



**LED BY SURVIVORS.
SUPPORTED BY ALLIES.**
Standing **United** Against Trafficking & Exploitation

Sparrow Freedom Project Receives Grant from Soroptimist International of Trenton & Downriver Area to Support Those Who Have Survived Human Trafficking and Exploitation

Detroit, Michigan March 24, 2021 - During an awards ceremony at Portofino restaurant (Wyandotte, Michigan) on March 22, 2022, Sparrow Freedom Project received lifesaving funds, in the amount of \$7,800 from Soroptimist International of Trenton & Downriver, to be used to rehab two residential rooms in the Sparrow Freedom Project Detroit safe house, which will be used to shelter and support those who have survived human trafficking and exploitation

"We are very grateful to every Soroptimist International Trenton & Downriver Area woman who played a role in raising these much-needed funds to support our mission," said Tracey Cooley, Executive Director, Sparrow Freedom Project. "We will use these funds to create a space of safety and healing for all those who seek safe harbor from the evils of human trafficking and exploitation," she said.

Proudly presented to Cooley and Chrissy Hemphill, Chairperson of the Board, Sparrow Freedom Project, by Abby Premoe, President, Soroptimist International of Trenton & Downriver Area, the funds were raised during a biennial Soroptimist International of Trenton & Downriver Area event entitled *Battle for Freedom - Soar*. Created by Premoe, the event hosted several local hair salons, who each styled models and then battled it out for the "best styled model" of the evening. All proceeds for the event supported initiatives to eradicate human trafficking.

"We are fortunate to have developed a partnership with Sparrow Freedom Project," said Premoe. "Our group of volunteers is very serious about aligning ourselves with organizations, which have a track record of success. We were particularly interested in working with Sparrow Freedom Project because they are survivor led," she continued.

To that end, Soroptimist International of Trenton & Downriver Area has asked Sparrow Freedom Project to be a panelist at their Human Trafficking Summit on April 9, 2022 at The Peak (Summit Academy) in Romulus, Michigan. Hemphill and Cooley will give a presentation on the myths and realities associated with human trafficking during the event. Please [click here](#) to RSVP.

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Founded November 2017, the Sparrow Freedom Project exists to build a survivor led community supporting and empowering exploited and trafficked individuals on their journey to achieving independence through services and prevention. www.sparrowfreedomproject.org