**Center Accomplishments To Date**

- The Center developed and implemented the very first Human Trafficking Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) in Southwest Florida. The team serves as a collaborative entity that provides assistance and coordination from multiple perspectives and professions. The MDT group meets on the final Monday of every month at a designated location on the Florida Gulf Coast University campus.

- As of April 2014, the center has been an official partner of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (Polaris Project). As an official point of contact, the center staff receive notification of tips and calls to the area. The center has received seven HT related tips since the beginning of this collaborative effort. All tips are referred and coordinated with Law Enforcement and Social Service providers.

- A total of 1,168 community members and professionals were trained by the Center.

- The Center implemented an advisory board that would assist with and enhance center capacity in areas such as fundraising, sustainability, community development and involvement as well as increase the public profile of the center and its efforts. The advisory board is comprised of high ranking professionals in various local agencies, influential community members as well as key members of various service organizations. The board meets quarterly and has held two meetings to date.
The Human Trafficking Resource Center at Florida Gulf Coast University has been in operation for a full year already. This cooperative effort has yielded many benefits for the Southwest Florida community and our anti-trafficking efforts. Collaboration between the various agencies and individuals who have taken up the cause to combat this horrible crime is at an all-time high and we are proud to say that the Center has had a role to play in all of this.

Since the inception of the Center, 1,103 individuals have received training from Center staff. Moreover, the Center developed and continues to host the first Multi-Disciplinary Team specifically for staffing human trafficking cases in Southwest Florida. These meetings have been held monthly (except for December) since October 2014 and have provided a fantastic opportunity to fully coordinate and collaborate on a full continuum of care for identified victims in the region.

The team is comprised of individuals from agencies as diverse as Collier County Sheriff’s Office, Lee County Mental Health Court, The David Lawrence Center, Catholic Charities, The Naples Shelter, The Children’s Advocacy Center, etc. These professionals take time from their extremely busy schedules to meet and bring their various areas of expertise to the table and truly collaborate on assisting survivors of human trafficking.

During the past year, the Center developed and presented the Victim Response Protocol to the task force. This document currently serves as a guide on how to appropriately respond to an identified victim and help the identifier navigate the procurement of services, collaborate with law enforcement, as well as develop relevant terms and statutes. This protocol is truly important for the region because it identifies responders and establishes lines of communication that people may not be aware of.

The Center has also collected statistics for the five county region and we currently have both the 2013 and 2014 stats listed on our website. It is interesting to note a few things. First, law enforcement investigations more than doubled from 2013 to 2014. Second, there is a large discrepancy between victims assisted by service providers and the amount of law enforcement investigations. This is a nationwide problem and we here at the Center will continue to analyze our local numbers to try and determine the reason for this. Furthermore, the Center is collaborating with both the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the Statewide Prosecutor to correlate the amount of prostitution related arrests with human trafficking arrests and prosecutions.
2015 Human Trafficking Symposium
by Jessica Webber

The Human Trafficking Symposium held at FGCU on January 14th 2015 was a tremendous success. Attendance was maxed out at 250 and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Keynote speaker Bradley Miles (Polaris Project CEO) and all of the other presenters provided the community with a huge amount of information as well as ideas on how to further engage and combat Human Trafficking. This wonderful event was co-hosted by the Women’s Fund of Southwest Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University, and it will be the first of many such region wide events for our community.

There are many other projects and endeavors that the Center will be conducting throughout the 2015 calendar, for further updates please don’t hesitate to contact the Resource Center Coordinator Alex Olivares at (239) 745-4276 or via email at aolivares@fgcu.edu. All center activities, statistics and professional resources can be viewed at www.fgcu.edu/htrc.

This center would not be possible without the support and assistance of many individuals at Florida Gulf Coast University including President Bradshaw, Provost Tohl, Dean Gregerson, Dean Cordova, Dr. Yih, Vanessa Cournoyer, Meghan Hian, Kaye Straley and the many fantastic interns that assist in the day to day operations.

Without the support and guidance of the Center’s co-directors Dr. McGaha and Dr. Evans, there would be no Center. The support and collaboration of the US Attorney’s Office, the Statewide Prosecutors Office, the Collier County Sheriff, the Lee County Sheriff and all of the other entities throughout the community make our efforts possible and valid.

