

Non Profit	
Nominee	
Name:	Lisa Williams
Title:	Founder and Director
Organization:	Living Waters for Girls
Nominator	
Name:	Mary Lou Frank
Organization:	Middle Georgia State College

Give up to three examples of how this person demonstrates Integrity:

We show our integrity not only by what we say, but by what we do and how we live. Ms. Lisa Williams has dedicated her life to helping the victims of human sex trafficking heal, gain the psychological and intellectual tools to succeed, and re-vision a purpose for their lives. Not many individuals with the abuse and torture that Ms. Williams experienced continue to develop resources and programs that stop the pain for many young girls (and a few young boys have also been in her program). She walks the talk. Integrity is seen in her accomplishments and in her life's work. She is honest, trustworthy, and stands up for the needs of those that many ignore in our society. The following are only three examples of her integrity.

1. Ms. Williams is a survivor of years of emotional, physical and sexual abuse. She was abandoned and homeless when twelve years old. She survived with the philosophy that "attitude is everything." She earned an education including a graduate degree from Boise State. She also earned a logistics certificate in Petroleum Services and Engineering when serving in the US Army. She developed Circle of Friends foundation in 1999 to be a champion for young voices of abuse and neglect were not being heard. This board continues to bring resources to help the victims and then survivors of human sex trafficking.
2. In 2007, to provide a safe place for the survivors of sex trafficking to heal, she developed the Living Waters For Girls. Working with national and local law enforcement, she developed a healing refuge for young girls to begin the process of growth through therapy and education in a safe, secure environment.
3. In 2013, Ms. Williams started the Living Waters Resource Center to provide the education and continued support these young girls need as they reenter society. Education is a critical component both at the Resource Center and at select colleges and universities where confidentiality is critical in allowing these

individuals a "fresh start." It was her honesty to keep her promise to stop the atrocities that are being carried out on young girls.

Give up to three examples of how this person demonstrates Respect:

Ms. William's work is a testament to how she respects others. These are young women who many in our culture have ignored. It is not easy to talk about our daughters being sold or abandoned to become sex slaves. It makes most of us uncomfortable that such abuse continues today. However, out of a deep respect for the ability of these young women to survive, Ms. Williams gets involved up to her elbows in working individually as well as the Director with this population.

1. Because of all these young girls have survived, she respects them enough to help them become responsible for their own lives. "Tough love" is the moniker, but the emphasis is on love. When these young girls are not upholding the responsibilities they have been given, I have seen Ms. Williams in a very caring way, let them be responsible for their choices. She provides the safety net, but also respects them enough to be honest when they are not following through with opportunities that are provided for them. It is not easy. I have seen how much Ms. Williams cares and wants each individual to be successful while at the same time making certain that these survivors can respect themselves and their choices.

2. It would be easy for anyone who has survived torture and abuse to be so scarred that they could not be helpful to others from a similar situation. Surviving an abusive past, Ms. Williams is psychologically healthy and able to draw on this background without blame and with conviction that the focus is on "attitude." The professionals she works with across the country and especially in Georgia speak highly of her skills, her heart, and the deep respect she has for these young women.

3. Humility, true humility is rare. In asking Ms. Williams for her permission to write this letter of nomination, her first response was "not me." She takes no credit but attributes the successes to the young survivors, volunteers (over 200), and staff (8). Despite the fact she has been honored or promoted by local and national (e.g., CNN, Essence Magazine, Saving Our Children and families, Atlanta Center for Healing, 11Alive, and the Georgia Commission on Women), and international (e.g., BBC, Women's Foundation for World Peace) organizations, she does not want the accolades and remains unremittingly humble.

Give up to three examples of how this person demonstrates Responsibility:

1. Ms. Williams is one of the most courageous women I have known. The programs she has built continue to be a testament to her responsibility and devotion to the victims of human sex trafficking. By

addressing the sex trafficking industry, she has left herself and her family vulnerable to the large network that supports the powerful industry of prostitution and slavery. The reason for the confidentiality of her location is that if word were to leak out that these young girls were at the location, pimps and others in the network, would be at her doorstep. Without a safe and secure place, these women would also be tempted to return because an abusive environment is "home," the only life they have known or understood for many years.

2. Recently, over breakfast with Ms. Williams, she indicated she was going to a college to pick up one of the young girls who was not engaged in her classes. She was making this trip because she wanted to provide consistent consequences and hopefully help this student to learn to take responsibility. This lesson was at the expense of Ms. Williams and her schedule. Ms. Williams was now forced the student to drive most of the next two days to get this individual from the college. It meant she would not sleep one evening to make it back from one end of the state to the other and then get on a plane early the next morning. All of this for one student who needed to learn boundaries. 'Tough, responsibility defining love.

3. Many of these young girls who are now survivors were arrested and charged with the felony crime of prostitution. Our legal system blames the victim. Lisa is a tireless advocate and ensures that this mark on their past not deny them an education or a future. She has worked with colleges in the state (e.g., Middle Georgia State College) to advocate and give these students an opportunity to learn when many are not admitted because of their felony arrest. Ms. Williams addresses these issues because they are part of a larger part of the victimization promulgated by the human sex trafficking industry. Whether she is working with the FBI or local law enforcement, she is an advocate as well as providing a safe haven and support to heal.

Please relate an incident or tell a story that shows how this person demonstrates Leadership Character. Examples may include professional or community involvement:

Ms. Williams does not stop. She continues to focus on the survivors as well as stopping the human sex trafficking. Most recently, she was named to a Presidential committee on sex trafficking and has attended meetings at the White House with our President. She has taken responsibility to not only work with the victims now and as they progress, to stopping the sex trade industry internationally. The last time I spoke with her, she had another country that she was working with through her international network. Ms. Williams is dedicated to stopping the violence. The accolades mentioned earlier are testaments to her involvement, dedication, and advocacy. She is a community leader.

Individually, what you see is what you get. She is open, honest, sincere, and inspirational. You can't help but meet with her and you will want to help support this critical work. My response was, "What can I do?" It is a sincere pleasure to write this nomination for this outstanding leader.