

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Aug. 2, 2018 **MEDIA ADVISORY**



ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS WITH OPERATION UNDERGROUND RAILROAD TO COMBAT CHILD TRAFFICKING

Leading anti-human trafficking organization provides critical resources to Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) Foundation to rescue more children in the United States

<u>Urbana, IL</u> – The Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) Foundation is excited to announce a new partnership with Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.) where the anti-human trafficking organization will provide them with equipment, training and other resources to empower more than 250 law enforcement agencies to effectively combat child sex trafficking.

O.U.R. is committed to ending child sex trafficking everywhere and recognizes the vital role that front line law enforcement heroes play in combatting this unsavory criminal activity. At 10:00 AM on August 2, 2018, O.U.R. officials will meet with ILEAS Foundation executives and representatives of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. This will take place at the ILEAS Training Center at 1701 E. Main St. in Urbana, Illinois. They will formally announce O.U.R.'s donation and commitment to support Illinois Law Enforcement. Representatives of the media are welcome to attend for interviews and discussions of the activities underway to combat online predators.

"O.U.R. empowers and supports those who are also committed to ending the victimization of children everywhere," said Jon Lines, President of Operations at O.U.R. "This donation serves as a tribute to Illinois' finest who specialize in investigating those who sexually exploit children. Illinois law enforcement is setting an admirable standard to bring child traffickers to justice and O.U.R. is honored to contribute to their valiant efforts."

O.U.R. emphasizes multidisciplinary collaboration and recognizes how joining forces with other organizations, both in the public and private sectors, is the most effective way to safeguard children from sexual predators. O.U.R. enhances law enforcement efforts by providing resources, trainings and tools here in the United States and around the world. Both O.U.R. and the ILEAS Foundation share a mission to save children and seek justice for those who victimize them.

The ILEAS Foundation works to raise private funds to provide equipment and training for law enforcement in Illinois that would otherwise be unavailable from public resources. James Page from the ILEAS Foundation stated that "The ILEAS Foundation welcomes the support from O.U.R. Given our relationships with law enforcement associations and nearly 1,000 law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois, we can leverage these funds into having a greater impact by the sharing of resources."

The Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) Foundation is a 501c3 organization. The ILEAS Foundation works with various law enforcement associations in Illinois in addition to the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS). ILEAS is a public agency based in Urbana that coordinates mutual aid and homeland security training and planning in Illinois.

Operation Underground Railroad is a registered 501(c)3 organization. Bringing together former law enforcement, CIA, Navy SEALs, and Special Ops operatives, O.U.R. partners with law enforcement agencies around the world to save children from modern day slavery. Founded in 2013, O.U.R. has helped rescue more than 1,500 victims and assisted in the arrest of over 500 traffickers worldwide.

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For more information or to schedule an interview with O.U.R., please contact <u>pr@ourrescue.org</u> or to schedule an interview with the leadership of ILEAS or the ILEAS Foundation, please contact <u>foundation@ileasfoundation.org</u>

ILEAS Foundation
Operation Underground Railroad
Illinois' Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

www.ileasfoundation.org www.ourrescue.org www.illinoisicac.org