



Through advocacy, partnership and direct service, our mission is to abolish all forms of human trafficking and free victims from the grip of slavery.

Central Valley Freedom Coalition Quarterly Newsletter
Summer 2015

Labor Trafficking: A Coordinated Response



There are 20.9 million victims of forced labor, human trafficking and modern day slavery world-wide.¹ California, with its international border and eighth largest economy in the world is home to a growing immigrant population.² These factors have contributed to the vulnerability of the Central Valley and its becoming a hotspot for human trafficking. Victims of forced labor may be found as household cleaners, in door to door sales, as vendors of fruit and flowers on our street corners, workers in our fields, as construction

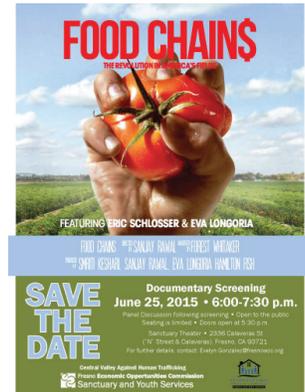
workers, in massage parlors and nail salons, as well as present in other industries.

Leopoldo is a recent example of a courageous individual who has shared his story in order to help others. Leopoldo recently came to the United States as a seasonal worker on a temporary H2-A Visa. He never expected to be treated by his employer, as less than human. Leopoldo underwent constant verbal and psychological abuse by his trafficker, was denied access to basic health care, was given only a sack of flour and water to make tortillas on the work site, all where he was forced to both live and work long hours with very little pay. Threats were made against Leopoldo, making him fearful to leave his situation. His trafficker eventually drove him to a rural area when his services were no longer needed and left him stranded. The trafficker never expected Leopoldo would seek help. In the Fall of 2014 Leopoldo did reach out to a local service provider and an investigation ensued. Currently, Leopoldo is receiving services and support as he establishes a new life for himself in the Central Valley and seeks residency through the provisions of the T-Visa. Leopoldo received the support he needed through a coordinated response. He has expressed his gratitude to the multiple agencies whom have been involved in some way or another. Leopoldo stated **“Don’t be scared... it’s true that there really is help out there. Don’t be afraid anymore or take the abuse from your employer. Educate yourself on what’s available. If you report the abuse there are people that will help you a lot.”**

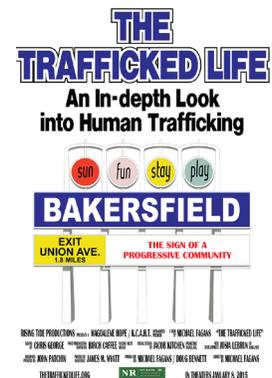
We are encouraged by Leopoldo and others who have emerged to tell their stories. Together our community is working towards change as we listen and respond to the stories of survivors.

¹ ILO, Global Estimate of Forced Labor Executive Summary, June 2012
² Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, Numbers in the News, July 2014

Upcoming Human Trafficking Documentary Screenings



Food Chains
 Sanctuary Youth Theater
 2336 Calaveras Street, Fresno, CA
June 25, 2015 • 6:00 p.m.



The Trafficked Life
 Sanctuary Youth Theater
 2336 Calaveras Street, Fresno, CA
September 12, 2015
5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

In The Community

6th Annual HT Conference

A big thank you to all who attended the 6th Annual Conference on Human Trafficking “SLAVERY SHALL NOT EXIST,” held on March 17, 2015. The event featured keynote speaker Laurie Jackson, CEO/President of National Safe Place Network, as well as many of our own regional advocates/agencies and a survivor panel. The conference was a huge success with 278 individuals in attendance along with receiving positive feedback from 96% of attendees. For more information and uploaded content from the conference presenters, please visit our website at www.fresnoec.org/cvaht/conference.



