



The  
**FacingProject**

EVERY COMMUNITY HAS A STORY. WHAT'S YOURS?

**January 30, 2014 at 7pm**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta**



**24-HOUR HOTLINE TO REPORT CHILD SEX  
TRAFFICKING: CALL GEORGIA CARES; 404-602-0068**

**WELCOME TO FACING CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING:  
ATLANTA'S DIRTY LITTLE SECRET**

Thank you for supporting Atlanta's Facing Project. We applaud you for being here, knowing how difficult it is to put a face on child sexual exploitation. We thank you for wanting to know more about how this tragedy ensnares all of our children – not just “over there” or in “other” neighborhoods, but right here in Atlanta, possibly in your neighborhood, your school or just a click away on the internet.

The three of us have experienced emotional ups and downs as we peeled away the layers of information surrounding child sex trafficking. It's been difficult for us to face how few of those who buy and sell kids for sex are held accountable, how kids are groomed, slowly lured into the trade, how the average age of victims is 12 to 14 years old, how some 400 girls are sold for sex in Georgia each month, and how difficult it is to escape.

And yet, we could not look away. We began to understand why, initially, few were willing to share their stories until we read the literature: The very nature of this subject is taboo, complex and hidden, yet it's all around us.

We are grateful to J.R. Jamison and Kelsey Timmerman for starting the Facing Project movement and for asking Atlanta to be a pilot city so that we could explore and share with you this critical issue.

We urge you to learn more, to put a face on the numbers. And please do something, anything, to confront the buying and selling of our children for sex. One victim is too many.

Audrey Galex  
Daisha Wilber  
Yewande Austin  
Facing Atlanta Coordinators

## **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Yewande Austin

Facing Sex Trafficking: Atlanta's Dirty Little Secret, Artistic Director

Audrey Galex and Daisha Wilber

Facing Sex Trafficking: Atlanta's Dirty Little Secret, Co-Founders

J. R. Jamison and Kelsey Timmerman

The Facing Project, Co-Founders

Jamele Wright, Performance Artist

Interpretive Painting

Soul Scribe the Poet, "Survival and Sex Trafficking"

Spoken Word

Chaquis Malik, "Internet and Sex Trafficking"

Song

Alphonso Jackson, "Pimps and Sex Trafficking"

Spoken Word

Jeff Perri, "Gay Teens and Sex Trafficking"

Multimedia

Synchronicity Theatre's "Playmaking for Girls"

Play, A Matter of Trust

Yewande Austin & Jasmine Spells, "Sexual Abuse and Sex Trafficking"

Spoken Word and Dance

Jonathan Blanchard, "Boys and Sex Trafficking"

Video

meeK, "The Pedophile, The Pimp and the Sex Slave"

Spoken Word and Art

Audrey Galex, "What I Didn't Know"

Jamele Wright, Reveal Performance Artist Piece

Performance Artist Auction of Artwork

Audrey Galex, Daisha Wilber, Yewande Austin

Invitation to Action

**Stories bind us. They connect us to our past and guide the narrative of our future.**

## **THE FACES BEHIND THE FACING PROJECT**

**J.R. Jamison & Kelsey Timmerman**  
Co-Founders, The Facing Project  
[www.facingproject.com](http://www.facingproject.com)

### **THE ORIGINS OF FACING**

In a world connected more than ever before, place and time have become vast expanses well beyond our own communities. The hallmarks of community—newspaper memberships, voter turnouts, community organizations—have all been in decline for decades. Many of us have lost sight of our community and our stories.



To reunite the two, J.R. Jamison and Kelsey Timmerman co-founded The Facing Project to re-connect people through stories to strengthen their communities. From homelessness to human trafficking to autism to dyslexia and more, The Facing Project is in communities across the U.S. to combine the passions of writers, artists, educators, students, nonprofits, and business leaders to build community and learn from the first-person stories of their neighbors.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

J.R. and Kelsey are passionate about helping communities tell their stories.

J.R. has spent more than a decade connecting higher education and nonprofits through meaningful community engagement partnerships to strengthen their impact and better orchestrate their narratives as one. His work has appeared in national journals, books, and on NPR.

Kelsey has spent more than a decade traveling the world and helping people share their stories by giving a voice to those who are often unheard. He is the author of *WHERE AM I WEARING? A GLOBAL TOUR TO THE COUNTRIES, FACTORIES, AND PEOPLE THAT MAKE OUR CLOTHES* and *WHERE AM I EATING? A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GLOBAL FOOD ECONOMY*. His work has appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Condé Nast Portfolio*, and has aired on NPR.

They have spoken to hundreds of conferences, universities, and speakers' series around the nation and the world



**DAISHA WILBER**  
**Facing Child Sex Trafficking:**  
**Atlanta's Dirty Little Secret Co-**  
**Founder**  
**daisha.wilber@gmail.com**

#### **TESTIMONY**

While producing a program featuring a local non-profit that helps survivors of DMST and hearing the story of a local woman, I knew that I had to take action. I knew that after hearing her story of abuse, neglect, rape,

life in the streets, being taken in by her Pimp, and untimely pregnancies, that if I did nothing, I was part of the problem. Soon after coming to terms with this very real issue plaguing our nation and the city of Atlanta, I was introduced to The Facing Project. Just hours later, Facing Sex Trafficking was born through a quick text and phone call with my dear friend and colleague, Audrey Galex.

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

Daisha's passion for storytelling is the driving force behind all of her work. For over a decade, she has written, recorded and re-told the stories of people so that their legacies shall live on. From five minute vignettes to 90 minute feature documentaries, she feels that every project she works on can have the same impact for its audience. Her daytime job as Manager of Programming & Production at an Atlanta television station allows her to use her creativity and multimedia skills on a full time basis. She is an Emmy-award winning Producer and Editor, BEA recipient, NATAS member, and LGBT advocate. She resides in Dallas, GA, with her wife Sarah and two little pups Lola and Marlie.



**AUDREY GALEX**

**Facing Child Sex Trafficking: Atlanta's  
Dirty Little Secret Co-Founder**  
**agalex@bellsouth.net**

**TESTIMONY**

A few years ago I attended the screening of a documentary on DMST presented by Street Grace, an interfaith organization aimed at ending sex trafficking and one of our partner organizations in Facing. I had to walk out before the film ended; I had to go home and hug my children. I could not face what I was witnessing. It made me sick to my stomach. Yet, at the time, I did nothing to confront the issue, or support others' efforts to end DMST. Then, my dear friend and colleague Daisha

Wilber, invited me to take part in a Facing Project, and I knew what I had to do: I had to face what I could not, years earlier, and I had to invite others to do the same.

Since embarking on Facing Sex Trafficking: Atlanta's Dirty Little Secret, I have learned that confronting DMST makes many people uneasy: It forces us to examine the messages we send our children, teens and ourselves about sex and self-worth. It asks us to wake up to the signs of trafficking and to take the necessary steps to help someone, even if we feel uncomfortable. It asks us to face how our daily decisions might contribute to perpetuating a system that feeds the selling of children for sex. So now that I know, I challenge myself to find ways to help starve the child sex trafficking beast, and to invite others to join me. If not for us, for our children.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Audrey has long understood the power of story to confront assumptions and stereotypes and to bridge differences between people, even enemies. Through storytelling partnerships, such as Tapestry: An Arab-Jewish Storytelling Dialogue Project, and through her work on the board of Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta, Kids 4 Peace-Atlanta and Friends of the Arava Institute, she has dedicated her life to bringing people together to build a better society. As a freelance multi-media producer, she also tells stories on spirituality and community building for Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters. Audrey loves to dance, swim, bike and run. She and her husband have three children, one cat and a grand dog.



