

Developing a Club Strategy to Fight Human Trafficking

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Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva, FL

Zonta's dedication to the issue of human trafficking: ZIZVAW Projects

- 1999: Advocacy to fight trafficking promoted by Zonta International.
- 2000-2006: Creation of Anti-Trafficking Advocacy Modules
 - 2002: Star Network Project as an International Project.
- 2006-2008: Projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, focusing on prevention across borders as ZISVAW project.

Why Your Club Shouldn't Get Involved

- It's too big an issue.
- We don't know enough.
- It doesn't happen here.
- We might be perceived badly (Who are they? Why do they care? They're interfering...)

Why Your Club Should Get Involved

- Zontians are supposed to enthusiastically push broadly to advance the status of women and help women who can't help themselves, even if it means we have to be Pushy Broads on occasion.
- To wistfully paraphrase Hilary Clinton, “If I just wanted to stay home and bake cookies, I wouldn't have joined Zonta”.

Ways to Make a Difference

- Advocacy:
 - Assistance in developing legislation
 - Support of legislation
- Task Force/Coalition Development
 - Organizing initial meetings
 - Supporting existing task forces

More Ways

- Partnerships with Non-Profits and Law Enforcement
 - Financial support
 - Filling needs
 - Assisting at events, attending trainings
- Awareness Building
 - Within the Club
 - Speakers bureaus
 - Press releases

Even More Ways

- Organizing Community Events
 - Hosting Speakers
 - Finding facilities
 - Providing refreshments, creating programs
- Sharing Resources
 - Funding or creating a program
 - Staffing a program
 - Writing a template so other clubs don't have to reinvent the proverbial wheel.
 - Creating a "national Zonta repository" of information on trafficking projects carried out by the various clubs.

Case Studies of Excellence

- Zonta Club of Pinellas County, Florida
- Zonta Club of Yakima, Washington
- Zonta Club of Pikes Peak Area, Colorado

- And my Club...Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva

Pinellas

Zonta Pinellas's work on human trafficking has been centered around the work of the Clearwater Tampa Bay Area Task Force on Human Trafficking which began in 2006 with a Department of Justice grant. This Task Force works with the three counties, Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco law enforcement, as well as federal law enforcement. Their grant includes work with NGO's. We, as original members of the Community Campaign, associate with the Task Force, attend the quarterly Task Force meetings at which law enforcement discusses cases and gives information for groups to build awareness in the community. All the NGO's try to keep our awareness programs under the umbrella of the Task Force information for statistics, etc.

- Supporting the Task Force is one main area of our efforts. When Det. McBride spoke to the Marathon Zonta Club and they asked what they could do to help their law enforcement, he told them to just do what we in Pinellas do.

How Pinellas supports the Task Force

1. We provide small “kits” which the officers can carry in their cars, which include toothpaste, toothbrush, water, snack bar, shirt, shorts or pants, sox or flipflops, soap and/or hand sanitizer, shampoo, conditioner, lotion (sample sizes) and we provide fast food coupons. These can be used when they pick up a victim dressed only in lingerie or when they are attempting to get the trust of girls on the street.
2. We presented the Task Force with a letter of commendation for their work on January 11, 2013, Human Trafficking Day, to show our appreciation for their hard work which is proactive, not reactive.
3. We facilitate speaking engagements to create awareness and serve on nearly all committees in the three county area to create awareness of the crime of We provide items needed when requested by World Relief, the main organization working to restore the victims of HT in this area.
4. We put up nine billboards with the artwork from Shared Hope “This man wants to rent your daughter” from May 2012 to September 2012 in Hillsborough (Tampa) and Pinellas during the time the Republican National Convention was in Tampa. We got quite a lot of press for these and a lot of discussion.

6. We actively support financially and with volunteers of the International Association of Human Trafficking investigators which is a non-profit established by Detectives with experience with the Task Force who are dedicated to training all law enforcement so that victims will not be treated as criminals but as the victims they are and the really bad guys can be arrested. We sponsor this organization's events.
7. We are currently attempting to get hospitals to allow law enforcement to have access to victims but at this time in Pinellas, even when called by hospital staff, the law enforcement officers are not allowed any information, even that not covered by HIPPA. We have spoken to judges who have given us statutes that apply but it is not working.
8. We are also working to provide scholarships to law enforcement for the trainings that IAHTI holds and have suggested that DUI traffic stops might be a place where officers if trained could be able to alert HT officers of potential problems.
9. We participated in the SOAP project by Theresa Flores during the Republican National Convention, which was program to put stickers on hotel soap with human trafficking hotline number, pack them in boxes to deliver to motels and hotels in the area, approach managers with flyer of missing children and ask if they had seen any of the children and offer the soap for them to put in their rooms during the convention.





