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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Jasmine Road Announces Messick as New Executive Director

Greenville, S.C. (April 2, 2018) – The board of directors of Jasmine Road recently announced that Beth Messick has been selected as the nonprofit's new Executive Director. Jasmine Road is a 501(c)3 organization with a mission focused on providing a path to freedom and a haven for healing to local women who are trapped in a cycle of sexual exploitation and addiction.

Jasmine Road offers a holistic residential restoration program for adult female survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution and addiction, including two years of rent-free housing, trauma-informed therapy, counseling services, education and job training. The Greenville based nonprofit, which will open its first home in May, is modeled after the very successful Thistle Farms, a community of survivors in Nashville, TN.

"A native of Greenville, Beth has dedicated her career to her passion of bringing hope and healing to forgotten and underserved populations," said Kathryn Norwood, Chairperson of Jasmine Road's Board of Directors. "As a part of the original leadership team, Beth helped to create the vision for Jasmine Road. We are thrilled to now have her at the helm as our Executive Director."

Messick received her bachelor of arts in psychology from Furman University. She began her career, spanning over 30 years of advocacy work, working with teenagers at the Piedmont Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse, an organization that partnered to found the current Julie Valentine Center. She went on to found a Christian counseling ministry that aligned with local churches to offer counseling to sexually abused women. Most recently Messick has served as a Restoration Advocate for Triune Mercy Center where she worked in local jails and with the criminal justice system to advocate for female victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

A partnership of Christ Church Episcopal, Triune Mercy Center and Bon Secours, St. Francis Health System, Jasmine Road formally launched in October 2017. Renovation is nearly complete on the organization's first safe house. Once participants begin healing in the residential program, they will begin working in an innovative Social Enterprise designed to assist in the development of employment and social skills that will prepare them to eventually gain employment at a living wage.

"It has been a lifelong dream to create a restoration home for women," said Messick. "I am committed to supporting local women as they benefit from the safe haven and comprehensive array of services offered through Jasmine Road and begin a transformative journey toward a better life."