



The Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (**HART**) was created in order to focus on and reduce commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST).

Webpage: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=4743&Q=562246>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING ABOLITIONIST

By Yvette Young

Are you a Human Trafficking Abolitionist? An abolitionist is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as, "A person who favors the abolition of any law or practice deemed harmful to society." This terminology was used in the past to define those individuals who fought for an end to slavery in the United States, and continued to be used to define anyone who was a part of a movement to end injustice in our society. The abolition of slavery in the United States in the 19th century was viewed as a victory and everyone believed that slavery in the United States was officially over.

The truth is slavery still exists in our current society, but it manifests itself in many forms. Human trafficking is Modern Day Slavery. As you are reading this article someone is being enslaved. A child is being forced into a life of sexual exploitation, and children and adults are forced to work in sweatshops, homes, local businesses, factories and agriculture. *"There are an estimated 28 million people trapped in some form of slavery today. It's sometimes called "modern-day slavery" and sometimes called "human trafficking." At all times, it is slavery at its core."* (endslaverynow.org)

In 2011, President Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. President Obama stated,

“As we work to dismantle trafficking networks and help survivors rebuild their lives, we must also address the underlying forces that push so many into bondage. We must develop economies that create legitimate jobs, build a global sense of justice that says no child should ever be exploited, and empower our daughters and sons with the same chances to pursue their dreams. This month, I call on every nation, every community, and every individual to fight human trafficking wherever it exists. Let us declare as one that slavery has no place in our world, and let us finally restore to all people the most basic rights of freedom, dignity, and justice.”

I appeal to you to join the movement to abolish human trafficking in Connecticut. Human trafficking is a crime that is impacting the lives of our citizens. In 2015, DCF received 132 referrals of high risk and confirmed victims of human trafficking. Since 2008, DCF has received 431 referrals. The organization Abolition Today does an excellent job highlighting all the ways in which an individual can take action to abolish human trafficking. Here are the six phases of abolition they identified:

1. **Awareness:** Educating others that slavery, in fact still exists and illustrating what may be done about it.
2. **Policymaking:** Creating public and private policies that support the eradication of slavery, which is necessary to enforcing change.
3. **Rescue:** Emancipating individuals from their slavers and physically removing them from enslavement situations.
4. **Prosecution:** Legally enforcing criminal and civil laws aimed to prevent slavery, which makes it riskier for future slavers to exploit others.
5. **Aftercare:** Providing aftercare services to former enslaved individuals, so that they can effectively heal and re-enter society.
6. **Empowerment:** Generating real, authentic opportunities for survivors, so they are no longer vulnerable or target for enslavement.

There are many ways you can choose to take action and make a difference. You can educate yourself and then educate others. You can obtain information on this topic from the DCF HART Webpage (www.ct.gov), Polaris (www.polarisproject.org), and Love 146 (www.love146.org) websites. You can support legislation that is geared towards the eradication of this crime. You can find out more about legislative efforts from our Trafficking In Person Council through PCSW. You can volunteer for or contribute to an organization working with human trafficking survivors such as Love 146 or ICONN. Your efforts, whatever they may be, will impact the lives of those at risk for or are being trafficked.

Are you the next Abraham Lincoln, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony or Frederick Douglas? These abolitionists understood that, as *Martin Luther King Jr* said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” My question to you today is: Are you willing to take a stand for justice and do what you can to ensure the abolition of human trafficking? My sincere hope is that your answer is yes, because victims of human trafficking need you.

What step will you take to abolish human trafficking and become an abolitionist?

HART SHINING STAR AWARDS

The HART shining star awards is a new initiative to honor the exceptional work being done by DCF staff, HART Committee Members, and community providers in CT whose focus is on eradicating human trafficking as well as empowering victims of this crime. Our recipients this quarter are:

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Yvette Young, LPC

Project Director/HART Coordinator
The Village for Families & Children

Yvette Young earned her BS in Psychology from Trinity College and her M. Ed in Counseling Psychology degree from Cambridge College. She became a Licensed Professional Counselor in 2005, and has spent 17 years working for nonprofit organizations as a leader, director, trainer and clinician.