Pike's Peak Area

- SUPPORT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM
- Hands-on, planning and Financial Support
- The Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado was formed at the Human Trafficking Awareness Symposium sponsored by the Zonta Club of the Pikes Peak Area and Youth With a Mission in September 2008. Over 300 interested persons attended to learn more about trafficking and to see what might be done in our community.
- Due to the continued financial and hands on support of the Pikes Peak Area Zonta club, the Symposium has continued on for five years. Plans are now underway for the sixth Symposium to be held on October 19th! **SAVE THE DATE!**

Zonta Wings Program

- ZONTA Wings Program: Flight to Safety and Support
 - When a young woman has been rescued from the streets, she has a whole host of needs. Those needs are as basic as a new set of clothes (often clothing is kept as potential evidence) and as complex as long term counseling to address the psychological damage she has experienced. The need that we seek to meet is that of emergency transportation.
 - When identified by the FBI and/or local HT Task Force, the ZONTA WINGS Program will cover the cost of travel for a young woman moving to a location where shelter and treatment are available. To make this possible, we ask for your help in one of two ways.
 - Make a donation of:
 - *unused frequent flier miles. If you have acquired enough miles to purchase a ticket, please make a pledge of those miles. We will contact you to redeem the miles as the need arises.
 - *cash donations. Your contribution will be earmarked to pay the cost of transportation for a victim.

First Annual Advocacy Day at the Denver Capitol

- Planning and Hands on Support
- Legislative breakfast was provided for legislators in conjunction with a basic program about Human Trafficking in Colorado. Legislative Host committee members presented a Human Trafficking Resolution in the House and in the Senate followed by comments from fellow House and Senate members.
- The resolutions which confirmed the legislators support of anti-human trafficking efforts were both passed. The work done ahead of time with the legislators was terrific and left no questions that had not been answered.
- The West Steps Rally ran into a bit of a problem, serious ice and snow, but the committees held firm and just moved this important roundup of the day's activities to the inside of the building. The dignitaries were positive about their support for anti-trafficking measures and we all appreciated the Attorney General, the Denver Chief of Police , the SAC FBI, and a brief musical selection from a production "Unbounded: Breaking the Chains of Modern Slavery," among other supporting comments.

Yakima Valley

Example of Ordinance Advocacy:

Reviewing Your City's Adult Entertainment Ordinances to Strengthen Protection for Women and Reduce Human Trafficking at Strip Clubs

- Our local newspaper carried articles about a local businessman who wanted to open a strip club in Yakima (we don't have one now) and his attempts to get his application approved. As the Advocacy committee members were informed about the intersections between human trafficking and strip clubs, we felt it would be important to DO SOMETHING to help prevent the opening of the strip club. The same steps outlined below could be used if you already have a strip club in your community – but would like to strengthen your ordinances.

Action Steps

- **Read the Ordinance**
- **Review Press Coverage**
- **Read other Ordinances**
- **Meet with City Council Members**
- **Focus**
- **Statement**
- **Material Packets**



Outcomes

- All of the provisions that we requested be changed were reviewed and reworded by the city attorney's staff and presented to and approved by the city council. **Mission Accomplished!**
- The City Council Members and City Attorney were incredibly impressed with our research and the depth of the subject matter that we presented. Showing them the dangers of strip clubs from a human trafficking perspective was unique and entirely effective! By providing the actual results of studies of violence against women that occurs in strip clubs and the findings of experts in the field, we gave strength to the requests we made and demonstrated that our focus was on protecting the women who may work in a strip club in our community in the future.
- Since our city has reviewed its strip club ordinance, several other "entrepreneurs" have tried to open up strip clubs in other cities in our valley, leading to the establishment of adult entertainment ordinances in two other cities. We plan to review these ordinances and make any needed recommendations to those city councils as well.
- We are also going to send out a pro-active letter to the city clerks/mayors of other towns in our area providing the same information to them in the event they plan to establish an adult entertainment ordinance.
- The entire effort led to a lot of very positive PR for the Zonta Club of Yakima Valley as the club that cares about women and is willing to get out there and fight for what is right!

