



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE 2ND ANNUAL BREAK FREE RACE IN OAKLAND DRAWS MORE THAN 800 TO RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

More Than 200 University of San Diego Students to Participate in the Break Free Race as Virtual Runners

El Dorado Hills, Calif. – November 18, 2014 – [Break Free](#), The Race to End Human Trafficking, hosted more than 800 runners, walkers and supporters to raise awareness and more than \$60,000 to help combat human trafficking. The event was held on Saturday, November 8, 2014 at Lake Merritt in Oakland, CA.

Prior to Oakland's event, Break Free, formerly Run For Courage, hosted the 5th Annual Race to End Human Trafficking in Folsom, CA on September 27th and announced the new name to better reflect the nonprofit's mission. More than 3,000 runners, walkers and supporters attended the Folsom event.

"Our vision has always been about a world free from human trafficking," said Break Free co-founder and executive director Ashlie Bryant. "Human trafficking is not OK, and the Folsom and Oakland communities have proven that we can come together to combat this crime."

Break Free provides empowerment, engagement and education in communities throughout the U.S. Break Free's expanded prevention efforts include financial grants to local partner and beneficiary programs as well as human trafficking training in middle schools, high schools, and colleges. Over the past three years, more than 7,000 students have been educated about the issue through the Break Free program.

"Today we are so much more than a run. Break Free recently educated hundreds of students at the University of San Diego and more than 200 of those students will participate as virtual runners on December 2nd," said Bryant. "I am so proud that we are able to empower a community of students through education and awareness, and garner their support in this

fight.”

The organization offers educational training to students, Grace Paks to victims and financial grants to beneficiary programs involved in the fight against human trafficking.

The 2014 Break Free beneficiaries include eight non-profit organizations that work to prevent high-risk youth from exploitation and that help restore victims of trafficking. The 2014 beneficiaries honored the day of the race included: City of Refuge; Glass Slipper; AIM; A New Day for Children; Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition; Bridget’s Dream; Red Window Project; and Freedom House.

“Because of Break Free’s funding we have the ability to provide additional resources and opportunities to help even more girls discover their full potential,” said Jackie Guzman, founder of [Glass Slipper](#). “We are grateful for the support from Break Free and to be a part of this community that continues to fight human trafficking.”

To date, Break Free, Inc. has raised more than \$750,000 to fund education, awareness, prevention and restoration programs to further the organization’s mission to combat human trafficking. Funds have been granted to more than 15 different beneficiary programs to prevent exploitation of high-risk youth and support the restoration of victims.

“Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes in the U.S. and for the second time in two months, we had a field full of supporters that chose to take a stand against human trafficking,” said Bryant. “We are thankful for all of our friends, volunteers, sponsors and family members who have helped make our Break Free events a tremendous success.”

The Break Free Run garnered the support of more than 20 community partners, sponsors and anti-trafficking organizations. Event sponsors included Zico, Pepsi, Whole Foods, Clif Bar, Staszak and Company, Forte Holdings, Kaiser Permanente, Sports Authority, Clear Channel, Trader Joe’s, iStorage, California Association for Nurse Practitioners, A4 Promotions & Incentives, Oakland Random Acts, Fire Station #55, Black Firefighters Assoc., and the Oakland Police Department.

For more information about Break Free visit www.breakfree.org.

About Break Free

Break Free is a nonprofit established to raise awareness and funds to combat human trafficking. Through the organization's education program, Break Free supports prevention efforts by providing funds, creating community awareness and educating middle school, high school and college students about human trafficking. Break Free provides local awareness events, including 5k and 10K races, to mobilize local communities in the fight. Funds raised from these events support a variety of education, awareness and restoration efforts. To date, Break Free has raised more than \$750,000 with more than 90 percent of proceeds going directly toward anti-trafficking programs to further the organization's mission.

Contact:

Stacy Garland

E: stacy@breakfree.org

P: 916-747-6420