



## **News Release**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Event Celebrates Efforts to Battle Human Trafficking in Columbus**

COLUMBUS, OH—Churches around Columbus will be uniting in prayer and hopeful worship with She Has A Name on April 8, 2018, to celebrate God's heart for survivors of human trafficking at Veritas Community Church for their yearly event, "Night of Jubilee."

According to the International Labor Organization, almost 21 million people are victims of forced labor and 4.5 million are victims of forced sexual exploitation. Ohio has the fourth highest number of human trafficking cases reported with 375 this year, according to The National Human Trafficking Hotline. SHAN, located in downtown Columbus, is a community of abolitionists that fights human trafficking through education, collaboration and survivor care. This event will bring awareness about human trafficking, as well as the powerful ways God has brought healing to those suffering in the community.

At 6 pm at the Veritas Short North location, visitors can walk through the art displays made by survivors and artists in the community that depict the restorative journey of a survivors. The art will focus around three rhythms—repentance, restoration and remembrance. At 7 pm the main event will begin, with three different local faith leaders leading corporate and individual

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prayer focusing on each of these rhythms. The faith leaders will come from Veritas Church, Vista Community Church and H2O church at Ohio State. There will also be songs led by the Veritas band.

Whitney Varnau, the community engagement director of SHAN and staff member of H2O, spoke the last event, where about 100 people attended. She is excited to see how the next event will grow and encourages more people, especially those in the faith community, to attend.

“I think this event is vital for anyone in the faith community who is passionate about justice and human trafficking survivors. As a Christian, I don’t believe the issue of human trafficking will ever be restored without the Gospel. This event brings the faith community together to pray and reflect on how we can be a part of this mission,” said Varnau.

Varnau first got connected to SHAN through her involvement at H2O. After graduating from Ohio State, she went on staff for H2O and after three years of praying for a way she could get more involved with SHAN, she was offered a position.

“I am passionate about SHAN because I believe in its mission. I believe that people are important and survivors have inherent value and potential. I love that we come alongside them in this work of restoration. SHAN isn’t afraid to dig into the messy parts of the mission for survivors,” said Varnau.

Hayley Neff, a third-year special education major at Ohio State, went to the last event because she had recently become “super passionate” about the organization. She has visited women in the shelters and she said the injustices they have faced “blows her mind.” She decided to attend the “Night of Jubilee” to push her closer to the organization. Her favorite part was the art gallery.

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“I’ve never been one to get super into the arts, but I think it’s such a beautiful way to express yourself and the tragedies and triumphs you’ve had in your life. The artists who created the pieces did a fantastic job showing their stories. I will continue to come to any events She Has a Name or other anti-human trafficking organizations put on. I want to continue to step out in faith and grow in this community and help change lives,” said Neff.

### **About SHAN**

SHAN is a strong community of abolitionists that fights human trafficking through education, collaboration and survivor care. Its vision, according to its website, is “to see all those impacted by human trafficking restored into society and thriving in their community.” The three main goals of the organization are to provide job readiness for survivors, to educate the community about what human trafficking is and how they can be a part of the solution and to collaborate with the survivor community with the greater central Ohio community by hosting fund-raising and awareness events. They are located at the Veritas Short North congregation at 605 North High St. #120. For more information, visit <http://www.shehasaname.org>.

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Sources

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>

<http://www.shehasaname.org/about-us/>

<http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang—en/index.htm>



## Fact Sheet

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### She Has a Name

#### History

She Has A Name began in 2011 as a community of Christ followers burdened for victims of human trafficking. Members of Veritas Community Church created the ministry to help fund Christ-centered anti-human trafficking efforts by selling T-shirts. Over the next few years, SHAN became a vessel for money and awareness to flow to the abolitionist community; strengthening it and funding vital services.

#### Who we are

SHAN is committed to engaging & equipping volunteers, serving partner organizations, and providing job readiness initiatives for survivors. We join together declaring that victims and survivors of human trafficking have a name, nobility, and a narrative.

#### Vision

To see all those impacted by human trafficking restored into society and thriving in their community.

#### Mission

SHAN is a strong community of abolitionists that exists to fight human trafficking through education, collaboration, and survivor care.

#### Our Convictions

Job readiness: We act as a resource to survivors by standing in the gap between restorative care and transitional employment by teaching job skills that contribute to transformational work. Survivors of human trafficking often face intense employment barriers. By offering one-on-one mentorship and job readiness classes, our hope is that more and more survivors would be restored into society, welcomed in the workplace and thriving in their community

Education: We stand as a community resource to equip individuals and organizations with knowledge about what human trafficking is and how they can become a part of the solution. She Has A Name provides community education through a unique curriculum that addresses human

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trafficking education and awareness. We hold quarterly classes that offer a framework to understand human trafficking and serve survivors. Training focuses on the needs of survivors, working with survivors and getting connected. Men and women are encouraged to attend. Each week is a different topic, so please plan on attending all three sessions. Classes are held on Wednesday nights for three consecutive weeks.

1. Introduction to Human Trafficking
2. Needs, Trauma, and Survivor Care
3. Anti-Human Trafficking Organization fair

Collaboration: As a resource to practitioners, we connect existing efforts with best practices, evidence-based research and community capital to provide exceptional care to survivors. We have chosen to invest in the abolition community by hosting fund-raising and awareness events. We see these events as unique opportunities to join together the survivor community with the greater central Ohio community.

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## Backgrounder

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### Veritas Community Church

Skeptics, seekers and worshipers gather here to experience and learn about Jesus. We love Jesus and seek to live in light of the Gospel in a way that transforms our lives and our city to be more beautiful, giving God glory in Columbus. Join us as we seek Gospel transformation together.

There are four congregations throughout Columbus: Short North (345 E 2nd Ave.); Tri-Village (1780 Barrington Road); East (2866 Noe Bixby Road); West (12 S Terrace Ave). The Short North congregation meets on Sunday at 9 am and 11 am, Tri-village at 9 am and 11 am, East at 10 am, and West at 10:30 am.

Veritas' leaders seek to follow Jesus in every action, word, and choice they make for Veritas. The Elders and Pastors work under Jesus, taking responsibility for the spiritual growth and leadership of the church body through prayer, teaching, and vision. The Deacons and Staff work under the Elders in specific church ministries, carrying out the mission of the gospel as lead servants. The Members carry out the mission of the gospel to Columbus and beyond. Nick Nye is the Lead Pastor of Veritas. He is responsible for teaching, leadership and vision. He has a B.A. in Religion from Write State University and an M. Div. from Southern Seminary.

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