

# STRATEGIC PLANNING OUTLINE FOR CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

## with Araminta Freedom Initiative



There are numerous ways that a church can engage with Araminta Freedom Initiative and various ways Araminta can accelerate your churches' understanding of, and engagement with, the injustice of human trafficking. Breaking up these opportunities by segmenting what you can do and what we can offer, we give each church community a detailed outline to assess both their needs and their resources:

### I. AWAKENING THROUGH AWARENESS

#### What Araminta brings:

- Araminta staff and church liaison volunteers are available to help your church build a strategic engagement calendar, utilizing the opportunities below, to engage your church body in actively standing against human trafficking in Maryland.
- *Araminta Church Awareness Presentation*: A 60-90 minute presentation led by a certified Araminta volunteer presenter. The presentation focuses on the issue of child trafficking, God's heart for justice, and Araminta's response to awaken, equip and mobilize the church. This can be done in a Sunday school class, an evening session, or at a small group. The presentation can accommodate any size group and works well for a Sunday morning, Wednesday evening, etc
- *5-20 Minute Feature During a Sunday Service*: An Araminta staff member will attend your service to highlight the work of Araminta during a Sunday service, either through an interview format or
- January (National Human Trafficking Prevention Month); Araminta staff member or highly engaged volunteer will present anywhere between 7-20 minutes during your Sunday morning service on the injustice of human trafficking and a model for a faith based response, Araminta, offering on ramps for members to get involved

#### How your church can respond:

- *Awaken Bible Study* – A 5 week study written by Pastor/Founder Mark Stephenson and the Araminta Church Engagement team. The bible study comes with a leader's guide and additional resources. Someone at your church can lead the study or you may request a leader from the Araminta Church Engagement team lead the study.
- *Host an Illuminate evening offering hands on....*

### II. TANGIBLE NEEDS PROVISION FOR SURVIVORS

#### What Araminta brings:

- Araminta will provide your church liaisons and connectors with up to date tangible needs of trafficking survivors in our community. We will provide the slides, printed material, drop-off logistics and all of the materials needed for your church to engage in a small to large tangible needs drive

#### How your Church Can Respond:

- *Tangible needs email list*: Sign-up list for monthly emails from Araminta with specific needs for survivors of trafficking in Araminta's programs
- **Special projects** – These can be done with small groups and are geared toward specific needs occurring during certain times with Araminta. For example, crock-pot meals that can be frozen for our drop-in center, back to school supplies, backpacks with toiletries and clothing for law enforcement on nights they recover victims, gift card drive for our mentor/mentee outings, etc. Special projects must be organized with an Araminta staff to ensure it is meeting a current need.
- **Thanksgiving Baskets** - Meals provided to survivors and their families for thanksgiving; collection of items/gift cards during the month of October and early November
- **Christmas Gifts** – Coordinated with Araminta staff, lists of Christmas wishes for survivors are given to local churches to provide.

- **Settling into first homes/foster care placements:** Surrounding a survivor and her children when there is a move and the need for a larger donation; a church can 'adopt' this need and collect-items for a dorm room, kitchen items and housing items for someone moving into their first home, etc.

### III. RACE AGAINST TRAFFICK

#### What Araminta brings:

- Araminta will provide your church with the slides, posters, post cards and all of the material necessary to advertise, recruit, engage as a team, assist with fundraising efforts, etc. for the Race Against Traffic

#### How your Church Can Respond:

- *Opportunities for Church Members to become Race Champions, and recruiting members of their fellowship to join their team; has fund raising and community building elements -linking together for the May, 12, event*
- *Church Team for Annual Race Against Traffick:* The 5k/10k/1k Family Fun Walk event takes place every May to support the work of Araminta. Churches can start a team and recruit runners/walkers to participate. The event is family friendly and a great way to engage your entire church and all ages.

