



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Saved In America Assists Dallas Mother in Recovery of Runaway Child

No Emergency Transitional Safe Home or Affordable Long-Term Rehabilitation Available.

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**San Diego, (February 9, 2021)** –Saved In America (SIA) is dedicated to raising awareness about the different forms of human trafficking, also known as modern slavery, and educating people about this crime and how to recognize it, and most importantly to do something about it. Human trafficking is a crime in which force, fraud or coercion is used to compel a person to perform labor, services or commercial sex. It affects all populations: adults, children, men, women, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, and all economic classes.

Saved In America (SIA), a nonprofit organization founded in San Diego, is comprised of volunteers who are former law enforcement, Navy SEALs, and special operators that are licensed and insured private investigators, who assist parents and law enforcement free of charge in the recovery of missing, runaway and trafficked children nationwide. Since 2014, SIA has assisted in the recovery of 247 children, most recently assisting a 15-year-old child located in Dallas, TX.

On October 27, 2020, Monica went missing from her home in Dallas, TX, which was the third time she ran away over two weeks. Monica’s mother contacted the Dallas Police Department, but never heard anything back, until she received a call from the detective stating, “ma’am we have a lot of high priority activity we’re trying to take care of. Unless you have an address where she may be located, there’s not much we can do. You might consider hiring a private detective.”

Monica’s mother contacted Saved In America right away. Monica’s mother confirmed that Monica was constantly on her phone and speaking with people who did not have her best interest at hand. She took Monica’s phone and monitored her online activity, discovering that Monica was part of a group of friends on “sugar babies;” also called sugaring or sugar dating, which is a website that has a transactional dating practice typically characterized by an older wealthier person and a younger person in need of financial assistance. Monica confirmed that her friend was selling pictures and favors for money, and Monica was making money too. Monica’s mother knew her daughter’s mental and behavioral health was spiraling downward quickly by engaging in self-harm through sex and drugs.

As soon as SIA became involved, they immediately provided advice and resources. Monica’s mother located Monica and contacted the Dallas Police Department to recover her on November 14, 2020.

Thankfully, Monica returned home safely and was awaiting placement for rehabilitation, when she attempted to leave again.

SIA and Monica's mother called more than 20 rehabilitation centers, but there was nothing available due to maximum capacity, COVID-19, absurd expenses and horrible reviews. Monica's mother tried to take her to the hospital, but they would not accept her. The Dallas Behavioral Healthcare Hospital also denied her as she was not "an endangerment to herself or others." Monica's mother decided to bring her home, however Monica became aggressive, and her mother had to call the police to take her into custody at the juvenile detention center.

Monica's mother continued to research rehabilitation centers that Medicaid would cover, however with the lack of emergency transitional safe homes and long-term rehabilitation facilities, Monica ran away again on November 17, 2020. Monica's mother finally located two private long-term rehabilitation centers; however, the cost was \$38,000-\$90,000 per year, making it unaffordable for Monica to receive care.

"Assisting in the recovery of the child is only half the battle. The frustration is a complete lack of short- and long-term rehabilitation centers for exploited children. We must do better," stated founder and CEO Joseph Travers.

"Thank you so much for every bit of help you provided while I was trying to find my daughter. Despite the long distance, you were the most supportive person I had in my corner. And when I wasn't sure if I was doing the right thing you were there to encourage me to keep going. You were the strength I needed when I couldn't muster up anymore. Your words of encouragement, your sympathetic responses, and your years of experience, were exactly what I needed when I felt all hope was lost and I didn't know what else to do. I will courageously encourage and support my daughter's healing with warrior-like strength, the way you did me. Words cannot express how grateful I am that I had you in my corner and may God bless you many times over," stated Monica's mother.

Saved In America is still in search of an affordable emergency transitional safe home and long term rehabilitation center. Monica's mother has quit her job to take care of her family and is unable to pay for the staggering costs of rehabilitation. To help Monica and her mother, please donate to <https://www.savedinamerica.org/>. #ChildSavedNotSold

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### **About Saved In America**

Founded in 2009 by Joseph A. Travers, Saved In America (SIA) is headquartered in San Diego, California with national alliances and reach. At no charge to families, SIA volunteers (former Police Officers, Navy SEALs and Military Special Operators turned Licensed & Insured Private Investigators) to assist parents and law enforcement in locating missing, runaway and exploited children – the groups most vulnerable to sexual trafficking. For victims of sexual exploitation, SIA assists in procuring legal representation, safe housing, and rehabilitative therapy. SIA also aids high risk juvenile shelters to protect children from further exploitation by pimps and predators. SIA is a member of the United States Human Trafficking Information Exchange Group, Washington D.C. Since December 2014, SIA has assisted parents and law enforcement in the recovery of more than 247 children. For more information, please visit <https://www.savedinamerica.org/> #ChildSavedNotSold

