

NEWSLETTER

5th Annual Human Trafficking Conference

Central Valley Against Human Trafficking's 5th Annual Conference on Human Trafficking was held on Friday, May 30th at Children's Hospital Central California, Madera, CA. Over 160 social workers, federal and local law enforcement, legal representatives, health care staff, faith-based partners, community members, and survivors from across the Central Valley, Sacramento to Bakersfield and from our coastal areas of Monterey County and Ventura County, joined together to learn about the more complicated aspects of human trafficking.

Speakers covered a wide variety of topics such as defining human trafficking as a civil rights violation to the importance of faith-based partners when working with victims of human trafficking. The Mexican Consulate also shared their services available and how trafficked victims can access them. The "Survivors Speak" portion included a survivor's personal story and passionate

challenges to the audience by another survivor to not only attend conferences but to continue providing public awareness and speaking out against human trafficking beyond the time spent at such conferences.

The survivor's message is similar to Secretary of State John Kerry's message in this year's Trafficking in Persons Report released by the U.S. Department of State on June 20, 2104. Kerry stated, "Whether a concerned citizen, a board member, a government official, or a survivor of trafficking, we each have a responsibility to spot human trafficking, engage our communities, and commit to take action."

To be added to 6th Annual Conference on Human Trafficking next year please email

ronna.bright@fresnoeoc.org

Welcome to the inaugural e-newsletter of Central Valley Against Human Trafficking. We are pleased to bring you information pertaining to anti-human trafficking efforts on a quarterly basis.



CVAHT and Central Valley Freedom Coalition is a multi-disciplinary collaborative dedicated to ethically and positively working together from a victim-centered approach.

Through advocacy, partnership and direct service, our mission is to abolish all forms of human trafficking and free victims. Since its inception in 2009, we have identified and provided services to 157 victims throughout the Central San Joaquin Valley.

There are many events, training opportunities, technical assistance and volunteer opportunities available.

As we continue to raise awareness about human trafficking, identifying and empowering victims and assisting in the investigation of and prosecution of traffickers, we hope you will join us in any way you can to fulfill our mission.

In solidarity...

Ronna Bright

"Changing the Lens"

Over 130 Tulare County residents attended a forum on Human Trafficking hosted by the Visalia Times Delta in partnership with 210 Connect in Visalia. Human trafficking exists in Tulare County, just as it exists everywhere, but the fact is that human trafficking is very rarely identified in Tulare County. The idea behind the forum was to educate the public and bring into focus the realities of human trafficking. The forum included a panel of experts led by Tulare County District Attorney's Office and Family Services of Tulare County and also included a representative from law enforcement and a survivor of human trafficking. The forum was very well-received and several groups and agencies requested further and more in depth human trafficking training. The highlight of the evening came from survivor Diana Cisneros relating her tragic history of human trafficking and ultimate healing and thriving life journey that brought her from a victim to a survivor. By "changing our lens" and removing our blinders, together we can make a difference!

Family Services is a funded partner of Fresno EOC's Central Valley Against Human Trafficking Project and serves on the Steering Committee of Central Valley Freedom Coalition; providing human trafficking outreach and training in Tulare County in both English and Spanish. If you live in Tulare County and are interested in learning more about human trafficking, please contact Family Services at 732-7371 or www.fstc.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 25, 2014

Centro La Familia will hold its 23rd Annual Night of Jazz from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Arte Americas Plaza. Featuring Bobby Logan & Co. To buy your tickets or for more information go to:

www.centrolafamilia.org/jazz.html

Friday, July 31, 2014

Central Valley Against Human Trafficking will host a free public screening of Not My Life from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Sanctuary Theater. For more information go to

Friday, October 17, 2014

Marjaree Mason Center will host its 31st Annual Top Ten Professional Women and Top Business Awards Luncheon 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Fresno Convention Center. For more information go to <http://mmcenter.org/index.php?c=44>

Marjaree Mason Center's E.S.C.A.P.E. Program



E.S.C.A.P.E. is a free program operated by Marjaree Mason Center. which fulfills the legal requirement necessary for individuals with charges of prostitution within Fresno County. This program is focused on

improving self-empowerment while also providing education on topics that will be specific to the individual's situation. The E.S.C.A.P.E. program consists of six individual sessions within a three month period of time (by appointment only). The E.S.C.A.P.E. program is a safe place where an individual attending has the opportunity to gain awareness on a number of different factors contributing to the commercial sex industry as well as other types of abuse. When someone is attempting to make healthy lifestyle changes and

decisions it is important to have quality resources, referrals, encouragement and emotional support.

Although most referrals for the E.S.C.A.P.E. program come from Fresno County Superior Courts, we can accept clients who self-refer. This program has helped in identifying victims of human trafficking and linking them with

appropriate services and referrals. Marjaree Mason Center is a funded partner of Fresno EOC's Central Valley Against Human Trafficking Project and serves on the Steering Committee of Central Valley Freedom Coalition.

Clients wanting to enroll in the E.S.C.A.P.E. program should be put in contact with Lauryn Muzny at (559) 487-1330.

Empower
Support
Care
Advocacy
Prevention
Education

Awareness Through FIFA World Cup 2014

"There are huge opportunities for the buying and selling and trafficking and exploitation and slavery of people around any global sporting event." Steve Chalke UN Special Advisor- Human Trafficking

This year the Federation of International Football Association World Cup, an event occurring only every four years, was hosted by Brazil. Nearly 4 million fans attended the sixty-four different matches. Such large scale global sports events not only bring billions of dollars of revenue to the host country but also raise the level of incidences of human trafficking.

Over 40,000 children disappear annually in Brazil. Six thousand of them are never found. It is believed these missing children become victims of human trafficking. According to the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs' *2012 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, the worst forms of child labor occurred in Brazil with many of the children working in hazardous fields.

Many organizations have gathered together to use this major global sporting event to kick off anti human trafficking campaigns. Operation Blessing International (OBI) launched a video documentary called *R\$1 Documentary- The Other Side of the Coin*, in the twelve Brazilian cities hosting matches plus handing out "Hope Bags" and informational flyers regarding help for victims. Nuns have gathered together and campaigned for "Play for Life, Report Trafficking" providing anti child human trafficking leaflets at airports and key tourist areas. The International Labor Organization launched its "Red Card to Child Labour Campaign" by airing a music video, 'Till Everyone Can See' on June 12th, 2014, first day of World Cup and "World Day Against Child Labour".

These efforts will have a positive impact on anti-human trafficking movements even beyond World Cup as Brazil looks forward to also hosting the 2016 Olympic Summer Games.

The U.S. Department of State released the Trafficking in Person Report 2014 on June 20th, 2014. To see were Brazil stands and what it has to say on FIFA World Cup 2014 and human trafficking go to <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/>

For a free download of "Till Everyone Can See" written and performed by Incubus guitarist Mike Einziger and violinist Ann Marie Simpson also featuring Grammy nominee Hans Zimmer and Pharrell Williams go to <http://www.ilo.org/>