## **JAMELE WRIGHT**

**Performance Artist interpretive painting**

### **TESTIMONY**

Sometimes we don't know what our true purpose is in life and we search in many different places to find it. Along my journey, I discovered I have been given many gifts, many talents. This program is an opportunity to use those talents, to take the focus off myself and turn these gifts to something of greater importance. If I can help confront child sex trafficking in Atlanta, then maybe my one drop will ripple into the world. What if each of us took four hours out of one day, one month, one year, to focus on a cause like this, how different would the world be?

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Ohio native Jamele Wright Sr. has been involved in the arts since early childhood. He has been involved in music, poetry, dance, and visual arts. In March 1993 Jamele relocated to Atlanta, GA. At the age of 32 Jamele rediscovered poetry, and began competing and performing spoken word. The poetry caused him to return to his first love, painting. In 1995 Jamele opened the Neo Renaissance Art House exhibiting many Atlanta artists. His goal was to represent artists that did not have representation, and to create young collectors. After leaving the gallery he began painting seriously. Mr. Wright's most recent exhibition, *Kukumbuka Kifo* (to remember the dead) is centered on the idea of African items of power. Jamele is currently majoring in Art History at Georgia State University.



## **SOUL SCRIBE THE POET**

**678-360-2535**

**soulscribe23@gmail.com**

**[soulscribethepoet.com](http://soulscribethepoet.com)**

### **TESTIMONY**

Being a part of this project has opened my eyes to just how serious and how much of a problem we have with sex trafficking in America, especially under age sex trafficking. I'm still amazed at the statistics and the reality of sex

trafficking so close to me here in Atlanta. I realize I have a huge responsibility to help rid sex trafficking and that together, we can make a difference to bring awareness to those who don't know about this problem, as well as move people to take action.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Soul Scribe had a very unpleasant childhood that created an incredible fight within her for survival as the child of two drug-addicted parents, and found herself scribbling her feelings onto paper as early as age 12. Writing has become a big part of her life, both in her passion and profession. Her debut spoken word album, "Hopeless Romantic," was released in 2011. In February 2013, she released her single, "Taste the Rainbow," a spoken word piece dedicated to Trayvon Martin that will be on her sophomore album. The poetry she shares ranges from a variety of subjects, from love to hate, politics to spirituality, social consciousness to so much more, allowing her to encompass all areas of life. Her vocal strength is powerful at times and subtly soft at others, yet still captivating and soul stirring. Soul Scribe's number one goal is to inspire others by letting them know they can make it out of some of the most impossible situations and to tap inside themselves and God for the inspiration they need to live freely and happily in life. Soul Scribe credits the birth of her son for reminding her that life is a present and you must make each day count.

### ***SOULS FOR SALE***

When do little girls learn about the power between their legs?  
Is it when their sibling's bellies are swollen and need to be fed?  
Urban communities breed neglected little boys and girls, leaving them hopeless.  
No hope for a better tomorrow.  
Beautiful children's eyes filled with so much pain and sorrow.  
Men who are supposed to protect only prey on the weak.  
Little girls sell their bodies just to eat.  
Predators peruse these city streets like grocery stores in search of fresh meat.  
They see neighborhood children as tasty treats.  
How does a 13-year-old girl get past the pain?  
Old, sweaty, drunken men climbing on top of them forever imprinted in their brains.

White sheets stained.  
Souls forever changed just for change.  
Can you smell that?  
Some scents can't be washed away even after a shower.  
Hundreds of children are sold in America every hour.  
Little vaginas stuffed with fully-grown penises.  
Prostitution was not on this child's list of what she wanted to be.  
She just wanted to live a happy life like Ken and Barbie.  
Innocence lost.  
We have a problem America and no one wants to talk about it.  
This will be our dirty little secret.  
Let's keep this between you and me.  
Her mother said no one is supposed to touch her down there.  
I often wonder...where did the missing children on milk cartons go?  
Do we pass them on the streets asleep or on their knees?  
This is our supply and demand.  
Girls under the age of 16 falling into pedophiliac hands.  
Turning them into damaged good.  
Souls for Sale.  
Grown men craving little girl printed flower panties.  
Close your eyes...lie down on the bed, open your legs.  
It'll be over before you know it.  
Then you can go to the corner store to buy that sandwich, potato chips and a soda.  
And do the same thing tomorrow...This vicious cycle.  
Why do we cover our eyes...pretend like it's not there.  
I hold my son's hand very tight in public places.  
Our silence is a disgrace.  
Where is our conviction for more convictions and lengthier prison sentences?  
Sexual exploitation is multiplying in our nation.  
The more silent we are the more it grows.  
Some children make it out alive.  
Some die.  
Some are the walking dead.  
Tarnished and broken souls.  
Who will come to their aid?  
I imagine you think this had absolutely nothing to do with you.  
If you remain silent, it's the side of the oppressor in which you choose  
This is a war between life and death in which we must not lose.



**CHAQUIS MALIK**  
Songstress/Performing Artist  
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### TESTIMONY

People would always say ask me to "smile, " instead of asking what's wrong. There is always a reason behind not smiling, especially with a child. I built a wall, so that I could go

on with my life and forget after I had forgiven. I am thankful to have been able to sustain the mental damage over the years.

### BIOGRAPHY

DMV's warm melodic singer-songwriter **Chaquis Maliq** (Sha-Kees Mah-Leek), delivers the sound of Eccentric Tasteful Grooves and Honey Soul to her listeners. ArtsQuest calls her "**Beauty, Brains, and Power of Soul**". **Chaquis Maliq** made the decision to transform as an artist in 2011 by picking up the guitar and displaying her genuine side; with the motivation to continue to uplift her audience on her first project featuring Mr. Maliq (her guitar), entitled "**Harmonies of Me**" (Summer 2013). Chaquis' guitar completes her cozy sound that locks you into her simple but complex lyrics and melodies.

### FACING STORY: ROSE

My song "Remain Me" speaks about my mind and it's fantasy. It doesn't speak in depth of any particular pain, but expresses how my decision to block damages of my past from keeping me from my true self. My therapy was within me and has always been, therefore I'm fine with cutting off dead parts of me to prevent it from spreading and killing me.

Many women want to just be famous in the most exploited ways possible. But as an abused woman, I have never wanted to be famous. Popularity is not necessity in success, and I make it very plain in my song, "Remain Me"

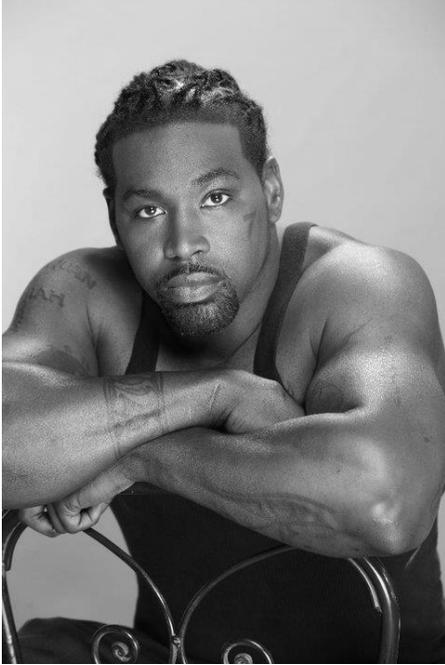
### *SOMEBODY LOVES YOU* Chaquis Maliq (c) 2014

#### Verse 1

Her mother's stressed out  
Her pain is down south  
Mommy doesn't know  
And she's afraid to show  
Where it hurts  
Cuz she fears things will get worse  
And thats just the first verse  
Rose somebody loves you 4x

#### Verse 2

Facebook was her friend  
Until she met him  
The older guy who moved inside  
Shared her with friends  
For profitable amends  
Recorded and enslaved  
What shall she do to be saved  
Rose Somebody loves you



## **ALPHONSO "A'QEN-ATEN" JACKSON**

**Actor/Model/Poet**

**Alphonso.777.Jackson@gmail.com**

**[www.imdb.me/aqen-aten](http://www.imdb.me/aqen-aten)**

### **TESTIMONY**

As parents, we recognize that this is a very serious problem facing our youth. We want to utilize our talents to highlight these issues & promote change.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Alphonso has worked in feature roles with the likes of Mel Jackson, LisaRaye McCoy & Alison Newman. Has also done extra work in television series shows such as "Single Ladies", "Next Generation Wayans" & "Being Mary Jane."

