



## Kristi House's Project GOLD (Girls Owning their Lives and Dreams)

### PROJECT LEADERSHIP

**Kristi House Executive Director Trudy Novicki** has more than 30 years of management experience in South Florida, during which she has supervised both state and federal grant programs. She joined Kristi House in 2003 and in 2007 enabled the startup of what is now Project GOLD. Prior to Kristi House, Ms. Novicki was a Chief Assistant State Attorney for the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office where she supervised the Sexual Battery/Child Abuse Unit and the Forensic Interview Unit. She has served on various boards relating to child abuse, including the Interagency Task Force for Sexually Abused Children, the Florida Committee for the Establishment of a Sexual Predator Protocol Handbook, and the Kristi House Advisory Board. She has served on the adjunct faculty of the University of Miami Law School since 1989. She is a member of the Florida and Maryland Bar Associations, and holds a J.D. degree from Vanderbilt. She has received several awards for service to children, and has spoken on the commercial exploitation of children frequently at the local and national levels.

**Project GOLD Program Manager Sandy Skelaney** has studied and worked on the issue of human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children for nine years and has changed the landscape in Miami for CSEC girls since beginning the program at Kristi House in 2007. Ms. Skelaney holds a Masters degree from Yale University in International Relations and interned with ECPAT International in Bangkok, Thailand (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes). In the US, when working with GEMS in New York City, she organized the First National Summit of Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth in conjunction with U.S. Congressman Nick Lampson, a history-making event that convened 30 youth survivors of CSE in Washington, D.C. for a week. She represented Kristi House in Brazil at World Congress III Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children in 2008, one of only 15 U.S. NGO delegates chosen to attend. Most recently in November 2011 she was part of a U.S. Department of Justice delegation to Moscow on Human Trafficking. Ms. Skelaney's advocacy as a member of the Florida Department of Children and Families Child Trafficking Protocol Working Group led to the creation of the "Human Trafficking" maltreatment code in 2010 that can be called into the Statewide Abuse Hotline, launching an immediate system response to help CSEC. This is thought to be the first such code adopted in child welfare in the country. Working together with DCF, she has helped to identify and provide services for dozens of children in foster care within Miami and has acted as a consultant to victim advocates in other cities.

**Dawn Thompson, Assistant Executive Director/Education Director** is responsible for staff training and professional development, education, outreach, personnel and IT. She oversees all operational aspects of Kristi House's Project GOLD. Ms. Thompson recognized the lack of CSEC services and helped bring the CSEC program to Kristi House and Miami in 2007. In her 10 years with Kristi House, Ms. Thompson has designed and conducted outreach and training programs for children and adults, working with professional staff, volunteers, and collaborating with many community partners.