

Hepzibah

Hepzibah House Updates

May, 2013

**Thank you so much
for your interest in
Hepzibah House
and your concern for
modern day slavery!**

Double H Equestrian Center

Several months ago we decided to shift our strategy for opening Hepzibah House, by **creating an equestrian center - offering boarding, riding, and equine assisted therapy.** The idea has real merit, for a number of reasons...

1st: The property we are hoping to purchase is in fact a five acre horse farm. Opening an equestrian center would maximize the value of the property which already has a sixteen stable barn with feed and tack rooms, a wash stall, twelve paddocks, and a riding ring with professional footing.

2nd: Double H will be a subsidiary of Hepzibah House - under the original non-profit charter. Because security can be such a big issue for women coming out of trafficking, Hepzibah House needs to keep as low a profile as possible. So raising funds through Double H will help by limiting Hepzibah House's exposure.

3rd: By having a business in place to help support Hepzibah House (like Habitat for Humanity's "Restore" stores) **it will simplify fundraising by creating an income stream we can draw on.**

4th: We will be the only equestrian center in Palm Beach County offering equine assisted therapy (EAT). Other equestrian centers, lacking licensed mental health counselors on staff, are limited to equine assisted learning (EAL). This is an amazing niche for us as **our services can be billed through insurance** - a significant advantage over other equestrian centers in the area. Palm Beach County, with its vast equine community, is also the epicenter of

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Shared Hope Mission

Shared Hope International strives to prevent the conditions that foster sex trafficking, restore victims of sex slavery, and bring justice to vulnerable women and children. We envision a world passionately opposed to sex trafficking and a committed community

winter riding in the United States. In fact, the Winter Equestrian Games are being held here in 2018.

5th: It makes the down stroke, to get into the property much more attainable since the remodeling and security upgrades, full staffing and living expenses will not be required immediately.

Business Plan

I am very pleased to announce that **the business plan for Double H Equestrian Center is completed!** (To say "I am pleased" is a colossal understatement!) In fact, I took it to Flagler Bank and spoke with the branch manager about a loan. He was very impressed with the business plan, the financial projections, and **felt there would be no problem funding the purchase of the land!** Even being very conservative in the financial projections, we should easily be able to cover mortgage payments, show a profit for the first year, which increases substantially for the second and third years.

Once everything is leased - we can come back and apply for the business loan for the equestrian center, which the banker also expects to be able to fund.

How amazingly cool is that!?! If you would like to see a copy of the Double H Equestrian Center Business Plan, please let me know.

Horse Farm Foreclosure

Which brings me to the next topic. The horse farm was foreclosed on by Wells Fargo Bank! It was on the market for \$370,000. An earlier offer of \$350,000 was not accepted, so full price or better is probably the best idea. Because it is a foreclosure, we need to make a cash offer.

Flagler Bank will require a 10% down payment for the loan. Once this is in place, they will give us a pre-approval letter, which we can take with us to Wells Fargo.

Our real estate agent, Christina Henley, owner of Sold Rock Realty, has opened an escrow account for us through Mainland Title Company for depositing funds for the down payment. **These funds will be held for ninety days. If the property does not close in this time, all funds will be returned to the donors.**

If you are interested in participating in this you may do

restoring survivors to lives of purpose, value and choice - one life at a time.

Shared Hope Vision

Shared Hope International was established to provide hope to the hopeless women Washington State Congresswoman Linda Smith found enslaved in the brothels of Mumbai in 1998. Our early efforts targeted the international sex trafficking industry. As we became established leaders in the international movement to end slavery, our eyes were opened to the scourge of sex trafficking in the U.S. We could not ignore this injustice and expanded our impact to bring hope to American women and children victimized in the commercial sex industry. Today, we lead prevention strategies, restoration programs and justice initiatives to combat trafficking in the U.S. and abroad.

Renting Lacy:

Book description:

so by contacting them. Their contact info is:

Mainland Title Company

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Hepzibah Daughters

I am already working with trafficking survivors in my private practice and **seeing amazing results - not by my estimation, but by theirs!**

How cool is that?

As far as the residential treatment facility goes, the projected opening depends on several variables. **As soon as Hepzibah House donations and Double H income combined are able pay the mortgage, some very basic security upgrades, base salary for the "house mom" and living expenses, we can take in daughters.** These first women will need to have low security profiles - meaning they do not have former pimps wanting to reclaim them. Most likely we would receive older teens aging out of foster care.

Renting Lacy, by Linda Smith and Cindy ColomaI would like to highlight a book each month that would be useful in increasing your knowledge about modern day slavery in the United States. This book, *Renting Lacy*, is published by Shared Hope International. This group is **one of the leaders in the United States working with underage minors, crafting better legislation, lobbying and doing statistical research to better understand this group.** Their website is charedhope.org/

A book review for *Renting Lacy* is in the right column.

Thanks again for your interest in **Hepzibah House** and what is perhaps the foremost justice issue of our time: **human trafficking and the repercussions in individual lives.**

The average age of entry into prostitution in America is 13 years old. Forced into a life they never chose, manipulated, abused and tortured at the hands of the pimps who control them, our countrys children are sold on the streets, on the internet and at truck stops across America every night. They arent bad kids who made bad choices. They are victims of child sex trafficking. They come from our neighborhoods, our schools, our churches, and sometimes our own homes. Author Linda Smith brings to life characters based on real stories and interviews with teen survivors. Meet Lacy and Star as they reveal the underbelly of our country s commercial sex trade. Get to know the men who sell them, and the ones who buy them. Let *Renting Lacy* draw you into the lives of these young girls as they struggle to survive each night, watching their childhood hopes and dreams slip away in the darkness. Let it compel you to action.