She served as Training Coordinator for the YWCA of the Hartford Region's Sexual Assault Crisis Service Program for five years, and then as the Program Director, and for Catholic Family Services' Black Family Enrichment Program as an outpatient therapist for two years. Yvette joined The Village for Families & Children in 2005 and has served as Senior Program Director for a short-term psychiatric residential treatment program and Senior Director of Permanency Services.

Yvette's clinical experience has been with both children and adults in outpatient and inpatient settings dealing with a range of mental health disorders especially trauma based issues. She is currently working as Project Director/Human Ant-trafficking Response Team Coordinator for The Village through a federally funded grant by DCF. She provides leadership oversight for the Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART) and Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children (GTFJAC) grants. She is the co-chair of the HART Leadership Committee and co-chairs the Services, Credentialing and Conference Workgroups of the HART Committee.

She regularly attends the Trafficking in Person Council meetings, and the CT Coalition against Human Trafficking meetings. She also regularly attends the GTFJAC Committee and Executive committee meetings. She is a certified trainer in the Introduction to DMST/CSEC in CT curriculum.



"Yvette is driven to make the world a better place. She believes that if you invest in the people around you they will in turn be able to help the people around them. We are so proud that Yvette is being honored as a "Shining Star" and believe she will continue to infect those she comes in contact with the same passion she has to make the world a better place for all children."

*Hector Glynn
VP of Programs
The Village for Families
& Children*

She was recently appointed to the Connecticut Bar Association's Special Committee on Sex Trafficking.

Yvette is passionate about assisting with the development of a statewide system that will support and empower survivors of Human Trafficking. She is invested in working with others to eradicate Human Trafficking in Connecticut.

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Karen Diaz, LMSW

DCF Careline – Program Manager

Karen Diaz earned her bachelor's degree from Trinity College in Hartford, CT and her MSW degree from UCONN School of Social Work. She became an LMSW in 2015. Karen started with DCF in March of 1996 in the Norwich area office as a social worker trainee. She then transitioned to the Bridgeport Office where she worked as a social worker for the Permanency and Investigation units. Her next position in DCF was working as a Primary Investigator, SWS for the CARELINE. She also worked as a trainer for the DCF Training Academy.

As a supervisor at the CARELINE and while at the Training Academy she was asked to lead the State and National "operations" with regard to DCF's after hours response to Human Trafficking cases and assisted in the coordination efforts of these "operations". While at the academy she taught the Human Trafficking in-service training to DCF staff as well as community focused training which was developed by DCF and she continues to be a certified trainer in the Introduction to DMST and CSEC in CT curriculum. Karen is also certified to train law enforcement staff on human trafficking and is a Minimal Facts trainer. She is currently the co-chair of the Governor's Task Force on Minimal Facts. She is also a member of the HART Committee as well as the HART Leadership Committee.



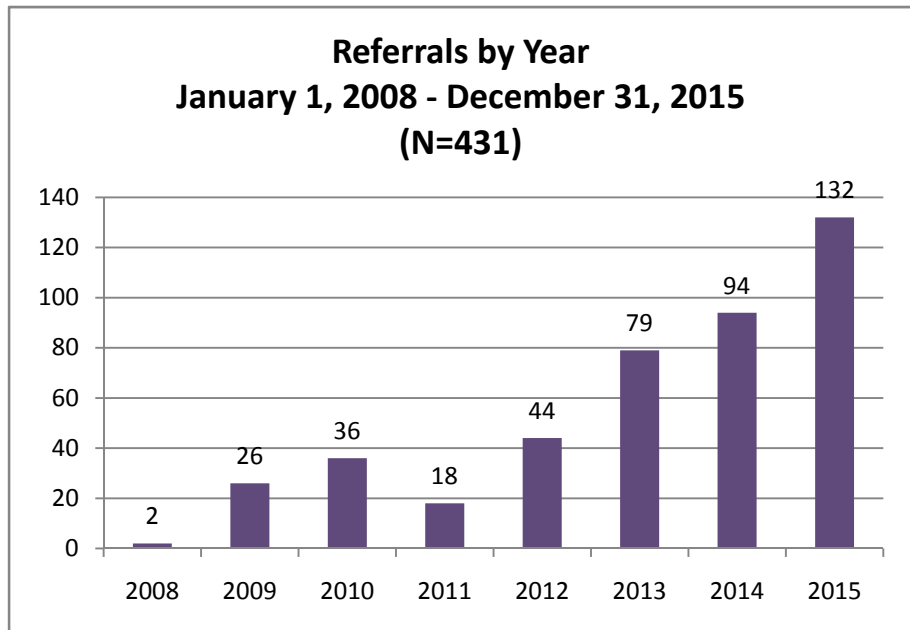
"It comes with great pleasure to write this commentary on Ms. Karen L. Diaz. I have known Ms. Diaz over my 20-year career as a peer, colleague and more recently as her supervisor here at the Careline. What is immediately evident in your first interaction with Ms. Diaz is that she is a staunch advocate for the children and families of Connecticut that we are charged to serve humbly. What I have learned over the past year of supervising Ms. Diaz is that she has an uncanny ability to recall information to its most minute level of detail; something that has proven to be useful in her roles as supervisor, trainer, advocate and now program manager at the Careline. She continues to challenge herself by participating in many different committees, change initiatives and opportunities to collaborate with community stake holders so as not to become uninformed of the quickly changing environment around her that impacts children and families. The future for Ms. Diaz is one that is very bright and filled with considerable promise. I am most glad to call her a trusted friend and comrade in the battle to keep children in Connecticut safe!"

