Friday, August 3-4

Where: IIT Chicago- Kent College of Law

565 West Adams Street

About the event:

The Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force hosts a human trafficking conference to inform, educate and strengthen anti-trafficking efforts across the city of Chicago, in Cook County and throughout the surrounding areas. The conference generally features two full days of presentations on the most up-to-date and innovative work from local and national experts on human trafficking.

For more information: <http://www.cookcountytaskforce.org/annual-conference.html>

* Please note that not all of these events are sponsored or hosted by JCAST Chicago but are listed here as a convenience to those who might be interested.

Updates and Information

Green Thumbs Wanted!

JCAST Chicago is partnering with Selah Freedom to build and maintain vegetable and



Featured Organization

Chicago Says No More

Chicago Says No More is dedicated to addressing the challenges of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Chicago metro area and across Illinois. It is aligned with the national NO MORE campaign that was started by a coalition of leading advocacy groups, service providers, and major corporations.

The initial goals of Chicago Says No More are to:

- Marshal resources of the Chicago metro area to combat domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Change the culture and conversation about domestic violence and sexual assault so citizens can make a difference.
- Provide fresh, innovative ways to leverage resources offered by myriad not-for-profit domestic violence and sexual assault organizations by establishing system-wide solutions to challenges they experience.

Sign the Chicago Says No More Pledge to join in the movement to change the culture and the conversation surrounding domestic violence and sexual assault: <http://chicagosaysnomore.org/take-the-pledge/>

For more information on Chicago Says No More visit: <http://chicagosaysnomore.org/>



flower gardens at the Selah Freedom house serving sex trafficking survivors on the North Shore.

You Can Help by Donating Supplies and volunteering to work with survivors to maintain the garden. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Donna at donna@jcastchicago.org

To volunteer RSVP at:

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ee5p87lj2j7mefl/a009j2rsf8ba/questions>

TAKE ACTION

Toiletry and Gift Card Donations Needed Year-round to support young women trafficked in Chicago that are helped by the Dreamcatcher Foundation.

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 Sholom, 3480 N Lake Shore Dr, Chicago

If you or your organization would consider organizing a collection drive or a packing program, please contact 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.

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!

* 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

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.

- [To Fight Sex Trafficking, Target the Men Who Buy Sex](#)
 - [Students Talk Sex Safety during College Assembly](#)
 - [How Photojournalists Cover Sexual Violence Against Women](#)
 - [Caught In The Life: The Business of Prostitution](#)
 - [Story of Survival: 6 Years as a Sex Slave in NYC](#)
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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 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](#)

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