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**3Strands Global Foundation's PROTECT Human Trafficking Prevention Education Program Launches Successful Rollout After Vetted by Utah State Board of Education**

**Sacramento (June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020)** – PROTECT Prevention Education, a program co-founded by El Dorado Hills-based 3Strands Global Foundation (3SGF) and partners, Love Never Fails and Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, was vetted and approved by the full Board of Education for the state of Utah, and has now launched its official rollout in Utah schools.

PROTECT Utah received Utah State Board of Education approval as the first certified provider of human trafficking prevention education for school staff, parents and community members. The Utah State Board of Education provided a comprehensive list of standards, necessary for any program seeking approval to meet. PROTECT Utah met these standards on all accounts and even exceeded them through providing additional training on reporting protocols and trauma-informed processes. The exciting news is that the 3Strands Global Foundation implementation team has already seen a high level of success.

The PROTECT program was originally founded in California, so modifications were necessary for Utah implementation. The 3SGF team took the foundation of the program that began in California and made appropriate adjustments to accommodate the unique climate of Utah. In consultation with the doTERRA Healing Hands Foundation, the Utah Attorney General's Office, and the UTIP Task Force, the team was able to successfully birth PROTECT Utah.

Since approval, the PROTECT Utah team has developed relationships with multiple service organizations across the state that work in high risk fields, such as domestic violence shelters and homeless youth shelters, training over 100 individuals who work directly with vulnerable youth to recognize the red flags and warning signs of exploitation. Those individuals were also informed on how to report and connect those in need with the proper resources.

The team has already implemented the PROTECT Utah human trafficking prevention and awareness training into seven districts and multiple charter schools across the state, training a total of over 2,360 school employees on how to prevent the youth they serve from being exploited as well as what human trafficking looks like within the Utah climate, how to report, and how to provide trauma-informed care.

Meanwhile, 8,700 students will be reached by the PROTECT Utah program on how to recognize human trafficking and the traps of exploiters, empowering them to stay safe and free of exploitation in a constantly changing world. These lessons range from teaching younger students how to make safe choices while reminding them of their own worth and value, to teaching older students how to recognize tactics of exploiters, avoid potentially dangerous situations and stand up against injustice. This is just the beginning of the expected PROTECT Utah impact.

*"PROTECT Utah has reached out to 22 of the state's 41 districts and there is clear and ready commitment centered around protecting Utah's future: its students. In just a few weeks, even amid the challenges associated with the onset of COVID-19, multiple districts have launched the program resulting in the training of over 2,300 adults. Within these few weeks, we have also collected 2,000 testimonials regarding the effectiveness of the program. Prevention changes everything and Utah has embraced this understanding in the best of ways,"* said Gordon Jackson, National Director of PROTECT Prevention Education.

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**ABOUT 3STRANDS GLOBAL FOUNDATION:**

3Strands Global Foundation is a California-based non-profit with the mission to mobilize communities to combat human trafficking through prevention education and reintegration for survivors and at-risk individuals.

Learn more about 3Strands Global Foundation: [www.3SGF.org](http://www.3SGF.org)

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