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BUILDING A WORLD WHERE ALL ARE FREE

TAARA rescues & empowers sex trafficking survivors to rebuild their lives while igniting a movement to prevent future victimization.

www.taara.org | info@taara.org | @ @taara_us







LETTERS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP 2023 GALA CHAIRS 2023 HONOREES **OUR PERFORMERS OUR NAME CHANGE JOURNEY OUR PROGRAMS OUR SUPPORTERS** LOOKING AHEAD THE PEOPLE BEHIND TAARA



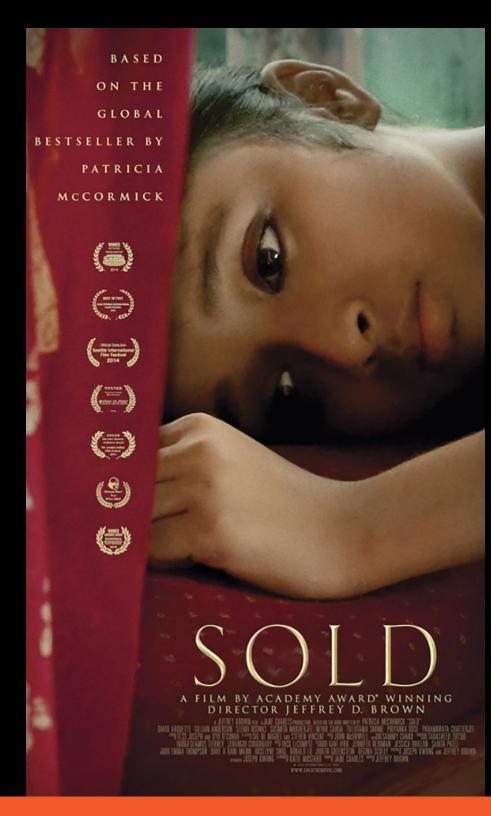
A NOTE FROM THE GNAIR

Dear Friends,

I am honored to welcome you to TAARA's Annual Gala 2023. I am pleased that so many of you are here today to join the movement to heal the trauma of survivors, and prevent the victimization of innocent others who may fall prey to the global epidemic of sex-trafficking. This is the harsh and unpleasant truth. Human trafficking is a \$150 billion global industry with the average age of victims at 12 for boys, and 15 for girls in the US. Even more horrifying, children as young as 3-months old have been sold for sex in this country. For the few fortunate enough to be rescued, the darkness of exploitation and humiliation, and the terrifying shadow of their traffickers continue to haunt. Make no mistake. Those whose robbed dignity you help to restore, who can begin to trust again, and dream about a better tomorrow, are true warriors. Your presence here helps to support TAARA's Empowerment and Awareness Programs. TAARA provides survivors' essential educational and vocational training to become financially independent. Without this crucial step, many will return to life of prostitution as their only means of survival. With predators lurking online and in virtually every community, even in your own neighborhoods, what wouldn't you do to keep your child safe? Supporting TAARA's Awareness program delivers much needed education and strategies in local schools to be vigilant and stay safe.

I invite you to consider a more active role in this fight. TAARA's work is completely driven by the dedication and effort of volunteers. Each of you possess unique skills which can take TAARA's mission further, and impact exponentially more lives. Whether you lead the introduction to your child's school administration, share expertise to bring about legislative changes to punish traffickers and not the victims, provide employment opportunities for our survivors, invite your friends and colleagues along with some members of the TAARA team to your home for a fireside chat to learn more about a mission you value, or help to expand the programs in other states, your support will make a difference. The next time you are traveling within the US and abroad, take notice of anti-trafficking messages being delivered at airports all over. This crime is pervasive and there is much work to be done. Help us to help more. Continue to be the light in the lives of our survivors. I wish you and your families a joyous and safe holiday season! Thank you and deep appreciation for your support.

Dinesh Lhosla
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



'Sold', is a must watch film which raises a clarion call for action. If it saves girls from being sold into sexual slavery, it will go down in the annals of cinematic history as a film which made a mighty difference.

—The American Bazaar

SOLD is a 2014 drama film directed by TAARA's Advisory Board member **Jeffrey D. Brown**.

SCAN QR TO WATCH THE MOVIE (Passwords expire December 15, 2023)



PG 13 educational version, 45 mins Password: Lakshmi2023



Full length version, 95mins Password: HappinessHouse2023



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Esteemed Attendees, Valued Members, and Dedicated Supporters,

As we embark on a new chapter of impactful service and community engagement, I am privileged to address you as the President of TAARA. Your unwavering support has been pivotal to our journey, and it is with great enthusiasm that I share our achievements and aspirations with you.

