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Fighting Human Trafficking in the Heart of Illinois

Recognizing the Signs of Teen Dating Violence

the CENTER for PREVENTION of ABUSE
Opening Doors * Changing Lives
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DONATION NEEDS
- Women’s socks and underwear
- Hair brushes
- Children’s coats
- Coffee, powdered creamer, and sugar
- Full-size hand sanitizer
- Bottled water and healthy fruit juices
- Grocery store gift cards
- Pajamas (adult and child)
- Hygiene products
- Journals
- Pillows
- Twin size sheets
- Twin size, bed bug resistant, mattress covers
- Towels

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Medical Advocates
On-call overnight shifts - requires The Center’s 63.5 hour Direct Service agency training.

FOOD DRIVES
Is your group looking for a way to get involved? Our food pantry is always in need of non-perishable food items for our emergency shelters. Food drives help us keep our pantry stocked so we can best serve our clients seeking safe shelter from violence and abuse.

Questions? Please contact Kelly at 691-0551 ext. 242 or kward@centerforpreventionofabuse.org

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: MODERN DAY SLAVERY
There are more people in slavery right now than any other time in history.

Human trafficking and exploitation, especially the trafficking of women and children, is a centuries old offense that has evolved into a rampant crime in today’s world. It garners abusers $150 billion a year in profits. It is happening in big cities and rural communities, and at home in Central Illinois. The survivors are from areas outside the United States, but they might also be the young American living next door to you, or it could be the woman who is called the “housekeeper” actually living in domestic servitude the next street over.

The Center for Prevention of Abuse is actively identifying survivors of human trafficking and caring for them in recovery. We are also just beginning to bring public awareness to the issue and provide certified trainings to those who may come in contact with human trafficking victims such as first responders.

During the first week of 2018, The Center rolled out the announcement of a new department called Human Trafficking Services. We are growing.

Good growth, such as this, is a way for The Center to have greater impact, increase scale and add supporters. The Center’s leadership realizes that growth comes with risks, too—especially if it is not supported by a well-defined roadmap and a strong foundation to build on. The Center’s foundation is rock solid, as was proven in multiple ways during the recent lengthy state budget impasse. We survived, thrived, and produced impressive, measured results. Measurable outcomes are increasingly important, and a way of life for our organization.

In whole, we have endured and blossomed over 42 years, developing high-quality programs and services that have helped people live free from violence and abuse. The Center is the only agency in the State of Illinois that houses as many sanctioned services under one roof.

Before moving forward with this expansion plan, we have confirmed that there truly is a need. The Center is the only certified and funded service provider for human trafficking survivors in Illinois south of Kankakee, providing a safe place to stay and the necessary support services. We are currently receiving survivors from across Illinois, and have cared for a few from other states. The essential framework is in place.

The Center’s leadership from the ground up provides visionary inspirational skills and the enthusiastic momentum to ensure that survivors, and our agency, are well cared for. The Department of Human Trafficking Services is directed by Sara Dillefeld, who has most recently overseen our Department for Domestic Violence Family Centered Services for nearly a decade. Sara is talented and compassionate. She is also impassioned about her new role.

The complexity and scope of the issue of human trafficking demands collaboration – no one person, or one agency, can do it alone. We look forward to building partnerships and connecting to provide education and leadership where and when we can. Please join us in spreading the word, supporting this important cause, and providing us with feedback on this new addition under our long-standing mission. We can shape the future together as we continue to work to stop all forms of abuse.

In Peace,
Carol Merna
Executive Director
According to the United Nations, there are approximately 30 million victims of human trafficking around the world. Most people have a perception that human trafficking only happens in faraway countries or to undocumented people who are brought into the United States, but the reality is that Illinois is listed in the top 10 states with reports of trafficking. (Human Trafficking Hotline)

Human trafficking might not be an issue that you think about often, but it is a growing issue that affects our community directly.

Trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, and/or coercion to exploit human beings for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sex. There are more people in slavery today than at any other point in history and trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise of this century.

The Center for Prevention of Abuse is proud to expand our efforts to raise awareness about human trafficking and our work to identify and care for victims in Illinois. The Department of Human Trafficking Services at The Center is now available.

