

## Sex Trafficking Is:

- Violence against women and girls
- Sexual abuse
- Modern day slavery
- Never a choice for the women or girl
- A tactic of power and control to entrap women and girls
- A multi-billion dollar industry in the United States
- Victimization of women and girls of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, religions, and socioeconomic groups
- An epidemic in all of our communities: urban, rural, and suburban

## Did You Know?

- The average age of entry into prostitution by minors in the U.S. is 12-14.
- When asked, 89% of women and girls used in prostitution wanted to get out but didn't know where to turn for help.
- Minneapolis was identified by the FBI as one of 13 cities with a large concentration of child sex trafficking.
- 85% of Breaking Free clients were victims of sexual abuse as children.
- 60-90% of clients do not have safe housing.
- 70% of clients are from the Twin Cities area and 30% are from greater Minnesota or out of state.
- 69% are women and girls of color.
- 19% are ages 21 and under.



## Breaking Free

P.O. Box 4366

St. Paul, MN 55104

(651) 645-6557

[www.breakingfree.net](http://www.breakingfree.net)



## How Can You Help?

- **Donate:** Every dollar counts! You can make your tax-deductible contribution online at [www.breakingfree.net](http://www.breakingfree.net).
- **Give:** We accept food, children's items, furniture, clothing, household goods, gift cards, etc.
- **Volunteer:** Check out our web site for opportunities.
- **Educate:** Host your own Breaking Free awareness event at your school, church, community group, etc.
- **Invite:** Ask us to speak at your organization, school, or group.



*Dedicated to rebuilding the lives of women and girls who have experienced sex trafficking and exploitation.*



**Join us in ending sex trafficking and sexual exploitation by giving at [www.breakingfree.net](http://www.breakingfree.net).**

## About Breaking Free

Breaking Free is a Minnesota-based Afro-Centric, social justice/social change non-profit organization founded in 1996 by Vednita Carter.

Every year Breaking Free more than 500 women and girls escape systems of prostitution and sexual exploitation through advocacy, direct services, housing, and education. Our main offices are located in St. Paul, Minnesota, with branches in Rochester and Minneapolis. Breaking Free's doors are open to women and girls throughout Minnesota and the United States.



*Breaking Free's Founder and Executive Director,  
Vednita Carter*

## Our Mission

**To educate and provide services to women and girls who have been victims of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking and need assistance escaping the violence in their lives.**



## Our Services

- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Housing
- Sisters of Survival (14-Week Support/Educational Program)
- Alumni Program
- Relapse Prevention Program
- Pre-Court Diversion Program
- Life and Job Skills Program
- Survivor Internship Program
- Building Strong Families Program
- Legal Services and Criminal Justice Advocacy
- Street and Jail/Prison Outreach
- Offenders Prostitution Program (John School)
- Basic Needs Assistance (Food, Clothing, Furniture, Etc.)
- Community Education and Training
- Public Policy and Prevention Efforts



## Survivor Testimonials

*"Breaking Free took me in when no one else would help me. I don't think I'd be alive today without their help."*



*"I was homeless and being pimped out on the streets. Coming to Breaking Free has changed my life and I now advocate for other women. I'm a role model for them and proof that there's a way out."*



*"I am clean, employed, and have a relationship with my children because Breaking Free gave me a chance to start over."*