



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Willmar Area Women's Fund Reaches Impact Goal**

*Dollars raised will help fund innovative new position*

Willmar, Minn. – The Willmar Area Women's Fund, an initiative of the Willmar Area Community Foundation (WACF), announces it has met its fundraising goal to help continue existing and create new anti-trafficking efforts in Kandiyohi County.

The Fund granted \$23,000 to Safe Avenues and Lutheran Social Services in September to help them continue their work against local human trafficking. This partnership focuses on direct victim assistance as well as increasing awareness of and preventing trafficking.

Through generous community donations and a grant awarded by the Willmar Area Community Foundation, the Willmar Area Women's Fund completed their goal of raising funds for a two-year financial commitment for a newly created position that will serve to stop and prevent human sex trafficking in Kandiyohi County. This Kandiyohi County Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator role will be administered by Safe Avenues and will facilitate efforts between law enforcement agencies, medical services providers and organizations providing direct assistance to victims of trafficking. The protocol that is developed for this position will be the first of its kind and will serve as a model for other states. Additional details on the Coordinator role will be provided by Safe Avenues as they become available.

More information about the Willmar Area Women's Fund can be found at [www.NotHereNotOurKids.com](http://www.NotHereNotOurKids.com) or by calling the Willmar Area Community Foundation at 320-235-4380.

The Willmar Area Community Foundation (WACF) in affiliation with CommunityGiving, is a public charity that attracts and administers charitable funds for the benefit of the local

community. Since 1998, WACF has grown to over \$17.7 million in assets and awarded \$6.5 million in grants to local nonprofits. CommunityGiving is a partnership of four community foundations, including Alexandria Area Community Foundation, Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation, Central Minnesota Community Foundation and Willmar Area Community Foundation. CommunityGiving administers more than 650 funds totaling more than \$115 million. Learn more at [CommunityGiving.org/Willmar](http://CommunityGiving.org/Willmar).