



**Press Release**

Thursday, May 15, 2014

*For Immediate Release*

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## EMERGENCY FUNDS NEEDED TO SUPPORT INCREASE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

**Toronto, ON. (Thursday, May 15, 2014)** - Southern Ontario safe house is seeking funds due to an unexpected high increase of sex slave victims seeking refuge this season.

This past winter, the safe house has seen a drastic increase in victims, serving five times the expected average of victims in a short span; as a result, funds are running low.

[free-them] is one of the main sources of funding for Walk with Me Canada human trafficking victim services. Used as transitional homes for human trafficking victims, safe houses provide a safe and secure space while victims are rehabilitating.

"Currently we have provided care to five times the amount of victims we normally serve around this this time. The funds that we would use during the busier months are decreasing because of the increase of victims." Says Timea Nagy, founder of Walk with Me Canada, "We are currently seeking assistance to help raise \$50,000 in funds so we can adequately support and care for survivors of human trafficking that need immediate aid."

The immediate need is \$50,000, but [free-them] has a goal to raise \$250,000 by September to keep operations moving until the [free-them] Freedom Walk in Toronto and Ottawa this September. Proceeds from the annual September Walk are used to fund the safe house annually.

"Over the last year more awareness about human trafficking has been raised and our organization, Walk with Me Canada has helped train law enforcement to identify victims of this horrible crime." Says Nagy, "We are approaching our busiest time of year where more victims will get rescued."

Donations can be made via cheque (addressed to Courage to Cope). All donations over \$20.00 will be issued a tax receipt.

*[free-them] is a volunteer-based initiative dedicated to raising awareness and funds to abolish human trafficking in Canada and abroad. Founded in January 2010, [free-them] is committed to partnering with businesses, government and law enforcement to fight human trafficking (slavery today) through awareness, education, legislation and fundraising for front line organizations. For more information about [free-them], please log on to [www.freethem.ca](http://www.freethem.ca) or follow them on twitter @free\_them.*



**For media requests or to book an interview with Shae Invidiata of [free-them] and Timea Nagy of Walk With Me Canada please contact:**

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