Finally, without the support of the Women’s Fund of Southwest Florida, specifically Brenda Tate and Lou Pontius, this effort would not have been initiated. Our thanks go out to all of these individuals and entities.
A Call to Action
by Alex Olivares - HTRC Coordinator

With an ever increasing amount of reported cases, we have reached a very crucial point in the fight against human trafficking. When I started working in this region six years ago only a few agencies were providing services for trafficking victims. Currently social service groups, federal and local agencies, and victim advocates have collaborated in their efforts to fight human trafficking. This is fantastic. Rarely can you see a topic that will galvanize so many different professionals and groups in to uniting against a common issue.

Despite the fact that human trafficking is uniting so many in a common cause, there is still a distinct lack of collaboration and cohesiveness between the different branches and entities that fight against it. Some argue that there is a fundamental difference in purpose between these entities, while others recognize that there are varying personalities within these groups. Still others attribute this lack of cohesiveness to flaws in the actual practice of identifying and assisting survivors of this crime. Regardless of who is correct, the simple fact of the matter is that there are discrepancies regarding the number of law enforcement investigations and the amounts of estimated and even identified victims. Furthermore these investigations do not always result in a prosecution.

The Center gathered the following statistics for the Southwest Florida region:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Provider (NGO)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This chart highlights the questions that we should be asking ourselves locally and nationally. Why are there so many cases identified by service providers that are not relayed to law enforcement? What part of the process is being overlooked or left out and how can this be corrected? Where do we start efforts to streamline the fight against trafficking on all fronts?

Ultimately we need to remember that despite the fact that human trafficking has existed for millennia, there was not an official law identifying the parameters of the crime for both victims and perpetrators until 2000, when the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was developed. Since then, there has been an increase in the creation of legislation, processes, and protocols in order to stop trafficking and help the survivors. Because of this I believe that we are at a critical juncture of aligning and developing as a movement where we have to coalesce and move forward with a unified plan.

Food for thought—consider the issue of domestic violence. Currently the processes for combatting domestic violence are very streamlined; they are not perfect but they are extremely functional. In the past, this was not the case. Six years went by between the implementation of the first rape hotline in Washington, D.C. in 1972 and the formation of the two national coalitions for sexual assault and domestic violence in 1978. The Violence Against Women Act, which provided federal funding to protect victims of domestic violence, did not pass until 1994!

The fight against human trafficking is just beginning, and there are many models that we can follow in order to make this an effective movement. We cannot do this without collaboration, cohesion, and structure.
If you have not found a reason yet to help put an end to modern day slavery, let me give you one or two and my reason. Globally the average going price of a slave is $90.00. In the United States, there are an estimated 100,000 children in the sex trade, which means the number of trafficking victims is higher. On average victims of sex trafficking will endure 2.5 thousand perpetrators within a 6-month period, 5 thousand in one year, and over 30 thousand perpetrators in six years. Compensation and benefits include 4 out of 30 days off and ‘free housing’. Since statistics and numbers are what reveal a need for change, let this be a revelation.

On average victims of trafficking are recruited at 12 to 14 years old. Anywhere from six months up to six years of enslavement only brings a victim to 18-20 years old when they become a survivor. Moreover, when that survivor reintegrates into society, they must go to school or work, they are supposed to be or at least act okay again. While teenagers in this day in age live a different life than we did, one thing that is not different is that as teenagers we all have that same conversation. The one with our friends about number of people we have slept with. The survivor’s answer, no matter if she knows the number or shares it, would be around two to thirty thousand. That is my reason for wanting to eradicate human trafficking. I have found many more reasons as I began to educate myself but the added up number of 20-30 a day changed my perspective.

In the eradication of human trafficking people of all different occupations are needed. Therapists, social workers, doctors, and police are not the only forces that can make a difference for the cause. There are many ways that anyone can make a difference, some become effortless when you get involved. Raising awareness, self-education, and recognizing and reporting the signs of trafficking are perfect places to start. If you are alert and knowledgeable and help tell others that this problem exists, they too can work to create change. We can fix a problem if we realize it does exist. Education is the key to all change. By taking the time to learn about human trafficking, you are automatically raising awareness, within yourself. You can learn about human trafficking through various mediums including videos, maps, art, poems, and books. The survivor’s stories are impactful and deserve to be listening and viewing.

