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**LED BY SURVIVORS.
SUPPORTED BY ALLIES.**

Standing **United** Against Trafficking & Exploitation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPARROW FREEDOM PROJECT ANNOUNCES SOUTHEAST 5K FREEDOM WALK AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES FAIR

DETROIT – Sparrow Freedom Project, a local anti-trafficking nonprofit organization led by survivors, is hosting a 5k Freedom Walk and Human Trafficking Resource Fair endorsed by Wayne County, Oakland County and Macomb County Prosecutors' offices and SHARE Detroit. The event, sponsored by Centroid Systems and the Macomb County Anti-Trafficking Task Force, will take place on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at the Cricket Field on Belle Isle in Detroit, starting with walker check in at 8 a.m. and exhibitor check in at 9 a.m.

"Human Trafficking has been found in every single zip code in Michigan. It is a crime that affects vulnerable people in our communities. This event is an opportunity to come together as a community and raise awareness of this issue and take action against it," said Sparrow Freedom Project Executive Director, Tracey Cooley.

The 5K Freedom Walk is a family-friendly event open to everyone regardless of fitness level or age. Whether you are a seasoned runner or enjoy taking strolls, this is an opportunity to make a difference in your community and stand up against modern-day slavery. Gather up your kids, family, friends and/or co-workers and walk for freedom against human trafficking. All funds raised will benefit programming and the safehouse in Detroit.

"At SHARE Detroit, we believe that by doing good together, we can create a stronger metro Detroit area for everyone," said SHARE Detroit Executive Director, Janette Phillips. "So we are dedicated to supporting Sparrow Freedom Project, and all of our nonprofits, in their many efforts to make our community a better place."

The Human Trafficking Resource Fair will feature a variety of exhibitors, including service providers, law enforcement, and community nonprofits. The fair will provide attendees with information about the issue of human trafficking as well as resources for survivors and their families.

"The Macomb County Anti-Trafficking Task Force (MCAT) is proud to partner with Sparrow Freedom Project and surrounding communities in walking for freedom from human trafficking and exploitation," said Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel. "Anyone can be a victim of this crime. By working together, we can continue educating our community and preventing these criminal activities from happening. And as always, if you see something, say something."

The 5K Freedom Walk is free for 12 and under; \$20 for students; and \$40 for non-students. Registration for the walk is available at www.sparrowfreedomproject.org. It is free to attend the Human Trafficking Resource Fair. There will be food trucks, a DJ and a special prize.

About Sparrow Freedom Project

Sparrow Freedom Project is a non-profit organization led by survivors and supported by allies together building a survivor led community supporting and empowering exploited and trafficked individuals on their journey to achieving independence through services and prevention. They are working on rehabbing a two unit safehouse in Detroit, which will consist of Crisis Intervention Services 24/7 and a two year residential program.

About SHARE Detroit

SHARE Detroit is a community initiative with opportunities to do good across the tri-county area. A robust online platform makes giving easy by connecting generous people to the greatest needs in the community. SHAREDetroit.org offers local nonprofits a chance to be seen and heard, regardless of cause or size and work together. Learn more at sharetetroit.org.

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