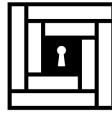


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SAFE HOUSE P R O J E C T

Safe House Certification Awards Silver Badge to Haven Homes of Detroit

Detroit — On Tuesday, December 17th, Haven Homes of Detroit, a Michigan-based residential home providing therapeutic and restorative services to victims of trafficking, was awarded a Silver level of certification from the national Safe House Certification, provided by Safe House Project.

Through the Safe House Certification process, Haven Homes of Detroit Transitional residential program’s management, governance, financials, and operations were evaluated against established standards. This six-stage certification process, including final determinations made by a third-party certification review board composed of industry experts, found the program to be providing exceptional and equitable care based on best practices established through empirical research and survivor input.

According to Safe House Project, organizations receiving a Silver certification are offering services that meet many industry standards, as well as industry best practices, and demonstrate a commitment to serving survivors with high-quality programming and working toward continuous improvement in their standards of care. Certification is intended to not only evaluate organizations, but also indicate to survivors, placement agencies, and law enforcement which organizations offer strong programming for support during their healing journey.

Aaron Detweiler Short - Haven Homes of Detroit - “Haven Homes of Detroit is honored to receive the Silver level accrediting certification from the Safe House Project. We are so thankful to have the opportunity to work with Safe House Project and learn from them about best industry practices in transitional housing and care for survivors during our accreditation time. Haven Homes of Detroit values always providing quality care in a community and a caring community for our residents. Having this designation helps us feel confident that we are giving quality care and adhering to best practices on behalf of the residents we have the honor to serve”.

Liberty Sarkar, Certification Specialist at Safe House Project, shares, *“We proudly acknowledge Haven Homes of Detroit as a Silver-Certified program, recognizing their innovative and trauma-informed care for female survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. It was truly*

an honor to learn about the program's approaches to care, setting a high standard for holistic recovery, and empowering survivors.”

About Safe House Project

Safe House Project (501c3) is a nonprofit combatting domestic sex trafficking by increasing victim identification of trafficked individuals through survivor-informed training, supporting victims in their escape, and increasing the number of restorative care opportunities for child trafficking victims. To learn more about Safe House Project, visit www.safehouseproject.org.

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About Haven Homes of Detroit -

[Haven Homes of Detroit](#) - Transitional Living program for female survivors of human trafficking.

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Kristi Wells, CEO, Safe House Project—

“As trafficking has grown in the spotlight, so has the number of organizations seeking to help. However, with that growth comes a need for quality control and established standards of care for residential service providers of trafficked individuals,” said Kristi Wells, Safe House Project CEO, “For years, we have seen the lack of standards create harmful outcomes to survivors, leading to further trauma, revictimization, or near-death experiences. Safe House Certification establishes high-caliber standards for survivor care, evaluates and certifies programs providing that level of care, and provides roadmaps for improvement to those programs that do not achieve one of our 3 levels of certification. The Safe House Certification review board is composed of industry experts who hold programs to the highest standards of care and ultimately elevate the national standard of care.”

Bill Woolf, former Acting Director of the Office for Victims of Crime, US Department of Justice, applauds the certification program saying, “Establishing standards of care is of critical importance to ensuring that survivors of trafficking receive only the best services that are designed and delivered to meet their individualized needs,” He continued, “I am so thankful for Safe House Project’s leadership, filling a much-needed gap in the field and helping to secure the rights of victims of crime as they go through the healing process.”

Alia Azariah, Safe House Project Director of Aftercare and Survivor Leader, expressed the need for this certification to bring greater support to survivors.

“Daily we see quality programs break the cycle of victimization for trafficking survivors. This certification provides a clear way to evaluate organizations that are serving trafficking survivors and reward those meeting best practices while driving all programs to excellence, thereby reducing re-victimization nationwide. Safe House Project’s certification model was created in collaboration with industry experts, including survivors, law enforcement, social workers, health care professionals, mental health professionals, and leading residential programs for trafficking survivors to provide survivor care that goes above and beyond a basic industry standard of care,” according to Azariah.