



NY-CRC-STOP, a coalition of 36 women and men religious congregations in the greater New York area, works to stop trafficking through education, advocacy and support of persons who are trafficked.

Background of NY-CRC-STOP and THE SAFE HOUSE:

The present “Safe House” has a history dating back to 2005 when seven Sisters from the New York area, representing five religious congregations, (Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Congregation of Notre Dame and Sisters of Charity of Halifax) attended a Conference on Human Trafficking.

After that meeting the group decided to come together and start a Coalition. Mary Heyser, RSHM, facilitated the gathering at the Sisters of Charity administration building in the Bronx on September 28, 2005 with Sisters from 10 religious congregations.

The group continued to educate themselves, offered workshops yearly and in 2006 established the title: New York, Coalition of Religious Congregations, Stop Trafficking of Persons (NY-CRC-STOP). There are now 36 Congregations who are NY-CRC-STOP members.

Sr. Claire Regan represented the Sisters of Charity of NY from 2006 until she went to New Orleans, LA. Sr. Mary Ellen O’Boyle currently represents the Sisters of Charity of New York on the Coalition. She also serves as one of three co-chairs.

Sr. Joan Dawber, SC-Halifax, established LifeWay Network to move forward the dream for a “Safe House” for women rescued from trafficking. All members of the Coalition, through their contribution of money, time and talent, made and continue to make the Safe House a reality.

The Safe House opened in February 2012, and can accommodate five women rescued from labor and/or sex trafficking. Three Sisters living with them provide a safe and caring environment so that their educational and emotional needs can be met. Several Sisters of Charity of New York are regular volunteers at the Safe House.

NY-CRC-STOP continues to spread awareness, attract volunteers and raise funds to not only continue but expand this dream in the days ahead.

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