

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.
 - In the U.S., 75% of trafficked victims are exploited for sex, 25% are trafficked for labor
 - Nearly half are children; 80-90% are women and girls
 - Victims come from all demographics, all communities
 - Youth are particularly vulnerable; often trafficked for sex as young as 9-13

In Minnesota

- The FBI identified the Twin Cities as one of 13 US cities with the highest rates of child prostitution.
- MN Safe Harbor laws recognize that children under 18 who are trafficked for sex are victims, not criminals, and cannot be prosecuted. The law also provides funding, services and resources for survivors under 25 and increases penalties against commercial sex abusers and buyers.

Why Rotary?

- Rotary is uniquely positioned to solve global issues, with over 1.2 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.
- How Can We End It? We must prevent it from happening before it occurs. How?
 - Raise Awareness
 - Educate Children and Youth
 - Reduce Risk Factors that Make Children Vulnerable
 - Stop the Demand

For more information about Rotary's Initiative to End Human Trafficking, or to learn how you can get involved, contact Karen Walkowski: karen@RotaryEndHT.org or visit RotaryEndHT.org