



WOMEN'S FUNDING ALLIANCE
Justice, health and opportunity for women and girls.

Women's Funding Alliance Confronts Issue of Sex Trafficking Through Funding, Education & Awareness

Breaking News: Organization to Host Town Hall forum in January 2011 on Sex Trafficking of Local Girls

SEATTLE (December 10, 2010) – Seattle-based **Women's Funding Alliance (WFA)**, the leading foundation in Washington state investing in and advocating for women and girls, is confronting the issue of local sex trafficking from numerous angles with the aim of attacking the root cause of the problem through education, awareness and funding.

WFA HOSTS PUBLIC FORUM ON SEX TRAFFICKING

WFA will host a Town Hall forum on January 20, 2011, called "**In Our Own Backyard: A Closer Look at the Sex Trafficking of Local Girls.**" The event is a public forum to discuss the issue of sex trafficking, how the internet is worsening the problem, what's being done about it, and how we can make a difference right here in Seattle to support young trafficking survivors, increase the prosecution of traffickers and predators, and curb the demand.

That event is hosted in collaboration with **Seattle City Council, Seattle Human Services Department, YouthCare and Women's Funding Network.**

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD:
A Closer Look
AT THE
Sex Trafficking
OF
Local Girls

 **JANUARY 20, 2011**
SAVE THE DATE!

TOWN HALL
1119 EIGHTH AVENUE (AT SENECA)
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM

WFA FUNDS PROJECT TO ASSIST EXPLOITED GIRLS

In January 2010, WFA approved a special, one-time grant for a three-year pilot project of the Seattle Human Services Department (SHSD) called **The Bridge Program**, a residential recovery program designed to help girls who have been victimized through child sexual exploitation (prostitution).


WFA was able to provide funding for the program during a critical period when funds had been cut and the project's future was uncertain.

In addition to funding, WFA participates in an ongoing, regional response planning team focused on looking at both supply and demand sides of this issue, as well as longer term systemic change around policy.

WFA PART OF NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST BACKPAGE.COM

In addition, WFA recently took out an advertisement in Seattle Weekly, a Village Voice Media-owned publication, calling on Backpage.com (which is also owned by Village Voice Media) to discontinue its "adult" section until it can guarantee that no child is sold for sex through its website. The ads ran in 11 Village Voice Media-owned publications across the country.

Women's Funding Network Chief Program Officer **Deborah Richardson, who will be a featured speaker at WFA's Town Hall forum on sex trafficking in January**, recently spoke before Congress about online sex ads and why services like Backpage.com are dangerous to young girls.



Dear Village Voice:

Each year, 100,000 children are sold for sex in America—many through your website, Backpage.com.

Do you really want to provide a platform for predators who pay for sex with girls?

Do the right thing. Screening is not enough. Close your "Adult" section until you can guarantee no girl is sold for sex on your site.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Project for Human Rights
A Future. Not A Past., Georgia
Women's Foundation of Minnesota
Arizona Foundation for Women
Arizona Center for African American Resources
Women's Funding Alliance, Washington State

* Actual case: A 14-year-old girl in Missouri sued Backpage alleging it aided & abetted those who sold her for sex. See: M.A. vs. Village Voice Media Holdings.

ABOUT WOMEN'S FUNDING ALLIANCE

Women's Funding Alliance envisions a world where all women and girls thrive in a just and equitable society, and have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential. Established in 1983, Women's Funding Alliance promotes justice, health and opportunities by investing in the future of women and girls in Washington state. By strategically supporting marginalized and underfunded groups that promote progressive change for women and girls, WFA seeks to have a dramatic impact on the increased ability of these groups to serve the community. For more information, visit www.wfalliance.org.