

## **Stacia Freeman**

### EPIC Girl

Stacia Freeman moved to Nashville in September, 1996 after completing her education in Speech and Audiology. She worked tirelessly to address laws and programs which helped identify children with hearing loss early to ensure that they had the best chance of achieving their educational and life goals. In 2005, she was awakened to the issue of human trafficking and left the health care field to lead a global non-profit dedicated to the rescue and restoration of victims of sexual exploitation. Stacia became concerned that many of the efforts for these victims were futile given the extent of their trauma and in many cases their past childhood experiences.

In 2015, working collaboratively with juvenile court and other agencies in Davidson County serving vulnerable girls, she began developing a secondary prevention program to help address root causes of negative consequences such as trafficking. In 2016, she founded EPIC Girl, an agency dedicated to helping girls address their weaknesses, be empowered to move beyond their circumstances and encourage them to reach their goals through education and mentoring.

Stacia is dedicated to helping agencies recognize the need for trauma informed care, understand the long-term value of restorative practices and positive youth development, and develop screening tools which help identify youth at highest risk.

Under Stacia's leadership, EPIC Girl has served more than 3000 girls aged 12-18. Stacia is a firm believer that relationship is everything and that every child is one healthy connection away from becoming their very best self.

Stacia is a state trained trainer for Building Strong Brains (The ACES Initiative) and completed her certification in Traumatic Stress Studies in 2019. She has trained over 1200 professionals on anti-trafficking measures, high risk identification, engaging teen girls, and other topics related to secondary prevention. She serves on various boards and task forces related to human trafficking prevention and education. She has served as a State Council Member for ICJ since 2018.

Stacia lives in Nashville with her husband and 8 children, ages 29-14.

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