



October 22, 2018

Contact: Leah Gurowitz  
(202) 879-1700

## PRESS ADVISORY

### **H.O.P.E. Court to Host ‘Golden Doors to Freedom’ Event for Graduates** -- Survivors of sex-trafficking will convert discarded door into Freedom Portal --

- WHAT:** H.O.P.E. Court *Golden Doors to Freedom* Celebration
- WHEN:** **Friday, October 26, 2018, 11:00am**
- WHERE:** Moultrie Courthouse, Courtroom JM-1  
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
- WHO:** Magistrate Judge Mary Grace Rook  
Photographer and Artworks for Freedom Founder Kay Chernush  
Trafficking survivor and advocate Barbara Amaya

Program details:

- At this event, H.O.P.E graduates will apply gold leaf, messages, drawings, and other items and messages to the door.
- DC Superior Court’s H.O.P.E. Court program (“Here Opportunities Prepare you for Excellence”) is a treatment court that was established to address the multiple needs of court-involved youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.
- H.O.P.E offers specialized services to assist participants and their families to identify and achieve their ‘permanency goal’
- *Golden Doors to Freedom* describes itself as “a participatory arts project that turns abandoned doors into dramatic vehicles for communal focus on human trafficking.” Hear from ArtWorks for Freedom founder Kay Chernush here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wrILtoihcs>
- Why doors? Some ask. GDtF explains: “For survivors, transforming a “piece of junk” into a compelling work of art helps them see new possibilities for their own lives.” The doors will first be displayed in local venues in order to raise awareness, and eventually auctioned off in support of survivor support organizations.

**CAMERAS ARE ALLOWED IN TO THE COURTROOM FOR THIS EVENT.**  
Photos and video of HOPE Court participants will be allowed **only if they give their express permission.**

###