

PRESS RELEASE

[free-them]

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[free-them] Founder, Shae Invidiata to be awarded the 2011 Peace Medallion

Oakville, November 17, 2011 - Today, anti-human trafficking organization [free-them] has announced that founder, Shae Invidiata is to be awarded a YMCA Peace Medallion from the YMCA of Oakville. The award will be presented at a special awards breakfast ceremony. [free-them] together with YMCA of Oakville is pleased to invite you to attend:

What: YMCA Community Breakfast for Peace

When: Friday, November 25

Where: Peter Gilgan Family YMCA, 410 Rebecca St., Oakville, ON

Time: 7 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

"It has been a pleasure getting to know Shae Invidiata and watching her advocate for the most vulnerable in our society. Ms. Invidiata was not content to be inactive when women and children here in Canada and around the world need help," said Kevin Flynn, MPP Oakville. "She founded free-them to fight human trafficking with community organizations and businesses. Her hard work and dedication to the cause is a true inspiration for other young women."



About Shae Invidiata and [free-them]

Invidiata moved to the United States at 18 to pursue a degree in Advertising at Hawaii Pacific University, which is where her journey began in her fight against human trafficking. Seven years later, with an associates in Marketing from HPU and a BA in Religious Studies from The University of British Columbia, Invidiata works fulltime as a Sales Representative at The Invidiata Team - #1 REMAX Team in Canada, and #2 RE/MAX Team Worldwide 2010. In January 2010, Invidiata officially founded [free-them], an initiative dedicated to raising awareness and funds to abolish human trafficking in Canada and abroad by partnering with people, organizations, & businesses to fight human trafficking - slavery today. Invidiata regularly speaks at different high schools, professional groups and events to educate and bring awareness and action to fighting human trafficking. [free-them] has lead and organized different events

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all over Toronto and the GTA, such as the panel Buying Sex Is Not A Sport at The University of Toronto, premiering and bringing the film Call+Response to Toronto, hosting our 2nd Annual Freedom Walk in Toronto, to seeing Criminal Codes amended. [free-them] played a strong role to see MP Joy Smith's Bill C-268 (a minimum mandatory sentence of 5 years for traffickers caught trafficking minors in Canada) amend the Criminal Code in Canada, Bill C-268 received Royal Assent in June 2010. Invidiata has sat on round table discussions for MPP Kevin Flynn in the efforts to create new policies that were brought before the Legislators in June 2011. Invidiata with [free-them] is one of the founding Coalition members to forming the first Ontario Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. On October 3, 2011 MP Terence Young gave his Members Statement-SO31- in the House of Commons to recognize the work of Shae Invidiata and her efforts with [free-them] to combat human trafficking. Invidiata and [free-them] have appeared on and been interviewed by many different media sources, including but not limited to, The Toronto Star, Much Music, CTV, CP24 News, The Morning Live Show CHCH News, The Daily Show Rogers TV, 106 The "X", The Drew Marshall Show Joy 1280, Metro News, Inside Halton, SNAP Toronto, and SNAP Oakville. Most recently Invidiata has been nominated by Canadian Women's Fashion Magazine Chatelaine as a Top 20 Finalist for "Canada's Women of the Year 2011" for her work and dedication to fight human trafficking and raise up others to join in the worthy fight. For more information about [free-them] and their ongoing efforts please visit their website at www.freethem.ca. For additional information about Invidiata's Chatelaine nomination, please visit www.chatelaine.com/womenoftheyear

About the YMCA of Oakville

The YMCA of Oakville is a charitable association open to all, dedicated to providing life-long opportunities for health enhancement and personal growth. YMCA Peace Week invites people of all ages to reflect on peace, to talk, and to take action, individually and with others. From November 19 – 26, the YMCA of Oakville together with YMCAs across Canada, offers activities that help children, youth and adults explore peace from personal, local and global perspectives. This year Peace Week poses the question: ***what can you do to promote peace?***

For more information on YMCA Peace Week activities and the two YMCA Peace Medallion recipients please visit www.ymcafoakville.com/peaceweek.

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