
Sex trafficking survivor to speak

By The Record

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STOCKTON — It's sure to be a gripping tale.

Kate Price, who was forced into the sex trade as a child and has emerged from the horrific events, will serve as the keynote speaker at the annual Women's Center-Youth & Family Services luncheon. It serves as the largest fundraiser for San Joaquin County's sole provider of free, confidential shelter and services for homeless and runaway youths and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

Price will offer a first-hand look into human trafficking, and individuals and local businesses can learn how they can make an impact on the shameful practice that is all too prevalent.

The 37th annual luncheon is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 22 at the Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium, 525 N Center St. Cost for a table of eight is \$400.

Price survived commercial sexual exploitation as a child. She was victimized by family members and overlooked by her community. Although extended family, neighbors, friends and teachers suspected she was being harmed, no one intervened.

As a 10-year-old, she had already suffered a decade of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. But she visited a friend whose mother was a college professor and became inspired that there was a life beyond what she knew.

"That one visit gave me a vision of what I knew my life could look like beyond those cycles (of abuse)," Price said in a news release. "I held onto that inspiration for dear life as I fought my way out."

Today, Price is working on her Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She also serves on advisory boards of anti-trafficking organizations Truckers Against Trafficking and ECPAT-USA.

For more information and for individual tickets at \$55 each, contact the Women's Center at (209) 941-2611 or go to womenscenteryfs.org.