Dakibu Muley MS, LMSW

Director of Careline Operations, DCF

HART DATA

In 2015, DCF received a total of 132 referrals of youth at risk or are confirmed victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Over the past eight years we are experiencing an increase in our referrals. This increase leads us to believe that our Awareness efforts are resulting in identification

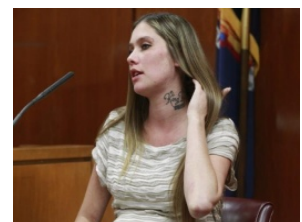


of youth who are being exploited. This trend indicates to us that there are many unidentified victims in our state that is in need of rescue and support. We look forward to continuing our awareness efforts in 2016 so that more victims are identified and can receive the treatment and support they need.

We will provide more detailed data for 2015 in the next edition of this newsletter.

STAY INFORMED

Often people wonder how they would know if a youth is being trafficked. What are the indicators that would alert them that a child was at risk? In our Introduction to DMST/CSEC in CT curriculum we share the following information on red flags people should pay attention to in order to intervene and support a youth who is being trafficked.



RED FLAGS

- Lack of knowledge about whereabouts
- Hotel business cards, escort service business cards, hotel keys, a number of condoms, excess amount of cash
- Presence of overly controlling or abusive boyfriend/partner
- Chronic runaway/homeless youth

- Signs of branding (tattoo/jewelry)
- Unexplained gifts
- Language of the Life
- One or more cell phones
- Inconsistency in stories
- Inability or fear to make eye contact
- Injuries/signs of physical abuse/torture
- Restricted/scripted communication
- Attitude – defensive, evasive, rude, aggressive
- Demeanor – fear, anxiety, depression, submissive, tense, nervous
- Little knives or some type of weapon

WILDERNESS SCHOOL

Wilderness School is a (DCF) Department of Children and Families Program. Our Programs are adventure based and offer opportunities to young people to challenge themselves and create positive change in their lives. Youth attending our programs may participate in a spectrum of services that engage them in



intensive, interactive, and self reflective programs. Some of the activities offered are hiking, rock climbing, ropes courses, teambuilding, canoeing, cross country skiing, and snow shoeing. Courses can be tailor-made to the specific needs of your group. Participants do not need experience with any of the activities listed. Instruction, equipment, and weather appropriate clothing will be provided.

What do trafficked survivors or youth at risk have to gain from participating in a Wilderness School course? In my opinion all the same things any adolescent may gain. However it is worth noting what some of the current research reveals that regular physical activity coupled with high social support has a positive effect on adolescent resilience. Research also demonstrates the brain's learning to be enhanced by challenge and inhibited by threat.

Resilience is considered to be a key strength necessary to both typical adolescent development as well as recovery from trauma. Resilience may also be viewed as the leading outcome of the Wilderness School's efforts, documenting a positive impact on the individual's self esteem, interpersonal skills, and (internal) locus of control.