The media, which is often simple and dramatized, influences our perception of human trafficking and misconceptions surrounding the issue.

Here is an overview of the most common myths and the truth about what is really happening:

1. Victims of trafficking are always from other countries.
   Human trafficking affects U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, visa holders, and undocumented individuals. More than 200 cases of human trafficking were reported in Illinois in 2016. Victims are often trafficked in the communities they live.

2. Human trafficking only occurs in illegal underground industries.
   Human trafficking occurs in both illegitimate and legitimate businesses. Any industry is at risk when looking at profitability. Labor trafficking is often found in restaurants, agriculture, manufacturing, carnivals, door-to-door sales, etc. Sex trafficking is often found in residential or commercial brothels, hotels, truck stops, etc.

3. Unless a victim is held against their will, they can easily ask for help.
   Traffickers use many psychological tactics to maintain power over their victims. Traffickers will manipulate, degrade, and instill fear in their victims to keep them enslaved. Shame, humiliation, and fear of arrest and/or deportation often keep victims silent.

4. Human trafficking doesn’t impact me.
   Victims of trafficking often make the products you eat, wear, and use, and many products are made by exploited youth. Human trafficking is a $150 billion industry. Check out these great resources to find out more information and to see the impact trafficked individuals have on your life: [www.productsofslavery.org](http://www.productsofslavery.org) and [www.slaveryfootprint.org](http://www.slaveryfootprint.org).

To learn more about The Center’s Human Trafficking Services, contact Sara Dillefeld at 309-691-0551 or sdillefeld@centerforpreventionofabuse.org.
Sara Dillefeld spearheaded the creation of The Center’s Human Trafficking Services in 2017 and oversees all anti-trafficking efforts for foreign born and domestic survivors in labor and sex trafficking. She is the Director of Human Trafficking Services and facilitates trainings for law enforcement, medical providers, community organizations, and participates in legislative discussions surrounding anti-trafficking efforts. She is an active speaker on human trafficking and is dedicated to educating our community by raising awareness and providing specialized services for survivors.

Celsy Martindale (CM): You’ve worked in human services for a number of years now. Tell me a little about what your career has been like leading up to where you are now.

Sara Dillefeld (SD): I began working for The Center in 1996 when I was hired as the Children’s Coordinator. I was fresh out of college and knew nothing about The Center or domestic violence. Two years later, my family relocated out of the State and I spent most of that time as a stay at home mom. In 2006, I returned to the Peoria area and The Center was the only agency I called seeking employment. I resumed working for The Center and have held various roles; Court Advocate, Administrator of Safe From the Start, Director of Domestic Violence Family Centered Services, and now Director of Human Trafficking (HT) Services. These positions allowed me to develop many skills related to social work and non-profit management, including, how to advocate for victims of crime, strategies for building community relationships, effective staff management and grant writing/reporting.

CM: What made you want to pursue a role in HT?

SD: The Center received a grant to expand our services to survivors of human trafficking in the fall of 2016 and I was responsible for the oversight of the program. The more I learned about human trafficking, the more I wanted to become involved.

CM: For someone who’s reading this and might not understand the importance of this new department-- why is a local HT Department necessary?

SD: I believe human trafficking is one of the most serious human rights issues we face in the 21st century. More slaves exist today than at any other time in history. Many people think it only happens in far away countries, but we have seen a need in our community. Victims of trafficking deserve specialized services with staff trained on the complexities of their situation. There is a lack of general awareness and training on human trafficking. I will spend a large amount of my time providing education and training.

CM: What kind of clients are you seeing? Any stories you can share that really stick out to you?

SD: Approximately 60% of our clients were victimized in the commercial sex industry, with the remaining subjected to labor exploitation, all female.

Amy* was also born and raised in our community. She had always struggled to make ends meet and was battling drug addiction. Amy started dating a man who promised to take care of her. It wasn’t long before he introduced the idea of sleeping with other men in order to make money. Amy had engaged in prostitution in the past when times were hard so she didn’t immediately reject the idea. It didn’t take long for her to see how different the scenario was. Her boyfriend used many tactics of force, fraud, and coercion to compel her to engage in prostitution. She was given a daily quota, sometimes up to 12 men in a day. If she refused, she would be beaten. He often used her drug addiction as a means to keep her under his control by either providing her drugs, or denying her.

