

Greenville Women Giving Awards Jasmine Road \$100,000 to Fund Transformative Program for Women

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Jasmine Road was recently named a recipient of a \$100,000 Greenville Women Giving (GWG) grant. Jasmine Road's mission is 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. The grant generously awarded by GWG will fund one year of Jasmine Road's life-changing program for the first five women to reside in the organization's restoration home. Sharon Kelley, a GWG representative (right), presented the award to Beth Messick, Executive Director of Jasmine Road (left) and Kathryn Norwood, Chair of Jasmine Road's Board of Directors.

Jasmine Road is grateful to announce the support of Greenville Women Giving (GWG) through a grant in the amount of \$100,000. 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.

The grant generously awarded by GWG will fund one year of Jasmine Road's life-changing program for the first five women to reside in the organization's restoration home. Jasmine Road offers a holistic and transformative residential program for adult female survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution and addiction. The program includes two years of rent-free housing, trauma-informed therapy, counseling services, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, physical and behavioral health services, financial literacy classes, as well as life skills and job training. The Greenville based nonprofit, which opened its first home in May, is modeled after the very successful Thistle Farms, a community of survivors in Nashville, TN.

GWG's grant allowed Jasmine Road to begin intake for its inaugural program, initiating the healing and recovery for female trafficking survivors, currently an underserved but growing population in the SC Upstate. Prior to Jasmine Road, there were no beds in SC residential treatment/shelters specifically designated for survivors of sex trafficking and prostitution, while hundreds of trafficked women are in the Upstate on any given weekend. Over time, Jasmine Road plans to add additional houses to increase its footprint to 25 women at any given time.

"With the help of Greenville Women Giving we have been able to see the dream of creating a safe and loving home for women to recover from life on the streets of Greenville come to fruition," said Beth Messick, Executive Director of Jasmine Road.

A partnership of Christ Church Episcopal, Triune Mercy Center and Bon Secours, St. Francis Health System, Jasmine Road formally launched in October 2017. The first residents moved into the organization's newly renovated restoration home in May. As participants begin to heal in the residential program, they will work 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.

"We know that our work has just begun but our board could not be more excited about how Greenville Women Giving and so many in our community have lovingly embraced this project and these women," said Kathryn Norwood, chair of the Board of Directors of Jasmine Road. "We cannot wait to fully experience this journey together and realize the broader ripple effect that will result as we reunite families and break cycles of generational poverty."

About Jasmine Road

Jasmine Road is a nonprofit organization incorporated in Greenville, SC, in 2016 with a mission to offer women who are trapped in a cycle of sexual exploitation and addiction a path to freedom, a haven for healing, and the opportunity to flourish, leading to generational change and the betterment of our Greenville community. For more information, please call 864-325-6916 or visit www.jasmineroad.org. For additional background information on our sister organization, Thistle Farms, please visit www.thistlefarms.org/pages/media.

About Greenville Women Giving

Greenville Women Giving, a women's collective giving organization, was created as a special initiative of the Community Foundation of Greenville in 2006. GWG is committed to improving the lives of Greenville County residents by awarding high-impact grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in five areas: arts & culture, education, environment, health and human services. To date, GWG has contributed more than \$5.4 million to 76 Greenville nonprofit organizations and has grown to more than 550 members. Membership in Greenville Women Giving is open to all women who commit to the annual contribution. For information about membership, upcoming events and grants, please visit greenvillewomengiving.org or follow GWG on Facebook (/greenvillewomengiving)