At TAARA, our steadfast commitment to eradicating sex trafficking and empowering survivors remains resolute. Together, we have reached significant milestones, owing to the collaborative efforts of our committed volunteers, generous donors, and empathetic community members. Each success narrative underscores the potency of unity and a shared sense of purpose. Reflecting on the year past, Our inaugural cohort of graduates has successfully integrated into the workforce, contributing to their journey of recovery and self-sufficiency. They now find employment in a manufacturing unit, actively producing the TAARA gift bags among other items. Simultaneously, our latest group of graduates has completed their foundational coursework and is currently immersed in vocational training.

Throughout the year, we've conducted awareness events in high schools and public spaces, engaging teenagers, children, and their parents. By hosting experts in self-defense, teen safety, online security, self-esteem, and featuring a survivor sharing her story, we've empowered the youth. Collaborating with the homeland security team has further enriched our initiatives, fostering increased awareness and empowerment among teenagers.

Looking ahead to 2024...Our plans involve expanding to more shelter homes and extending our reach to more high schools. We are actively developing age-appropriate curricula for elementary and middle schools, recognizing the alarming reality that the average age of a trafficking victim in the U.S. is now 9 years. By reaching children at an earlier age, we aim to equip them with the knowledge and tools necessary to safeguard against exploitation.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. None of our accomplishments would have been possible without your selfless assistance, positively impacting over a 1,000 lives in India and more than 5,000 lives here in the U.S.

Priya Srani
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, TAARA

THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS



Food & Celebration-Par Excellence





THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 GALA CHAIR & PRODUCER



GALA CHAIR: PRIYA KAT ROUBIAN

Priya is multi degreed with qualifications in commerce, IT and Fashion. Her professional journey encompasses a diverse range of experiences within the fashion accessories, apparel, and home décor industries. She played a pivotal role in spearheading the integration of women's fashion mobile carry cases into the mobile industry during the early 2000s, collaborating with numerous prominent mobile manufacturers and carriers. She also serves as a fine arts consultant and is deeply dedicated to addressing the issue of sex trafficking. Furthermore her philanthropic evndeavors extend to hosting numerous events and initiatives aimed at supporting orphanages, schools, medical facilities, cultural events and victims of natural disasters.

PRODUCER: JENNIFER BROWN STONE

Jennifer is a versatile talent, encompassing roles as a playwright, author, producer, dramaturg, and actor. Notable recent achievements include her Off-Broadway production "The Diorama" (which she both produced and wrote), along with her children's book "Mirabel and the Magical Music Shop." She also serves as the VP of Marketing at Stoneboies Productions, contributing to projects like the Mr. Rogers documentary "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" and "To Dust," starring Matthew Broderick. She's had successful involvement with various theater productions, a Master's in Theatre from Villanova University, and founded Juliet's Confession, a women's theatrical workshop. Jennifer actively participates in philanthropic organizations in the Tristate area and resides in Madison, NJ with her husband and two sons, Eliot and Lucas.



THANK YOU TO OUR VENDORS



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May the glimmering lights of hope and solidarity continue to ignite hearts, fostering empowerment and courage on the path towards healing and transformation!

Congratulations TAARA!

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION

MICHAEL ARAM



Lovebirds Sculpture

 $18\text{"L}\,\text{x}\,10\text{"W}\,\text{x}\,18.5\text{"H}\,|\,\text{Base}\,8\text{"L}\,\text{x}\,5\text{"W}\,\text{x}\,2\text{"H}\,|\,\text{Limted}\,\text{Edition}\,\text{of}\,250$

The Lovebirds Collection celebrates love and the deeply engrained nature in us all to bond with one another. The branch that the birds perch upon symbolizes growth and evokes tree of life imagery. The white, four-petaled flowers represent wholeness, unity and innocence.

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN EMPOWERMENT







INNOVATOR HONOREE: MICHAEL ARAM

Michael Aram, an award-winning American artist, draws creative inspiration from his second home and studio in India, where he established a deep connection after a visit at age 25. With a background in painting, sculpture, and art history, he channels his diverse skills into the decorative arts. His work, encompassing various media, is characterized by themes like nature, mythology, narrative storytelling, and purified form. Michael's art celebrates craftsmanship and age-old traditions. He's deeply passionate about handmade processes and is influenced by the living crafts tradition in India. Over 30 years, he's worked with over 200 artisans in India, maintaining the essence of artist-artisan collaboration.

