

*Human Trafficking is the exploitation of a person for commercial sex or forced labor.*

## The Issue

- Human Trafficking is the fastest growing and second largest criminal enterprise in the world.
- Annually, Human Trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide.
- It is a global issue that impacts every community in every country
  - Estimated 25 - 42 million victims worldwide; 2-4 million in the U.S
  - Victims come from all demographics, all communities
  - Youth are particularly vulnerable; often trafficked for sex as young as 9-13

## Why Rotary?

- Rotary is uniquely positioned to solve global issues, with over 3 million Rotarians worldwide
- Rotary has a successful track record – we have helped eradicate polio!
- We can mobilize thousands of Rotary clubs to tackle this issue in their own communities.

## Mission of the Initiative

To end Human Trafficking in the communities covered by Rotary Districts 5950, 5960 and 5580 (Minnesota, North Dakota, Western Wisconsin and portions of Ontario)

- We will provide Rotary Clubs with information, resources and toolkits to engage their communities and support local organizations and agencies working to end trafficking.
- Our focus is on preventing human trafficking before it occurs. How? By raising awareness, educating children & youth, reducing risk factors that make children vulnerable, and stopping the demand.

## What Can Your Club Do?

### Raise Awareness

- Sponsor a speaker for your school, church, community group or business.
- Host an event to raise awareness and inform community members about this horrible crime.
- Ask local businesses to post Safe Harbor posters with hotline numbers.
- Post articles on Facebook and on your Club's website. Follow organizations working to end it.
- Talk about human trafficking with friends, family and colleagues.

### Educate Children and Youth

- Work with local schools to bring human trafficking and assault prevention curriculum to help youth recognize and avoid dangerous situations.
- Encourage schools to host training programs for teachers and parents to recognize the signs of trafficking and learn what to do if they think someone is being trafficked.
- Engage youth to form student groups or campaigns to stand up against trafficking

### Reduce Risk Factors

- Partner with a local organization working with at-risk youth; provide funds and volunteer support.
- Support programs that provide shelter and resources to homeless and runaway youth.
- Volunteer for programs offering victim support. Donate funds and needed supplies for survivors.
- Collaborate with neighboring Rotary Clubs to increase your impact in the community.

### Stop the Demand

- Partner with organizations that help individuals understand the damage caused by sex trafficking.
- Support programs that teach youth about healthy relationships and respecting women and girls.
- Provide funding for organizations that are working to end violence against women and children.
- Take a personal stand to promote equality and to work to shift attitudes and norms.
- *Become an ambassador for change!*

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