### IV. YOUTH/PARENT/YOUTH WORKERS EDUCATION

#### What Araminta brings:

- Araminta staff and volunteer will provide your youth leaders with an overview of all of the educational youth and parent presentations and programs in order to assess a plan of action for awakening and equipping the youth and parents in your church. All of the flyers, permission slips, presentation equipment, programming elements will be provided and executed by Araminta staff and trained volunteers

#### How your Church Can Respond:

- *Host an Adult Prevention and Intervention Education Presentation:* This presentation, geared towards parents and those who work with youth, educates adults on tactics used by traffickers to recruit, risk factors for trafficking, signs to identify potential trafficking and how to respond if you suspect a child you know is being trafficked or targeted for trafficking.
- *Araminta's Youth Presentation:* This presentation utilizes the popular movie *The Hunger Games* to awaken and relate to youth to the injustice of human trafficking. Through using relevant cultural material, youth are taught how traffickers target teens, how our culture fuels demand, how they can keep themselves and their friends safe, and how they can be a part of God's heart for justice. The presentation can also be paired with a tangible needs drive to support survivors and engaging your youth in giving.
- *One hour long Youth Presentation:* an hour long offering for a youth night where a very interactive youth presentation is offered; same learning objectives as the longer Youth presentation, this alternative does not utilize the *Hunger Games* but offers opportunities for engagement and interaction

### IV. PRAYER ENGAGEMENT

#### What Araminta brings:

- Araminta's Prayer team will provide your church with multiple ways to engage with Araminta's strategic prayer ministry. These opportunities will be scaled for all church members, affiliated volunteers and certified volunteers; offering opportunities for every member your church that desires to engage prayerfully an opportunity.

#### How Your Church Can Respond:

- *Intercessors:* Araminta engages intercessors in all aspects of our ministry. Connecting your intercessors to Araminta's mission will help cover our organization in prayer and match intercessors with our mentee/mentor pairs in our survivor service program.

- *Host an Illuminate Night:* Illuminate is an interactive prayer and worship night that engages attendees to understand trafficking, prayer around specific areas of the issue at various prayer stations, and worship through use of your churches worship band. This evening is a great way to inspire your church to engage in God's heart for justice.
- *Monthly Prayer Email:* Sign up for Araminta's monthly prayer email and distribute it throughout your church; this is a way that ALL churches can engage with our mission in a strategic and impactful way!
- Invitation for all liaisons and affiliate members to attend our monthly prayer gatherings

## V. VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

### What Araminta brings:

- Araminta will provide your church with all of the necessary communication tools to host an Araminta Volunteer training. This is a great way to open your doors in an effort to train and educate members of the faith community on the injustice of child sex trafficking and allow your church members, and community members, to hear of Araminta's faith based strategic response. We will bring all of the necessary equipment and training materials for the event.

### How Your Church Can Respond:

- *Awaken Night:* This is the first session of our three part volunteer training. Attendees can become a general volunteer with Araminta at this event. The event gives general education about trafficking and first steps to become a volunteer with Araminta. Araminta offers this generally 3-5 times per year. Your church can be a host site for this strategic event as well as allow your community to know about this opportunity.
- *Certified Volunteer Training:* Sessions 2 and 3 of our volunteer training equip attendees to become a certified volunteer with Araminta and serve in high level volunteer opportunities throughout the organization. This is generally offered twice a year. Your church can host the training and open it to attendees from outside your church or advertise a training hosted at another location to your members.

## VI. CHURCH LIAISONS AND CONNECTORS

### What Araminta brings:

- Provide local mission minded individuals in your church with all of the materials necessary to connect your church with the mission of Araminta Freedom

### How Your Church Can Respond:

- Encourage locally mission minded individuals in your church to sign up as liaisons and connectors
- Offer Sunday morning, print, website, social media, communication, etc. platforms to all the liaisons and connectors in order to maximize communications between Araminta and your parishioners (See church liaison and connector documents)

## VII. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- *Mission giving:* Annually, 20-25% of Araminta's income is supported through church mission giving. Churches have chosen to give monthly, quarterly, and annually to the general budget of Araminta or towards a specific project or need as communicated by the Araminta staff or board. Churches have also dedicated special offerings at certain times of the year towards Araminta's mission. However, your churches chooses to give Araminta is blessed to have the gifts of God's people sustaining His work.
- *Host a Food for Thought Fundraiser:* The Food for Thought model engages people in intentional conversation around the dinner table. Araminta has utilized the Food for Thought model to engage people in giving to Araminta's mission. The success of the event comes from table hosts inviting people to the event, engaging them in conversation about human trafficking and Araminta, and a presentation by an Araminta staff. Araminta staff will work with your team to create a intimate atmosphere, lead table hosts, and create a memorable food experience.
- Encourage and promote Race Champions from your church