

Nonprofit to open thrift shop to serve victims of sex trafficking

WOMEN HELPING OTHERS

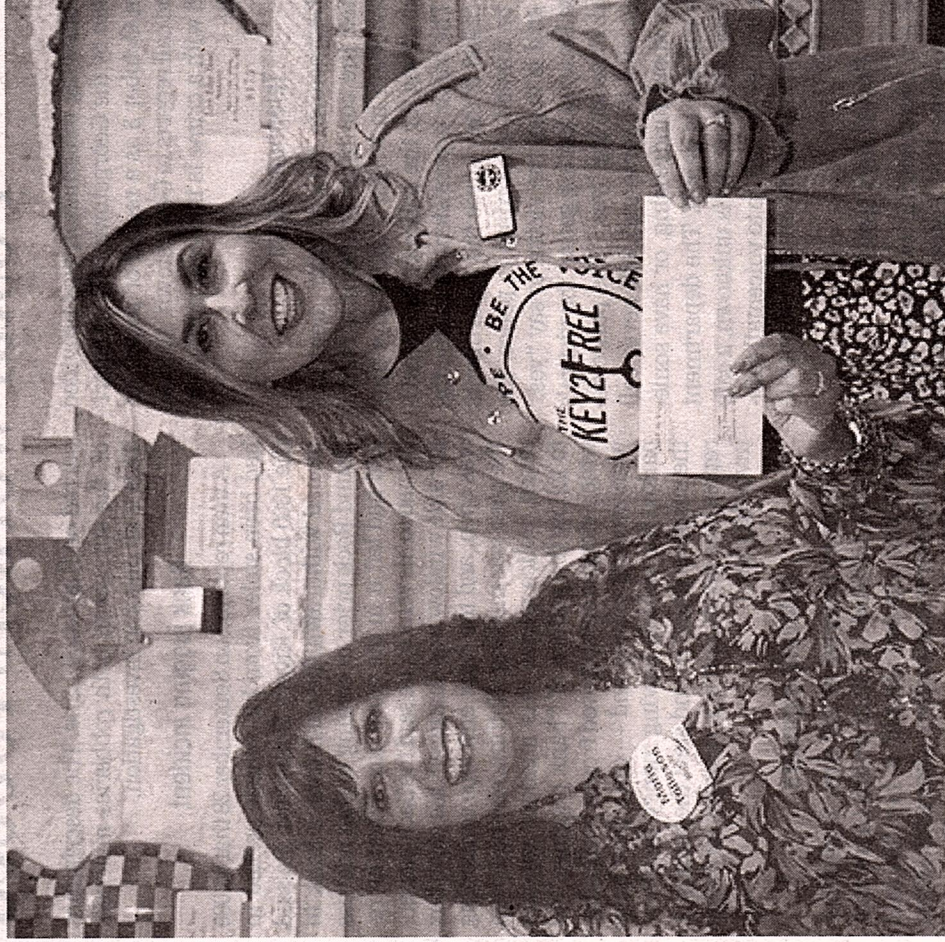
The Key2Free, ministry nonprofit located in Georgetown serving adult women who have been victims of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

Ten years ago, a group of ladies went on a mission trip with a local church to Thessaloniki, Greece. It is here that Key2Free's founders first realized the realities and horrors of trafficking. While in Greece, CEO Amy Davis received a calling to start an organization that provides services to women who have been exploited and trafficked.

In the 10 years of Key2Free, the nonprofit has had the opportunity to walk alongside many wonderful survivors. They have been able to offer services such as life skills classes, case management, therapy and other aftercare needs.

In the summer of 2021, The Key2Free was chosen for a Mentorship Program through The Samaritan Woman; Institute for Shelter Care. Through this mentorship program, The Key2Free has learned new strategies for caring and housing survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Equipped with this knowledge, The Key2Free is moving in a new direction. They will now be offering 24/7 monitored shelter care as well as offering graduate housing. This will offer an extensive



COURTESY WOMEN HELPING OTHERS
WHO Vice President Maria Tolleson hands a donation to Teri Jansen, co-founder and executive director of programs with Key2Free.

amount of care for women who have been victims of abuse.

About 313,000 people are being trafficked in Texas at any given time and nationally,

trafficking is a \$150 billion "industry." In Texas, Human Trafficking is believed to be highest within the "Texas Triangle" that connects the Houston, San Antonio

and Dallas-Fort Worth metro areas, as well as in the lower Rio Grande Valley.

Texas is number two for the most reported trafficking cases in the U.S. The Key2Free will be having a grand opening for their new Thrift Boutique on October 21. Follow on Instagram for more information @edens_corner.k2f. For volunteer information, contact adavis@key2free.org or by telephone at 844-312-3733.

Recent WHO fundraising

In other nonprofit news, WHO held a fundraiser benefiting Meals on Wheels of Williamson and Burnet Counties. WHO raised a total of \$98,631 with a match by St. David's. This fundraiser benefited the Madella Hilliard Senior Center in Georgetown. The money raised will fund over 14,000 meals for Sun City and Georgetown residents. Over 70,000 meals will be served from the Madella Hilliard Senior Center in 2023.

Upcoming efforts

Holiday Meals Delivered's Georgetown Christmas Day Dinner Program has been delivering Christmas joy since the late 1990s. The program provides families from moderate to low income and those on a fixed income with a hot Christmas meal, gifts, toiletries, homemade cookies and delivered by a caring, friendly volunteer driver on Christmas morning.

WHO has been helping with the effort since 2010. Volunteers have donated toiletry items, participated in cookie baking and packing, and driven to deliver the gifts for Christmas morning delivery. This year, the program will again run in December.