



The Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (**HART**) was created in order to focus on and reduce Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST).

Webpage: <http://www.portal.ct.gov/DCF/HART/HOME>

HART RETREAT

On Friday, September 22nd, HART hosted a retreat where approximately 60 colleagues came together to discuss the successes of the program and put goals in place for future attainments. Members of Love 146, The Underground, Department of Children and Families, State Police, and many others joined The Human Anti-Trafficking Response Team (HART) in their objective to tackle new ways to commit to the issue of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST).



Survivor speaker and advocate, Withelma Ortiz told her story along with a male survivor, who chooses to remain anonymous. They shared their experiences before, during, and after the time they were trafficked as minors. Their presentation was compelling and informative. They filled the room with knowledge and emotions that we would not otherwise have been able to study or research. Their stories informed the audience about factors they feel are important when working with trafficking victims.

During the strategic planning portion of the retreat the group discussed goals and objectives that HART would like to focus on over the next year. The following six priorities were identified:

1. Public Awareness and job specific education & training.
2. Outreach to schools.
3. Placement options/availability.
4. Survivor informed work and involvement.
5. New resources to support our efforts.
6. Labor trafficking awareness and capacity building.

HART will begin to work on these priority areas over the next year in order to continue to move our ant-trafficking efforts forward.



Survivor, Withelma Ortiz tells her story to the conference

At the beginning of the retreat the following individuals were recognized as our HART Shining Star winners and Tammy Sneed received a special recognition award for all her efforts towards eradicating Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in CT.



Yvette Young, Tammy Sneed and Erin Williamson



Yvette Young, Tammy Sneed, Melanie Kmetz, Matthew Greenstein, and Krystal Rich



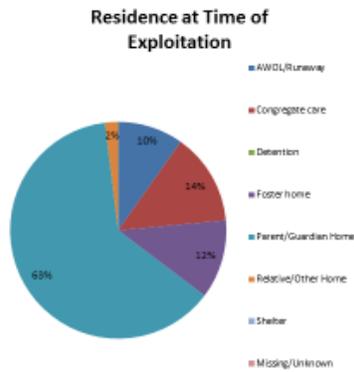
Yvette Young, Courtney Collier, Tammy Sneed, Melanie Kmetz, and Krystal Rich

HART DATA

We continue to see our numbers of referrals increase in 2017. As of the end of September 2017, DCF received 167 referrals for high risk or confirmed trafficking victims. Our data indicates that the number of youth living at home with a parent or guardian at the time of exploitation continues to increase. The graphs below demonstrates that for quarters 1 – 3 of 2017 the highest number for referrals each quarter were for youth living at home. This data highlights the importance of awareness education about human trafficking for parents as well as for our youth.

QUARTER 1

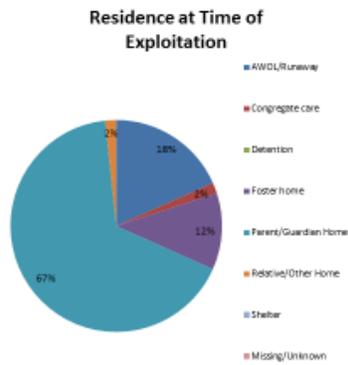
Residence at Time of Exploitation



- **Residence at Time of Exploitation**
- AWOL/Runaway - 5
- Congregate care - 7
- Detention - 0
- Foster home - 6
- Parent/Guardian Home - 32
- Relative/Other Home - 1
- Shelter - 0
- Missing/Unknown - 0

QUARTER 2

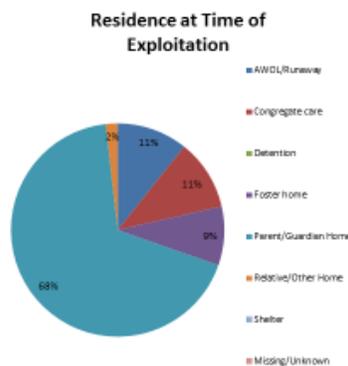
Residence at Time of Exploitation



- **Residence at Time of Exploitation**
- AWOL/Runaway - 11
- Congregate care - 1
- Detention - 0
- Foster home - 7
- Parent/Guardian Home - 40
- Relative/Other Home - 1
- Shelter - 0
- Missing/Unknown - 0

