



8500 TORBRAM ROAD
UNIT 56
BRAMPTON, ONTARIO
L6T 5C6

TEL: (905) 458-1202
FAX: (905) 458-4339
TOLL-FREE: 1-800-883-7697
www.partnersinternational.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oakville Event Raises \$50,000 to Help End Human Trafficking

BRAMPTON, ON. – May 11, 2015 – On April 11, 2015, Partners International Canada hosted the Restored: Hope in Action conference organized in partnership with the Sanctuary Church at Sheridan College. The Saturday night event filled the Marquis at Sheridan College to capacity and was able to raise \$50,000 to help bring an end to human trafficking. During the event, attendees were able to hear from Partners International Canada members, Smita Singh and Vladimir Ubeivolc. Both are directors of Care Homes that seek to rescue and restore victims of human trafficking in areas of the world where human trafficking is common. Smita Singh is the director of Mahima Care Homes located in Kolkata, India. Her work to end human trafficking has seen the rescue and reintegration of hundreds of young women and girls as well 24 criminal convictions of human traffickers due to the testimonies of 21 rescued young women and girls.

Vladimir is the Director of Beginning of Life in Moldova, the country with the highest rate of human trafficking in the world. Beginning of Life has been able to educate over 20,000 Moldovans through prevention lectures and seminars, as well as restoring 20 young women and girls to their families, with 12 starting a family of their own. “It happens everywhere.” Says Vladimir, “Even in Canada. Even in the Greater Toronto Area. Even in Oakville.”

“What's unique about their programs is the holistic approach they have.” Says Partners International Canada president and Oakville resident, Kevin McKay, “From prevention before children ever get trafficked, to rehabilitation once they are in the program, to successful reintegration back into communities. It gives them the opportunity to be change agents, to be difference makers in their

communities.”

Audience members were deeply affected by their stories of suffering, and while both Vladimir and Smita shared stories of loss and despair, they also shared stories of hope. Stories of victims returning to their families, reintegrating into society, starting their own families and in some cases becoming social workers so that they can help others who have been victims of human trafficking. During the event, audience members were able to ask questions of both speakers through Twitter, with the most common question being “how can we help here in Canada?”

Partners International has been a leading Christian not-for-profit specializing in holistic international development since 1963. By working through local entities, they gain the advantage of grassroots knowledge that enables them to overcome the hurdles and challenges often missed by outsiders. Their rigorous selection process enables them to partner with the most effective local leaders and organizations in each context including children-at-risk, education, health and wellness, water, Christian witness, entrepreneurship and justice issues.

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Luke McKee
Communications Coordinator
Partners International Canada
905.599.4944