*Name Changed.

CM: What challenges do you foresee as you embark on this new journey?

SD: Breaking through stereotypes of the commercial sex industry.

CM: What are you most looking forward to in this new role as Director of Human Trafficking Services?

SD: Two fold: Assisting clients to increase their self-sufficiency so they can live free from abuse and advocating on a local, State and Federal level to make positive changes in legislation and victim services.
Getting hurt was the furthest thing from Kaley’s mind when she started dating Ethan*. He held her hand and sometimes sang to her in the hallways at school. On Valentine’s Day he gave her flowers and told her how much he cared for her. Yet, after a few months together, Kaley lay crumpled on the floor after receiving a swift backhand to the side of her face. She had been late, causing them to miss the start of a movie he wanted to see. “What just happened?” she quickly asked in her mind. She was stunned. “It was my fault for being late,” Kaley thought to herself. Ethan apologized and kissed away the few tears she shed. “It won’t happen again,” he assured her.

In a recent national Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1 in 10 teens admits to being hit or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or a girlfriend in the 12 months preceding the survey. Moreover, during the 12 months before the survey, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tells us that 1 in 10 teens reported they had been kissed, touched, or physically forced to have sexual intercourse that they did not want or consent to at least once by someone they were dating.

Joe* had only recently become close to David*. They were 16. David hung out with some cool people and made Joe feel important just to be with him. But over time David became jealous and possessive, accusing Joe of lying and cheating. He tried hard to isolate Joe, demanding the password to his phone and demanding a near hourly account of Joe’s whereabouts. David’s suspicious nature was never satisfied, and he was often verbally abusive, calling Joe terrible names. Joe assured others that while David may seem a little different, he was certain that he cared about him deeply.

Unhealthy relationships can start at a very young age and last a lifetime. Teens often think some behaviors, like taking their partner’s phone or teasing and name calling, are an accepted and routine part of a relationship. However, these behaviors can become abusive and develop into more serious forms of violence.

The Center for Prevention of Abuse is diligent in its Prevention Education work. Anti-bullying, peaceful conflict resolution, empathy, biased based language and behavior, and the value of healthy relationships are at the core of our curriculum. While our 10 professional prevention educators reach at least 30,000 students in the tri-county area each year with age appropriate, evidence-based, comprehensive lessons, we simply cannot do it alone.

According to Youth.gov, teen dating violence can be any one, or a combination, of the following:

• Physical. This includes pinching, hitting, shoving, or kicking.

• Emotional. This involves threatening a partner or harming his or her sense of self-worth. Examples include name calling, controlling/jealous behaviors, consistent monitoring, shaming, bullying (online, texting, and in person), intentionally embarrassing him/her, keeping him/her away from friends and family.

• Sexual. This is defined as forcing a partner to engage in a sex act when he or she does not or cannot consent.

Teen dating violence is preventable. It is important to construct places where the behavioral norms are not tolerant of abuse in dating relationships. Parents, family members, teachers, coaches, friends, and mentors can make all the difference. The central message of how to expect, and accept, respect must be clear.

Nevertheless, help is available for young people already caught in an abusive relationship. According to the Love is Respect organization, don’t be afraid to reach out to a loved one or friend who may need help. Tell them there is concern for their safety. Be supportive and listen patiently. Acknowledge their feelings and be respectful of their decisions. Helping someone recognize that the abuse is not “normal” and is not their fault is important. Everyone deserves a healthy, non-violent relationship. It is crucial to let them know that resources like The Center for Prevention of Abuse and LoveisRespect.org are available around the clock.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. It is a national effort to raise understanding about dating violence, promote programs that support young people, and encourage communities to prevent this form of abuse. We welcome you to join The Center in promoting healthy relationships and freedom from violence and abuse.

If you know a young person in an unhealthy dating relationship, LoveisRespect.org has online chat available 24/7 as well as a hotline at 1-866-331-8453. Anyone in an abusive relationship should feel comfortable to contact The Center’s crisis hotline for help at 1-800-559-SAFE (7233), or visit our website at centerforpreventionofabuse.org.