QUARTER 3

Residence at Time of Exploitation



- **Residence at Time of Exploitation**
- AWOL/Runaway - 6
- Congregate care - 6
- Detention - 0
- Foster home - 5
- Parent/Guardian Home - 38
- Relative/Other Home - 1
- Shelter - 0
- Missing/Unknown - 0

STAY INFORMED

INTERNET SAFETY

Human trafficking has taken a new form since the integration of the internet to use new methods of recruitment and marketing of victims. There is no doubt that the internet has made a big contribution to the rise of trafficking of human beings, not only all over the world, but in our backyard. Networking sites like Facebook, Craigslist, Backpage, and Myspace give traffickers the opportunity to offer women, men and children for sale across the entire internet.

When discussing the potential dangers that these websites offer, there has to be a clear understanding that the technology is not in and of itself harmful, but that it does provide criminals a new, efficient, anonymous way to exploit victims. The topic should focus on internet safety and being able to identify when a page or profile is suspicious, as well as when and how to stay away from those profiles. The solution is not to have our children be banned from the internet, but instead to provide them knowledge on how to use the internet in a safe way. It has been reported by The Shared Hope International web analysis that there were more than 5,000 “suspected” websites that directly or indirectly facilitate the sex trafficking industry. It is nearly impossible to block our kids from viewing or coming across these thousands of websites, so the solution is to teach them what to do if and/or when they come across hazardous media.

There are many allies in the fight against human trafficking and the exploitation of minors for sex on the internet. Staying informed and aware of what to look out for and what services to utilize is top priority. For example, in the article written by Dr. Mark Latonero, *Human Trafficking Online*, he mentions a mobile app called Free2Work, which allows its users to look up a company’s ratings and support companies demonstrating zero tolerance for forced labor. Dr. Latonero also discusses the Stop Human Trafficking App Challenge set up by the Demi and Ashton Foundation and NetHope Inc. This challenge is a contest for engineers to design the most innovative mobile phone technology app to combat human trafficking.



There are many ways to stay educated and involved in the fight against human trafficking. For more ways to advocate for change, get involved, or general information visit the HART website at: <http://www.portal.ct.gov/DCF/HART/HART>

I AM JANE DOE

On November 2nd, The Underground hosted a screening of the film *I am Jane Doe* at the Transformation Church in Oakdale, CT. The Underground is a faith based group that is involved in the anti-trafficking movement in many ways. The Underground spent 42% of donation dollars on prevention, and 58% on victim and survivor assistance. The Underground also works with Love 146 for education and outreach.

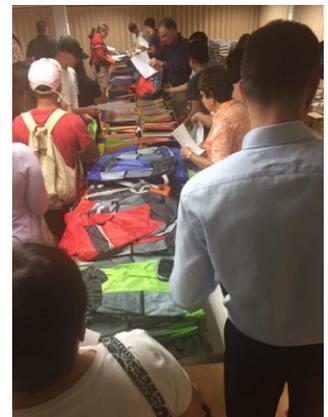
I am Jane Doe is a film that follows victims and their families that were exploited using Backpage.com. The film goes through the journey of the many struggles to penalize Backpage.com for advertisements of minors for sex on their page. The CDA is a law that was made to protect websites from responsibility of third party posts, making the legalities very complicated and frustrating to pursue against Backpage.com. The victims, mothers and lawyers followed in the film are standing up, fighting back, and refuse to take no for an answer.

The panel of human trafficking experts shared information about internet safety, demand, human trafficking in our state of Connecticut and the work being done, as well as a call to action. The CT Human Trafficking Panel hosted (Left to right): Annmarie Boulay, founder of The Underground; Yvette Young, HART coordinator; Jennifer Uttley-Rosado, HART liaison for Willimantic; Jillian Gilchrest, Chair of TIP council; Brian Sibley, State’s Attorney; and Brian Reilly, Detective.