Alphonso has also participated in theatrical events such as "Freedom & Fantasy II" featuring the Braxtons sisters & benefiting children with AIDS & HIV & he's also performed in Playwrite Shelly Bell-Bradleys stageplay sequel "Is Uncle Pete Really dead?". Alphonso has shared stages with the likes of Talaam Acey, Tasha Jones & Kodisha Soul-scribe Taylor & Darlene McCoy to name a few. He has also performed for Joyce Littel & the author Zane.

### **FACING STORY: PIMPS**

This piece focuses on a young drug addict turned pimp. Losing both parents at an early age due to the consequences of their activities on the streets, those same streets raised him. From starting out as a young pimp, working his way up to "don" status, the Lord has the final say so on what the true meaning of PIMP should be.

### **PIMP**

P...

I...

M...

P...

Profitability...

In...

Marketing...

People...

Yea, that's me...

Or, maybe...I should say was, cause...that type of P-I-M-P, is who I used to be

Now, you'll probably judge me & say that's ugly without knowin' my story  
& honestly, I rebuke your opinions, cause they can't do nothin' for me  
But, God's glory...is the reason I share this...

Before I became a representative for strippers, prostitutes & whores  
I was a teenage heroin addict, addicted to what I couldn't afford.  
Bein' a fiend at 15 means, that my only means to score more diamorphine  
was to routinely practice & participate in the illegal activities that I've seen..  
See, my blood stream wasn't just hi-jacked & filled with that smack,  
Yea...pops was a pimp killed by cops & moms...probably woulda killed for that crack...  
& every time I think back...I remember seein' the reflection of hell on her face  
when I saw her overdosed corps on a stretcher, as paramedics escorted her away with  
disgrace.

So instead of turning to my savior, I turned to chasing the pattern of my parents  
behavior...  
evolving from the victim, to a ward of the system who grew into a perpetrator  
I ignored the grace of my creator...cause although he did let me live  
I often wondered why...would God...give these types of burdens...to a kid?  
Instead of tryin' suicide I decided to live a lie, provided by the high through the eye of a  
needle & I relied on supplyin' these desires, by conspiring to the desires of other people.

So I acquired me a bottom chick...she started out as someone I just used to shoot up with  
till I convinced her, that we'd get high all we want if she'd be willin' to flaunt her god  
given gift.  
She agreed & we took a trip to the strip...she turned tricks while I watched...numb &  
unremorseful.  
\$287 dollars richer later that night, in-between wrist hits, I remember thinkin' how  
resourceful sex could actually be...and ladies & gentlemen...that's the moment when  
everything changed.  
I started makin' a name for myself on the streets & my relationship with reality became  
estranged.  
But, somehow I still remained in Gods mercy, because after chainin' myself to the game  
for 21 years a disciple of a rival peer, walked up behind me on the block & cocked his  
gun behind my left ear...  
& without warning "POP" my ears rang from a shot as I dropped, followed by non-stop  
pain.  
I laid huddled in a growing puddle of my own blood, leakin' from my posterior auricular  
vein.  
Instantly, my ears stopped ringin' & a voice that I hadn't heard since I was a child,  
started speakin'.  
It was my mother.....& as I started losing consciousness, she constantly kept  
repeating...

I woke up 4 days later in a hospital bed...I was by myself & thinkin' "I should be dead."  
After 2 hours of straight silence, I turned on the TV, saw a minister giving a sermon & he  
said:

"turn your bibles to Romans 12 & heed as I read passage 2  
& if you're somewhere alone, let it be known, that God is tryin' to talk to you

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Even though I could only hear him through my right ear, I immediately felt this chill.. Suddenly, emerging in the peripheral of my right eye.....was a bible sitting on the table & since I was unable to reach it, I hit the lil red button with the nurse call label. Once the nurse was able to respond, I turned off the TV, then I asked her to please pick up the bible & read Romans 12 passage 2 to me. She picked up the bible, but didn't open it, she just placed it in my hand & said" If you're ready to offer your body as a living sacrifice, then let the Lord & Christ take command.

She promptly exited the room before I could thank her or ask any questions, I mean, I heard momma singin' the exact same thing after I was shot, so I was shocked beyond impression.

Then a nurse walked in the room & said "Hey, look who's finally awake, sorry I took so long but, I'm the only nurse on duty on this floor tonight, so I've been busy, but's what's wrong? I didn't give her an explanation, but now I'm sharing that situation with ya'll, & for those of you who still view me as worthless that was MY journey, from damnation into my lord's salvation & now I'm a reformed...

P...  
I...  
M...  
P...

Praising  
In  
My  
Purpose



**JEFF PERRI**  
**Visual Artist**  
**jpatl66@gmail.com**

#### **TESTIMONY**

I have been involved with charity and volunteer organizations helping people with HIV/AIDS for years and I am thrilled to be helping those affected by sex trafficking.

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

An artist at heart, Jeff went to school for art and music. Graphic Design, Photography, Technical Theatre (set/costume design) and Piano were his concentrations over the years. Using my artistic abilities to help others is very rewarding.

#### **FACING STORY: GAY TEENS**

Imagine you're a 14 year old boy coming to terms with your sexuality. All your life you felt more comfortable with girls and it's now become clear why, you're gay. Life at home has never been perfect. Being different from other boys, your parents (especially your dad) turns his attention and what feels like his love away from you. Needing to be true to yourself, you accept yourself, come out as gay. Because of social and religious beliefs, you are kicked out of your house.

Dear Mom and Dad,

There were two defining moments from my childhood that molded me into the person you see before you. The first was the exact moment I knew I liked boys the way I was supposed to like girls. The summer between my 6th and 7th grades, I played on a kids' summer football league. During a scrimmage one day, a teammate was tackled and I was there to help him up. I clearly remember my left hand grasping his as if we were going to arm wrestle and my right hand cupping his tricep to pull him up. I didn't know what gay was at the time, but I sure knew I liked the feeling of touching his arm. Perhaps this boy acknowledged the same feeling in me or even himself, because when school started that fall, he and his friends bullied me. One by one, my friends started distancing themselves from me. Some dropped me altogether. I was no longer "worthy" of their friendship.

The second moment wounded me so deeply that I spent most of my life trying to climb out of that dark place. In 8th grade, I stepped outside of my comfort zone and tried out for chorus. The teacher, Mr. Melvin, had a reputation of being strict, demanding and mean. I had trouble hitting one particular note during rehearsal for our Christmas concert. Mr. Melvin singled out a group of us to sing the line one by one. It was my turn and I couldn't hit the note. ONE. NOTE. I was yelled at, called names and told to "get out" in front of the whole class. From this point on, I remember feeling like I wasn't good enough. I retreated into myself when I should have been

soaring and discovering who I was. A teacher that was supposed to encourage me to do the things I thought were out of reach, had stripped me of the little confidence I had left.

