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International Crisis Aid Hosts Inaugural 5K run/walk for Freedom

5K to raise funds to open a home for American child victims of sex trafficking

SAINT LOUIS, Missouri (June 19, 2009)—International Crisis Aid (ICA)—a Saint Louis based international relief organization—is hosting their *Inaugural 5K run/walk for Freedom* at Saint Louis University on September 19, 2009, to raise funds to open a rescue and rehabilitation home for American child victims of sex trafficking.

One program of International Crisis Aid is to rescue children from sex trafficking around the world. ICA currently has 6 rescue homes in Ethiopia and Cambodia.

In October 2008, ICA met with representatives from the FBI to discuss sex trafficking in the United States. At that time, the FBI informed ICA there were only 49 beds available in the US for American victims of sex trafficking. When these girls are rescued, the FBI often has no choice but to put them into the juvenile system, where they are often prosecuted for the very thing they are a victim of. As a result of these meetings, ICA decided to open homes for young American girls rescued from the horrors of sex trafficking, with the first to open in St. Louis and the second possibly Atlanta. Proceeds from this 5K event will be used to open a home in St. Louis for American child victims of sex trafficking.

Currently, over 300,000 American children are at risk of trafficking into the sex industry (*US Dept. of Justice*).

ICA President and Founder, Pat Bradley said, “I’ve been through war zones & refugee camps. Seen orphans, widows, sickness & disease. But nothing grasps my heart like the face of a young girl that has been held captive by sex trafficking. And it happens right here, in our own backyard.”

This 5K is being cosponsored by Saint Louis University. Individuals and Teams can register online at www.crisisaid.org. Registration is \$25 per person. Check-in begins at 7:00 am and the run/walk begins at 8:00 am. Free 5-10 minute massages will be available for all participants. More information can be found at www.crisisaid.org.

Individuals, teams or companies interested in partnering with International Crisis Aid are encouraged to contact the agency at 1-888-740-7779 or by email at info@crisisaid.org. ICA is currently still accepting corporate sponsors and donations for this event.

About International Crisis Aid (ICA)

ICA is an international relief and development organization based in St. Louis, MO. Our mission is to assist in sustaining life, bring encouragement to those suffering and collaborate with other relief organizations in bringing necessary foods, materials and medicines to people in times of crisis, particularly where life and death situations exist. To accomplish this vision we will continue to target our efforts in "no-go zones" where other organizations cannot or will not go. Our programs and services have reached out to children and families in need from Cambodia, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, North Korea, Indonesia and Sudan. These programs include feeding, medical, orphanages, disaster relief, girls' schools, community development, rescuing girls from sex-trafficking, water projects, etc. For more information, please visit www.crisisaid.org

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