Clint Olivier
Fresno City Council Member, District 7



Michelle L. Tutunjian
Sanctuary Director, Fresno EOC

Laurie Jackson
CEO/President of National Safe Place Network

Christopher R. Perkins, MD
Sanctuary & Youth Services Advisory Board Chair



Stacy Gomez
Director of Legal Service, Marjaree Mason Center

Genelle Taylor Kump
Executive Director, Marjaree Mason Center

Survivor Panelist

Lauryn Munzy
Human Trafficking Victim Advocate, Marjaree Mason Center



Q & A with new Central Valley Against Human Trafficking Program Manager

Melissa Gomez

Melissa please tell us how you got involved in the human trafficking field? “In the summer of 2000, I attended an event where an activist described his first encounter with child sex- slavery on the streets of India.

For me it marked a turning point. I was outraged at the abuse that these young girls suffered and knew I had to do something about it. My faith was also a driving factor as it taught me to value the dignity of every member of society and respond to injustice with an active compassion.

As a result of this experience I decided to change the direction of my career and joined Youth with a Mission, an international NGO providing relief in many parts of the world. To be honest, it felt as if I just fell into the work over time. I think once our eyes are opened, it's hard not to see injustice everywhere we go.”

What is your philosophy on victim service delivery? “My philosophy is to support and empower victims and survivors in their healing process and to give them space to be involved in directing and informing service delivery.”

What is your background and training which prepared you for your position? “My formal degree is in Psychology, however, the most valuable education has been on the job. I have lived in Olongapo City, Philippines, the Tenderloin District

in San Francisco, California and more recently in Amsterdam, Netherlands, where I directed a resource center for sex-workers and an international training to educate front-line mission workers on human trafficking. On a stint stateside, I was trained as a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Counselor in Stanislaus County and served in various roles providing victim services. After years of being overseas, my husband and I decided we wanted our sons to grow up being closer to our family. When we re-located to Fresno almost two years ago, I was hired as the Co-Director of the Central Valley Justice Coalition. I then transitioned to Fresno EOC as the Central Valley Against Human Trafficking (CVAHT) Program Manager in March, 2015. The CVAHT project is administered by Fresno EOC Sanctuary and Youth Services program.”

What is your vision for the Coalition? “The Coalition is already doing incredible work. I look forward to only further encourage collaboration and to build stronger partnerships between the counties, agencies, faith-based groups and the community individuals that we represent in the Central Valley Region”

Please direct victims or advocates to the National
1-888-373-7888 or Text “HEI

In The Spotlight

Agency: Centro La Familia Advocacy Services (CFLA)

Advocate: Mario Gonzalez, Manager, Victim Services Department



How did you get involved in advocacy and serving victims of human trafficking? “I have been working with CFLA for over 7 years. In 2009, CFLA was granted a pilot project by the County of Fresno to assist victims of human trafficking with immigration related issues and supportive services as needed. My background has always been in immigration and this further allowed me to assist survivors with access to justice.”

Describe a human trafficking case that has greatly influenced you? “I worked on a case with a client that eventually was able to obtain a T-Visa, but I went above and beyond to get the client relocated into a small town because the client didn’t want to live in a big city in where that person would constantly be reminded about their struggle as a victim of human trafficking. Although the client’s family lived in a big city in the East Coast, the client chose not to live with them in order to prevent being questioned about the client’s granted work permit. It was important for me to help the client in any way possible because of our confidentiality policies. It is essential to acknowledge the clients need for privacy and wellbeing. There is no need for victims to continue to live in guilt when in reality it is never their fault.”

Why are services under SB 1569 a value for our community? “Funding made possible by SB 1569 assists those who have chosen to come forward out of the shadows of fear to report a crime and a criminal. It allows for our homes and streets to be safer. Also, it gives a survivor of abuse an opportunity to lead an independent life without having to rely on the financial support of their abuser. It opens up doors of opportunity for survivors while at the same time closing the doors to fear of deportation, fear of retribution by the abuser and fear of separation from their children and family.”

What is something we may not know about you? “This year I will be starting law school at San Joaquin College of Law where I will obtain my Juris Doctor and eventually practice Immigration Law so that I might better represent those without access to representation.”

