



Safe Harbour Project Newsletter

January 2016

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Niagara County Safe Harbour Project Update

I was hired as the Safe Harbour Project Coordinator in September of 2015. I jumped right in and began learning not only about my new employer, the Child Advocacy Center, but also about the Safe Harbour Project itself. This is the first of its kind in Niagara County.

Similar projects are well established in the counties of Monroe and Erie. I am thankful that I was able to visit both project sites and learn from what our neighbors do in this line of work.

Trainings

A great deal of time in the last quarter of 2015 was spent attending trainings to enhance my knowledge. I attended the following conferences/trainings: Responding to CSEC and Child Trafficking; Safe at Home Conference; Coalition for Homeless Youth National Conference; Working with Youth who have experienced Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Engaging in Challenging Conversations; and Stages of Change and Safety Planning; National Runaway and Homeless Youth Grantees Conference; CSEC

What is Safe Harbour?

by Megan Genson, Safe Harbour Project Coordinator

With the start of 2016, we wanted to take a few minutes to update you on the progress of the Safe Harbour Project, a program of the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara, a service of Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. Also, in recognition of January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness Month we wanted to send out our first newsletter.

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month!

In 2011, President Obama proclaimed January to be National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Here is an excerpt from President Obama's speech:

We cannot strengthen global efforts to end modern slavery without first accepting the responsibility to prevent, identify, and aggressively combat this crime at home. No country can claim immunity from the

scourge of human rights abuses, or from the responsibility to confront them. As evidence of our dedication to a universal struggle against this heinous practice, the Department of State's "Trafficking in Persons Report 2010" included America in its rankings for the first time, measuring our efforts by the same standards to which we hold other nations. Looking ahead, we must continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases within our own borders.

In acknowledgement of January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we are hoping to raise awareness of the issue of human trafficking right here in Niagara County.

Human Trafficking

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Modern Day Slavery

and CACs: Advancing the Practice and many webinars! I know many of you were right there with me during these initial trainings.

Policy and Procedure

During the end of 2015 the Safe Harbour Project began to develop their policies and procedures. Drafts were drawn up and a flowchart was developed to help illustrate the referral process.

Forms and Handouts

Currently, program brochures and youth resource cards (with hotline numbers) are being drafted. A program referral form was drafted and distributed to LDSS and VAs.

Needs Assessment

During December of 2015, a needs assessment was conducted via electronic survey. Dr. Dana Radatz, a professor at Niagara University, created the survey to help the CAC determine what need areas existed in Niagara County in regards to trafficking and exploitation. At the close of the survey, 108 people had provided feedback. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. The CAC will begin reviewing the results of the surveys with Dr. Radatz in the upcoming weeks.

**Stay Safe.
Get Help.
Report a Tip.**

**National Human
Trafficking Resource
Center
1-888-373-7888 or
Text 'Help' to BeFree
(233733)**

Media Campaign

During December 2015/January 2016 the Safe Harbour Project is running a series of media campaigns to increase awareness around the issue of human trafficking. Three different billboards were developed and can be seen in throughout Niagara Falls, Lockport and North Tonawanda.



A digital campaign was also completed and a series of ads were developed to draw attention to the issue on sites such as Facebook. In addition, a 30 second commercial has been running on local cable stations.

In all of the media campaigns, one prominent feature is the use of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline number. The Safe Harbour Project in Niagara County chose to advertise the NHTRC hotline number as it is a 24/7 hotline. This allows us for 24/7 support and referrals for youth in Niagara County.

All of the billboards, digital campaigns, resources cards, printed material and commercials will advertise this national hotline number. A sample of one of our billboards is shown to the above.

What Can We Do for You?

The Niagara County Safe Harbour Project addresses child trafficking by providing the following services:

- ✓ Technical assistance and consultation to service providers
- ✓ Case management support for survivors
- ✓ Trauma counseling
- ✓ Forensic sexual assault exams
- ✓ Linkage with shelter services, medical services, legal advocacy and more
- ✓ Community education and awareness
- ✓ Training

One of our primary tasks in Niagara County will be providing trafficking survivors with linkages to local service providers. Some common referrals might include: Emergency and long-term shelter

- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Educational & Vocational Assistance
- Medical Care
- Mental Health Services
- Immigration Assistance
- Legal Advocacy
- Psychiatric Care



Be sure to check out the CAC Facebook page for posts on this topic all month long!

Know the Red Flags!

- Child runs away from home frequently and/or for significant periods of time
- Uses street slang for sex work
- Has a significantly older partner/spends a lot of time with a controlling person or older adult
- Indications or reports of domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- Describes a stalking situation
- Reluctant to discuss how they make money, where they live, how or when they came to the US
- Minor is working more than they are in school
- Fearful of government officials, such as police and immigration officers
- Scared of consequences to a degree greater than the situation warrants
- Dependence of a “friend” or co-worker to answer questions
- Gaps in their story
- Fearfulness, anxiety, trauma symptoms
- Suicidal ideation and depression
- Disconnection from social supports such as church, family, friends, teachers, medical providers, community
- Untreated injuries
- Tattoos expressing ownership
- Explanations inconsistent with injuries
- Multiple sexually transmitted infections, abortions or anonymous sexual partners
- Evidence of sexual abuse

For more information on red flags or indicators of trafficking, contact the Safe Harbour Project at (716) 285-0045.

What is Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the practice of exploiting people as commodities in conditions of sexual and labor servitude.

What does human trafficking look like?

