



BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF POTENTIAL

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September 7, 2011

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
501 SE Hawthorne
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Multnomah County Board of Commissioners:

As you know, girls and young women who are survivors of sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking need a safe environment as well as appropriate services to heal from the trauma and abuse they've experienced. Thus, The National Crittenton Foundation fully supports the \$250,000 be designated to fund shelter beds for sex trafficking victims in Multnomah County.

Established in 1883 with a social justice mission, The National Crittenton Foundation (headquartered in Portland, OR) is the umbrella organization for 26 members of the Crittenton family of agencies, providing services in 31 states and the District of Columbia. We provide capacity-building, national advocacy, public will building and youth leadership support to the Crittenton family of agencies. The Salvation Army's White Shield Center, located here in Portland, OR is a member of the Crittenton family of agencies.

At the core of our work is a mandate to address the profound impact of root causes, such as sexism, racism, poverty and violence, on the lives of girls and young women. Across the country—in partnership with the Crittenton family of agencies and the young women they support—Crittenton is a passionate champion of the belief that the future of girls and young women living at the margin must not be determined by their past. Through their powerful voices, the silence that has kept them invisible is broken. Everything we do is grounded in our belief in the power of their potential.

Many of the Crittenton agencies offer comprehensive gender and culturally responsive, trauma-informed, strength-based services in a residential setting for girls and young women who are survivors of sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking. As a result, these survivors are able to heal, grow and become advocates.

At this time The National Crittenton Foundation offers our help and support to ensure that the shelter beds for sex trafficking victims are provided in Multnomah County.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Pai-Espinosa
President