

Contact: Chrissy Hugyez
Senior Marketing Manager
Maritz Global Events
314-805-7094
Chrissy.Hugyez@maritz.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARITZ GLOBAL EVENTS SHINES LIGHT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITH WALK FOR FREEDOM
Employees Walk in Solidarity to End Human Trafficking; Raise Funds for Local Organizations

ST. LOUIS (July 21, 2016) – [Maritz Global Events](#) recently held an all-employee Walk for Freedom to raise awareness of human trafficking. On Tuesday, July 12, nearly 300 employees from Maritz Global Events, [Maritz Travel](#) and [Experient](#) participated in the event across the United States, raising more than \$3,200 for local organizations involved in the fight against human trafficking.

“Our employees are passionate advocates in the fight against human trafficking,” said David Peckinpough, president of Maritz Global Events. “This is a crime that those of us in the hospitality industry have unwillingly participated in for too long, and we refuse to stand idly by – we are raising our voices on behalf of the millions of victims across the globe that cannot.”

Local organizations that will receive proceeds from Maritz Global Events Walk for Freedom include [The Covering House](#), [Freedom House](#), [Stepping Stones](#), [Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking](#) and [University of Maryland SAFE Center](#).

“Through its national platform and local advocacy efforts, Maritz Global Events is a leader in the fight against modern-day slavery, educating the travel industry and contributing vital funds to shelter and service providers which assist survivors of this heinous crime,” said Jaida Im, founder and executive director of Freedom House.

In some locations, employees were joined by some of Maritz Global Events’ partners including [ACCESS Destination Services](#), [Allied PRA Northern California](#), [Destination Cleveland](#), [Fairmont Kea Lani](#) & [Fairmont Orchid](#), [Greater Fort Lauderdale CVB](#) and [Loews Hotel & Resorts](#), among others. According to Peckinpough, “Our partners have been incredible allies and together we are a stronger voice in this fight.”

Maritz Global Events has actively worked to educate its employees and partners since November 2013, when it became one of the first event management companies in the industry to sign [The Code](#) with [ECPAT-USA](#). By signing, the company pledged its commitment to help raise awareness of human trafficking in the travel and tourism industry. Since then, the company has deployed a company-wide training program, incorporated anti-human trafficking language into supplier

contracts and engaged in external speaking opportunities. Maritz Global Events was [recently named a Top Member of ECPAT-USA](#) for its efforts over the past three years.

"When a corporation such as Maritz Global Events takes a stand against trafficking, people listen. We need more corporate partners to help bring awareness to this issue. It isn't only happening 'over there.' It is happening in our own back yard," said Lindsey Ellis, executive director of The Covering House.

In June, Maritz Global Events held an all-company Town Hall focused on human trafficking where it introduced the [TraffickCam](#) app to all employees. The app, developed by [The Exchange Initiative](#), allows users to upload photos of their hotel rooms into a national database that can be used by law enforcement to locate victims of sex trafficking and prosecute traffickers.

"We've gained a lot of momentum over the last three years and we won't be slowing down anytime soon – we've just begun to fight for all the victims of human trafficking," Peckinpaugh said.

ABOUT MARITZ GLOBAL EVENTS

[Maritz Global Events](#) brings together the industry-leading power of [Maritz Travel](#) and [Experient](#) to transform people and business through the event experience. For decades, our family of brands has been designing and delivering exceptional global experiences to our clients and their guests. As an industry leader, Maritz Global Events leverages its strong global partnerships, cutting-edge technology and negotiating power to provide exceptional event experience to each guest, every time, everywhere. For more information, visit our [website](#) or follow us on Twitter [@MaritzGlobalEvt](#).

###