*Name Changed.
January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month and to honor all of the victims, survivors, and clients we serve, we have continued “Humans of The Center, Stories of Survival.” It’s a series of interviews and photography, and it highlights our clients and our staff as they navigate Human Trafficking. We hope you follow along as we post stories, quotations, and images on our Facebook and Instagram, share our social media pages with your friends, and of course, that you’ll feel even closer to the individuals we serve every single day who are seeking peace.

Let’s Get Social

Do you want to keep up with Center events? Are you curious about how new legislature effects us? Do you love hearing success stories? Want to know how to get involved at The Center? Follow us on social media!

Facebook.com/centerforpreventionofabuse
Twitter.com/PreventAbuse309
Instagram.com/PreventAbuse309

Follow Us!

What an incredible season we had this year for our Adopt Our Families Campaign. This year we were able to provide gifts to nearly 70 families, all of our shelter residents, all of our apartment tenants, and were even able to share some of the wealth with Friendship House. We cannot thank all of our generous donors and volunteers enough for their outpouring of gifts, monetary donations, and their precious time. We could not do the things we do without you!
Our Prevention Education Department got a much needed facelift and we are so thankful! Jeff Griffin and the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce donated some gently used cubicles to us and our great friends at Two Men and a Truck picked them up and delivered them. As if that wasn’t amazing enough, we had some very generous workers from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the West Central Illinois Building Trades disassemble the old and reassemble the new cubicles. Thank you all for providing a new and efficient environment for our Prevention Educators to continue to develop their age appropriate, evidence based, comprehensive programming for students in the Tri-County area!

A huge thank you goes out to the ICC Women’s Basketball Team who joined us at The Center for some housework. They were so helpful in the cleaning and maintenance of the shelter. Thank you Lady Cougars!

The warmest of thank yous to CxT Roasting Company for so graciously partnering with us for Human Trafficking Awareness Month. CxT agreed to place our unique coffee sleeves on their cups for the month of January as well as donating money back to The Center for every cup purchased.

Thank you to the Church of the Nazarene for their donation to The Center. They held a pajama and sock drive for us. Our clients will be nice and cozy!

Announcing the New Director of Domestic Violence Family Centered Services, Fran Reyes

Fran began her career in social services as a contract worker for The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services before she joined The Center in 2010 as a Domestic Violence counselor. Her leadership qualities and dedication to serving The Center’s clients helped propel her to supervisor of both The Center’s emergency shelters, before beginning her role as Director of Domestic Violence Family Centered Services. Fran is an Illinois Certified Licensed Domestic Violence Professional and serves The Center’s Spanish-speaking clients by translating for multiple departments. She oversees case management and domestic violence counseling for children and adults utilizing Center services.
CONTRIBUTORS
the CENTER for PREVENTION of ABUSE

September 1, 2017 - November 30, 2017

The Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Central Illinois awarded The Center a grant for Prevention Services' HARTS Program.

The Community Foundation of Central Illinois awarded a grant to The Children's Center for their Emergency Shelter Services.

The Rotary Club of Peoria awarded The Center a grant for The Center for Cass House of Hope.

The TJX Foundation awarded The Center a grant for Next Step Transitional Housing.

THANK YOU!

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John Hestrom
John Hession
Heidi Herrmann
Jeanne & Mark Heiser
Jennifer Fleming
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Zichterman

card for utilities for the emergency shelter.

Stephanie Couch
Karen Jacobs

Several people were also recognized for their contributions to The Center for Prevention of Abuse during this time. These contributors from various organizations, industries, and individuals were thanked for their support. The list included The American Geriatrics Society, Caterpillar, Inc., PNC Bank, and many others.

In order to ensure the continued success of The Children's Center and its programs, the center gratefully acknowledged the contributions of its Board of Directors. The board members played a critical role in guiding the organization and ensuring the delivery of high-quality services to the community.

The list of contributors to The Center for Prevention of Abuse in 2017-2018 was extensive and included individuals, families, and organizations from various parts of Central Illinois. Their generosity and commitment were instrumental in building a strong foundation for the center's mission.

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Dr. & Mrs. Michael Zichterman

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