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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Morning Cruise* Raises \$170K to Fight Human Trafficking**

Running "for those not free to run. . .yet," Tampa/Atlanta morning show, *The Morning Cruise* (The JOY FM) hosted 284 runners at Gasparilla weekend and raised over \$170,000 for **Hope for Justice**.



Now an officially recognized charitable group with Tampa's Gasparilla Distance Classic Association, *Team Freedom*, fielded 284 listener-runners who participated in the iconic **Gasparilla Distance Classic**, February 20-21, running in support of **Hope for Justice**. Collectively, the group raised \$172,000.16 to support the fight against human trafficking and ran in various races "for those not free to run. . .yet."

This was the **fifth year** of the morning show effort, led by **Carmen Brown**, who in 2012 established a partnership with Curb recording artist **Natalie Grant**, founder of Abolition International, (which merged with Hope for Justice in 2015) and formed *Free To Run*. At that time, *Team Freedom* numbered 132 participants and raised \$60,000 for the cause. **Hope for Justice** works globally and locally to "end human trafficking and slavery in our generation."

According to the Hope for Justice website ([www.hopeforjustice.org](http://www.hopeforjustice.org)), there are over **20 million persons** enslaved today, many who are sexually exploited children. The youngest victim rescued to-date was a one-year old, according to the organization's 2013 report. More recently, support from *Team Freedom* has been used to launch a **Cambodian Educational Pilot** program for girls rescued from trafficking. The program seeks to empower girls through education and training.

The JOY FM is a network of non-commercial, listener-supported contemporary Christian music stations serving Southwest, Central and North Florida since 1986 and Atlanta since 2011. It is owned by Radio Training Network, and is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization.

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