



Dear Friends:

We are so grateful your community is considering a partnership with Little Tree Project based on the Thistle Farms model for women survivors of trafficking, prostitution and addiction. Thistle Farms has been an invaluable asset to our city and we believe it is a program that should be replicated in every place where trafficking, prostitution and addiction occurs.

Where is this problem located? In a word: everywhere. Consider the following statistics: every state in the U.S. has reported human trafficking crimes; the average age of entry for sex workers is 15 years old; roughly half of sex workers are homeless; Baldwin and Mobile counties in Alabama have seen a significant rise in human trafficking crimes (sources: A National Overview of Prostitution and Sex Trafficking Demand Reduction Efforts, Final Report; Get the facts. What we know about sex trafficking, sexual exploitation and prostitution in the United States; Alabama Public Radio) Trafficking, prostitution and addiction are already in our communities. Our challenge is to mount a cogent and tangible response to the crisis.

A housing-first model for recovery has demonstrated remarkable results in communities throughout the United States and beyond. The Thistle Farms model for recovery provides long-term, free housing for women escaping trafficking. For less than the cost to incarcerate, we provide 2 years of trauma-informed, therapeutically-grounded recovery for women survivors. Our women gain life tools they never had and rejoin society. It is a model that works.

Some express concern that such a house actually invites trouble into the very community it was created to serve. In our experience nothing could be further from the truth. Our women, grateful for a second chance, rebuild their lives and return this gift to their communities. They become employed, regain custody of their children, go back to school, pay taxes and make financial restitution for their crimes.

We operate facilities in three different zip codes in Nashville, Davidson County and we have been successful in all of them. Recently we opened a house in the 37205 zip code. It is one of the wealthiest zip codes in the United States and a per capita, leading donor to the National Republican Party. Our women quietly joined the ranks of this affluent enclave and this house has been an asset to the neighborhood.

We urge you to partner with Little Tree Project for this essential work. See firsthand what the transformative power of love can accomplish. The problem is already in your community. How will you respond?

Respectfully,

Shannon Martin  
Director of Education and Outreach

THISTLE FARMS™

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