Michael's art is rooted in his surroundings, with nature serving as his primary muse. He transforms everyday objects into sculptures, merging the beauty of imperfections in the handmade process with the imperfect beauty of nature. His creations often carry rich storylines, symbolism, and a celebration of the handmade process, reflecting humanity's essence.

There is a tremendous reflection of our humanity in handmade objects. When you make things by hand, somehow that energy, that tension, that passion, all gets absorbed into the object.

- Michael Aram



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Wedding ceremony signage

Reception signage
Wedding ceremony programs

Reception programs

Menu cards

Cocktail signs

Place cards/seating cards

Large scale seating charts

Table numbers

Escort cards

Thank you/ in lieu of cards

Rehearsal dinner invitations

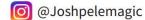
Thank you notes

We take great pride in tailoring our services to meet the unique needs of our customers. We are dedicated to ensuring that every detail of your special occasion is crafted to perfection.



JoshPele Magic, an award-winning celebrity Magician and Mentalist, specializes in private events, corporate gatherings, restaurants, and nightlife entertainment. With residencies in top New York City venues, he's a sought-after name, captivating A-list celebrities with his unique blend of classical methods and original routines adapted for modern parties.

Ranked among the top ten magic shows in NYC, Josh-Pele is the perfect addition to ensure your event is an unforgettable night of enchantment for your guests.



RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN EMPOWERMENT

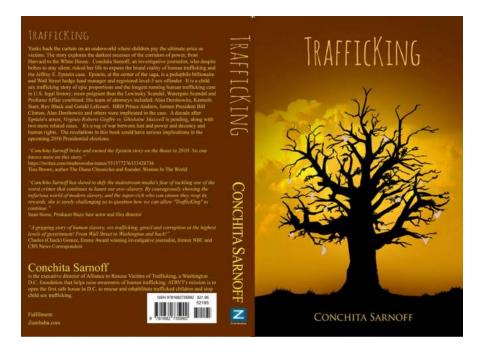


IMPACT HONOREE: CONCHITA SARNOFF

Conchita Sarnoff is a Human Rights advocate, investigative journalist, and author known for her pivotal role in exposing the Jeffrey Epstein case. She has written books such as "TrafficKing" and has been a prominent voice in raising awareness about human trafficking in the United States. Sarnoff has also contributed to various news outlets and appeared in documentaries and interviews on a global scale. She co-founded the Georgetown University Human Trafficking

Research Center & Clinical program in collaboration with Georgetown University Professor Katharine Donato. Educated at the School of the Sacred Heart and Columbia University, she has a background in political science and Latin American history. Sarnoff is married to Ambassador Robert James Woolsey and resides in Washington, D.C.

"TrafficKing" yanks back the curtain on an underworld where children pay the ultimate price as victims. Conchita Sarnoff, who despite bribes to stay silent, risked her life to expose the brutal reality of human trafficking and the Jeffrey E. Epstein case. It is a child sex trafficking story of epic proportions and the longest running human trafficking case in U.S. legal history; it's a tug of war between lust and power and decency and human rights.



THANK YOU TO OUR DIRECTOR



TOM SELLWOOD

Tom, Principal of Sellwood Studio, leverages his extensive Broadway and West End experience to provide top-tier coaching in Madison, NJ and the surrounding area. With a career marked by leading roles worldwide, including notable performances as Raoul in 'Phantom of the Opera' and Fyedka in 'Fiddler on the Roof,' Tom brings unparalleled expertise and a network of industry connections to ensure his students receive exceptional training. His mission is to deliver the highest quality coaching, drawing on the best techniques and coaches in the field. Tom's wealth of Broadway and West End singing experience enriches the community of Madison, New Jersey.

THANK YOU TO OUR CHOREOGRAPHER



RINA SHAH

Rina Shah serves as the director, founder, and principal instructor at AUM Dance Creations. Her mission is to impart her expertise in Bharat Natyam, Bollywood, Ballet, Tap, Jazz and Hip Hop to future generations. With a wealth of training and experience, she embraces the challenge of nurturing dancers from all walks of life. Rina's fervor for both classical and contemporary dance forms infuses discipline, cultural awareness, and personal growth into each student. Rina is dedicated to promoting the art of Indian dance to a diverse audience, striving to make it accessible to everyone. AUM Dance Creations embodies its motto: Teaching students to Appreciate, Undertake, and Master the Art of Dancing!