UNDERGROUND BACKPACK EVENT

A total of 370 backpacks were made for youth survivors or those at high risk of trafficking at The Underground Backpack Event on August 11, 2017 at Wintonbury Church. There was so much positive feedback after the event, from DCF workers having grateful children who received a backpack, to a survivor appreciating the help given to her as she takes steps in rebuilding her life. The Underground made an impact on survivors, at risk children and even impacted those who got to volunteer and experience what it takes to make a difference. HART plans to continue to advocate for youth survivors in the state and looks forward to continuing our efforts with The Underground.

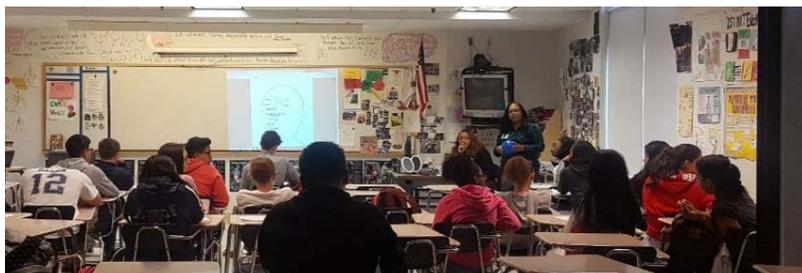


INTERNET SAFETY TRAINING



On September 27th, Scott Driscoll hosted an Internet Safety Training for 53 staff and 2 providers from Region 1. Driscoll highlights the importance of using safety precautions during internet use. Driscoll also emphasized the impact that modern technology has on today's youth. Participants were informed of new trends and techniques that are being used online by predators to lure in our children to help identify and prevent potential threats in the future.

NOT A NUMBER TRAINING



Trainers, Yolanda Chapman Smith and Aiesha Turpin, Wisenite Laurent and Latoya Lowery, present to a classroom of students in Norwalk, CT.

Not a Number is a prevention curriculum developed by Love 146 to teach youth how to protect themselves and have the information to protect peers from human trafficking and exploitation. Not a Number is intended for youth 12-18 years of age of any gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity and socioeconomic background. This curriculum is an important step to take in educating students and teachers on the signs and dangers of trafficking. The students at Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk, CT got the opportunity to complete the Not a Number program. The reaction and appreciation of the curriculum was very high and positive. The principal at McMahon wrote a letter of gratitude stating:

To whom it may concern:

I am a long time health educator at Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk, CT. I am writing this letter to highly recommend an educational program run by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) called Not a Number about human trafficking.

Latoya Lowery and her team at DCF came into my classroom and delivered the curriculum to my high school freshman and sophomores for the 2016/2017 school year. They are not only highly knowledgeable but also did such an amazing job connecting with the kids. The kids really connected with the team at DCF and asked for them to come back. At the end of the course this was by far one of the top rated topics in my class. We have already set up a time for them to come back for this school year.

The content is engaging and it not only talks about the topic of human trafficking but also engages the students in discussions about dating violence, internet, and smart phone safety as well as how to develop healthy relationships. I highly recommend that you invite the team at DCF to come in to your classrooms. You will not be disappointed.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Peckham

Not a Number inspires youth to make safe choices and utilize healthy support systems if they are ever in vulnerable situations. If you or someone you know is interested in offering a Not a Number group for youth at your organization, school, or church there are details about licensing and certification, as well as how to find a certified facilitator at www.love146.org/notanumber/licensing or contact Love 146 at notanumber@love146.org

DMST YOUTH AWARENESS CURRICULUM TRAINING OF TRAINERS

The DMST Youth Awareness Curriculum Training of Trainers (TOT) was an event held on October 11 and 13, 2017 and had 50 applicants who attended the training. The DMST Youth Awareness Curriculum is so important to educating youth on the dangers, signs, and misconceptions about domestic minor sex trafficking in



the country and even the state. The TOT event is held to teach potential trainers what is essential to know, teach, and provide to the youth about what DMST is, how it can be prevented, and how to be an advocate for change. At the conclusion of the TOT several trainees were certified to provide our DMST Youth Awareness curriculum, so if you are interested in requesting a training for a group of youth please contact Linda Lukin at linda.lukin@ct.gov

