

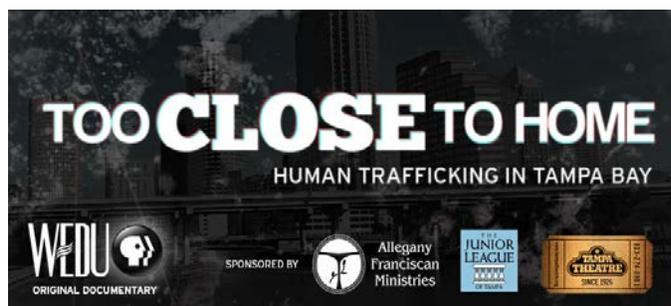
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## ***Human Trafficking in Tampa Bay Takes Center Stage During Premiere Screening of WEDU PBS Documentary***



**Tampa, FL** – Behind Tampa Bay’s world-famous beaches, tourist attractions and sunny suburbs lies an alarming secret: Tampa Bay is a hotbed for human trafficking. Men, women and children are forced against their will to serve in the sex trade, domestic servitude and agricultural industries. They are bought, sold and discarded in our own

community, making Florida the third-highest ranked state in the nation for this fast-growing crime.

Join [WEDU PBS](http://www.wedu.org) for an in-depth look at this crisis with ***TOO CLOSE TO HOME***, a WEDU PBS original documentary on human trafficking in Tampa Bay, during a premiere screening event on **Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.** at Tampa Theatre. Following the film, meet survivors, local law enforcement, service providers and citizens that are creating a grass roots movement to help combat this form of modern-day slavery. This special screening event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and reservations are requested. Tickets can be reserved online at: [www.wedu.org/humantrafficking](http://www.wedu.org/humantrafficking). This community outreach event is supported through a grant by the Allegany Franciscan Ministries.

**WHAT:** FREE premiere film screening of ***Too Close To Home***, a WEDU PBS original documentary

**WHO:** Presented by WEDU PBS (Community outreach event is sponsored in part by: Allegany Franciscan Ministries. Also supported by The Junior League of Tampa and Tampa Theatre)

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 12th at 7:30pm (Doors open at 7pm)

**WHERE:** Tampa Theatre - 711 N. Franklin Street, Tampa

**RSVP:** [www.wedu.org/humantrafficking](http://www.wedu.org/humantrafficking) (Free and open to the public. Seating is limited, reservations are requested.)

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***Too Close To Home*** will premiere on WEDU PBS Thursday, September 26 at 9:00 p.m. A companion piece, ***Too Close to Home: A Roundtable Discussion***, will follow the film at 9:30 p.m. and will delve further into specific local efforts to help human trafficking victims in Tampa Bay. Hosted by Rob Lorei, experts will address the issues of safe housing, public health, funding and state legislation to recognize the special needs of victims and educate the community on the many ways it can help.

**ABOUT WEDU PBS**

WEDU is West Central Florida's leading PBS station and public media company reaching 16 counties through media platforms including on-air programming and online experiences that broaden horizons, transport and transform and open gateways to new ideas and new worlds. Financially supported by the community, the organization offers a wealth of award-winning inspirational, educational and enlightening content over a variety of media platforms including: television programming, station's website, [wedu.org](http://wedu.org) and various social media platforms, monthly member magazine *Premiere*, educational outreach activities and a myriad of special events. WEDU's focus on the local community has resulted in the station being regarded as a beacon of trust for men, women and children of every walk of life no matter their age, ethnicity or socio-economic status. WEDU is a treasured community resource; a window to the world for the homebound and a vital educational source for the youngest members of society. WEDU prides itself on its position in the Tampa Bay community as a leader, partner, informed citizen and a member of PBS, the most trusted institution in America (Harris Interactive Trust QuickQuery, January 2013). For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU visit [wedu.org](http://wedu.org); WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter or call 813.254.9338.

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