



THE *Isabel Allende*
FOUNDATION

116 Caledonia Street
Sausalito, CA 94965
ph 415.289.0992

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NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Lori Barra, Executive Director
lori@isabelallendefoundation.org
415.289.0992

Isabel Allende Foundation Award Supports Freedom From Violence

Thistle Farms in Nashville, Tennessee, Receives 2014 Espiritu Award

SAUSALITO, Calif., November 1, 2014 – Internationally acclaimed author Isabel Allende announced today that Thistle Farms, a social enterprise and movement of women who have survived prostitution, trafficking and addiction, is this year's recipient of her foundation's annual Espiritu Award.

Thistle Farms provides the healing sanctuary and practical skills women need to rise above institutional poverty, unjust systems, generational abuse and cultural bias. It also proves that love is good business; last year alone, its 60 employees, the majority of whom are themselves survivors, sold \$1 million worth of handcrafted bath and body care products online and in 300 stores nationwide.

"No girl or woman ends up imprisoned on the streets without the help of her community," says Allende. "Her road there is always paved with an amalgam of neglect, isolation, abuse, poverty, childhood trauma and exploitation. Thistle Farms shows that love, mercy and economic empowerment are stronger than any of these." "Women can thrive in the wake of universal issues of violence by digging deep and growing strong together," says Becca Stevens, founder of Thistle Farms. "Love begets love, but combined with a healing sanctuary and good business it can also beget freedom from the root causes of trafficking, prostitution, addiction and homelessness."

Thistle Farms will receive a grant of \$80,000 and be honored by Allende at a private event today in San Rafael, California. The Espiritu award will help Thistle Farms expand its new initiative, "Shared Trade: A Fair Share for Women," a global alliance of social enterprises committed to helping women find economic freedom locally.

About the Isabel Allende Foundation

Founded in 1996 in honor of the author's daughter, who died at age 28, the Isabel Allende Foundation supports nonprofits in Chile and California that provide vulnerable women and children access to reproductive rights, healthcare, education and protection from violence.

For more information about the Isabel Allende Foundation, visit www.isabelallendefoundation.org. Additional information about Isabel Allende can be found at www.isabelallende.com.

To learn more about Thistle Farms, visit www.thistlefarms.org.