Wilderness School programs utilize challenge by choice, relational theory, and the belief that everyone has an inherent ability to succeed. This coupled with safe practices and genuine care allow for a comfortably paced, shared group experience.

It is a rare occasion when participants do not leave the day feeling exhilarated and refreshed. Courageous Souls, survivors, city dwellers, “non outdoorsy” people we respect your willingness to take a chance and step out of your comfort zone, for a day at the Wilderness School.



The International Institute of Connecticut (IICONN), founded in 1918, is a statewide nonprofit human services agency that addresses the need to provide new immigrants and refugees in Connecticut with services to help them become self-sufficient, integrated and contributing members of the community. The organization focuses on helping those individuals who face significant barriers to adjusting to their new environment. IICONN offers legal, social, linguistic and educational programs to help them overcome these obstacles. IICONN also provides special services to victims of serious crimes such as human trafficking, torture, and domestic violence. Each year, IICONN assists over 5,000 individuals from its offices in Bridgeport, Stamford, and Hartford.

IICONN is distinguished from other organizations in Connecticut providing resettlement and services to immigrants in three ways:

1. IICONN is the only nonprofit legal service provider of immigration services that is recognized by the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals and that offers a full array of legal immigration services, including court representation, victim assistance, and asylum application assistance;
2. IICONN is the only nonprofit in Southwestern Connecticut providing refugee resettlement services and specialized case management for refugees and asylees; and
3. IICONN is the only organization in Connecticut that provides comprehensive services to combat human trafficking in the state, including assistance in identifying and assisting victims of all forms of sex and labor trafficking.

IICONN is staffed by 42 full and part-time employees who speak more than twelve different languages. The organization is headed by Claudia Connor, and governed by a 16-member Board of Directors. The agency is funded with federal, state, and local grants,

private donations, and program fees it earns by providing services to clients, government agencies, local and regional businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

Each year, our Bridgeport, Stamford, and Hartford offices assist over 5,000 people to integrate into American life, to rebuild their lives and to achieve sustainable self-reliance.

PROJECT RESCUE

IICONN's own Project Rescue, an Anti-Human Trafficking Program, is designed to assist victims of human trafficking identified in the State of Connecticut. It is funded under a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, within the U. S. Department of Justice as well as the Office of Refugee Resettlement and is operated by the International Institute of Connecticut (IICONN).

In cooperation with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut and federal and local law enforcement, Project Rescue was established to provide help to these victims. The aims of this program are:

- to provide comprehensive services to trafficking victims
- to build effective community service networks to respond to victims' needs
- to provide training to service providers and the public

While many of these services are provided by IICONN, the program makes referrals to other cooperating community organizations, to ensure that the individualized needs of each victim are met. Project Rescue also provides education and outreach to the community regarding the issues and data of human trafficking in Connecticut, the nature of trafficking and about the help that is available in Connecticut.

If you or someone you know needs help, please contact us. If you are part of a social service agency or other group that you think could benefit from training on trafficking issues, such as victim identification or dealing with victims, please contact IICONN at (203) 336-0141, the National Trafficking Hotline (888) 373-7888 or email at projrescue@iiconn.org.

DCF CARELINE'S RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES

Valerie Jackson-Coleman, LMSW

In 2008, the DCF Careline received its first suspected report of Human Trafficking. When the police responded they learned that the girls who they thought were minors were actually adults. In 2009, the Careline received its first real report of Human Trafficking. Since then the number of Human Trafficking reports to the Careline have dramatically increased. In 2009, the Careline received 27 reports alleging Human Trafficking in comparison to 94 reports received in 2014. Thus far in 2015, there have been 74 alleged

reports of Human Trafficking. From 2009 to 2011, Careline Social Work Supervisor Valerie Jackson-Coleman created and maintained a log of all the Human Trafficking reports called into the Careline. In 2009, Human Trafficking in Connecticut involving minors was unheard of; it was something we thought happened in other countries. Careline staff struggled with seeing a correlation between Human Trafficking and Child Protective Services (CPS), until we noticed some of our kids and kids across the state were victims of this crime.

