



## LETTERS

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Marjorie Walraven

### Brother, can you spare a dollar?

A popular song in Great Depression days asked for a dime, but today that request echoes in a drive that calls for ten times the 10-cent support: The fight against slavery and human trafficking.

The drive is the "Dynamic Dollar," a request for every person in Corpus Christi — and every person in the United States — to donate just \$1 to the cause. January is Prevention of Slavery and Human Trafficking Month, so a perfect time to donate.

The statistics are horrifying. The U.S. State Department estimates that there are 27 million people in slavery globally. According to a Global Estimate of Forced Labor, 4.5 million are victims of sex slavery. Ernie Allen, President of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, reports that between 100,000-300,000 U.S. children are enslaved in sex trafficking each year. The CIA estimates that 45,000-50,000 women and children are trafficked annually into the United States.

The United Methodist Women at Corpus Christi's St. Luke's United Methodist Church has begun the "Dynamic Dollar" campaign to help New Life Refuge Ministries build a compound of cottages for child-victims of sex slavery. These cottages are to be for use by children from any

part of the nation.

Although some civic leaders have made larger donations, insisting that they were "for family," Mariza Angeles Smith, Dynamic Dollar Campaign Coordinator at St. Luke's, emphasizes that requests are for \$1 only. Donations made to any local UMW and earmarked "For Trafficking Shelter" will be forwarded to St. Luke's and placed in a special account. For information, contact Mrs. Smith, phone, 361-946-3132 or by email, smith.ma@yahoo.com.

Surely, thousands of local citizens and millions of Americans can spare a dollar for this worthy cause.