By now I had come to terms with being gay but I still felt different, alone and most of all unworthy of love. I desperately needed people on my side so I turned to you. "Mom. Dad. I have something to tell you. I'm gay." You never truly know the reaction you are going to get but you hope of all people, your parents will be understanding, compassionate and most of all loving. I struck out on all counts. You spewed at me was unimaginable, especially my father. He called me faggot, sissy, homo and every other vile slang there was for being gay. Not being ready for their reaction, I stood there with tears streaming down my face, begging and pleading with you to listen to me. You wanted no part of me *or* what I was saying. You told me that I was a "disappointment" to you and God and "unworthy" of your love and that I was no longer welcome in your house. "But, I'm 15", I argued. Where am I supposed to go? You said, "We don't care". Dad said, "and you have 15 minutes to leave the house".

I packed some clothes into a duffle bag and walked out of my house for the last time and onto the streets to fend for myself. At only 15 years old I had to figure out how to survive on the streets. I was scared, confused, hurt and angry that the one's who were supposed to be there for me and love me no matter what, could be filled with such hate for me. I wasn't your little boy anymore. What was I going to do?

I started hanging out at the train station and quickly learned the older men coming and going found me attractive. There was an older man, Mack, who started talking to me, bringing me food and giving me a few dollars on occasion. At first, this attention was not only nice, but welcomed. He lived alone and offered me shelter in his spare bedroom. I felt like I had a friend, someone who cared about me. I didn't understand "nothing is free" and it wasn't long before Mack was requesting sexual favors of me. The more I did for him, the more I got from him. Clothes, shoes, some cash and a place to live, but only while Mack was home. During the day while he was at work, I was dropped off at the same train station where we met. Just as I got comfortable, things changed. Mack saw how other men flirted with me and how I responded to the attention. He decided he could make money on me so he started setting up "dates" between me and his buddies. I didn't want to, but I was told if I didn't cooperate, he would call the police on me. I wasn't sure what he would tell them but I was too terrified to find out so I kept my mouth shut and did as I was told.

By this time, it was clear that Mack didn't care about me. I could see it in his eyes - he no longer saw me as a person - I was nothing more than an object he controlled and used as he wanted for his personal gain. I lived (well survived) through three more years of being sexually abused for his financial gain. Just after my 18th birthday, I met Eric. Eric was in his early 20's and worked at trying to get kids like me off the streets. At first, I wanted no part of him or his promises. I barely trusted myself let alone a stranger. For weeks, Eric found me and tried gaining my confidence. Of course, I kept this from Mack. After 4 months I took Eric up on his offer and found myself in a homeless shelter with nothing more than the clothes on my back.

Abuse isn't just physical. Your words were abusive, hurtful and have had a deep and long lasting effect on how I love myself. Even though I wasn't physically abused, I sometimes wished I was rather than suffer years of those hateful words. The scars left weren't skin deep and they were not easy to get over. They ran deep into my soul and forever changed how I feel about myself. But at some point I had to ask myself, where does acceptance and forgiveness begin? I learned it had to begin with me. So now, I stand before you a changed person. Once crippled by insecurity, self-doubt and a self-hatred no human should ever feel, I am starting to believe I am enough.



**LITTLE DEBBIE YOUTH  
SYNCHRONICITY THEATRE  
PLAYMAKING FOR GIRLS**  
[www.synchrotheatre.com](http://www.synchrotheatre.com)

**JENNIFER DENNING**, Director, *A Matter of Trust*

### **TESTIMONY**

I'm a mother of a nine year old daughter. I'm the mother of a five year old son. When I hear stories of children being coerced into the sex trade my heart aches that I live in a world where that is a reality. My heart aches that I live in a city where that is a reality. Someone said that "Action is the antidote to despair." So I take action so as not to despair. When I was asked to lend a voice to this project I thought I might offer something from my InterPlay facilitation experience, but when I connected in my heart to the issue I kept thinking about the young women I work with through Playmaking for Girls: vital, smart, sometimes troubled, vulnerable young women often without a home- the type of girls vulnerable to sexual predators. I wanted them to hear these stories and know they have advocates, and I wanted them to add the reality of their voices to the conversation.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

A lead teaching artist with Synchronicity Theatre's "Playmaking for Girls" Program for nine years, Jennifer brings the transformative power of theatre to young women in detention centers and group homes. She has worked extensively with the Human Service program of the Academy Theatre creating awareness around bullying issues, helping teachers to incorporate theatre exercises into their teaching curriculum and directing youth in residential treatment centers. She is a certified InterPlay leader facilitating groups in movement, story-telling, song and connection. She collaborates with Reforming Arts- bringing InterPlay to the women at Lee Arrendale State Prison. She is passionate about the connection, joy and wise empowerment accessed through the expressive arts.

### **PLAY SYNOPSIS**

Written by young women in the Atlanta Metro Youth Detention Center during one of Synchronicity Theatre's Playmaking for Girls workshops, *A Matter of Trust* reveals the reality many of these girls know all too well, as well as a longing to find kindness, trust and family. A young girl is taken in by a pimp who first lavishes her with attention, but then turns abusive. With the help of another prostitute, she escapes. On the evening of her

escape, she is hit by a car. The man driving the car proves to be a kind man who takes her to the hospital. He and his wife adopt her.

**A MATTER OF TRUST**  
*By Desmonique and Ravane*

**CHARACTERS:**

**QUEEN**

**TRUTH**

**TERESA**

**CHRISTOPHER**

**SCENE 1- A New York City street by the bus station. QUEEN is walking with her suitcase when TRUTH pulls up beside her in a nice car.**

TRUTH: Hey, Beautiful. You look lost. You need a ride or somethin'?

QUEEN: Sure, but I don't have anywhere to go.

TRUTH: Then, where you walkin' to? And why you got that suitcase?

QUEEN: I just got to the city. I ran away from a bad situation.

TRUTH: Well, get in! I can help you out. I can show you somethin' better Baby Girl.

*(QUEEN gets in the car.)*

QUEEN: What's your name? I'm Queen.

TRUTH: Ooooooh, Baby, you LOOK like a Queen. You are beautiful.

**SCENE 2- A short time later at TRUTH's house.**

TRUTH: Come in. Get comfortable...don't be shy. I'll introduce you to the other girls.

QUEEN: Please. I know how the game works.

TRUTH: Dang, Baby. Money shouldn't be a problem. You're beautiful AND sassy. I like that.

*(TERESA walks in. She lives there and works for TRUTH.)*

TERESA: *(To TRUTH--)* Who this be?

TRUTH: This is Queen. Queen, this is Teresa. Teresa, show Queen her room.

QUEEN: Hey.

TERESA: Ummmmhmmmm. Get your bag. Come on.

TRUTH: Hold up, Queen. Teresa, take her bag up. I'm taking my girl to the mall. We going shopping.

TERESA: *(Mean mugs TRUTH)* Hmmmm. I know how the game goes.

*TERESA takes QUEEN's suitcase and exits. TRUTH and QUEEN go to the mall.*

**SCENE 3- A week later. In Queen's room. She wakes up. She doesn't know where she is. She is groggy and stumbles to the mirror.**

QUEEN: Dang, what happened to me? I look terrible. I FEEL terrible. I don't remember anything.

*(TRUTH walks in QUEEN's room. He is angry.)*

TRUTH: Ain't you supposed to be working? This ain't no Holiday Inn. Time is money. MY money.

QUEEN: Why you talkin' to me like that? I thought I was your Bottom Girl. And, what did you do to me?

