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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**#LIGHTTHEDARKNESS
IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS**

October 28, 2020

The Samaritan Women - Institute for Shelter Care is lighting the darkness for victims of domestic human trafficking and raising awareness about the lack of victim services available to survivors. With an estimated 200,000 children exploited each year in America — there are only about 177 shelter homes or 1,400 beds throughout the country to serve this population. In recognition of *National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month*, The Institute for Shelter Care is asking each person to light the darkness with a candle, cell phone, car lights, etc. to bring attention to the darkness surrounding this insidious crime. Tag your photos and comments with the hashtag, #lightthedarkness and join us as we light the way for victims looking to find hope and healing from the trauma of their abuse.

Join with family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to show your support by lighting the darkness @7:00pm on Human Trafficking Awareness Day, January 11, 2021.

Light up your home, office building, place of worship or *yourself* for at least 11 minutes to raise awareness to the issue of Human Trafficking. Take a picture of how you “light the darkness” and post it on social media with the hashtag #lightthedarkness and challenge your friends to participate. Send the picture to lightthedarkness@thesamaritanwomen.org or tag us on Facebook to show us how you are helping in this fight.

Check out Light the Darkness (<https://thesamaritanwomen.org/lightthedarkness>) for a Facebook frame, downloadable web banners, and creative ideas on how to light the darkness.

Make a donation in support of The Samaritan Women – Institute for Shelter Care’s shelter planting and equipping initiative to grow the national landscape of shelter programs across the nation (<https://thesamaritanwomen.org/give>)

About The Samaritan Women - Institute for Shelter Care

The Samaritan Women - Institute for Shelter Care (<https://thesamaritanwomen.org>) is dedicated to growing the national landscape of shelter providers. In 2019 the Institute piloted a mentorship program for four shelter programs across the U.S. and in April 2020, The Institute for Shelter care announced the launch of its first mentee shelter program. The Institute will soon announce the 2021 mentees. For more information about The Samaritan Women - Institute for Shelter Care, contact Linda Thomas at lthomas@thesamaritanwomen.org.