Through absorbing the information, you can easily help spread it. Spreading awareness is easier than you may think and is a very valuable tool in the fight for abolition. By using your voice, you can truly make a difference. In addition, you can use your talents, expertise, and experience to tell others that slavery still exists. Organizations and people are creating art, performing dances, making public service announcement videos, and writing poems in order to spread awareness to all the audiences possible. With social media, making it so easy to share with hundreds of people at the click of a button there is no reason not to share what you learn about modern day slavery on your social networks. While you are obtaining and sharing information, make sure to pay close attention to the information about signs of human trafficking as well as what you can do if you suspect it.

In the United States, human trafficking looks different from the stereotypical kidnapping. Domestic human traffickers target vulnerable populations such as runaways, youth in foster care, and immigrants. The traffickers use young men and women to recruit others. They use threats, force, lies, and other types of coercion to entrap the victim. Traffickers are at our malls posing as talent scouts, modeling agents or a new boy in town. We need to start identifying them.
1. Approximately 75-80% of human trafficking is for sex.

2. There are more human slaves in the world today than ever before in history.

3. There are an estimated 27 million adults and 13 million children around the world who are victims of human trafficking.

4. Human trafficking not only involves sex and labor, but people are also trafficked for organ harvesting.

5. Human traffickers often use a Sudanese phrase “use a slave to catch slaves,” meaning traffickers send “broken-in girls” to recruit younger girls into the sex trade. Sex traffickers often girls themselves, raping them, and teaching them sex acts.

6. An estimated 30,000 victims of sex trafficking die each year from abuse, disease, torture, and neglect. 80% of those sold into sexual slavery are under 24, and some are as young as six-years-old.

7. The end of the Cold War has resulted in the growth of regional conflicts and the decline of borders. Many rebel groups turn to human trafficking to fund military actions and garner soldiers.

8. Human traffickers are increasingly trafficking pregnant women for their newborns. Babies are sold on the black market, where the profit is divided between the traffickers, doctors, lawyers, border officials, and other. The mother is usually paid less than what is promised her, citing the cost of travel and creating false documents. A mother might receive as little as a few hundred dollars for her baby.

9. Lady Gaga’s “Bad Romance” video is about human trafficking. In the video, Gaga is trafficked by a Russian bathhouse into sex slavery.

10. Global warming and severe natural disasters have left millions homeless and impoverished, which has created desperate people easily exploited by human trafficking.


12. Women are trafficked to the U.S. largely to work in the sex industry (including strip clubs, peep and touch shows, massage parlors that offer sexual services, and prostitution). They are also trafficked to work in sweatshops, domestic servitude, and agricultural work.

13. Sex traffickers use a variety of ways to “condition” their victims, including subjecting them to starvation, rape, gang rape, physical abuse, beating, confinement, threats of violence toward the victim and victim’s family, forced drug use, and shame.

14. Family members will often sell children and other family members into slavery; the younger the victim, the more money the trafficker receives.

15. Victims of human trafficking suffer devastating physical and psychological harm. However, due to language barriers, lack of knowledge about available services, and the frequency with which traffickers move victims, human trafficking victims and their perpetrators are difficult to catch.

16. In approximately 54% of human trafficking cases, the recruiter is a stranger, and in 46% of the cases, the recruiters know the victim. Fifty-two percent of human trafficking recruiters are men, 42% are women, and 6% are both men and women.

17. Human traffickers often work with corrupt government officials to obtain travel documents and seize passports.

18. Airports are often used by human traffickers to hold “slave auctions,” where women and children are sold into prostitution.

19. Due to globalization, every continent of the world has been involved in human trafficking, including a country as small as Iceland.

20. Many times, if a sex slave is arrested, she is imprisoned while her trafficker is able to buy his way out of trouble.
Phone Apps that are Dangerous for Kids

By Sarah Buranosky and Katie Enloe

Kik is a very popular messaging app for teens. This app allows for teens to message people who they have never met, as long as they have access to their Kik username and the app. It also allows for private messages that parents cannot see. This makes it very easy for teens to ‘sext’ each other without their parents ever seeing. Some apps that allow you to send out your Kik username in order to find people to chat with around the world. Since there is no way of searching who the username belongs to, they could be talking to a sexual predator without even knowing. There is also a community blog that allows the Kik users to send in screenshots of conversations and even send pictures of themselves.