When more Human Trafficking reports started to come in, we realized our staff was missing these types of cases because it didn't sound like our regular CPS reports. Most of the time the alleged perpetrators were unknown and the parents didn't know their child was involved. As a result, Careline Program Manager, Gloria Jeter enlisted the help of the Department's Director of Multicultural Affairs, William Rivera to train our staff. Mr. Rivera created and provided a Human Trafficking training strictly for Careline staff.

Since that initial all-staff training, we have found that Human Trafficking training must be provided to rotational staff working at the Careline because many staff have never heard of human trafficking. Careline staff, Ms. Jeter and Mrs. Jackson-Coleman worked with Link staff to develop CAN (Child Abuse & Neglect) codes to have the ability to add Human Trafficking allegations to our reports. In 2009, Mr. Rivera requested Careline staff be a part of the initial Human Trafficking Committee headed by him, whose members included Ms. Jeter, Mrs. Jackson-Coleman, but also included Dr. Fredericka Wolman and AAG Patricia Thompson. This Committee created the Department's Human Trafficking Policy and the agency's Human Trafficking Response Protocol.

Since the development of HART in 2012, the DCF Careline sends out all notifications to certain staff every time a report of Human Trafficking comes in across the state. Careline staff and HART Committee members, Vanessa Hudson and Mrs. Jackson-Coleman are utilized as Careline Human Trafficking Consultants whenever a Social Worker or Social Work Supervisor questions if a report should be accepted due to a suspicion or some indicators of trafficking. DCF Careline staff also participate in agency response meetings when the Department's been notified by the police or FBI of a sting operation in the event it takes place after hours or on the weekend. Careline Program Manager Karen Diaz is the lead for these state and national "operations" and has assisted in their coordination efforts. Ms. Diaz is also certified to train Law Enforcement on Human Trafficking. Ms. Diaz has taught in-service training to DCF staff as well as community focused training on the subject.

Ms. Diaz is also a participant on the HART Leadership Team and she consults statewide with regard to the reporting of DMST/CSEC cases to the Department. The DCF Careline responds to Human Trafficking reports in the same manner as area office staff via the Department's Human Trafficking Protocol and Policy.

CENTER FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Why wait for someone else to make a difference?

It started for us on January 1, 2006. Members of the Center for Youth Leadership read a front page story in the Hartford Courant about a trafficking incident in Fairfield County. *"Up From Slavery: Woman Tells Of Years Of Servitude In Haiti and Fairfield County,"* told the story of Micheline Slattery, a restavec (child servant) and a graduate of Brien McMahon High School, which is the home of the Center for Youth Leadership (CYL). Here's an excerpt from the article:

"Her high school graduation picture is a lie. In it, Micheline Slattery is...mugging for the camera with her family - three cherubic children and their mother. But behind Slattery's practiced smile is an anguish she kept from classmates and teachers at Brien McMahon High School. The only clue to the truth is a ragged scar on her left cheek - the work of a butcher knife wielded in fury. The older woman in the picture had sealed Slattery's shame four years earlier, when she had the girl smuggled from their native Haiti to Connecticut to become a 'restavec,' or child servant, who would be her maid, cook and nanny. Slattery knew her own worth: \$2,500, and not a cent more. 'I remember the day she picked me up at Kennedy Airport. I was crying. She yelled at me, 'Shut up. I just paid \$2,500 for you,' Slattery recalled. 'Since that day, I carried that number in my head.' "

Ten weeks after reading that article, members of CYL hosted Micheline at a reception in Norwalk. The very next day she stood in a lecture hall at Brien McMahon High School and told her story to 350 students and faculty. That's how the Center for Youth Leadership was introduced to the world of human trafficking in the United States. Members worked very quickly after Micheline's visit. They conducted a ton of research. They attended conferences in Hartford and at Fairfield University. They met with members of the FBI's Innocent Images Task Force in New Haven. And they studied the work of the Department of Children and Families, Love 146, the Polaris Project and other organizations.

