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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Local Non-Profit Walks 13 Miles Across Houston to Fight Human Trafficking**

HOUSTON, Nov. 15, 2022 – A human trafficking survivor’s path to reclaiming freedom is marked by thousands of steps: meeting with a case manager for the first time, filling out apartment applications, finding a ride to therapy, making a friend at a support group, and so many more. United Against Human Trafficking (UAHT) will walk 13 miles across Houston to raise awareness and money to help human trafficking survivors reclaim their lives.

“Our team is drawing attention to trafficking survivors’ long journey to freedom by walking the 13 mile distance from UAHT’s headquarters to our survivor services location. We will take thousands of steps. Each one is a physical representation of our commitment to walking alongside trafficking survivors on their paths to rebuild their lives.” explained Timeka Walker , UAHT’s Chief Executive Officer . “It is an opportunity for supporters to meet and demonstrate their support for protecting Texas’ most vulnerable people,” Walker said.

On any given day, an estimated 313,000 children and adults are forced and tricked into human trafficking in Texas. These victims are classmates, friends, and neighbors, who are sexually assaulted or forced to labor in dangerous conditions for the profit of their abuser. UAHT’s vital programs ensure trafficking survivors have a reliable and trained guide to walk alongside them as they seek safe housing, reliable jobs, mental healthcare, legal services, and more.

In honor of the countless steps that survivors face, United Against Human Trafficking will walk across Houston from Gulfton to Eastwood during their “Steps to Freedom” campaign on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. They will start at UAHT’s office at 6671 Southwest Freeway and end at Coral Sword Cafe.

As Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday promote buying during the holiday season, Giving Tuesday was created to encourage people to do good. Over ten years, it has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to use their



talents, skills, and resources to practice generosity - from helping a neighbor, to advocating for an issue, to giving to causes. Everyone has something to give and every act of generosity counts.

UAHT's goal on Giving Tuesday is to bring awareness to the heinous crime of human trafficking and raise \$13,000 to support their programs for survivors, like case management, transportation, support groups, and more.

Community members are invited to participate in three ways: walking with the group, donating, and inviting their loved ones to join. You can [get more information, RSVP, and donate at https://give.classy.org/StepsToFreedom](https://give.classy.org/StepsToFreedom)

*United Against Human Trafficking is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization on a mission to end human trafficking through preventing exploitation, educating the community, and empowering survivors. UAHT strives to prevent exploitation in youth and in overlooked communities through awareness and empowerment programs. It trains law enforcement and other professional groups to appropriately recognize and respond to human trafficking situations. UAHT is the lead organization for a Houston-area coalition that strategizes the Houston anti-trafficking movement at a macro-level. It serves trafficking survivors directly through its case management program and support groups. More information can be found at [www.uaht.org](http://www.uaht.org).*

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