

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JAN. 3, 2011

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**SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL CALLS ON TEXAS CITIZENS TO SAVE THE LIVES OF
COUNTLESS CHILDREN WEEKS BEFORE SEX TRAFFICKING-BOOSTER—THE 2011 SUPER BOWL**

VANCOUVER, WA—Shared Hope International, in partnership with Dallas-based advocate group Traffick911, The Rebecca Project and many other advocates, have partnered together for the national *I'm Not Buying It* Super Bowl campaign, which kicks off at a Town Hall meeting **Friday, Jan. 7, 2011**. Never before has a strategic, collaborative campaign been launched in Texas to target those who utilize an American tradition—the Super Bowl—to sexually exploit children for their own profit and pleasure.

Reports show that the Super Bowl and associated festivities set for Feb. 6, 2011, at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, are a magnet for pimps and traffickers, with the potential to generate tens of thousands of dollars in profit on the commercial sex trade.

In 2006, through a grant from the Department of Justice, Shared Hope investigated domestic minor sex trafficking victims in ten cities across the country—three of these ten were Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio. These findings were compiled into The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking that was presented to the United States Congress in 2009. Shared Hope made recommendations at the end of each assessment and is returning to gauge progress in Texas! On Friday, Jan. 7, 2011, Shared Hope will return to Texas to engage in conversations with the community, professionals and legislators.

“Now is the time to unite as one voice and prevent our children from being sold for sex. We know the Super Bowl fuels sex trafficking. We know that girls will be flown in with their pimps and sold throughout the event, and we will condone this heinous crime if we do not take a stand directly against it,” said Linda Smith, former U.S. Congresswoman and Shared Hope International Founder and President, regarding the significance of the campaign.

Smith will be joined by Texas leaders in a panel discussion, followed by an open floor for the community and local representatives to voice feedback and foster collaboration.

At the Town Hall meeting Shared Hope will discuss the strides Texas has made, gaps that still exist and an action plan for working together across the state to protect children from domestic minor sex trafficking. Linda Smith will be available to connect with media post-Town Hall. Please contact Loren Wohlgemuth at 360-693-8100 to schedule an interview.

This issue is urgent. Join us **Friday, Jan. 7, 2011**, as we stand together to say we have zero tolerance for the buying and selling of American children. Not in our city, not in our backyard.

Texas Town Hall

Date: Friday, Jan. 7, 2011
Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Location: Aristide Event and Conference Center
570 N. Walnut Creek Drive
Mansfield, TX

ABOUT SHARED HOPE: Shared Hope International is an international nonprofit organization, founded in 1998 by U.S. Congresswoman Linda Smith (WA, 1994-98), and exists to rescue and restore women and children in crisis. We are leaders in a worldwide effort to prevent and eradicate sex trafficking and slavery through education and public awareness.

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