

COMMUNITY NEWS

Proposed Facilities Represent Hope for Child Prostitutes

By Briana Mackey

The Answer Managing Editor

Prostitution is illegal in Las Vegas and prostitutes are considered criminals under the law, no matter what their age or level of consent in being sold for sex. Hundreds of child prostitutes, deemed by abolitionists to be victims of human trafficking and modern-day slavery, are arrested in Las Vegas every year. Their fate is often time in a detention center or facility that's ill-equipped to facilitate the physical and emotional rehabilitation required for this special group of victims. Child advocates assert that the lack of proper treatment for child prostitutes causes them to be re-victimized, either through detention or through release, and often leads to a return to risky situations.

One faith-based group, The Way Out Christian Fellowship, is working diligently to change the way that child prostitutes are cared for once they've been identified and rescued. Las Vegas Family Court Judge William Voy, recently featured in a CNN special about child trafficking, has a similar mission for child prostitutes that have been arrested. They're endeavoring to build facilities that provide safe housing and restorative care for child prostitutes. No such facilities currently exist in Las Vegas, a city considered a hub for child trafficking, and only a handful of these are in operation nationwide. Standing in the way of these facilities are funds and, in the case

of The Way Out's project, land. The Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act, to be reviewed by the new Congress, would provision \$45 million for facilities to aid victims of human trafficking. This amount, though, is weighed as somewhat small when taking into account the hundreds of thousands of underage girls being sold for sex in this country.

The Way Out is putting all of its faith in God to help bring their concept to life and founders Earl and Starr Kennedy believe that a Christ-based program is the most effective way for trafficking victims to find true healing and redemption. This has certainly been true of their work with people battling drug and alcohol addictions. The Way Out operates men's and women's homes in Las Vegas which, according to the Kennedys, take in "the ones that no one else wants." According to Earl, they have learned that discipleship and "loving them into the kingdom" has been the only way to help the people they serve to start new lives.

The Christ-based model for The Way Out's ministry homes has been used by Breaking Chains to shape its own safe and restorative care facility for former child prostitutes in Mexico, according to Earl. The extension of The Way Out into the arena of child trafficking seems a natural progression for the couple, they said. Plus, as Starr put it, "Most of the women we

currently work with have been trafficked, sold for drugs by their parents, etc."

The Way Out's proposed, "purpose-built" facility would operate on a boarding school type model. Child victims, including those domestically trafficked as well as unaccompanied alien youth, from preschool to age 18 would be housed, educated and healed

through a Christ-centered program led by trained counselors, teachers and "mature Christian missionaries."

Judge Voy is working toward the building of a Sexually Exploited Youth Safe House Assessment Center in Las Vegas. Operated by a nonprofit organization which Voy helped create, Protection for Sexually Exploited Chil-

dren of Nevada, the facility would also provide housing and rehabilitative services and would work closely with law enforcement, county and probation entities. Voy has reported that there is private funding available to build the facility, but that the designation of the land and operation of the safe house would fall back on govern- (See Prostitution, Page 25)

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Ricki Barlow, a lifelong resident of the Las Vegas valley, was sworn into office on June 20, 2007. Having been a resident of Las Vegas for more than 30 years, he knows intimately the unique character of this part of southern Nevada and is passionate about preserving the historic roots of the community. He has done this by encouraging economic diversity, addressing crime and preserving the sense of community within Ward 5.

LEADERSHIP

Ward 5 Projects

Zappos Moving To Downtown Las Vegas

ACE Downtown Connector Construction on Casino Center Boulevard

Bikes Belong - bike lane installation project

Martin L. King Improvement Project - 2.5 miles of roadway that will add to the business activity and growth on the Historic West Side

Stewart Avenue & Casino Center Boulevard Sewer System Improvement Project - removal and replacement of the sewer system and reconstruction of roadway

New Traffic Signal In The Works- Washington Avenue and Comstock Drive, Rancho Drive and Palomino Lane

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COMMUNITY

Commitment

Ricki Barlow's commitment to the community can be seen through his participation on numerous boards and commissions. Currently, he sits on:

- Las Vegas Housing Authority
- California-Nevada Super Speed Ground Transportation Commission
- City of Las Vegas Recommending Committee
- Southern Nevada Health District Board
- National League of Cities – Community Economic Development Board
- Neon Museum Board of Directors
- City of Las Vegas Management Committee for Emergency Operations
- KIDS Vote
- Post Office Executive Committee

Over the years, the councilman has been recognized by his peers in the community with numerous awards and accolades for his community service including the Community Partners "Portrait of Pride" Award, Nevada Library Association Trustee of the Year and Clark County School District PAL Program Supervisor of the Year.

