

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR  
OFFICE OF CATHOLIC FORMATION

September 12, 2017

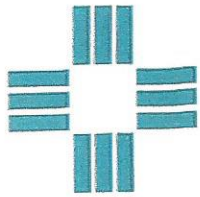
RE: Recommendation for Chosen from Shared Hope International

We have implemented a trafficking awareness curriculum in our diocese to accommodate our Bishop's Charter for Safe and Sacred Places. In investigating what would be the best materials for middle school children we found that Chosen from Shared Hope International was the best produced and most impactful material for children of this age and their parents. Not only is the video done well, but all of the materials that accompany the DVD successfully assist both our catechist in our parish religious education programs and our school teachers to facilitate the discussion around this topic.

The cooperation and support from Shared Hope International in rolling out this program in our diocese has been fantastic. We couldn't ask for better. We strongly recommend these materials to bring awareness about the horrific crime of trafficking.

Peggy M. Schoenfuss

Director of Catholic Formation  
Superintendent of Schools



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF PORTLAND  
IN OREGON

June 25, 2013

Shared Hope International  
Attn: Liz Alston  
PO Box 65337  
Vancouver WA 98665

Dear Ms. Alston,

We are happy to work with your organization in order to provide prevention training on sex trafficking for our teens and the adults in their lives. As you know, this critical issue for young people and adults is happening not only in distant countries, but right here in the cities of the Pacific Northwest. This form of sexual abuse of young people absolutely cannot be tolerated in our communities.

We believe that the *Chosen* DVD program you have created is a good fit with our existing child/youth protection programs in parishes and schools throughout the Archdiocese. We will be launching the use of this program for the high school students in the 2013-14 school year. We are grateful for your assistance in the training of our leadership in presenting this program to our youth.

I am looking forward to working with you on the education on this vital topic.

Sincerely,

Cathy Shannon  
Director of Child Protection/Victim Assistance

Andrew Lear  
Director of Public Affairs  
Puyallup Stake  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
512 Valley Ave.  
Sumner, WA 98390

Jo Lembo  
Puget Sound Regional Growth Strategies Manager  
Shared Hope International  
PO Box 65337  
Vancouver WA 98665

Date: July 20, 2015

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Use of Chosen in Raising Awareness of  
Human Trafficking

Dear Mrs. Lembo

I wanted to offer my personal letter of recommendation in the use of the Chosen Video to raise awareness surrounding the issues of human trafficking. We initially shared the video with the Stake Presidency, and under their recommendation we shared the video in multiple settings and meetings, from adults, to youth leaders, to youth only and to entire congregations within all of the wards in the Puyallup Stake. In each case, the video presented the impacts of human trafficking on a personal level that enabled a focused and meaningful discussion on identifying the signs and risk factors to those within our immediate community.

In practically every showing, there was at least one individual who became aware of immediate family members or friends who were at risk of or directly involved in the early stages of the trafficking process. The video also identifies resources and steps we can all take to stop the spread of human trafficking.

The discussions that followed each showing were somber, yet purposeful in recognizing the negative forces at work that are impacting our youth. Importantly, each discussion resulted in a greater resolve to further strengthen our families and faith communities by creating a fortress of love, support and acceptance to all of the individuals in our care.

I hope that sharing the Chosen video will result in building greater awareness of human trafficking within your circle of influence.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George Andrew Lear", written in a cursive style.

Andrew Lear

## LETTER IN SUPPORT OF SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL

Human trafficking of minors into the illegal domestic sex industry of the United States is a dreadful topic that receives minimal media attention in the national conversation with community leaders and those elected to public service. Through the courageous leadership of Linda Smith, co-founder of Shared Hope International, the Tacoma School District was empowered to join the call to action by first becoming aware of the scope and operations of this sub-culture that is stealing the youth away from our children.

Our work with truant youth brought us into contact with children we serve in Tacoma Public Schools who were being exploited into the sex trade. Linda Smith walked alongside some of these families during the trying process of rescuing their children. That sobering experience strengthened our resolve to more specifically address the needs of our staff in developing skills to effectively begin a process of intervention. As part of that work, Shared Hope International recently partnered with the Tacoma School District by training school personnel, including nurses, counselors, and administrators. This was followed with an informational evening event for families to allow them to ask questions and learn how to safeguard children from human trafficking recruiters. Shared Hope provided knowledgeable presenters and professional-quality materials in framing a conversation with the video "Chosen" to emphasize the devastating effects of prostitution through human storytelling with real victims. The conversation was enhanced with passages from the book titled "Renting Lacey," which became the anticipatory-set for all participants of the training, in receiving and reading these high quality materials.

Shared Hope strives to develop resources and networks prepared to appropriately respond to minors in duress and ready to leave behind a life of abuse, violence, and chemical dependency. This commitment by Shared Hope International demands resources, some in the form of partnerships, for restoring young people to a life with dignity and confidence in pursuit of worthwhile endeavors in courageously dealing with early childhood trauma that was caused not by their choosing.

The work of effectively educating the children of our community brings us face to face with the trauma families face on a daily basis. In the case of this type of event, we count on strong partners such as Shared Hope International to walk alongside us as we strive to keep our youth connected to their education while they go through a process of recovery.

