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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **January Marks Human Trafficking Prevention Month**

ATLANTA, Ga., (January 2, 2014) – Georgia Cares acknowledges January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, dedicated to bring attention to all forms of human trafficking occurring in our state, country and worldwide. Since 2010, President Obama has issued an annual proclamation establishing January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month, stating “*I call upon businesses, national and community organizations, faith-based groups, families, and all Americans to recognize the vital role we can play in ending all forms of slavery and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.*” Further, January 11 is recognized as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, as established in 2007 by the United States Senate to bring attention to the occurrence of modern day slavery. These efforts, and the subsequent nationwide response, seeks to increase awareness of trafficking, while also encouraging the mobilization of individuals, groups, and communities to support and prevent the trafficking of people.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) defines human trafficking as inducing a person “to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. Any person under age 18 who performs a commercial sex act is considered a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion was present.” While all victims of trafficking deserve access to quality services and supports, Georgia Cares’ mission is to ensure that child sex trafficking victims receive quality care and services in the State of Georgia. Since 2009, Georgia Cares has received over 1,100 referrals for youth victims of child sex trafficking in the State, and are currently serving 161 youth victims of exploitation. Youth referred to Georgia Cares range in age, gender, race, and socioeconomic status, showing that youth of all backgrounds are susceptible to the dangers of trafficking.

Georgia Cares will be supporting Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January by providing several opportunities and resources for communities in Georgia to engage in conversation regarding how to prevent and support victims of trafficking. We invite you to stand with us in January as we work to shine a light on modern day slavery, and stand with us beyond the month of January in our ongoing efforts to see these victims restored and thriving. We can only prevent and combat human trafficking by uniting with individuals, organizations and communities that are dedicated to seeing this victimization end. To learn more about Georgia Cares’ activities in the month of January, and how you can join our efforts, click [here](#).

### **About Georgia Cares**

*Georgia Cares is the single, statewide coordinating agency to connect services and treatment care for victims of child sex trafficking. Through research informed practices and evidence based assessments, the organization coordinates services to meet all needs and dimensions of a child’s wellbeing. Staff follow a victim throughout their process of treatment and recovery to lead healthy, successful lives as productive members of society. Visit [www.gacares.org](http://www.gacares.org) to learn more about Georgia Cares.*