CCWC and the Human Trafficking Initiative: 2/16/22

1. What is CCWC (Clearwater Community Women’s Club)?

* A 50-year-old 501c3 non-profit organization of 100+ women serving Clearwater and Pinellas County.
* Women with a record of improving lives in our community through volunteerism, fundraising, education and friendship.
* A member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an international organization of nearly 80,000 members in all 50 states and more than a dozen countries.

2. What is your Human Trafficking (HT) initiative?

* Our initiative is a sub-initiative of the General Federation's emphasis on Human Trafficking throughout the international organization of women.
* Because Florida is #3 in the nation for HT and Tampa Bay is a hot spot, our club is dedicated to bringing awareness about the severity of the problem here and finding ways to restore HT victims to full and productive lives.
* Over the next 3-5 years, we will partner with other civic, commercial and non-profit organizations to meet our goals.  We will volunteer, raise money and lead others to take steps to eliminate HT from our community.
* As of 2/16/2022, the CCWC has:
  + Vetted 4 organizations working with HT victims in the Tampa Bay area, including:
    - Restored to Dream
    - Empowered to Change
    - Advocates Against Human Trafficking
    - Created Women
  + Strongly encouraged all organizations to collaborate in providing long-term housing for HT victims in Pinellas County.
  + Chosen to initially work with Created Women, Inc., an organization that has recently expanded into Pinellas and is known for the successful restoration of trafficked women. After much research, Created was selected because of their experience, quality staff, and recovery programs.
    - Agreed to move forward to develop an MOU with Created Women to provide safe housing/services for trafficked women in Pinellas County.

3.  Have you done similar projects in the past?

* We have done other large-scale community projects, such as helping to fund the Clearwater Countryside Library.  Through partnerships, grants, donations and fundraisers, we gathered approximately $300,000 to support the Clearwater Library system in building that branch.

4.  Which community organizations are your partners for the HT initiative?

* + We anticipate all 13 of the GFWC clubs in our area will support us in this work.
  + We are coordinating potential partnerships with Restored to Dream, Tampa Bay Advocates Against Human Trafficking, the Salvation Army, the Justice Restoration Center, the Diocese of St Petersburg, the Heart Dance Foundation, Created Women, Inc., Safe in Tampa Bay, No More, and the Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force, among others.

5.  How will the funds/goods we donate be used?

* + Our initiative’s goal is to reduce the impact and incidence of human trafficking in our community.
  + We are currently raising funds to ensure safe housing is available in Pinellas County for women who have been rescued from human trafficking.
  + There is a critical shortage of safe housing in our area; without it, those rescued are likely to end up back on the streets and at high risk of being trafficked again.
  + Funds will be given to another non-profit experienced in managing a safe house and providing professional therapeutic services to recovered victims.
  + Our Elimination Dinner will raise funds through ticket sales and silent auctions of donated goods.  The proceeds will be used to help secure the safe house.

6.  Where will our business name appear - how will we be recognized?

* + All donations will be recognized in our program. Larger donations, and funding, will also be recognized in Ads, social media, press releases and event signage. (see notes on Elimination Dinner Overview)

7.  When & where will the dinner take place?

* + May 14, 2022 at The Conmy Center, 750 San Salvador Dr., Dunedin