January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Human Trafficking Awareness Month is a time to spread awareness of trafficking that is happening everywhere, even in our area. Individuals of every gender, race, sexual identity/orientation, and social class can be victims of trafficking, and we are working to bring awareness to this issue and to help put a stop to it.

Employment Opportunities

Transitions of PA has job openings. If you are interested in working for our organization, visit our website at www.transitionsofpa.org/employment-opportunities to view our openings and job descriptions.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

Transitions of PA

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Reporting Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a crime, a crime that often goes unreported. Victims and survivors are left with no justice and little assistance with removing themselves from trafficking. In some cases, the reason for not reporting the crime is due to a lack of awareness: awareness of a crime occurring and awareness of how to report the crime. There are agencies specifically created to help human trafficking victims and survivors leave their abusive situation and get justice. Polaris is a national agency that responds to human trafficking 24/7 through a hotline that provides support and options for victims and survivors. It is crucial that we are spreading awareness of these resources so that victims have a place to turn to when they believe they are trapped. We hope that by raising awareness of human trafficking and the resources to help survivors, we can put an end to human trafficking altogether. For more information, visit polarisproject.org.

PAATH 15

PAATH 15, or the PA Alliance Against Trafficking in Humans, is a human trafficking response team consisting of 5 rape crisis centers, 4 Human Trafficking Response Teams, the PA Immigration Resource Center, and Friends of Farmers. They provide resources and services to victims of human trafficking, as well as education and awareness of the severity of trafficking along Rt. 15 in PA. The services, trainings, and resources are provided free of charge to victims, professionals, schools, and community groups. Transitions of PA is a proud and integral part of this team and will continue to work with PAATH 15 to raise awareness and put an end to Human Trafficking.

APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

When speaking or writing about human trafficking, it can be difficult to know which terms are appropriate. The most important part of choosing the correct terminology is ensuring that we are not using any language that puts the blame for the crime on the victim. Victim blaming has become an extremely bad habit in our society and we are constantly working to promote terms that put the blame where it belongs, on the abuser.

USE

Sex Worker
Pornographic images of children
Victim of child sexual abuse
Sex buyer
Sex trafficker
Recovered or left

DON’T USE

Prostitute
Child pornography
Child prostitute
Customer/John
Pimp
Rescued/saved

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Heather Shnyder

Heather has been an Education Specialist with Transitions of PA for 20 years. She has provided and assisted with training to community organizations, law enforcement, and education establishments. She received Pennsylvania's "Governor's Victim Services Pathfinder Award" for her work with victims of crimes and now focuses her efforts on bringing education and awareness to sex trafficking in PA. Heather has her Human Trafficking 101 Training certification from Polaris and her Professional Certification in Human Trafficking Prevention and Intervention from Florida State University.

Suzanne Vo

Catherine is a high school senior in the Lewisburg Area School District and a co-founder of Teach Against Trafficking with hopes to raise awareness of trafficking and provide educational resources for communities and schools. In college she plans to study neuroscience, anthropology, and public health.

Catherine Jacobson

Catherine is a high senior in the Lewisburg Area School District and a co-founder of Teach Against Trafficking. Her hope is for Teach Against Trafficking to be used as a tool to reduce trafficking and encourage community engagement in advocacy. Catherine plans to study law and philosophy in college.

Advocate Recommendations

Teach Against Trafficking is a student-led organization that is working to provide resources and education to raise awareness of human trafficking and to promote advocacy for victims and survivors of trafficking.

Suzanne Vo

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Documentary Recommendation

Nefarious: Merchant of Souls

Books

In Pursuit of Love: One Woman's Journey from Trafficked to Triumphant by Rebecca Bender

Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls are Not For Sale by Rachel Lloyd

Teach Against Trafficking

Teach Against Trafficking is a student-led organization that is working to provide resources and education to raise awareness of human trafficking and to promote advocacy for victims and survivors of trafficking.

Documentary

Nefarious: Merchant of Souls

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Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls are Not For Sale by Rachel Lloyd
Polaris, named for the North Star which guided those held in slavery to freedom, was founded in 2002 and serves victims and survivors of Human Trafficking through the National Human Trafficking Hotline. They are using the work they do with survivors to gather and share information to raise awareness of human trafficking and to remove or replace systems that have allowed trafficking to go unnoticed.

Hotline Number: 1(888)373-7888
Text "BeFree" 233733

Stalking and Domestic Violence

This January is the eighteenth annual National Stalking Awareness Month, a month where we encourage everyone to learn more about the dangers of stalking and how to respond. Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault often encounter stalking as another form of abuse. They feel threatened, lost, and that they have nowhere to turn. 74% of those stalked by a former intimate partner reported violence and/or coercive control during the relationship. Fleeing an abusive relationship can be very dangerous without support and results in the abuser attempting to stalk the victim and find them to bring them back into the abusive relationship. Without a safe place to go before they can get protective orders in place, many victims will return to their abuser in order to avoid this situation. They feel more in harm's way while they are being stalked by their abuser than when they are in the same house. Safe and confidential locations like the safe houses with Transitions of PA are a critical resource for survivors to feel safe while removing themselves from an abusive relationship. To learn more about stalking and Stalking Awareness Month, visit www.stalkingawareness.org.

In February, we will be participating in Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month by celebrating the five year anniversary of our program H.A.D. Enough. This program was created to teach high school age students about the effects of teen dating violence and to help them learn how to identify and prevent it from happening to themselves and those around them. Teens who experience violence in relationships are more likely to become involved in a violent relationship in the future. By using H.A.D. Enough, we hope to teach teenagers that they do not deserve to be treated this way and that they can end the relationship before someone gets physically injured. This program has been highly effective in our area and we hope that it will continue to help students for years to come. You will have the opportunity to view this program during an upcoming event in February. For more information, check our Upcoming Events page in this newsletter or check our Facebook page.
Upcoming Events

Human Trafficking Town Meeting

Jan. 26th, 2022
7pm

Join Transitions of PA for this virtual event to learn more about human trafficking from our own Heather Shnyder. If you have any questions about human trafficking and how it happens in our area, this Town Meeting is the place to ask them! You can submit questions through our Facebook page or bring them to the event. The zoom link will be shared on our Facebook page and the event will be live streamed on Facebook Live.

Feb. 28th, 2022
7pm

H.A.D. Enough 5 Year Anniversary Event

This year we are holding an event to celebrate the five year anniversary of the program H.A.D. Enough. We will be presenting the video with a discussion to follow. Join Transitions of PA advocates to discuss teen dating violence, the effects, and what you can do to help raise awareness and educate teenagers on how to handle a potentially abusive relationship. This event will be available through a zoom link and will be live streamed on Facebook Live.

Check our Facebook page for more information!