



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Communities Across Georgia Set to Gather at the State Capitol to
Support the Fight Against Child Sex Trafficking**

ATLANTA (February 3, 2015) – On Thursday, February 12 at 9:00 am, hundreds of concerned citizens from across the state of Georgia will join Georgia Cares, Street Grace, Wellspring Living, and youthSpark for the 6th annual Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) Lobby Day. This event is set to kick off at the Historic Freight Depot, located directly across from the Georgia State Capitol. Advocates and activists will arrive by the busloads with active representation from cities and counties all across Georgia.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) defines Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) as “The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act where the person is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years.” Since 2009, the state of Georgia has received over 1,100 referrals for DMST victims, both male and female youth, coming from over 78 counties across the state of Georgia, (Georgia Cares, 2014). Youth referred range in age, gender, race and socioeconomic status, demonstrating that youth of all backgrounds are susceptible to the dangers of trafficking.

Awareness at this year’s Lobby Day will highlight the importance of community involvement, education on DMST, and Safe Harbor legislation being introduced to the Georgia General Assembly. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that children who have been victimized by trafficking are not charged as criminals, as well support increased access to services for these victims. Speakers for this event are set to include Senator Renee Unterman (R – Buford), Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vernon Keenan, Attorney General Sam Olens, Pastor Taffi Dollar, and National Trafficking Advocate & Survivor, Keisha Head.

Registration for this event is free and registrants will have the option to purchase a ticket for a provided lunch. Bus transportation is being offered, with buses set to depart from Victory World Church, Perimeter Church and 12Stone Church; tickets for bus transport can be purchased upon registering. Online registration closes on February 6, 2015. For additional details, and to register, click [here](#).

To learn more about the sponsors of this event, visit their websites at: Georgia Cares, www.gacares.org; Street Grace, www.streetgrace.org; Wellspring Living, www.wellspringliving.org; and youthSpark, www.youth-spark.org.