



**For immediate release – May 31, 2011**

contact: Loren Wohlgemuth / 503-957-7347 cell / [loren@sharedhope.org](mailto:loren@sharedhope.org)

**This man wants to rent your daughter.**

**Do You Know Lacy.com?**

## **DO YOU KNOW LACY? CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF IN WASHINGTON**

**VANCOUVER, WA –** *“Hi, my name is Lacy. I’m 13 years old. I am rented every night to different men. I live in your community. Will you please help me?”*

On Tuesday, May 31, 2011, Shared Hope International, an international non-profit which exists to rescue and restore women and children in crisis, launched an innovative awareness and training campaign – ***Do You Know Lacy?*** – in response to the findings of the Washington Assessment on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking.

### **DO YOU KNOW LACY?**

The ***Do You Know Lacy?*** national awareness campaign kicks off this month in Washington state with several activities in the Puget Sound area:

- Billboards in downtown Seattle  
Location: at the corner of Stewart and Minor  
(download graphic: [www.sharedhope.org/Media/dyklmedia.aspx](http://www.sharedhope.org/Media/dyklmedia.aspx))

### **WASHINGTON ASSESSMENT**

Shared Hope International has concluded a 10-month statewide assessment of how domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) victims are identified and provided services, and on May 31, 2011, SHI will release the resulting study - Washington Assessment. The Assessment reveals that Washington has emerged as a national leader for legislation, justice and community care response to domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). However, a lack of DMST awareness in society, and training of first responders – coupled with limited resources – has restricted responders and service

providers from implementing proper identification, investigation, prosecution, service response and aftercare for trafficking victims.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- With over 150 youth arrested for prostitution in eight Washington juvenile court locations (2009-2010), and only two buyers prosecuted for their exploitation, a significant statewide prioritization to achieve demand deterrence is needed
- The average age a child was charged with prostitution in Washington was 15 (2009-2010)
- More than 70,000 men are purchasing children for sex acts yearly in Washington – enough to fill Husky Stadium
- Many victims of DMST in Washington reported being groomed, advertised and sold in strip clubs

Illustrating the findings of the Washington Assessment, a Kennewick husband and wife were arrested and charged May 24 with forcing underage girls into prostitution. The pair recruited girls to work by telling them they would be dancing for money. Instead, responses to online advertisements led to forced prostitution in Kennewick hotels. One of the girls notified her high school resource officer. Four buyers were arrested in the case.