All of that work is reflected in the public awareness and social change campaigns that the Center for Youth Leadership supports to this day. "Our work is based on the premise that people are not aware of the extent of human trafficking in the United States," said Rebecca Porter, a graduate of the Center for Youth Leadership. "And we don't mind pushing things to get people's attention." Rebecca is talking about CYL's outreach that includes members holding "for sale" signs on street corners and in store windows; passing out material to truckers and others at rest areas on I-95; wearing "for sale" tattoos in school; creating a red lipstick photo portfolio about the strength of women; placing luggage tags on students' backpacks; and many other activities. The research also

played a large role in the testimony we have delivered in support of several pieces of legislation in Hartford.

The one piece that is missing from our public awareness campaign is a human trafficking lesson plan that educators can use in high school health and civics classes. The lesson plan, which should be based on common core topics identified by the Connecticut Department of Education, would provide policy makers and others with a set of standards against which to judge the effectiveness of classes.

Please see below for contact information to be placed on the Center for Youth Leadership's email update list; learn more about the Center's other social issues; and/or to schedule a visit by Center members to your school or youth organization.

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Brien McMahon High School
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Norwalk, Connecticut 06854*

*203.852.9488
bkocienda@yahoo.com
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TRAFFICKING IN PERSON COUNCIL

Jillian Gilcrest, Senior Policy Analyst at the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women & Chair of the Trafficking in Persons Council

In 2004, the State Legislature statutorily created a Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Council, chaired by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. The TIP Council's members come from diverse backgrounds, including representatives from State agencies, the Judicial Branch, law enforcement, motor transport and community-based organizations that work with victims of sexual and domestic violence, immigrants and refugees, and those who address behavioral health needs, social justice and human rights. The TIP Council is responsible for consulting with governmental and nongovernmental organizations in developing recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect victims of trafficking, and prosecute traffickers.

So, how does the work of the TIP Council complement the work being done by Department of Children and Families and those engaged in the work of the HART? As a body of the Legislative Branch, TIP's main function is to make policy recommendations to lawmakers at the Connecticut State Legislature. This means that if those of you in the field are facing a barrier to getting your client services or are struggling to make a charge stick, that might be an issue to raise with the TIP Council. The TIP Council may be able to

identify certain policies or laws that can be adjusted or enacted to help you in your work to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers.

The TIP Council is currently in the process of finalizing our policy recommendations for the 2016 legislative session that runs from February through May. In particular, we are looking at policies to curb the demand for sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, ways to strengthen Connecticut's trafficking law and ensure that youth under the age of 18 are treated as victims, and efforts to bar hourly rentals of hotels and motels in Connecticut. For more information on the work of the Council, please visit <http://ctpcsw.com/testing/trafficking-in-persons/>.

CT COALITION AGAINST TRAFFICKING

The Connecticut Coalition Against Trafficking (CTCAT) is a coordinated anti trafficking in persons network in the State of Connecticut. CTCAT's network includes victim service providers, law enforcement personnel, activists, faith-based community members, educators, researchers, and state and local government officials and utilizes information sharing to improve outreach and training on the issue of human trafficking in Connecticut, increasing awareness of the issues and thereby increasing the likelihood of victim identification.

Through its members and partners, CTCAT offers specialized training on prevention, victim identification, and legal and social services available to victims in the state. We hope that by increasing exposure of the issue more victims can be identified and assisted. Several CTCAT members provide direct comprehensive case management, legal services and criminal justice advocacy to victims, serving both labor and sex trafficking victims, foreign-born and domestic (US citizens and lawful residents), adults and minors, both male and female.

CTCAT combats trafficking through the three P's of national and international anti-trafficking law:

- ✓ Prevention: Public awareness initiatives and outreach to potential victims
- ✓ Protection: Case and assistance to victims
- ✓ Prosecution: Collaboration with law enforcement, assessment of legal reforms.

What we do:

- ✓ Build a state-wide anti-trafficking coalition that brings together key members and organizations in the work against human trafficking including social service providers, law enforcements and other agencies

- ✓ Coordinate quarterly anti-trafficking coalition meetings to cross-share information among coalition members and build capacity within coalition members to understand the complex issues involved in human trafficking
- ✓ Coordinate trainings that build capacity of local providers to work with trafficking victims and build capacity to train others about the issue of human trafficking
- ✓ Advocate for strong anti-trafficking legislation

For more information please contact ProjRescue@iiconn.org

GRACE FARMS FOUNDATION

On November 5th and 6th, Grace Farms Foundation launched its justice initiative to disrupt and eradicate child sex trafficking. The Foundation's General Counsel & Director of Justice Initiatives, Krishna Patel, along with Director of Safety & Advisor for Justice Initiatives, Rod Khattabi, are spearheading the



development of an integrated, multi-disciplinary strategy targeted at combating and eradicating trafficking.