TRUTH: Girl, what you thought this was? I gave you a little somethin' last night. You'll be alright. Bottom? Hehe, that's funny.

QUEEN: I'm not here to be your "Do girl!" I'm out.

*(TRUTH slaps her.)*

QUEEN: Ow!

TRUTH: We'll see who out!

**SCENE 4- Five minutes later. QUEEN is crying and talking to TERESA. They are making a plan.**

TERESA: Girl, you gotta out of here. Trust me. You on his bad side now. He did the same thing to me. Now, I've given up. But you, you're young and beautiful. You still have a chance.

QUEEN: I need your help. When we go to the strip tonight, will you cover for me?

TERESA: Yeah. I'll tell him you got in a car and didn't come back.

QUEEN: Do you want to come with me?

TERESA: I'm too old to do that, again. All he'll do is find me.

QUEEN: Will he find ME?

TERESA: I told you—I'll cover for you.

**SCENE 5-**                    **Late that night. QUEEN is running down the street and a car almost hits her. The driver slams on the brakes. (SCREEEECH!) QUEEN falls to the ground. The driver jumps out and goes to her.**

CHRISTOPHER: Are you alright? Did I hit you? I'm so sorry! Can you talk?

QUEEN: I'm OK. That was a close call, but you didn't hit me.

*(QUEEN starts to get up. CHRISTOPHER tries to help her.)*

CHRISTOPHER: Here, let me help you.

QUEEN: No! Thank you. I don't want your help. That's how I got in this situation in the first place.

CHRISTOPHER: I'm not going to hurt you. I won't even touch you. Let me take you to a hospital. That eye looks pretty bad.

QUEEN: *(She smiles--)* I guess it's OK. You seem different. Just promise you won't touch me.

CHRISTOPHER: Alright, of course. I just want to help you. Did you get hurt when you fell?

QUEEN: I'm not hurt because of you....Just my eye...it hurts.

CHRISTOPHER: Let's get you to a doctor.

QUEEN: Thank you.

CHRISTOPHER: I'll get the door for you....here...get in.

*(CHRISTOPHER helps QUEEN in the car, without touching her.)*

**SCENE 6-**                    **At the hospital, QUEEN comes out from the exam room. She has been seen by a doctor, and her eye is bandaged.**

CHRISTOPHER:            Feeling better?

QUEEN:                    Yes, much better. Thank you.

CHRISTOPHER:            How old are you?

QUEEN:                    Fifteen....Well, ALMOST fifteen.

CHRISTOPHER:            Where are your parents?

QUEEN:                    My mom is dead. My dad's in prison.

CHRISTOPHER:            Sounds like you've been through a lot. Any other family?

QUEEN:                    No. I ran away.

CHRISTOPHER:            My wife and I used to be foster parents. Doctor Alexander says you can come home with us, if you would like to.

QUEEN:                    Why are you being so nice to me? And, how do I know I can trust you?

CHRISTOPHER:            You can trust me. Come meet my wife. You will love her. She will love you. If you like it there, we can talk to the Judge Monday.

QUEEN:                    OK. I just want a good night's sleep...You have been very kind.

CHRISTOPHER:            You deserve someone to be kind to you.

QUEEN:                    Thank you. I have always wanted a family.

CHRISTOPHER:            We have too.

**THE END**



## **YEWANDE AUSTIN**

**Artist, Activist, Ambassador**

**Artist Director, Facing Sex Trafficking**

[www.changerocksfoundation.com](http://www.changerocksfoundation.com)

### **TESTIMONY**

I've worked with vulnerable children and survivors of sex trafficking in the developing world for 8 years, but like so many Americans, never associated it with one of the wealthiest countries in the world. There's no shame in not knowing, but once you *do* there's no turning back. I'm honored to play even a small role in lifting the veil on this horrific industry. Our voices can literally make the difference between life or

death for innocent children across Atlanta and around the world. How will you use *your* voice?

### **YEWANDE BIOGRAPHY**

From M.T.V. and B.E.T. to the historic Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Yewande's socially charged music has taken center stage with the likes of the Black Eyed Peas, Maroon 5, Sean Paul and India Arie, but it is her work as an award-winning lecturer, activist, honorary U. S. Cultural Ambassador and 2013 CNN Hero nominee that has become perhaps her greatest achievement. Since 2006, her humanitarian organization, the *Change Rocks Foundation*, has empowered nearly 10,000 vulnerable youth by using music and arts education to promote socio-economic development in 8 countries from Africa to the Americas. And through the *Global Institute for Diversity and Change*, her award-winning diversity programs are bridging the gap between leadership, culture and social activism for students and professionals across the globe.



## **JASMINE SPELLS**

**Dancer and Educator**

[contactjspells@yahoo.com](mailto:contactjspells@yahoo.com)

### **JASMINE BIOGRAPHY**

A native of Atlanta, GA, Jasmine is a well-rounded performer who loves to dance, sing, and act. Jasmine attends Kennesaw State University where she is a dual major student. Jasmine has also had quite a few film and television opportunities through the years. She was in Season Two of USA's hit series "Necessary Roughness" as well as VH1's "Single Ladies". Jasmine was blessed enough to be cast in the remake of the "Three Stooges" Movie as well as being able to perform on this seasons

"The Kandi Factory" on BRAVO TV, where she danced in Sweet Tooth's music video "I Gotta Go" from Episode 4.

Jasmine has been blessed to do many things at such a young age of her life. She plans to keep moving up in life and she hopes to be able to impact as many people as she can with her talents.

### **FACING STORY: SEXUAL ABUSE**

This piece was inspired by the real life story of Kasey – a woman that was sexually abused by her father as a little girl. Tortured by her past, she ran away at the age of 17 and began stripping in Atlanta. Caught up in a vicious cycle of dancing, drugs and prostitution, Kasey prayed for redemption and quit dancing. Today, she is the founder of 4Sarah, Inc. – an organization that helps women and girls working as strippers, prostitutes and escorts to lead healthy, productive and independent lives.

#### **“Daddy’s Little Girl”**

Pretty girl is what they always *call* me. A badge of honor for *most* girls on the covers of magazines, but for *me* it *stings*, “Pretty girl. Hey, pretty girl. She’s such a pretty girl.” Cause what they *don’t* know, can’t know, don’t *wanna* know is *that’s* what he used to call me when he’d sneak into my room at night. “Shhhhhhhhhhhhh...Daddy’s *here*, pretty girl.” I’d shiver spontaneously in pain *and* delight. He wanna play that game with me. Touching, sucking, muffled tears and secrecy. But he *said* he loved me. Even when it hurt, Daddy said he...loved...me. Momma used to say I was Daddy’s little girl, but I was his woman too. *She* didn’t love him anymore so what was I supposed to do. HE SAID HE LOVED ME. So what was I...supposed to DO?

I heard those words so *many* times when they called my name – in the boy’s bathroom, backs of cars, in the basement as they pulled a chain and Stevie Wonder sang “Overjoyed...I am building a castle of love...”. Love. It didn’t really matter HOW many times they came inside of me as *long* as they said those three words I longed to hear, “I love you, girl”. Until 6 STD’s, 4 abortions and those 3 words made it painfully clear. Love was *not* to be cherished, but feared. Hate. Shame. They were weapons of mass destruction and now I had my own, but you never saw me coming, ‘cause now that “pretty little girl” is all grown.

On the stage is where I found *my* prey and they’d line up day after day. Corporate. Married. Mercedes Benz Class C. You can come inside my playhouse, but this milk ain’t for free. Soaring. Spinning. High....so recklessly. They don’t wanna know me, wife me or hear my dreams, so I just be what they want me to be. But in VIP? You gotta pay me, ‘cause the touching and sucking is no longer *free*. A twenty for the pain when you made me bleed. Fifty for the shame of the reflection I see. A hundred for the games we played at night in secrecy. But *this* time, I’ve given away the very *last* piece of me.

