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# Sun-Tribune.



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Kim Zarzour/Metroland

Casandra Diamond (left), director of BridgeNorth, and Debbie Pond, co-chair of the Community Partner Alliance to Stop Trafficking – York Region, hope to raise awareness about the sex industry in York Region.

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# Human trafficking: It happens here

**KIM ZARZOUR**  
kzarzour@yrmg.com

age of 17, the Newmarket woman serviced men - sometimes 10 to 15 a night.

person who invested the time, helped her change her life and now she wants to give back as director of a growing organization called BridgeNorth, a program of Grace Church in Newmarket that helps women trapped in prostitution, sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Diamond shared her story with others involved in the fight against human trafficking at the "Hope Happens" event in Richmond Hill on Nov. 10.

Organizers hope it is the first of many events to let people

Casandra Diamond says she will never forget what happened Sept. 11, 2014, at 7:10 p.m.


That is the moment in time she left the sex trade industry.

For 10 years, starting at the

She watched other girls like her struggle to survive, coming from abusive childhoods into lives of violence and addiction.

Her faith, an encouraging community, and one strong

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