CFLA is a subawardee of Fresno EOC’s Central Valley Against Human Trafficking project and a partner of Central Valley Freedom Coalition. Fresno EOC is a partner of CFLA providing SB 1569 services.

Advocacy

2015 California Legislation Impacting Human Trafficking

- AB 103 Budget Act of 2015
- AB 329 Pupil instruction: sexual health education
- AB 418 Tenancy: termination: victims of violent crime
- AB 1051 Human Trafficking
- AB 1140 Crime victim compensation
- AB 1276 Child witnesses: human trafficking
- AB 1289 Community safety and policing: study
- AB 1311 Pupil safety: sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention education
- AB 1475 Sexual assault response team
- SB 674 Victims of crime: nonimmigrant status
- SB 695 School curriculum: health education: sexual harassment and violence instruction
- SB 794 Child welfare services

2015 Federal Legislation Impacting Human Trafficking

- HR 398 Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act 2015
- HR 468 Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Youth Victims of Human Trafficking
- HR 469 Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2015
- HR 515 International Megan’s Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking
- S 205 Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of 2015
- SRES 81 A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that children trafficked for sex in the United States should not be treated or regarded as child prostitutes because there is no such thing as a “child prostitute”, only children who are victims or survivors of rape and sex trafficking.

www.congress.gov

Updates on Polaris Project at www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy

**ional Human Trafficking Resource Center:
LP” to BEFREE (233733)**



Our Story

Central Valley Against Human Trafficking and the Central Valley Freedom Coalition were both founded in 2009, as a direct response to a need recognized by Fresno EOC's Sanctuary Youth Shelter staff. The population of homeless, runaway, displaced or exploited youth ages 11-17, seeking shelter and a safe alternative to street life, began to identify more frequently as victims of trafficking. As federal funding was awarded, the program and coalition began to serve all victims of trafficking, regardless of age or gender, and provides advocacy, outreach, training and public awareness to a six-county region including Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced and Tulare.

 **Like us on Facebook**
facebook.com/cvfreedomcoalition

We stand together to help all youth in need



Sanctuary Youth Shelter is a designated Safe Place for youth. There are 270 Safe Place sites in Fresno including all Fresno Unified Schools, city buses plus select local businesses and faith based organizations. Safe Place is a national youth outreach program that gives youth resources to help

them resolve difficult or threatening situations. To find the nearest Safe Place location text: "Safe" with your current location (address/city/st) to 69866

Call 1-800-820-4968 (YOU)

About Central Valley Freedom Coalition

Central Valley Freedom Coalition (CVFC), is a regional coalition of federal and local law enforcement, service providers, victim advocates, faith-based organizations and concerned citizens dedicated to working together to address the critical issue of human

trafficking in the Central Valley of California. It is coordinated by Fresno EOC and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement, a recognized Rescue and Restore Coalition.

How to Get Involved

- Partner with us in the work
- Follow us on Facebook
- Subscribe to our email list
- Participate in quarterly coalition meetings and local events
- Volunteer to support the cause
- Donate funding to support survivors

To DONATE
• **Scan:** QR code 
• **Text:** FresnoEOC to 41444 then choose program: Sanctuary Youth Services
• **Online:** www.FresnoEOC.org/sanctuary

 **Like us on Facebook**
facebook.com/FresnoEOC
 **Follow us on Twitter**
twitter.com/EOC_sanctuary

Help Free Victims of Trafficking

Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, widespread throughout the United States and world today. Through force, fraud or coercion victims are exploited to provide labor or commercial sexual services, at a huge profit to the traffickers. Victims of trafficking can be of any age, gender or ethnic or economic background. Victims can be found in many different industries including: pornography, stripping, prostitution, massage parlours, domestic servitude, sweatshops, construction, agriculture or landscaping, nail salons, hotels, panhandling, and janitorial services.

Please direct victims or advocates to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center:
1-888-373-7888 or Text "HELP" to BEFREE (233733)

 Fresno **Economic Opportunities Commission**
Sanctuary and Youth Services

Central Valley Against Human Trafficking

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