Fear had me in chains, but I still know my name. And ever since I let Him back in my life, the game has now changed. No more living in fear or shame. 365 days ago, I had to bury that pain. Six feet under in a box full of hate that kept me from being...well, great. Now I live free of the burdens and fears, so that others may live without the 1 million, 650 thousand and 29 tears that I once shed, cause that pretty little girl is now dead. Today, a woman stands in her place for every single innocent sweet face that never heard those 3 words that I longed to hear from someone that cared without imposing fear. “I. LOVE. YOU.”



**JONATHAN BLANCHARD**  
Soul Singer, Actor, Educator  
[jonathanblanchard.com](http://jonathanblanchard.com)

### **TESTIMONY**

I've worked in the public school systems in TN, GA, AL, AR, and IL as an Artist in Residence. The primary objective has been to integrate Afrikan American Music into the core curriculum. To say that I spend a lot of time around children is an understatement. Before signing on to be a part of the Facing Project, I'd never done any real research on the matter of child trafficking. I had no idea how prevalent it is in the US furthermore in Atlanta, GA. To know that there are young children growing up in these conditions makes me feel as if there is so much more that I should be doing. I suppose however that it shouldn't be a shock, seeing how the majority of women that I know have expressed to me that they have been molested or touched inappropriately at least once in their life. Ironically, for this project I was assigned the task of exposing the stories of young boys who are victims of sex trafficking. My research revealed that boys are forced into the lifestyle at a very alarming rate, and though young boys account for 57% of all child sex trafficking cases, almost 100% of efforts to combat and expose trafficking has been focused on girls. You see, boys aren't going to say anything, young men aren't going to say anything, and no one cares to even ask them. That is the reality. That's why myself and the brothers that participated with me, decided to present the research in the way we did.....to be the crying voice of the forgotten.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Blanchard has recently taken center stage performing for Harry Belafonte, and sharing the same stage as Bobby Blue Bland, and ZZ Top. Jonathan is a vocalist who is unmatched for his artistry and musical interpretation. Audiences throughout the Southeast find Jonathan's voice to be amazing; He is a Soul Singer with a flair for Jazz, Funk, and Spirituals. Memphis, the undisputed home of Blues, Rock & Roll, and Gospel, has long helped the world move to different grooves. It is also the history of the city that kenneled the creative fire in classically trained Bass Vocalist, Jonathan Blanchard. Blanchard's talent came to maturity while immersed in Memphis's often raucous, inspirational, yet always divergent style of music and art.

### **FACING STORY: THE FORGOTTEN**

This presentation will attempt to shed some light on the enslavement of young boys whether it be for slave labor or sex slavery. We will address specific accounts of nameless young men, as well as their fear of talking about their abduction and victimization. It will be comprised of myself and other men chanting a song while presenting brief accounts of males who have been victims of child sex trafficking. The

unnamed young men will be represented by a blank, black piece of construction paper. The song will feel like an old spiritual being sang in the field.

### **MENTAL HOSPITAL DIRECTOR**

Claude Foulk, the director of a mental hospital deliberately adopted a young boy to be his sex slave for almost a decade as part of a pattern that spanned four decades and ensnared dozens of young boys. Foulk was convicted of 20 counts of forcible oral copulation, nine counts of sodomy and two counts of lewd acts for abuse between 1992 and 2001. His victim is now 30 and living in Atlanta where he remains anonymous. 11 other men came forward claim Foulk molested them as children dating back to 1965. 5 adult men testified that Foulk would take them to a cabin in the mountains and force them to commit sexual acts, telling them that this is how men show love.

### **THE STEPFATHER**

A young boy's stepfather locked him up in his bedroom for six years with straps and hooks. The step-father deprived the boy of food and water while constantly torturing him sexually, emotionally and physically. This abuse went on from the time the boy was 11 until he was 17. The boy said that he was so underfed, that he had gained 100 pounds in six months after leaving his stepdad's house. He also said that when he was allowed out of the bedroom, the stepfather would force him to stay sitting on the kitchen floor and would hit him and cut him with knives to intimidate him.

### **In an article by Clinical Social Worker Steven Procopio it is stated that:**

Since it is assumed that "boys can take care of themselves", indicators of abuse amongst boys often goes unrecognized. It is estimated that 50% of the children victimized by "commercial sexual exploitation of children" aka "CSEC" are boys. One in six boys in the US has a history of sexual abuse. While awareness of CSEC has gained momentum in recent years, legislation to protect trafficking victims, as well as recent and ongoing nationwide FBI busts targeting culprits, continue to focus nearly 100% of society's attention on sexually exploited girls. First, there is a sense of shame and stigma about perceived as gay that keeps boys from self-identifying as sexually exploited. Secondly, they simply are not being asked. Even law enforcement and other service providers fail to assess young boys at intake under the guise that boys are not victims of CSEC. This leads to the belief that boys are not generally pimped. Furthermore the boys are viewed as deviants with a desire for quick sex and money. The reluctance to discuss the exploitation of boys is generated by a culture that is sometimes both hetero-centric and homophobic, causing these victims to be under-discussed and therefore underserved.

### **THE TRIPLETTES**

A poor grandfather in Scotland was approached by a man who offered him a large amount of money to take his three boys and raise them. The grandfather thought that this would be a good opportunity for the boys. He didn't know that the man ran a "puppy mill".....(a place where young boys can be purchased for sex; it is named after the unethical practice of keeping dogs in cages simply to reproduce). They were only nine years old.

The man forced the boys to do whatever the clients wanted which was mostly sex. The boys were often forced to perform together for the clients viewing pleasure. Puppy mill

boys are also used as assassins, and drug smugglers....they are expendable and easy to replace.

Since pedophiles consider it erotic to have sex with twins or triplets, the boys were in high demand and were sold and resold eventually being shipped to England. Finally they were sold to an organized crime syndicate, and imported to the United States. In all, they were shipped to 9 different locations.

After one of the triplets attempted to escape, his owner drove a bolt between the tendon and the bone in his leg, and chained him to the wall, after which he was beaten to death at 12 years old. While in the US the other two boys were separated on going to an even more brutal mill and the other going to a private home. After being brought back together because of the appeal as twins, they were eventually rescued at the age of 19.



**THE ARTIST KNOWN AS “meeK”**  
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### **TESTIMONY**

I am deeply committed to affecting positive change in the world. Sexual slavery and sexual misuse of children are some of the world’s most heinous crimes. We as individuals, must do whatever is in our power to create safety for the children and treatment for the mental illness of pedophilia. It is my understanding that 98% of pedophiles are victims of pedophiles. This

is a cyclical pattern and I want to get to the heart of the matter...”Healing and Care”, for all that are caught in this nightmare. If we only seek to treat the “known victim” we are putting a band-aid on cancer. It is my prayer that our efforts will reach the hearts of the individual perpetrators, “your uncle, your father, your favorite friend at work” and assist in changing their hearts and minds.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

A native of Philadelphia and bi-racial, “meeK” is the okra that binds the stew of our black culture. She IS the Gumbo of life. She has entertained audience’ and NEWWAVE enthusiasts since 1998 from Atlanta to New York and Miami with her Performances and her Visual Art has blown the minds of many and enhanced the minds of most, in those cities as well. The Artist known as “meeK” is an experience. You’ve heard of her before she gets there and will never forget her once she arrives. “meeK “ a New Age Expressionist in every sense of its meaning. She forges Cubism in the mist of realism, whitewashed in explosive Symbolism. Pushing the envelope she currently in production of the After/After Talk Show that will be Airing Live on the internet and is the Author/Originator of the soon to come e-book “meeK Duds”. Ms. meek is inviting, captivating, mesmerizingly fresh and fun.

