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Kristi House Opens Homestead Drop-In Center

Site will expand model Project GOLD program to Miami-Dade's deep south area to serve teen girls overcoming sex trafficking

MIAMI – Kristi House, Inc., the not-for-profit Children's Advocacy Center serving child-victims of abuse and sex trafficking in Miami-Dade County, announced the opening of a second site for its Project GOLD program. Project GOLD is opening a second Drop-In Center in Homestead to serve girls who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and those who are at risk.

Mirrored after its popular and at-capacity Drop-In Center in central Miami, the new Homestead location will provide a home-like setting for girls ages 13 to 18 overcoming sex trafficking. It will provide a dedicated space for engagement and delivery of restorative services, including care management, therapy, advocacy, education support, life skills training, recreation and enrichment programs. It is a place where girls will be empowered to find their strengths in a non-judging, healing environment.

Kristi House's Project GOLD is the first and longest-running program in large Miami-Dade County dedicated to child sex trafficking. The program began in 2007 and opened the Project GOLD Drop-In Center in 2014, the first such site in Florida developed exclusively for underage girls who have been commercially sexually exploited.

"Our Board and staff made expanding our presence in southern Miami-Dade a priority five years ago and we've been steadily adding services, sites and staff since that time," CEO Amanda Altman said. "We are very happy to finally have a place in Homestead to make Project GOLD more accessible to trafficking victims."

This Drop-In Center will build upon services to some 600+ girls since Kristi House began its program for sex trafficked children. The program is being supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, with matching local support from Ocean Reef Community Foundation, The Batchelor Foundation and Kathleen Kennedy Foundation.

Project GOLD and this South Drop-In Center are supported by Award #2020-VM-BX-0007 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice.



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About Kristi House

Kristi House is dedicated to eradicating child abuse and child sex trafficking. Kristi House works to heal victims, and train the community on how to prevent abuse atrocities by equipping professionals, children and families with evidence-based prevention practices. As the nationally accredited, state-designated Children's Advocacy Center for Miami-Dade County, Kristi House is responsible for coordinating the systems of justice and care for 1,500+ child-victims of abuse each year, working side by side with our partners in law enforcement, medicine, prosecution and guardianship. Kristi House provides a full continuum of wrap-around services and care for victims and their families free of charge including mental health services, critical for recovery from the trauma of sexual abuse for most survivors. Founded in 1995, Kristi House has served more than 20,000 victims of child abuse and their families. Thousands more are reached every year with education and prevention outreach programs. Visit www.kristihouse.org for more details.

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