

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NEW JERSEY

2020-2022 NJSFWC Special State Project



The New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking (NJCAHT) is a fully volunteer-run nonprofit with a mission to unite communities to abolish human trafficking. We represent over 180 organizations across the state, including service providers, law enforcement, academics, educators and healthcare professionals. Our vision is for New Jersey to be free from human trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery. We work towards that goal through outreach to a wide variety of community groups in order to raise awareness of this important issue. NJCAHT members address the confusing nature of the topic (misunderstood by most), and especially seek to educate young people before the traffickers get to them. This is not an issue related to kidnapping. Human Trafficking is based upon manipulation and fear, and the method of entrapment is often the phone in a child's hand.

The money raised by NJSFWC, and your members' time and effort, will support two specific NJCAHT projects:

- *Locker Slam* - provides free resources to schools, including Locker Slam magnets, so that middle and high school students have a method to start a meaningful conversation in their school community about the risk factors and warning signs of human trafficking. NJSFWC funds will be used to purchase magnets to go on school lockers, empowering students to understand and combat trafficking, and become heroes of their own stories. We sent nearly 28,000 magnets to over 60 schools in January 2020 to create a dynamic awareness campaign during Human Trafficking Prevention Month. However, there are almost 600 school districts in NJ, so we have many more students to reach with this project. NJSFWC members would reach out to local schools to encourage them to participate in the Locker Slam program to receive free magnets and use them to inspire their students. Your support will increase the number of schools participating in the program in subsequent years, helping to prevent this crime and ensure the health and safety of every student in New Jersey schools and beyond.
- *SOAP (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution)* - Since 2014, the Coalition has partnered with survivor Theresa Flores to conduct SOAP trainings and outreach that send volunteers to hotels and motels to help stop child sex trafficking. Victims - often children - are sex trafficked in hotels and motels. Volunteer teams show posters of missing children to front desk staff and deliver resources, including free soap bars labeled with the National Human Trafficking Hotline number (888-3737-888). NJSFWC clubs will not only facilitate the purchase and labeling of bars of soap for hotels and motels, but will be offered the opportunity to coordinate and attend a training and outreach to hotels. Together, we would be creating a lifeline for the victims while providing hotels with important resources aimed at recognizing and reporting suspected trafficking.

Lastly, Clubs would request a free speaker from the NJCAHT to educate their members on the risk factors of both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, becoming leaders on the issue in their own communities. This partnership will expand the efforts of the NJCAHT through the development of a strong network of statewide advocates working toward the abolishment of Human Trafficking in NJ.