DECEMBER 2009 NEWS BRIEF

NECAT Holds it’s First Bi-Annual Meeting

On Tuesday November 3rd, 2009, The New England Coalition Against Trafficking held it’s 1st Bi-Annual meeting in Boston, MA. Thirty-One people were in attendance, including representatives from law enforcement, social services, DCF, legal services, students, and mental health. A number of topics were explored, including: training, coalition development, outreach, victim identification and service provision. The next Bi-Annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 2, 2010, with location TBA.


- Our State Coalitions in ME, NH, RI, CT, and MA are currently working on developing protocols for referrals of trafficking victims. These protocols will assist with an effective and streamlined way of ensuring that victims are referred to the right service providers quickly and easily. Trafficking referral protocol information will be provided to state agencies and to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

- NECAT is also working on developing a New England Trafficking Resource Guide, which will additionally aid in an effective referral process for trafficking survivors. The guide will include resources from housing, case management, mental health, medical and legal services, law enforcement, and language translation. State coalitions are currently working to identify service providers throughout their states that provide specific services for trafficking victims to include in the guide.

RESOURCES

- HHS has a New Fact Sheet on Child Victims of Human Trafficking:
  http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/child_victims.htm

- Not For Sale Campaign has events, trainings, news articles, videos, and a wealth of information on trafficking efforts. Visit their site at:
  http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/

- Make your holiday shopping Just!! “Free To Work” is an organization that helps holiday shoppers find great gifts which do not have forced or child labor in their production. Companies are graded on the steps they take to actively prevent exploitation from occurring. Check out their site and feel good knowing your buying slave-free products!
  http://www.free2work.org/
Did You Know?
Zonta International and The Soroptimist Clubs
support work to end Human Trafficking?

Soroptimist Clubs:
Soroptimist is an international organization for professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Soroptimist Clubs have a specific focus area on Human Trafficking. The Organization hosted a special event in 2007 to promote awareness of the issue. During the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery and the first National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness, club members placed sex slavery awareness cards in visible locations throughout their communities—police stations, women's centers, hospitals, etc.

Soroptimist clubs exist in several New England states, including: Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Local clubs offer scholarships, funding, volunteers, and host events. The Soroptimist club in your area may be able to offer support to your state coalition activities! Contact local clubs through their website at: http://www.soroptimist.org/clubs/clubs.html

Zonta International:
Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta international has clubs locally in a number of states throughout New England including: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Many local Zonta clubs also have a special interest in human trafficking and take on a variety of fundraisers and special projects. Your local club may be able to offer volunteers, host fundraisers, or other kinds of support! Contact your local club at: www.zonta.org

Q AND A

How Can I Build Trust With A Potential Trafficking Victim?
Victims of trafficking have often experienced significant trauma, and have typically been coached and threatened with things that have made them fearful and mistrustful of authorities, especially law enforcement. Don’t expect to get a full story when first meeting the victim.

While it typically takes time to slowly build trust with victims, you may not have that luxury. Whatever your situation, try to allow as much time as possible to help the victim develop comfort with you. It may be beneficial to first offer the person some assistance in meeting concrete needs, such as help with food, housing, clothing, etc. This “gift” helps build real connection.

Having a basic understanding of the victim’s background can also be helpful. Research their background to increase your understanding of their situation. Try to learn about the political situation in the person’s home country, ethnic conflicts, and primary cultural values. If you don’t understand something, ask, don’t assume. People often appreciate if you show interest and concern.

Empathy is very important for building trust. People need to feel cared for and understood. Use open-ended questions without many interruptions.