Recognizing that the great challenges of our time require cross-collaboration, effective coalition building and vibrant and powerful alliances that together can become forces for change; the two-day program brought together extraordinary experts working in a variety of disciplines. 700 courageous and committed citizens, including members of federal, state and local law enforcement, governmental entities, a former Ambassador, thought leaders, non-governmental organizations, business leaders, politicians, storytellers, filmmakers, survivors, authors, members of media, faith-based groups, medical and mental health experts, and pioneers gathered for the two-day workshop. The experts shared their successes and the valuable lessons that they learned through their struggles.

The President of Grace Farms Foundation, Sharon Prince, also announced the deployment of big data platforms to various members of Connecticut law enforcement to more effectively investigate and combat trafficking. Grace Farms is committed to support law enforcement's mission to rescue victims and prosecute the perpetrators of this horrific crime. Together the participants created a synergy and the velocity required to propel

this important movement and laid the groundwork for the outcomes that will relentlessly be pursued to abolish this brutal, widespread, and stoppable crime. Some of the organizations represented included:

Federal Entities: U.S. Congress; U.S. Department of Justice; Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations; U.S. Department of State; U.S. Attorney's Office; U.S. Department of Sex Offender Sentencing Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART)

State Entities: DCF; Stamford/Norwalk Judicial District; Bridgeport Police Department

Non Governmental Organizations: International Justice Mission; Polaris; UNICEF; Love146; International Institute of Connecticut; The Underground Ministry; Next Generation Nepal; Full Court Peace; Courtney's House

Other Partners: NBC & MSNBC; National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; IST Research; TAU Investment Management; Developmental and Forensic Pediatrics
The launch concluded with various Connecticut based working groups intended to activate and engage our communities in proactive methods to eliminate this horrific crime. Some of the working groups included educational and legislative efforts, faith based initiatives, NGO prevention and awareness campaigns, an informative session on the relationship between domestic violence and human trafficking, and techniques to engage students and schools to end trafficking.

Grace Farms Foundation is continuing to work diligently with its partners to create meaningful and sustainable long-term strategies to end child trafficking. *For further information regarding Grace Farms Foundation and their justice initiative please visit our website at gracefarms.org.*

CT TASK FORCE TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Tammy Sneed of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families speaks during a press conference Wednesday November 4, 2015 announcing the formation of the Connecticut Human Trafficking Task Force at the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Haven with United States Attorney Deirdre M. Daly and representatives from Homeland Security Investigations, The FBI, Connecticut State Police and



police departments from around the state. From left to right rear is Daly, Patricia Ferrick, FBI Special Agent in Charge, and Matthew Etre, Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent in Charge.

The Connecticut Human Trafficking Task Force is made up of officials from Homeland Security Investigations, the FBI, the U.S. Department of Labor, Connecticut State Police, and 14 city and town police departments, which includes, New Haven, Bridgeport, East Hartford, Greenwich, Hamden, Hartford, Milford, Naugatuck, Norwalk, Stamford, Stratford, Waterbury, West Haven and Windsor Locks. The task force has also partnered with the state Department of Children and Families and the International Institute of Connecticut. Both groups play vital roles in identifying victims of sex trafficking as well as aiding in recovery for those victims, Daly said.

Tammy Sneed, director of girl's services at DCF, said the agency has received more than 80 referrals of potential victims of sex trafficking in Connecticut this year. Last year saw a total of 94 referrals, she said. "We have to educate our communities, we have to educate our young people," she said. "Ideally what we want to do is prevent human trafficking." (Peter Hvizdak - New Haven Register)

HART PRESENTS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES

The Northeast Regional Child's Advocacy Center held its **CSEC AND CACS ADVANCING THE PRACTICE: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children & Children's Advocacy Centers Conference** in Newport, RI.



