



HARBOR LIGHTS

WINTER 2008

MISSION

To lead a community-wide partnership in the awareness and prevention of domestic violence and abuse, and to offer safety and support to diverse families in crisis.

Human Trafficking—An Issue of Power and Control

By Beth Schnorr

It's a form of modern-day slavery. It involves the exploitation of people for commercial sex or forced labor. Its perpetrators use force, fraud and coercion to control their victims—much like in domestic violence.

It is human trafficking, and it was the main topic of discussion as Harbor House met and collaborated with five Russian delegates in Appleton Oct. 10 to 18.



Delegation of Russian women with staff members Beth Schnorr (far left), Jessica Desens (second from left) and Wendy Gehl (far right).

The delegates were sponsored by Open World, a program administered by the Library of Congress. The mission of Open World is: "to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and the countries of Eurasia and the Baltic States by developing a network of leaders in the region who have gained significant, firsthand exposure to America's democratic, accountable government and its free-market system."

"Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objective of equality, development and peace."

*—World Conference on Women
Beijing, 1995*

Harbor House has been part of a local group of agencies that have hosted a number of Open World exchanges. The goal of this year's exchange was to study the issues of human trafficking and domestic violence.

Some may ask: Why would a local domestic abuse shelter participate in a discussion about what is seemingly an international issue only?

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Harbor House Prevention Education Coordinator Carla Hales (far right) facilitates the Crossing the Line exercise. The objective of this exercise is to help youth understand the obstacles we all face in our lives with feeling different or being teased and bullied.

At Harbor House, we believe that ending and preventing violence against women and girls is a priority of a just society. It is a matter of basic human rights, of personal respect and dignity. Despite the fact that women have made great strides toward equality in this country, inequalities remain. These are particularly evident in the fact that women continue to suffer violence in numerous forms, including domestic violence and human trafficking. The human and economic costs of these injustices are too high to ignore. In September of 1995, at the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, a platform for action clearly stated that "violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace." And yet, every day, every hour and every second, this principle is violated across our country and throughout the world.

Both the Russian delegates and representatives from Harbor House gained insight into the connection between human trafficking and domestic violence when attending a presentation on the topic of human trafficking at Fox Valley Technical College presented by FBI Special Agent Amy Coleman and Dawn Jones of the Milwaukee Police Department. Here, we learned more about the intersection of these issues and how we might work together to support victims.

It is estimated that 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked worldwide each year, with 14,500 to 17,500 of that number trafficked into the United States annually. But most experts consider the numbers to be much higher. An estimated 70% of victims are female. Human trafficking is a lucrative business, yielding as much as \$9 billion in

Insights Into the Issue of Human Trafficking

Methods that enable one human being to enslave another are remarkably similar.

Methods of violence are:

- ♦ *Systematic and repetitive infliction of psychological trauma*
- ♦ *Organized techniques of disempowerment and disconnection*
- ♦ *Constant inducement of fear by inconsistent and unpredictable bursts of violence*
- ♦ *Threats to family and others*
- ♦ *Convincing the victim that the perpetrator is omnipotent*
- ♦ *Destroying the victim's sense of autonomy*

—Excerpt from
The Link Between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking: A Briefing Handbook
by Monica O'Connor and Grainne Healy (2006)

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profits each year. After drug trafficking, human trafficking is the most lucrative business for organized crime.

In our new global economy, there is a constant source of human trafficking victims. They are often recruited with the promise of a better life, false marriage proposals and/or sold into sex trade by parents, husbands or boyfriends. The promise of the “American Dream” can make victims particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

Fueled by victims who are economically desperate and by market demands for cheap labor, human trafficking is difficult

to stop. Victims are often afraid to come forward and therefore, many traffickers go undetected. Traffickers often exploit a victim’s fear of U.S. authorities, as many are illegal, do not speak English and face numerous cultural barriers. Many victims do not realize they have rights under U.S. law.

The tactics used by traffickers are often similar to those of domestic violence perpetrators. They both use multiple means to control their victims, including beatings, rapes, isolation, psychological abuses, drug or alcohol dependency, debt bondage, threats of deportation, threats against the victim’s family and document withholding. It is common for both kinds of perpetrators to be financially and politically empowered and both consider themselves to be entitled to abuse and reap the benefits of their acts. And quite often, trafficking victims suffer multiple victimizations that include domestic, intimate partner, or relational violence.

Victims of trafficking can be found in commercial sex, working as nannies, construction, farming and landscaping, hotel and tourist industries, janitorial services and restaurant services. Trafficking victims, as well as victims of domestic violence, are often vulnerable, and generally lack access to money, systems and



Russian delegates attended the "Opening the Door: A Pastor's Guide to Premarital Counseling" seminar Oct. 16. Participants discussed how to help get clergy involved to stop violence in families.



Jessica Desens (far left), domestic violence intervention coordinator for Harbor House, talks to the Russian visitors about Harbor House's Batterers' Education Program. She stresses the importance of victim safety, as well as perpetrator accountability.

others who could help them to escape. Economics play an important role in the entrapment and victimization of both kinds of victims. And victims of domestic abuse can also be trafficked and enslaved. Victims of trafficking who are non-U.S. citizens are eligible to receive benefits and services through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to the same extent as refugees. Victims who are already U.S. citizens are already eligible to receive many of these benefits.

If you think someone is a victim of human trafficking, call the **Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline: 1-888-373-7888**. This hotline connects victims to basic services, including shelter, food, health care, immigration and legal assistance.

If you are interested in receiving monthly emails with our updated needs list, please email Amy at amyh@harborhousedap.org



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Two from Fox Valley Named as Wisconsin 'Changemakers for Peace and Justice'

Harbor House Community Education and Outreach Coordinator Kathy Flores and Appleton Deputy Police Chief Pete Helein were named two of 30 "Changemakers for Peace and Justice" at the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV) 30th anniversary celebration in November.

"As WCADV celebrates our 30th anniversary, we recognize that the work to end violence in families is a collective effort," said Pattie Seger, WCADV executive director. "Over these 30 years, many individuals and organizations have collaborated and contributed to the vast social, health and legal reforms that have saved literally thousands of victims and their children.... We remain undaunted in our passion, our commitment and our dedication to end the violence."

Seger said Flores and Helein, as with the other changemakers saluted by WCADV, were chosen because they have dramatically changed the response to domestic violence in Wisconsin.

"Resolute in their vision, each individual or organization recognized gave what they could and more for victims of domestic violence and their children," Seger said. "The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence thanks these leaders for their enduring contributions and commitment to promoting justice and peace for Wisconsin families."



Appleton Deputy Police Chief Pete Helein and Harbor House Community Education Coordinator Kathy Flores (See full Changemaker list at www.wcadv.org)



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