### **PERSONAL SUMMARY ABOUT THE FACING PROJECT**

This project has been one of the most difficult challenges that I have faced artistically. Choosing to express a painting through cubism was easy, so intellectual, so physical. I didn’t have to “do the work” that the poetry forced me to do interpersonally. You know, I live 99% of the days of my life never thinking about the sexual misuse that occurred in my own childhood. I had so much difficulty connecting to the subject because it forced me to feel, it forced me to remember things that I don’t want to remember or even give voice to. But this project is too important, the children are too important and healing is too important to avoid the subject. I think that’s why so many people don’t want to think about it, they don’t want to feel...or remember. Having an opportunity to “Do Something” feels like power, it feels like hope. I want to spread that hope. Spread real love, healthy

love. Shed God's light into the darkness through understanding and healing for all.

### **FACING STORY: TRUCKING & SEXUAL SLAVERY**

The poetry selection was created after a painful examination of not only "Atlanta's dirty little secret" but our world and where humanity still stands regarding sexuality, violence, denial and sickness". I couldn't bring myself to only express one perspective because as an artist, I can see so clearly the web of relationship played out to create this nightmare.

“Do SOMETHING”  
MEDIUM: Spoken Word  
“The Pedophile, The Pimp and the Sex Slave”  
There is no rest  
At the TRUCK STOP  
Red Light District on Wheels  
Children on their knees  
fulfilling the urges of pedophiles  
The Abducted, neglected or run away child  
is now a grown mans slave  
To us they are still just Babies  
Your Uncle, Your Father, Your Favorite friend at work  
The Police Officer, The judge  
The harmless neighborhood jerk  
All have one thing in common  
a preference for little girls UNSHAVED  
or a child  
so small she doesn't need to be  
ADVERTISED ON CB  
As if plain site were the most obscure.  
Is there no cure  
for the mental illness of pedophilia?  
Is there a safe space for a man or woman  
to confess that they are a pedophile?  
Most would not think twice about ending the life  
of someone confessing such a lust.  
However, all efforts are a bust.  
If we do not seek healing for the NEED...  
The percentage of pedophiles who  
were victims of pedophiles will bring you to your knees  
THIS IS A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE!...  
You See,  
The pimp is just a hustler  
fulfilling supply and demand.  
Capitalisms BRAND  
meets his fashion sense.  
He's not your 70's Pimp  
Strolling by flamboyantly. . .  
He's the guy  
in the T-Shirt, Khakis and baseball cap,

reading the paper  
while his beautiful daughter takes a nap  
under a blanket in the seating area of the FLYING J.  
NOW LET'S PULL THE CURTAIN AWAY

The 10 year old is sleeping  
from the drugs that he gave her  
because the last John Anally Raped Her  
and he can't get the bleeding to stop.

Of course he can't call the cops  
on the man that he sold her to.

What's a poor pimp to do?

He nervously strokes her hair  
as you stare and proclaim

"Look at him, such a loving father.

We need more men like him in the world  
Men that protect and care for little girls"

He sees you watching  
and never short on game  
reaches down to gently kiss her,  
using his other hand to adjust the blanket and  
disguise the blood stain.

THAT WILL SOON GROW TOO LARGE TO HIDE.

He's gonna have to dump the body  
If he's not able to sell her to that Minister Guy  
who loves to finish them off  
Raping and Dismembering  
He pays 8 times the cost.

It's like getting brand new tires  
and not having to pay the dumping fee  
for the old ones.

Now he's got his eyes on your son.  
And because you think your child  
could never become a sex slave  
your family is most at risk.

The demographics are across the board  
No child is safe from the Dark Lord  
who seeks personal gain  
delivering pain in his search for  
a safe sexual interlude with your child

A fleeting moment of power  
for the impotent man gone wild.

Slavery is so illusive  
and only possible with the proper application  
of mental warfare.

He'll teach your child a new kind of love  
One that hurts and rips and tears.  
PTSD and Stockholm Syndrome  
reveal the biological and psychological

scars of a mind that has taken  
more than a mind can bare  
Eventually it must create  
a bond with it's aggressor in  
order to survive.  
The body is wired to thrive.  
There are many levels of "Alive"  
and it doesn't take long in Rome  
To learn what the Romans do.  
1-2 Johns, a few beatings from the Pimp  
and your child's outlook is brand new  
her future record  
filled with charges of loitering and prostitution  
and this is the conclusion  
of the cycle of sickness and confusion.  
The circle of hell  
there was a black man, a white man and a chinese man  
there was a black man, a white man and a chinese man  
there was a black man a white man and a chinese man  
together these things go !

**MEDIUM: Acrylic on Canvas, Cubism 48 x 32**

Cubism was selected as the style of expression for the painting because I always express a hidden message in my cubism and the inner workings of the cubism express the interrelated network...the web of relationship. The colors are neon and bright to represent the ALARM that I want people to feel when they see it. We have grown far too comfortable with the truth of sexual abuse and violence against women and children, our apathy is our role in the violence. I want this painting to ignite the feeling for the viewer to "DO SOMETHING", no matter where you fit into this 'web of relationship'. Both pieces explore the absent love and the present pedophile, the corrupt system and the children who are trapped in a world where there is no safety or healthy interaction. We are examining the psychopath, the sociopath and the unfortunate victims who cross their paths whose lives are ended, destroyed or forever altered all too often with the victim simply switching roles in 'Circle of hell'. The works are both focused on hope, healing, understanding and love because I truly believe that there is no healing power greater than love.

## AUDREY GALEX

### OPEN LETTER ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE: "WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW"

I don't even know why I went to the screening of a documentary on the buying and selling of kids for sex, because I walked out not even half way through. Went home and hugged my kids. I closed my eyes. I covered my ears. I shut my mouth. Maybe the problem would just, go, away, if I didn't pay attention. But then I met Marshall Rancifer. Marshall ... who hands out condoms to sex workers and clean syringes to drug addicts so they won't infect others with HIV/AIDS. Marshall -- what was it you told me? About the 13 year old who solicited you. "If you don't want some pussy, just keep walking..." it was something like that... You showed "Skittle's" corner. And as you talked -- opening your heart and home -- I could no longer say: I didn't know.

Then I met Dorsey who shared her story about selling herself to the neighbors to buy chicken and cabbage to feed her brothers and sisters .. Soul Scribe crafted a story that began with a question .. when do girls learn about the power between their legs? And the words: some smells just can't be washed away. I could no longer say: I didn't know.

Then Yewande and Jasmine listened to Kasey's story. Kasey, first abused for sex by her dad, then seduced by the allure of flash and money into the life of dancing and VIP Rooms and ...-- a shallow life she'd later leave ... and help others out of. I could no longer say: I didn't know.

Then Jonathan spoke of boys sold for sex and war and drugs -- over and over and over -- a puppy mill. I could no longer say: I didn't know.

And meeK spoke of truck stop sex .. our babies sent into red light districts on wheels. I could no longer say: I didn't know.

Then Jeff put a face on gay boys who feel they must engage in survival sex to fit in. I could no longer say: I didn't know.

And our precious Little Debbie's shook me with their story of a girl lured into the life by a pimp who knew exactly how to make her feel loved and wanted, and then he beat her and snatched away her dignity, but not forever. I could no longer say: I didn't know.