Sunnyside's Promise Video – “Their Story”

Sex Trafficking of Girls in Gangs in the Yakima Valley

Sunnyside's Promise is one of the two organizations in Yakima County (Central Washington State) that has a grant for working with trafficking victims. Early in our DMST advocacy efforts we met with their staff to learn more about their work. Over the years since, we've worked closely together on a number of fronts – making presentations, attending training, and financial support.

Support the Frontliners

- After our initial meeting we realized how much the people working on the frontline working with trafficking victims and survivors need our support. The case managers, victim advocates, and others that work one-on-one with these youth are facing a huge challenge to get the needed resources to help their youth, in an environment where everyone's budgets for services are getting reduced. They are also in need of our emotional support to continue to face the challenges of overcoming the evil (injurious) acts committed against the trafficking victims.
- We found ways to come alongside Suzi Carpino, the DMST specialist at Sunnyside's Promise, to look for resources for their program as needs were identified. We also decided to support her personally through frequent correspondence and phone calls. She frequently thanks us as she always says how much it means to her that people out in the community care about and support the work she does.

She'll Talk on Video!

- One day Suzi communicated to us that one of the girls had agreed to talk on video about her trafficking experiences. She wanted to share her story so other girls could be protected from this destructive role in local gangs. Subsequently she also got (enlist) a former gang pimp/trafficker to agree to talk on tape about the male gang members' roles in trafficking and how it worked. When we saw the first draft of the video we agreed with Suzi that it needed some more editing work and better protection for the identity of the two speakers.

Success

Fundraising

- Each year the Zonta Club of Yakima Valley organizes a Status of Women Luncheon with the goal of promoting Zonta. We bring in a great speaker on women's issues and to use the event for membership promotion. That year (2012), we decided to let the executive director of Sunnyside's Promise make a 3 minute appeal to the group for help to finish the video and then we put envelopes on the table. It was a very low-key fundraiser, but we got \$ 687 in donations. It was incredible, because the amount we got donated exceeded the amount needed to pay the final bill for the video, by about \$31. We subsequently decided to donate an additional \$400 from the proceeds of the ticket sales to Sunnyside's Promise to make additional improvements to the video.

Win - Win

- This video has become not only a great public education tool for Sunnyside's Promise so (enabling) the community and local stakeholders can (to) see the fundamental role trafficking of girls has in local gang culture. In addition, Zonta has received fantastic feedback and promotion by being associated with this project, and by having our name listed at the end of the film in the list of donors. Everyone benefitted!

Surprise Bonus

- Several weeks after the luncheon we received a call from the Executive Director of Sunnyside's Promise, to thank us all because Senator Honeyford walked into his office with a check for \$5,000 for Sunnyside's Promise! Mark credited the donation 100% to the fact that we invited Senator Honeyford to our Status of Women luncheon and he was able to talk about Sunnyside's Promise with the senator before and after the luncheon, as well as hearing what both Mark and Suzi had to say from the podium about the challenges they are facing.
- The 17 ½ minute "Their Story" Video can be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=oytvRXIXhAk

Other Yakima Projects

- Excellent website with lots of informative links to articles, website.
- Idea: Create a “National Zonta Repository of Club Projects”

Sanibel-Captiva

- Advocated for and led a county-wide task force in 2004-2005 which led to the rescue of a young girl and prosecution of 4 traffickers. A Zonta member is still a leader of this task force.
 - Introduced a district-wide anti-trafficking resolution in 2006.
 - Members spoke at ZI convention workshop in Melbourne, Aus in 2006
 - Co-sponsored multiple events on Sanibel and Ft. Myers on trafficking, featuring famous speakers, including Theresa Flores and Anuradhada Koirala, CNN 2010 Person of the Year. (One every year.)
 - Members support local anti-trafficking groups through grants, assistance at fundraisers.
 - Advocate for legislation and hold regular “education evenings” of films and articles.
 - Member spoke at UNCSW 2013.

Some of the Speakers We've Sponsored.



Orlene Shimberg, Anuradha Koirala, Kris Ritts, Michelle Shaw

The Questions:

- “What is my club doing to fight trafficking?”
- “What will my club do to fight trafficking?”
- “What can we adapt to work for us?”