



April 5, 2019

Dear Friend of Door to Grace,

This spring, we celebrated almost a decade of caring for sexually exploited children in Portland and Seattle. Our approach to the devastating reality of modern-day slavery combines a mixture of gravity and hope. Our model of aftercare for child survivors of sex trafficking is offering healthy relationships, familiar faces, and a home-like setting where we gather together around a dinner table like a thriving family.

We have taught sewing, made jewelry, danced to music, laughed and cried with survivors, celebrated birthdays, shown-up in courtrooms, witnessed baptisms, kept our porch light on for runaways to come home, cheered for graduates and new jobs, and welcomed babies in joy. We have tried to be personal and nimble, meeting survivors where and when they needed us most. We have not done this without flaws or learning from our mistakes. You have helped us do all this and more with your generosity and trust. Together with you and our community partners, we have made a place with consistent familiar faces and safe and open arms.

Door to Grace has come to a prayerful crossroads. Having listened, learned, prayed, and led with creative and collaborative hearts, we continue in that same heart taking this next step forward in humility and God's grace. We have made the heartbreaking decision to close the doors of our Day Home and dissolve Door to Grace as a 501c3 non-profit organization. That news may be sad and sudden for you.

With a little more time to pray and process our own grief, we believe this is a hard and right next step in our mission to bring safe and loving family to sexually exploited children. Throughout this process, it has been our highest priority to work for the best continued care for our Grace Girls, already strong in their own right. If we had our highest hopes and dreams for them, it would be for familiar faces and a continuous thread of ongoing relationship.

Compassion First has been a forerunner and a stable leader in our field for the last twelve years. They have also been a founding partner and a primary supporter of Safety Compass and the work of Esther Nelson, an accomplished leader who our Door to Grace girls already know and trust. This brings our work full circle as our very first experience coming alongside a survivor was with Esther. We are entrusting the future of Door to Grace to Compassion First which will serve as a faith-based extension of Esther's work at Safety Compass.

**Please also see the letter from Compassion First and Safety Compass that includes next steps and further details regarding this transition.**

Please join us in prayer for a bright and hopeful future without slavery and exploitation for both Grace Girls and their children. We are confident as we place both generations in capable hands and healthy relationships of "having one's deepest fear and shame understood by someone else in a context of promise and hope" (Fleming Rutledge).

We remain standing with that mixture of gravity and hope knowing God's love goes ahead of us.

On behalf of the Door to Grace Board of Directors,



Sandy Pennington,  
Board Chair  
Door to Grace