Omegle, Oovoo and Chatroulette are apps/websites that offer video chat. Oovoo is the most popular as it allows one to chat with up to twelve people at one time, but only with users on your contact list. Omegle, whose slogan is “Talk to Strangers!” randomly pairs up users through messaging or video chat. Most of the users on Omegle are looking for sexually explicit chat, which makes it dangerous for children and provides several links to pornographic websites. Chatroulette is the most dangerous of the three and allows for anyone to video chat with another person around the world. This site is open to anyone with internet and a webcam; there is no registration or age verification and no limit on who can use this site. A person gets paired up to talk to a stranger, and can either chat with the stranger, or click next to get paired with another person.

Yik Yak is an app used as an anonymous source to interact with people in your area. This app allows someone to post a thought, in 160 characters or less, and other people can click on their post and either agree with it or disagree with it by giving it an arrow up or an arrow down. There is also an option to reply to people’s posts, therefore providing a direct interaction with the original poster. Yik Yak provides a potential dangerous standpoint by having every post remaining anonymous. It gives people with bad intentions more motivation to reach out to posters, who may be underage.

Ask.fm is a forum where people create an account and then “friends” can ask them anonymous questions. The website advertises that being anonymous is what makes it unique and fun, and that by doing so it could allow a “crush to reach out” or “friends to ask questions they might not know the answer to, but don’t want to ask yet.” But the reality is that when there is a level of anonymity like this, it opens the door for whomever to ask whatever questions they please. While searching the site, it’s clear to see that some of these questions can delve into the personal lives of the account holder’s business, and even provide an outlet for people to post information like their phone numbers or addresses online.

Snapchat is wildly popular among teens and young adults as a social media outlet and a way to stay connected with friends. The app allows someone to make an account, and then snap pictures of themselves and send it to people from their contact list of friends on the app. There is also an option that you can post a picture to your “story” and at that time, the picture is posted for every single person on your contact list to see. These stories say up for 24 hours and then are deleted. Once you take a picture and send it to a friend, they can only open it once and then it disappears. This has received a lot of controversy because of the access this gives teens to send nude pictures, therefore leading to the distribution of child pornography. It has also gained a lot of attention as to whether or not these pictures really do just “disappear.” It is possible that when someone sends a Snapchat, each picture is saved in a huge database and is stored there. This however has not been proven.
Statistics Obtained by the Center

2013 Calendar Year
- Six regional sheriff’s departments all collaborated and provided their numbers:
  - Collier County: 7
  - Lee County: 4
  - Hendry County: 0
  - Glades County: 0
  - Desoto County: 2
  - Charlotte County: 1
- The social service agencies reported 37 victims cared for during the 2013 calendar year.

2014 Calendar Year
- Collier County: 27
- Lee County: 6
- Hendry County: 0
- Glades County: 0
- Desoto County: 1
- Charlotte County: 3
- Total of 37 Human Trafficking Related Investigations
- Collier County more than doubled the amount of investigations from one year to the next while there was no major change in the other sheriff’s offices.

2014 Calendar Year
- Charlotte County: 30 (5 males)
- Collier County: 95 (22 males)
- Glades County: 1 (1 male)
- Hendry County: 16 (11 males)
- Lee County: 676 (207 males)
- The Collier County Sheriff’s Office is the only local law enforcement entity with a dedicated detective specifically for human trafficking.
- Both the detective and their victim advocate attend the Center’s monthly Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting as well as the quarterly USAO Task Force.

On March 6th 2015, a combined investigation between Collier County Sheriff and Florida Department of Law Enforcement led to the largest Human Trafficking sting in our area, with 10 arrests and approximately 15 victims rescued.

Available Trainings
The Human Trafficking Resource Center at Florida Gulf Coast University offers several training concentrations at no cost to the trainee. They are live training sessions, and all training sessions are available in Lee, Hendry, Glades, Desoto, Charlotte, Collier, Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Each session is no less than one (1) hour long and up to two and a half hours.

- Introduction to Human Trafficking
- Implementing the VERA Human Trafficking Screening Tool in Social Service Provider Setting
- Identifying Minor Victims of Human Trafficking
- Developing Effective Collaborations to Combat Human Trafficking
- Identifying the Foreign-Born Victims of Human Trafficking