Building Coalition to Address Human Trafficking

WHAT IS A COALITION? The word coalition comes from the Latin word *coalitio*, meaning “to grow together.” It is a group of people from different backgrounds, joining together for a common goal or cause in order to present a united front to address a common issue. The group works collaboratively across the various disciplines to find common approaches, in essence, a unified voice to solve the problem or improve the situation. This group is community in action. The work of this group creates a culture in which law enforcement and social service agencies can do their job more effectively because the coalition helps educate businesses and the greater community.

WHY?

- Human trafficking is so prevalent in the U.S. and throughout the world.
- Human trafficking is a hidden crime that impacts women and men, girls and boys everywhere.
- Human trafficking comes as a consequence of a culture that has lost respect for the dignity of each human person.
  - Therefore, no one person, no one group of persons can effectively impact the prevalence of this crime. It takes a “whole village” working together to make a difference.

HOW?

- One or two individuals, with a passion to end human trafficking contact community partners and leaders to communicate intention and interest of forming a Coalition and get their involvement, consider:
  - Mayor or other civic leaders
  - Law enforcement – police, sheriff, state patrol
  - City council members and chambers of commerce
  - Survivors of human trafficking
  - Victim service providers – social services, shelters,
  - Hospitality managers/associations, including hotels, restaurants, transportation, etc.
  - Health care providers
  - Members of groups: Rotary, Kiwanis, Junior League, Salvation Army, Knights of Columbus, other active men’s and women’s groups.
  - Members of churches in the area
  - Interested businesses
  - Others who are generous volunteers of their time

- Provide education about human trafficking for members of this group
Discuss and decide how you want to go about fighting human trafficking. Identify specific areas. Examples include:

- Legislation
- Education
- Victim Services Support
- Hotel/Motel Project

Provide a general human trafficking education opportunity for everyone in the area. At this event invite others to join the work of your group.

Write a mission statement; develop committees & goals.

Designate a leader or co-leaders in the group who will establish regular meetings, ensure committee effectiveness & accountability, evaluate the progress, delegate tasks, etc. in order to provide a united effort in addressing the mission and goals.

Ensure the group has policies and procedures implemented so that the group is sustainable regardless of any member or leader that may leave.

Consider funding possibilities for the sustainability of the coalition.

Include the media so that community awareness is built; e.g. Press Conference with the Mayor.

POSSIBLE PROJECT: THE HOTEL-MOTEL PROJECT

- A project designed by The Coalition on Human Trafficking, Inc. in Omaha, Nebraska.
- The goal of the project is to train managers and all employees of all hotels and motels in a designated area.
- Why hotels and motels? Because it is estimated that 75% of all sex trafficking happens in hotels and motels.
- The Coalition on Human Trafficking has designed a comprehensive program to train employees of hotels and motels to:
  - REALIZE what sex trafficking is and that it is happening in their city, their county, everywhere
  - RECOGNIZE the signs of sex trafficking
  - RESPOND to appropriate authorities when one observes suspicious signs/behaviors
- The Coalition on Human Trafficking will provide your local coalition with:
  - Community readiness information
  - Volunteer training
  - A program notebook that includes all materials to make your local program and volunteers successful
  - Consultation to help you implement and maintain the program

For more information, contact:
trainhotel@notrafficking.org
info@notrafficking.org
Please visit the Coalition website NoTrafficking.org