



Clearwater Area Task Force on Human Trafficking CATF

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 25, 2007

Mark Your Calendars

Dec 4, 2007

10:00am
CATF Quarterly Meeting
Family Justice Center
9303 N. Florida Ave
Tampa, FL 33612

To RSVP call:
Carol McAnally
(727)562-4433
catfht.org

Human Trafficking Hotlines

CATF Hotline
727-562-4917

Immigration & Customs
Enforcement Hotline
800-973-2867

Health & Human
Services Trafficking
Information & Referral
Hotline
888-373-7888

For questions concerning
this newsletter, please con-
tact Anne Sarver, Editor
asarver@hotmail.com

CATF Assists in Investigation Leading to the Arrest of Human Traffickers

A human trafficking investigation conducted by the Clearwater Area Human Trafficking Task Force, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Tallahassee Police Department, and the FBI has led to the arrest of four men.

One defendant, Carlos Andres Monsalve has been charged with three counts of recruiting, harboring, transporting and providing persons knowing that force, fraud, and coercion would be used to cause them to engage in commercial sex acts. The men

were conspiring to recruit women from various countries in Central and South America and smuggle them into the United States and ultimately to Florida, for the purpose of prostitution.

If convicted, Monsalve faces a 15 year to life sentence along with up to \$2.7 million in fines. The remaining three defendants, who have been charged in the conspiracy count, face up to 10 years of imprisonment and \$250,000.00 in fines.

Victims and Borders

By Sarah Deutschmann

Please fasten your seat belts and keep your seat and tray tables in the upright and locked position, the Captain will tell you when you are free to move about the cabin. Sound familiar? That is probably because you have heard it before. You have also heard that you need a driver's license before you can drive a car, a permit to carry a gun, and a passport to leave the country.

What happened to "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..."? What about our victims?

Even *inside* the United States, we sometimes feel like there are invisible borders. To shed a different light though, let us refer to those borders as the laws that govern a free nation and the safety and prosperity of our people. Because of these laws, we have freedom to move about the cabin any time and any place.

Now let us move to the subject of Human Trafficking. Although we would like the process of helping victims to be streamlined, smooth and above all, quick, the reality is, it is not.

Here are a few things to remember when NGO meets victim:

- 1) Always involve a Law Enforcement Officer at the commencement of a possible victim case (see hotline numbers at left).
- 2) Use open-ended questioning of victims in order not to taint possible testimony.
- 3) Remember that for everything, there is a process and that the earliest that process begins, the quicker our victims receive much needed resources and support.

Sarah Deutschmann is a Special Agent in the Tampa office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

The YWCA of Tampa Bay Teams Up to Fight Human Trafficking

By Sandra Lyth

It is a good thing that the YWCA is used to working as a team! In early 2007, serving victims of Human Trafficking was an unknown to the YWCA Hispanic Outreach Center. While they had served victims of crimes and provided many other support services for the Hispanic/Latino community in the Clearwater area for more than 7 years, Human Trafficking was a new arena. Entering a new service area challenged the YWCA to “adapt” to meet the needs of trafficked victims.

The YWCA of Tampa Bay assisted its first human trafficking victim in May 2007. It was a classic “rescue” situation. She was a young woman with no belongings, no place to live, no friends worthy of the name. She had no idea where she was. She also spoke no English. She needed protection from her perpetrators who were still at large and possibly looking for her. She suffered from acute anxiety and possible Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. In assisting this woman, two challenges presented themselves: 1) how to help her remain safe, yet active, and 2) how to work with the partners involved in the case: police, attorneys, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and crucial social service organizations that provided her with case management, housing, counseling, money, and personal support.

As a team, the YWCA and local partners establish routine weekly meetings to address the complex issues involved in assisting this victim. Information was shared regarding the status of the investigation, safety considerations, status of legal processes, case management activities and plans, housing concerns, and the victim’s well-being. The partners learned how to work together to provide the best quality of services for the victim. The team negotiated a balance between keeping the victim safe and helping her live a life without feeling incarcerated. The partners let their guards down in the interests of helping the victim and it was a good first experience, which was a good thing, because once you start looking for Human Trafficking, you find it. Victims are becoming more frequent and our team must work evermore closely together to help the victims and prosecute the perpetrators of this ugly crime.

Sandra Lyth is the Director of Hispanic Services for the YWCA of Tampa Bay

FSU Establishes Statewide Human Trafficking Working Group

In October 2007, the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights (CAHR) at Florida State University re-convened a statewide working group of law enforcement and victim service providers involved in combating human trafficking and providing services to victims. The meeting, chaired by Mr. Terry Coonan, executive director of the CAHR, was hosted by Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Orlando. The approximately 50 attendees represented various law enforcement and social

service agencies throughout Florida; thirteen members of the Clearwater/Tampa Bay Task Force attended the meeting.

The working group, which plans to meet twice yearly, is an opportunity for law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers to meet briefly on a regular basis to share information on how we can better collaborate statewide to fight human trafficking in Florida. This initial meeting presented productive networking opportunities as

well as strategies to assist in the fight against human trafficking.

The Center for the Advancement of Human Rights is recognized nationwide as one of the premiere academic centers on human trafficking related issues. Services include pro bono representation of trafficking victims as well as conducting research on human trafficking. For additional information, visit www.cahr.fsu.edu.

Thanks From Shared Hope International

By Amanda Kloer and Joan Reid

The Clearwater Assessment of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking is in the editing stages and will soon be submitted to the Department of Justice for clearance. Shared Hope is thankful for the overwhelmingly positive response they received from the community for this project and the continued and tireless work being done by so many in Clearwater/Tampa Bay to protect children. Shared Hope is grateful to have so many allies in Clearwater/Tampa Bay and looks forward to presenting the results of the rapid assessment and continuing this friendship.

Amanda Kloer, Research & Administrative Coordinator and Joan Reid, Tampa Bay Rapid Assessor & LMHC