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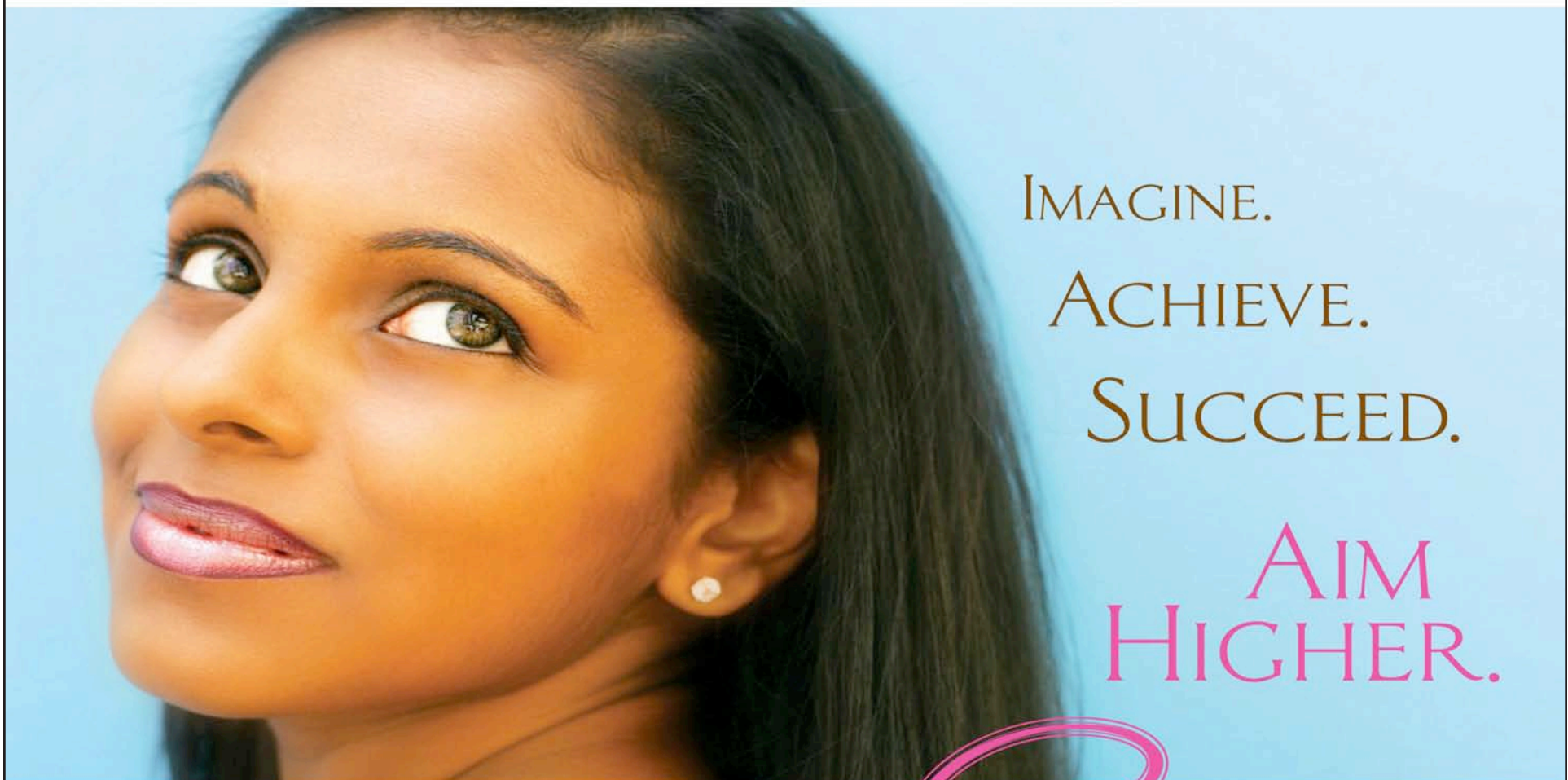
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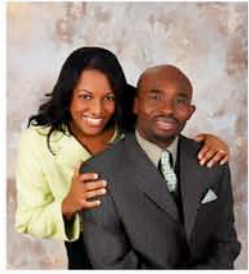
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9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service

TUESDAY

7:00pm Bible Study

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Children's Pastors Chase & Stephanie Cohrac

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Origin Business Park
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www.graceinlasvegas.com

Sunday Services

10:30am

Thursday Bible Study

7:00pm

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COME ONE COME ALL AND WORSHIP WITH US!!!

Sunday Morning

Intercessory Prayer—9:15am
Adult Sunday School—9:45am
Youth & Young Adult Sunday School—9:45am
Worship Service—11:00am
Children's Church—11:00am

Wednesday Night

Corporate Prayer & Fasting until 4:00pm
Women's Gathering—6:00pm
2nd Wed - Men's Ministry/Brotherhood—6:00pm
Bible Class—7:00pm

Friday (let us pray together)

2nd & 4th Fri - Corporate Prayer—6:00pm

"FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN UNTO THE GOING DOWN OF THE SAME THE LORD'S NAME IS TO BE PRAISED" PSALM 113:3



Pastor Ontiwaun and First Lady Lusha Carter

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2560 E Sunset, Suite 108
Las Vegas, NV 89120
(702) 259-PRAY
www.robministries.org

SUNDAY

Worship Service - 8:00 am & 11:00am

WEDNESDAY

Women's/Men's Ministry - 6:00pm
Bible Study - 7:00pm

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Sunday

Morning Manna—8:45am
Intercessory Prayer—10:00am
Worship Service—11:00am

Wednesday

Intercessory Prayer—6:00pm
Bible Explosion—7:00pm

Friday

(starting December 3rd)
Friday Night Live—7:00pm

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827 Balzar Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89106
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PO Box 270548, Las Vegas, 89127
(702) 646-2824
firstchurch8@aol.com

Sunday

Christian Education - 9:30am
Morning Worship - 11:00am

Tuesday

Morning Prayer - 9:00am

Wednesday

Bible Study - 7:00pm

Thursday

Morning Prayer - 9:00am

Welcome to our growing church where the spirit abides and the Lord resides.

"I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST, WHO STRENGTHENS ME."