SERVING THE NEEDS OF NEW ARRIVAL CHILDREN

On October 31, Edwin Colon from the Center for Children's Advocacy hosted a training titled, "Serving the Needs of New Arrival Children." Trainees learned about the differences between an undocumented child, a refugee child, and an unaccompanied alien child, and what opportunities are available to them once they get to the U.S. There are an estimated 11.5 million undocumented, refugee, and UAC individuals in America. Another concern is that 67,500 children are apprehended at the Mexico and U.S. border. For those children and families seeking help and refuge, the large number apprehended means they never get the chance to live in safe conditions. These numbers are alarming and frightening because their status may affect non-reporting of labor or sex trafficking in the U.S. due to fear of being deported.



SHINING STAR AWARDS

Courtney Collier, M.A.
Juvenile Probation Officer II

Courtney earned her Bachelors in Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice degree from Assumption College in Worcester, MA and her Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, CT. Courtney has worked in the juvenile justice field for thirteen years. She worked as part of a juvenile court evaluation team for seven years and has been a Juvenile Probation Officer for over five years. She has worked in the Hartford Juvenile court as well as the Torrington Juvenile court. Courtney is also an adjunct professor at the University of Hartford in the Psychology department. She became a certified trainer for Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) a few years ago when she noticed an increase of victims that were involved in the juvenile justice system, and wanted to be able to advocate for victims and educate law enforcement, providers, schools, and court personnel as to how to best support and work with this population. Courtney has trained court personnel, judges, school staff, hospital staff, community providers, law enforcement, and others on the DMST curriculum. Since becoming a certified trainer, Courtney has become a member of a few of the regional Human Anti-Trafficking Response Teams (HART) and the state HART. Courtney prides herself on her collaboration with other agencies to make sure that confirmed, suspected, and at risk victims are supported and



educated as much as possible. She has assisted on information gathering, collaboration, advocacy, and case management of DMST cases state wide. Courtney is committed to continue to work with others to educate on the awareness of DMST in Connecticut, advocate for victims, assist others that are working with victims, and make others aware of the supports and services available.

“It is such a benefit to the juvenile probation staff to have Courtney as a resource. She is always more than willing to help her colleagues work through proper channels when handling trafficking cases.”

- Maureen Flanagan

Brian Sibley

Senior Assistant State’s Attorney

Brian obtained his undergraduate degrees, Associate in Criminal Justice and Bachelor's in Public Administration, from the University of Maine at Augusta, Maine (1995) while working as a police officer for the City of Lewiston, Maine (1988-1995). Brian left Lewiston to attend Quinnipiac University School of Law where he obtained his law degree and was admitted to practice law in Connecticut in 1998. After one year of having his own law office, he was hired by the Connecticut State's Attorney's Office as a prosecutor with the Stamford, State's Attorney's Office. Brian transferred to the New Haven State's Attorney's Office at Geographical Area court 23 in 2001. He transferred to his present position with the Judicial District Part A court in 2005. Brian volunteered to be part of the Connecticut State and Federal Human Trafficking Task Force when it was formed in November 2015 where he became the lead state prosecutor for human trafficking investigations.



“Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Brian Sibley has been instrumental in the collaborative effort of Connecticut law enforcement at the state, local and federal levels to attack the scourge of human trafficking. The progress we have made to date is testament to the hard work and dedication of Attorney Sibley and all of the law enforcement professionals involved in the Human Trafficking Task Force. I sincerely thank Brian and all who have given so much to this critical endeavor.”

- Chief State’s Attorney, Kevin T. Kane

CONTACTS



[Tammy Sneed](#)

Director of Gender Responsive Adolescent Services

[DCF](#)

505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-550-6471



[Yvette Young](#)

HART Coordinator

[The Village for Families and Children Inc.](#)

1680 Albany Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105
860-236-4511