In the United States, children are subjected to human trafficking in many different sectors. Common examples include:

- prostitution on the streets or in a private residence, club, hotel, spa, or massage parlor;
- online commercial sexual exploitation;
- exotic dancing/stripping;
- agricultural, factory, or meatpacking work;
- construction;
- domestic labor in a home;
- restaurant/bar work;
- illegal drug trade;
- door-to-door sales, street peddling, or begging;
- or hair, nail, and beauty salons.

Family members, acquaintances, pimps, employers, smugglers, and strangers traffic children. They often prey upon the children’s vulnerabilities – their hopes for an education, a job, or a better life in this or another country – and may use psychological intimidation or violence to control the children and gain financial benefits from their exploitation.

Victims of human trafficking may look like many of the people you help. Trafficked children may show signs of shame or disorientation or may have experienced trauma bonding. For more information on common indicators in children, please contact the Safe Harbour Project.

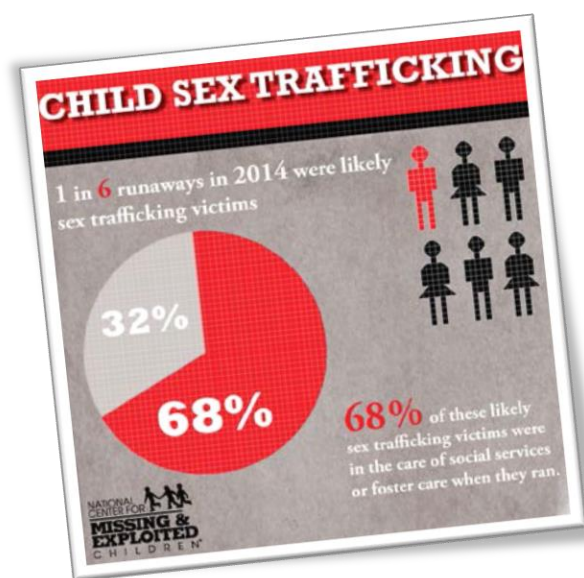
What is the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children?

The **commercial sexual exploitation of children** is a global problem that could be happening right in your neighborhood. The commercial sex industry victimizes girls, boys, and transgendered youth. Commercial sexual exploitation of children occurs when individuals buy, trade, or sell sexual acts with a child.

A **commercial sex act** is “any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.”

What does CSEC commonly look like?

- Images of child sexual abuse;
- Intra-familial sexual exploitation of children and youth;
- Exotic dance or performance;
- Cyber-enticement;
- Sex tourism;
- Information and communication technology sexual exploitation; and
- Domestic minor sex trafficking.



COMING SOON!

The CAC will have a brand new website in 2016! Stay tuned for more information.

Resources

Many resources are available on the subject of human trafficking. Here are some of our favorites:

Department of Health and Human Services Blue Campaign

In 2010, DHS launched the **DHD Blue Campaign**, unifying DHS components to more effectively combat human trafficking through enhanced public awareness, training, victim assistance, and law enforcement investigations. By expanding collaboration within the department, as well as among domestic and international governments, law enforcement, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, DHS is helping to stop trafficking within the United States and throughout the world.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

The **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children** opened in 1984 to serve as the nation's clearinghouse on issues related to missing and sexually exploited children. NCMEC provides services, resources, and technical assistance to child victims of abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at Polaris Project

A resource of **Polaris Project** (see below), the hotline is a national, toll-free, bi-lingual hotline, available to answer calls and texts from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, where callers can report a tip, connect with anti-trafficking services in your area, or request training, technical assistance, general information or specific anti-trafficking resources. Call 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733).

Polaris Project

Polaris Project is a leading organization in the global fight against human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Named after the North Star "Polaris" that guided slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad, Polaris Project is transforming the way that individuals and communities respond to human trafficking, in the US and globally. By successfully pushing for stronger federal and state laws, operating the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline (see above), conducting trainings, and providing vital services to victims of trafficking, Polaris Project creates long-term solutions that move our society closer to a world without slavery.

Shared Hope International

Shared Hope International was founded in 1998 when US Congresswoman Linda Smith traveled to the brothel district in Mumbai, India where she witnessed the brutal exploitation and sexual slavery of women and children. Shared Hope International strives to prevent the conditions that foster sex trafficking, restore victims of sex slavery, and bring justice to vulnerable women and children. Shared Hope envisions a world passionately opposed to sex trafficking and a committed community restoring survivors to lives of purpose, value, and choice one life at a time.

Training Opportunities

Many of these resources offer training opportunities. Here are a few options happening in January:

Human Trafficking and the Experiences of Transgender Immigrant Latin@ Survivors.

Tuesday, January 26, at 1pm-2:15pm (ET)

Presenter: Francesco Duberli, CEO, Survivors' Pathways. In this presentation, participants will be able to learn about the unique experiences of transgender Latin@ immigrant survivors of human trafficking and the challenging barriers they face when

attempting to access services and resources.

Register:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6338500187735024642>

Human Trafficking 101

Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 2pm-3:30pm (EST)

Join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman for a Human Trafficking 101 webinar in recognition of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Register: RSVP with "Human Trafficking Webinar" in the subject line by Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016 to CISOmbudsman.PublicAffairs@hq.dhs.gov

Participants will be in mute status only, and will be able to share questions via the chat screen visible only to presenters. The webinar link and additional information will be provided upon RSVP.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook!

Visit the CAC's Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Child-Advocacy-Center-of-Niagara/200687093310451/>

**Contact Information**

For more information, resources or support, please contact me!

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