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San Francisco SafeHouse Welcomes Toni Eby as its New Executive Director

San Francisco, CA – The Board of Directors and staff of San Francisco SafeHouse welcome their new Executive Director, Toni Eby. Ms. Eby was selected following a nationwide search and succeeds Interim Executive Director, Pamela Merchant.

“We are thrilled to promote Toni to this new leadership role at SafeHouse, where she has excelled as a staff member. Toni’s extensive experience working with survivors of sexual violence and her expertise in program development, outreach, advocacy, and fundraising makes her the ideal person to lead SafeHouse as we enter a new chapter of growth,” said Board President Betsy Dodd.

Ms. Eby has been a member of the SafeHouse team for over a decade serving as a Residential Counselor, Operations Manager, and Outreach and Training Manager. She also worked as a Domestic Violence Counselor for St. Vincent De Paul’s Riley Center. Ms. Eby developed San Francisco’s first forty-hour Human Trafficking Caseworker Training course which complies with the California Evidence Code. She also initiated the successful effort to develop a bill which expanded the human trafficking caseworker privilege in California. In addition, Toni is a graduate of the SafeHouse program and uses her personal experiences to motivate and inspire other survivors of sexual trafficking.

As Executive Director, Ms. Eby will oversee a period of growth and innovation. A top priority will be launching a day program in 2019 which will provide supportive services to trafficked and sexually exploited women still living on the streets. SafeHouse will also explore opening a second residential safe house.

“As someone who is deeply passionate about women’s empowerment and breaking the cycle of exploitation and homelessness, I am excited about the opportunity to lead this wonderful organization – an organization that helped change my life,” said Toni Eby.

Ms. Eby received a BA, *magna cum laude*, in Women & Gender Studies from San Francisco State University and is currently completing her Master’s in Social Work from San Francisco State University. She was born and raised in Mississippi and remains an ardent fan of the New Orleans Saints.

About San Francisco SafeHouse

Founded in 1998, SafeHouse is an 18 to 24 month transitional housing program for homeless women seeking to escape sexual exploitation, prostitution, and sex trafficking. SafeHouse offers a full array of supportive services to empower women to reclaim their lives and move toward the goal of living fulfilling, healthy, and independent lives. SafeHouse provides a nurturing and empowering community through the use of trauma informed care models and individualized survivor centered treatment plans.
www.sfsafehouse.org