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THIS YEAR



Samantha A. Inesta

UPLIFTING WOMEN THROUGH SISTERHOOD

Samantha A. Inesta

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The desire to help others in need is a great one. One's innate kindness can easily change the course of someone else's life, all because of a gesture to lend a helping hand. Since she was a child, Samantha A. Inesta has always had a passion for human rights — though she might not have known it as such as a girl — mainly those of women and children. As an adult, she became heavily involved in organizations catering to women's issues, specifically sex trafficking. In 2012, she founded BeaSister2aSister,

a nonprofit organization offering various services and support to survivors of sexual abuse and prostitution. Samantha has dedicated the last 12 years to doing local and international work for women of all backgrounds, never forgetting to highlight sisterhood and strength in doing so.

BeaSister2aSister has aimed to be a symbol of strength and support since its inception. The aftercare program, which was created on the heels of Samantha's departure from her role as an anti-trafficking coordinator for a local nonprofit, offers

reintegration programs, housing referrals and legal assistance, among other services, to reassure female survivors of sexual abuse that returning to everyday life after a trying ordeal is possible. GED and English as a second language classes, job training, accompaniment to all appointments, and group or one-on-one sessions with survivors are also offered, and the organization regularly accepts donations, which aid in funding cooking and photography classes, as well as transportation, food and toiletries.

BeaSister2aSister's website, www.beasister2asister.org,

doubles as a hub of information, including tips on how to recognize sex trafficking rings, national and international efforts to help combat trafficking from occurring, and shelters and other resources that can be beneficial to survivors.

Though based in Brooklyn, BeaSister2aSister's message has gone global in the form of supplemental endeavors on Samantha's part. She's counseled and taught life skills to over 600 domestically abused and trafficked women in Egypt; spoken at a United Nations event about the kidnapping of over 250 girls from Chibok, Nigeria; and supported Pathfinder International, which provides women with contraception and educates them on sexual

survivors take part in five classes teaching cooking theory and practice and one class allowing them to create their own recipes.

Samantha has been steadily meeting with partners and survivors, actively engaging others on social media, and writing programs and letters over the last four years in an effort to bring about a greater, more comfortable existence for women who have known severe pain in their lifetimes. Prior to founding BeaSister2aSister, she earned a certification in international affairs at New York University. Looking ahead, Samantha intends to continue lifting up women in need, regardless of regional, cultural and societal divisions.

