

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 3, 2013



MEDIA CONTACT: Allison Alvarez Hedrick
Vice President of Communications
P: 800.354.9338 ext. 2240
E: ahedrick@wedu.org

WEDU PBS Original Documentary Brings Human Trafficking in Tampa Bay Too Close To Home, Premiering September 26



Tampa, FL – Human trafficking is second only to drug trafficking for illegal business worldwide.

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***, an original documentary on human trafficking in Tampa Bay. Meet local law enforcement, service providers and citizens creating a grass roots movement to help combat this form of modern-day slavery. ***Too Close To Home***, a [WEDU PBS](http://www.wedu.org) original documentary, will premiere on **Thursday, September 26 at 9:00 p.m.** on WEDU.

A companion piece, ***Too Close to Home: A Roundtable Discussion***, follows 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.

Too Close To Home was made possible by underwriting support from the Allegany Franciscan Ministries.

-more-

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 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; WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter or call 813.254.9338.

-WEDU-