THANK YOU TO OUR PERFORMERS



SIENNA SELLWOOD



SHAMBHAV SHRIRAAM



ARI BANDYOPADHYAY



MIYA BEHRMANN



BRIANNA GUMPPER



KATHA LOKE



TAMI TEMBO



ZAARA ISRANI



DIYA MALHOTRA



DEVIKA MISHRA



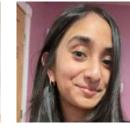
RAJVI MANIAR



MYRA MISHRA



PRIYA NAIK



TANISHI PATFI



MAITRI SHAH



RIYA SHAH



MILA TALATI



MANISH IRANI



ALEXANDRA KOSTIS



LEIGHANN ALBANESE (Production Assistant) (Production Assistant)

OUR NAME CHANGE JOURNEY...

IHC FOR HER IS NOW TAARA – TRAFFICKING AWARENESS, ADVOCACY & REHABILITATION ADVANCEMENT.



IHC For Her was established as a program of IHC (India Heritage Center) to address the escalating issue of sex trafficking during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a primary focus on supporting women and girls in India. As we progressed, our initiatives expanded, and we realized that sex trafficking is not just a foreign problem, but a domestic one as well. Therefore, we started raising awareness and advocating for change within the United States.

As we continued to work on this cause, we gained a deeper understanding of the complex nature of the trauma, the nuances of exploitation, and the profound impact it has on our community. With this evolution, we felt the need to change our name to better reflect our identity and beliefs in promoting hope.

TAARA, meaning "star" in sanskrit, is also an acronym for Trafficking Awareness, Advocacy & Rehabilitation Advancement

The name TAARA is inspired by the survivors and their resilience in the face of adversity, reflecting their aspirations to reach for the stars and achieve their dreams.

As we embark on this journey with a new name, our goal remains steadfast in our pursuit to empower the survivors of sex trafficking and create a world where freedom is a right for all.

...FROM IHC FOR HER TO TAARA

WHAT WAS OUR THOUGHT PROCESS BEHIND THE NAME TAARA?

- We wanted a name that signified hope.
- We wanted a name that was gender-neutral, one that recognizes how the issue of sex trafficking can impact individuals of all genders.
- We wanted a name that has a global appeal, recognizing the pervasive nature of sex trafficking as a problem that affects communities worldwide.
- We wanted to stay close to our roots, which is why we chose a name with a Sanskrit origin that reflects our work both in India and the USA.
- We wanted a name with an acronym that effectively captures the essence of our mission.

HOW DOES THE NAME CHANGE AFFECT THE SURVIVORS AND THE WORK WE DO?

Despite our new name, our mission remains unwavering - the well-being and future of the survivors of sex trafficking remains our top priority. Our educational programs in India continue to operate seamlessly without any disruption. In the USA, we continue to expand our efforts to increase awareness amongst youth and communities, while advocating for change against sex trafficking.

HOW WILL THE NAME CHANGE AFFECT DONATIONS?

Our EIN number and our status as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization remains the same. All donation checks should be made out to "TAARA US".





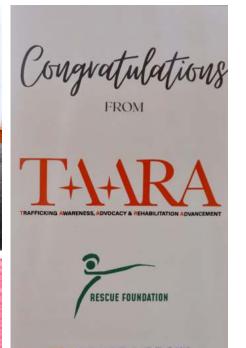


THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT ON THIS JOURNEY.

CELEBRATING THE GRADUATION OF OUR INAUGURAL CLASS













It's a great pleasure to implement this innovative and challenging project at community level with an aim to strengthen the victims of sex trafficking through skill development training so they can live their life with dignity and respect. "

VOICES OF SUCCESS: TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR GRADUATES

"We live in remote and rural areas of Sunderbans, where we don't get any kind of opportunities. Always in search of income, in a respectable job, we live a life of hell. This initiative gave us new hope to live life with respect and dignity" - Graduate





"When I came in the first phase of the Inclusive Skilling Program, I was in a vulnerable condition, humiliated, distressed. I joined the training, completed the foundation course, basic computer and tailoring course and now I am employed. My life has changed."