HART Liaison, Latoya Lowery and Love 146 Case Manager, Laurie Dunford attended the conference on December 8 & 9, 2015 as presenters. The focus of their presentation was Connecticut's response to CSEC and DMST. Attendees learned about the Department of Children Families statewide approach, HART protocols and its collaborative efforts with other agencies. Each state presented its obstacles and shared their own approach to addressing this



Breakout session led by MDT Coordinator, Caroline Diemar

population including but not limited to different legislation, practices, services and policy among states. The conference included breakout sessions by state to discuss strategies, state laws, current legislation and any CSEC response. The conference highlighted the role of the CACs and MDTs in these cases as their ability to support the efforts of police, child welfare agencies and community providers.

HART Liaison, Latoya Lowery presented at the 8th Annual **Model Court Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Conference** in

Charlotte, NC on November 20th, 2015. There were approximately 300 people in attendance including Judges, Child Protection staff, FBI, law enforcement, prosecutors and providers. Attendees shared their attempts to tackle the problem of human trafficking and sexual exploration of children in their community. The title of the workshop was, "The Child Welfare Response to Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking". The presentation provided participants with Connecticut's unique approach to handling this issue as well as its efforts to form collaborative efforts with existing community providers and foster parents. Participants were offered suggestions on how to form their own HART teams as well as who could be included. Participants were also given copy of Connecticut's practice guide, foster care model, prevention services and HART newsletter.



DMST FORENSIC INTERVIEWING TRAINING

On Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at Post University in Waterbury, Rita Farrell, Forensic Interview Specialist Gundersen's National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC) Southern Regional Center presented to Connecticut's forensic interviewers, Multi-disciplinary Team coordinators, DCF Human Anti- trafficking Response Team (HART) Liaisons and Finding Words faculty of the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children. The training focused on working with Shadow Children and addressing child sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation within the family. Attendees learned strategies to overcome difficult forensic interview situations, interviewing



Pictured L to R: Kristen M. Clark, Coordinator, Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children, Danielle Williams, Director of Undergraduate Studies, John P. Burke School of Public Service at Post University, Rita Farrell, Interview Specialist Gundersen's (NCPTC) Southern Regional Center, Don Mroz, Ph.D., President, Post University, Krystal Rich, Chapter Director, Connecticut Children's Alliance, and Yvette Young, Coordinator, Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team

adolescents and received an overview of the Child First Extended Forensic Interview Process, recently developed at Gundersen.

RESPONSE TO RECOVERY: A CHILD ABUSE CONFERENCE

May 11th and 12th, 2016

First Cathedral Church, 1151 Blue Hills Ave, Bloomfield, CT 06002

Conference Partners

The **Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART)** was created in order to focus on and reduce commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST). DCF has increasingly sharpened its focus on the growing issue of DMST and CSEC afflicting children across the State. Since 2008, over 300 children have been referred to DCF as possible victims of DMST/CSEC. DCF has put forth tremendous efforts to end the sale of our children.

The **Connecticut Children's Alliance** is a coalition of Children's Advocacy Centers and Multidisciplinary Teams that work together to improve the system in which child abuse cases are handled. We are dedicated to the enhancement of timely and comprehensive multidisciplinary response to child abuse victims and their families. Currently, CT has 17 multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) and 10 child advocacy centers (CACs).

About the conference

In 2014, CT DCF Human Trafficking Response Team began patterning with Connecticut's multidisciplinary teams and child advocacy centers to provide a more comprehensive and supportive response to minor victims of human trafficking. CT's MDT's and CACs have been responding to child abuse victims in CT since 1995 and have proven that a collaborative multidisciplinary approach is the best way to ensure each child receives the appropriate services from response to recovery. Together CCA and HART hope to bring awareness to the fact the victims of domestic minor trafficking deserve the same level of response as all child abuse victims. Offering a diverse selection of session topics, this conference is an opportunity for law enforcement, child protective services staff, lawyers, social workers, therapists, teachers, forensic interviewers, medical professionals and child advocacy center staff to come together and learn how to strengthen their response to child abuse and exploitation cases across Connecticut. Two tracks will be available during both days of the conference. One on general child abuse (inclusive of all forms of child abuse) and one on child abuse with a focus on human trafficking. Registration for this Conference will begin in February 2016.

HART CONTACTS



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