Saratoga Springs conference, film screening to target sex trafficking

http://www.saratogian.com/article/ST/20171022/NEWS/171029933
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By Staff report

Posted: 10/22/17, 1:57 PM EDT | Updated: on 10/22/2017

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SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. >> Sex trafficking will be highlighted in a documentary screening and all-day conference later this week hosted by CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services and the Saratoga Center for the Family, two nonprofits who are addressing the issue by supporting victims of child sex trafficking and creating local awareness.

A benefit screening of the documentary “I Am Jane Doe” is scheduled for 6:15 p.m. Thursday at Bow Tie Criterion on Railroad Place, organized by Susan Axelrod, a local volunteer and consultant for CAPTAIN. The screening will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the filmmaker, Mary Mazzio, with Mazzio joined by representatives from CAPTAIN and the Saratoga Center for the Family, as well as other individuals and local businesses whose donations helped to bring Mazzio to the Capital Region.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children defines sex trafficking as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act.” Mazzio, an award-winning filmmaker, exposes the issue in a documentary featuring American mothers who battle against sex trafficking on behalf of their middle-school-aged daughters.

Mazzio will also be the keynote speaker at the third annual Safe Harbour Conference on Friday at Skidmore College. The free conference aims to educate, inform, raise awareness and take steps to prevent and stop trafficking and commercially exploiting youth and to familiarize attendees with resources and services available in Saratoga County.

Online registration for the screening is available at www.captaincares.org, while registration for the Safe Harbour conference can be done online at eventbrite.com.
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