- Supriya, Graduate



"I have my own start up after completing TAARA's Inclusive Skilling Program where I got training on EDP (Entrepreneurship Development Program) and tailoring which is helping me generate my livelihood." - Tapasi, Graduate



UNVEILING PHASE 2: OUR CONTINUED IMPACT IN WEST BENGAL

In the second phase of our educational initiative in India, which commenced in September 2023, we have successfully identified 105 new survivors of sex trafficking. To accommodate these individuals, a new training center was established in West Bengal. The inaugural event, graced by the Executive Director of GGBK, included the participation of staff and the newly enrolled candidates. The inauguration emphasized TAARA's commitment to community upliftment and providing education to survivors of sex trafficking. The program kicked off with icebreaker activities, followed by aptitude evaluations conducted by DIS-HA for each survivor. In the coming months, our dedicated trainers will concentrate on imparting basic communicative English, foundational math skills, and computer literacy, paving the way for subsequent vocational training.





Inaugration of the new center in West Bengal, to accommodate the additional survivors enrolled in TAARA's program.





The new participants commenced the program with an orientation session, providing them with an overview of the upcoming months. The initiative has begun on a highly positive note, garnering an even better response than our inaugural phase.

R.A.I.S.E: REAL ACTION INSPIRING SELF EMPOWEMENT

TEEN SAFETY & SELF DEFENSE INTIATIVE: The R.A.I.S.E program is an educational initiative specifically designed for children and teens with a strong emphasis on both online and offline safety. Our experts teach them how to identify signs of online grooming and safeguard themselves against potential predators in real-life situations. Our goal is to empower young people to stay safe and protect themselves and their peers from the threats of sex trafficking.

The current curriculum covers the following topics:

- Definition of sex trafficking
- Understand and addressing the signs
- Identifying potential risk online & offline
- Online & Offline Grooming
- Sexting & Sextortion
- Safe & Unsafe Apps
- Ensuring safety in college
- Educated decision making
- Identifying trusted peers & adults
- Tackling dangerous scenarios
- Self-Defense Techniques

TAARA has created and implemented the R.A.I.S.E program, which has been effectively executed in public schools across NJ and is currently being expanded. If you would like to implement the R.A.I.S.E program in your school or district email us at info@taara.org for more information.



R.A.I.S.E IN ACTION

DELIVERY BY THE EXPERTS: By enlisting the services of experts we educate children and teens about the indicators of sex trafficking. This enhances their awareness and self-defense skills through the absorption of preventive measures advocated by these specialists. The response from both students and parents has been overwhelmingly positive.



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Congratulations, TAARA!

We are proud to be part of this journey of making a positive impact on lives.

Kanchan & Kenny Rakhani House of Brands, NJ



Bonnie Brae: Small Victories. Every Day.



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

To the Board of Directors and Supporters of TAARA on the celebration of your Annual Gala!

Bonnie Brae supports your mission to rescue and empower sex-trafficking survivors to rebuild their lives while igniting a movement to prevent future victimization.



Bonnie Brae: Helping Youth and Healing Families One Child, One Family, One Community At A Time!

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EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT IN THE USA

Renata's* journey is one marked by resilience and courage. Born in Albania, her life took an unimaginable turn, plunging her into the dark abyss of sex trafficking. Once rescued and she found a new home at Covenant House NJ, where she began rebuilding her life.

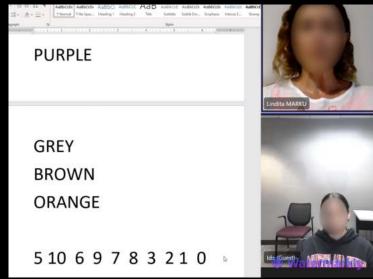
Renata was introduced to TAARA and we made the commitment to help her on this journey to recovery. TAARA recognizes the importance of empowering survivors not only with safety but also with the tools they needed to reclaim their independence.

One of the key elements of Renata's rehabilitation was her enrollment in English lessons provided by TA-ARA. As she learned to navigate the language, she discovered a powerful means of self-expression and communication. The English lessons were not just about mastering a new language; they were about finding her voice and regaining the agency that had been stolen from her.

Renata's aspirations extended beyond language acquisition. In Albania, she had earned a cosmetology license. TAARA is working hard to connect Ida with opportunities to revive her cosmetology career. We are assisting her in transferring her cosmetology license to the United States, a crucial step towards her self-sufficiency.

