

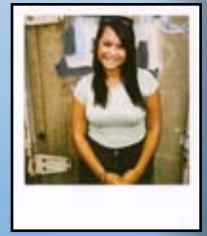
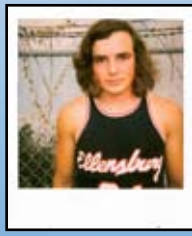
# SEX + MONEY

## A NATIONAL SEARCH FOR HUMAN WORTH THE FILM - OVERVIEW

In 2007, a group of college students with PhotogenX—a non-profit organization that uses photography and other media to raise awareness about social injustice—embarked on a journey through 20 nations on every inhabitable continent to document the diversity of the global population. At the outset, their experiences were very different, even random. However, soon a common thread of human suffering emerged as their travels exposed them to a dark, little discussed side of humanity—hundreds of thousands of children being bought and sold for pocket change to satisfy men's sexual pleasures.

Upon returning to the United States the students produced a book called *Sex + Money: A Global Search for Human Worth*. This collection of photographs and stories explores the realities of human trafficking and offers readers a global perspective on the consequences of abusing two of the most powerful forces in the world—sex and money. Despite this impressive achievement, little did the students realize their journey was only just beginning. . .

While researching their book, the students were shocked to discover that the same injustice was happening on their own soil. Across America, thousands of children are bought and sold for sex each day. Meanwhile, most Americans are completely oblivious to this staggering truth. As a result, what started as a global search for human worth became a national search for human worth.



*Sex + Money* is a feature-length film that documents five of the student photographers as they hop on board their RV and set out across America in an effort to grasp the full extent of the commercial sexual exploitation of America's youth and what we can do to fight this growing problem.

Their journey begins in New York City during the first ever Freedom Week, which culminates with a freedom walk organized by "Stop Child Trafficking Now!" While in New York, they interview authors, experts, sex trafficking victims and others involved in the modern abolitionist movement to help get a national perspective on the problem. The knowledge they gain in New York helps them map their journey across America.

***In the Northwest*** – A shopping mall in Portland, Oregon serves as a prime location for pimps to lure girls into seemingly harmless situations where they become trapped in a life of prostitution.

***In the Midwest*** – Ohio truck stops are rampant with prostitution rings run by organized crime syndicates.

***In the West*** – Phoenix International Airport is one of the top hubs for men to fly into to have sex with minors.

***In our Nation's Capital*** – National leaders are questioned about their efforts to eradicate modern slavery.

At these locations and more, the students meet members of the modern abolitionist movement, who have diverse and sometimes opposing views on how to eradicate sex trafficking. They interact with former victims and pimps, local and national law enforcement personnel, government agencies, non-government agencies, and individual men and women who are working to free those enslaved in the sex industry. It's a trek that takes the students deep into the dark underbelly of our nation, a journey wrought with emotion as they discover the harsh realities of this world and the way these painful truths affect their lives.

Driven to seek justice, the students recognize that if change is going to happen, it must begin within each one of them. Only then can they educate and mobilize the masses. The final movement of the film portrays the students' quest to help make America the first slave-free nation in the world—and to inspire others to do the same.

*"The two main barriers to the global eradication of slavery are public awareness and resources."*

-Kevin Bales, Free The Slaves

## THE ACTION

Their journey also includes investigating the current problems and most effective ways to **serve** the **VICTIMS**, the **GENERAL PUBLIC** and the **HEROES**. At least one of these potential services will inspire a progressive Social Campaign that accompanies the documentary, such as a Foundation that will raise money to sponsor the construction of Restoration Homes for sex trafficking victims.