And Alfonso put a face on a pimp who knew no other life .. then let spirit and scripture lead him to preaching a message of real love ...a message from a higher power. I could no longer say: I didn't know.

And Jamele .. with brush strokes on canvas created what he heard and saw in his mind and heart's eye .. and put a face on the crisis. I could no longer say: I didn't know.

Story after story: about girls branded with the name of their pimp, their hair cut and colored, their link to family and friends severed, humiliated over and over, groomed by men paying sweet attention investing maybe hundreds in their stable to make tens of thousands from each, turning tricks, night after night. I could no longer say: I didn't know.

And now that YOU know, what are YOU doing to do about it?

## RESOURCES

**4Sarah** is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Faith-based tax exempt organization whose mission is to empower change in the life direction of women and girls who are adult entertainers, prostitutes, escorts or victims of sexual exploitation by offering a holistic approach as well as an educational, emotional, physical and spiritual support system. 4Sarah will affect the life direction of women and girls involved in the sex trade industry by offering resources through our outreach, intervention and scholarship programs. We need volunteers for our outreach team, intervention team, care team, and scholarship committee members. To get more info or to get help please visit [www.4Sarah.net](http://www.4Sarah.net) or call our hotline: 470-362-8808 Email: [4Sarahinc@Bellsouth.net](mailto:4Sarahinc@Bellsouth.net)

Founded September 12, 1999 with the mission to serve, empower and equip women to make a positive difference in the lives of other women and girls, Circle of Friends has three main programs: **Living Water for Girls** serves girls between the ages of 12 and 18 who have been the victims of sex trafficking. **Living Water Learning Resource Center** serves girls and young women, ages 16 and older, who have had life challenges and/or survived violence, street life, or child sex trafficking. **Living Water Training Enterprises** serves the girls and young women from our two sister programs. We also serve the community by strengthening families, educating and training local and federal law enforcement, educational institutions, and religious communities, and inviting citizens to come together to combat this heinous crime and protect our children. Learn how you can get involved at [www.cofcl.org](http://www.cofcl.org) or call 404-627-0225

**Susan Norris** is the author of the must-read **Rescuing Hope: A Story of Sex Trafficking in America**. She is an outspoken advocate for the protection of victims of child sex trafficking, speaking across the United States and internationally on sex trafficking and empowering women. Susan works alongside other organizations to address child sex trafficking, while lobbying for stronger laws to protect victims and investing herself into the lives of rescued girls. [Susan@susannorris.org](mailto:Susan@susannorris.org)  
[www.susannorris.org](http://www.susannorris.org)

The mission of **Out of Darkness** is to reach, rescue, and restore victims of commercial sexual exploitation, that the glory of God may be known in the Earth. We reach through jail ministry, medical trainings, and a weekly street outreach called Princess Night. We rescue by operating a 24-hour hotline and picking women up when they call for help. And we restore by taking rescued women to a safe home where medical, emotional, and spiritual needs are addressed. [www.outofdarkness.org](http://www.outofdarkness.org) For more information, email [Jeana at info@outofdarkness.org](mailto:Jeana@outofdarkness.org)

**Street Grace** is a faith-based organization leading churches, community organizations and individual volunteers on a comprehensive path to end domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) through awareness, empowerment, engagement, and social change in Metro Atlanta and throughout the United States. Street Grace is helping end DMST through training, lobbying, feeding vulnerable children, and collaborating with the Governor's Office of Children and Families, Department of Education, and the Georgia Attorney General's Office. Through the Father's Against Child Exploitation (FACE) program,

Street Grace is developing a platform for empowering men with a “male focused” program aimed at ending demand for DMST. To learn more about Street Grace, visit [www.streetgrace.org](http://www.streetgrace.org) or call 678.809.2111.

**Synchronicity Theatre** activates communities toward social change through powerful, transformative theatrical experiences. In collaboration, Synchronicity supports women artists, forges long-term and effective community partnerships and develops new work. Now in its 16th Season, Synchronicity offers cutting-edge plays for adults, a renowned Family Series and award-winning educational programming, including Playmaking for Girls (PFG). Created in 2002 to uplift the voices of 'at-risk' (we prefer the term 'with hope') girls, the PFG program has expanded to include two-day workshops at Regional Youth Detention Centers and group homes, an after-school program for middle-school girls, designed to impact their lives before they get into trouble, and a summer public performance by girls on probation, presenting plays created in the workshops alongside poetry, music and dance. This performance is FREE and open to the public: join us this year on June 7. These three components provide a continuum of service that seeks to empower young women's voices and break the cycle of those who are often without a voice. [www.synchrotheatre.com](http://www.synchrotheatre.com)

**Tapestri** helps immigrants and refugees that have experienced domestic violence or human trafficking. We provide direct services to trafficking victims, including assistance with basic needs and immigration relief. Tapestri also partners with agencies to provide direct services to trafficking victims in HHS Region IV. Our domestic violence advocates help survivors with emergency assistance, translation, and legal assistance. Our Family Violence Intervention Program offers classes for batterers. Lastly, we conduct outreach by speaking to various groups and providing material printed in 22 languages. We encourage interns and volunteers that can give at least 10-20 hours a week- please fill out the application on the website. <https://www.facebook.com/TapestriInc>  
[www.tapestri.org](http://www.tapestri.org) office: 404-299-2185

**The Mercy Project** seeks to open the hearts and minds of our community to the growing problem of modern-day slavery both here in metro Atlanta and worldwide. We seek to unify Christians and pursue true worship of God as talked about in Isaiah 58:6-7 by freeing the chains of those unjustly enslaved. We strive to accomplish this with educational outreach, anti-slavery partnerships, financial contributions, and direct service to victims. We are dedicated to ending one of the greatest human tragedies of our time.”  
[www.themercyprojectatl.org](http://www.themercyprojectatl.org)

**VOICE Today** is a non-profit organization breaking the silence and cycle of child sexual abuse and exploitation through awareness, prevention and healing programs. Tragically 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and only 1 in 10 ever tell. Between 80-90% of children sexually exploited have been sexually abused at an early age. Even more alarming is that 93% of abuse is by someone the child knows. The VOICE Today awareness programs help adults understand every child is at risk, the educational training programs educate how to predict and prevent CSA and the healing programs give aftercare in community. VOICE Today offers support groups, healing

workshops and retreats for survivors. Visit [www.voicetoday.org](http://www.voicetoday.org) for a wealth of information.

For over 12 years, **Wellspring Living** has served survivors of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking in Metro Atlanta. Through therapy, personalized education, life skills, and career development, Wellspring strengthens each participant as she journeys from hurting through healing toward thriving. Wellspring Living's program has been recognized nationally as a model program and has been mentoring other organizations across the US in comprehensive care for survivors of trafficking. [www.wellspringliving.org](http://www.wellspringliving.org)

**youthSpark** is an ever-growing movement of pioneers, youth and adults alike, committed to ending child sex trafficking through the power of prevention, direct service prevention programs, youth-empowered education, research and advocacy. We aim to transform the lives of children who have been exploited, abused and neglected, because NO CHILD wakes up at 16 and chooses to be prostituted. We invite you to get involved with our work to end child sex trafficking by joining us at Lobby Day on February 13<sup>th</sup>; attending a Community Ambassador Training; and participating in the Route 2 Change Duathlon on October 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit [www.youth-spark.org](http://www.youth-spark.org) or contact **Allison Hood** at [info@youth-spark.org](mailto:info@youth-spark.org) or 404.612.4628.

**24-HR HOTLINE TO REPORT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING**  
**Contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center**  
**CALL 1-888-373-7888**  
**TEXT BeFree (233733)**

**Thank you to our Partners-In-Action..**