Today, Renata stands as a symbol of triumph over adversity. Through the collaborative efforts of Covenant House and TAARA, she has reclaimed her identity and skills and is on the path to establishing herself as an independent and empowered woman, free from the chains of her traumatic past. (*name changed)







THANK YOU TO OUR VISIONARY SPONSOR

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THE NISWARTH INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

THE SMART FAMILY FOUNDATION OF NY

DAVID & JENNIFER STONE

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TOGETHER. WE ARE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE.

DINESH & SAVITA KHOSLA



TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE.

THANK YOU TO OUR EMPOWERERS





TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE.

THANK YOU TO OUR CHAMPIONS

AJ & POONAM KHUBANI

TESH KEWLANI KANISHKA KEWLANI

SANDEEP & KAVITA BEHL

THE SANI FOUNDATION

NIKIT & MONA MALHOTRA

NEELAM & RAKESH NARANG

We are honored to support TAARA in their mission to empower survivors of sex trafficking and bring awareness to the issue. We congratulate them on all their hardwork and dedication towards this great cause.

With best wishes from

Prairna, Tesh & Kanishka Kewlani

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE!

We are honored to be a part of this journey towards a brighter future.



YOUR ATTENDANCE, THEIR EMPLOYMENT

As a proud attendee of tonight's gala, we are delighted to share that our commitment to empowering survivors has taken a tangible form. The tote bags adorning each guest's chair tonight were crafted by the resilient hands of our survivors, providing them with not just employment but a chance to showcase the talents learnt through TAARA's inclusive skilling program. This event not only celebrates philanthropy but stands as a testament to the transformative power of giving survivors opportunities for a brighter future.









Thank you for your generous donation of the favors. Your contribution added a special touch to the event!







Happy Holidays! We wish everyone a healthy & prosperous new year.

Best Wishes to TAARA

Falcon Companies Ankim, Deepali, Avi & Amani Shah

THANK YOU TO OUR SILENT AUCTION DONORS

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LOOKING AHEAD: PLANS FOR 2024

In 2024, TAARA remains steadfast in its mission to empower survivors of sex trafficking and to actively contribute to the prevention of future victimization. Our commitment to creating a world free from exploitation is reflected in the following strategic goals and initiatives.

Survivor Education & Empowerment in India:

- Expand to additional shelter homes in India, boosting enrollment in TAARA's inclusive skilling program.
- Broaden our spectrum of support services to include counseling and diversify vocational training options.
- $\bullet \ Establish \ a \ production \ unit to \ provide \ employment \ opportunities \ for \ survivors \ upon \ program \ completion.$
- Develop a specialized English language program for survivors.
- Collaborate with experts to facilitate sustainable reintegration into society through employment and self-sufficiency.

Survivor Education & Empowerment in the USA:

- Offer languages as needed and basic skill training to survivors of sex trafficking.
- Facilitate employment opportunities for survivors in their chosen fields.
- Empower survivors to become advocates through platforms such as the R.A.I.S.E program, allowing them to share their stories and contribute to the prevention of future victims.

Education & Awareness in the USA:

- $\bullet \ Extend \ educational \ campaigns \ to \ additional \ high \ schools \ in \ NJ \ and \ beyond \ through \ the \ R.A.I.S.E \ program.$
- Design campaigns to educate vulnerable populations about traffickers' tactics and emphasize the importance of remaining vigilant.
- Establish partnerships with educational institutions and community organizations to integrate prevention education into existing programs.
- Conduct self-defense and basic safety seminars for youth, with a focus on both online and offline safety.







A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: AWARENESS EVENTS



A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: GALA 2022



THE PEOPLE BEHIND TAARA

LEADERSHIP TEAM

MANOJ TOLANI

PRIYA DHARAMPURIYA

DINESH KHOSLA, CHAIR
PRIYA ISRANI, PRESIDENT
RAJIV ADVANI, VICE PRESIDENT
LAVINA DATWANI, VICE PRESIDENT
NISHITA DATWANI, DIRECTOR
CRISTY KAUR, DIRECTOR
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ERICKA DOBRINER
PRIYA KAT ROUBIAN
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CONCHITA SARNOFF
PRITI PATEL
JEFFREY D.BROWN
JENNIFER BROWN STONE
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SEEMA ADVANI
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SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE FREEDOM A REALITY

Congratulations to the entire TAARA team.

We are proud to support TAARA in their mission to empower survivors of sex trafficking & prevent future victims.

With best wishes from

THE SDK FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

Savita & Dinesh Khosla

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