

Voices Against Sexual Assault



MONTHLY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2011

VOICES Annual Meeting to Look Beneath the Surface

This summer, many Kalamazoo residents were shocked to hear that a local man was facing sex trafficking charges after he allegedly took three young women, two of whom were under the age of eighteen, to Illinois to engage in sexual acts during a bachelor party. The story, which broke in July, is just one example of a larger social issue: human trafficking.

Did you know that Michigan is a destination state for international human trafficking?

The plethora of borders in the state of Michigan, both legal and natural, provide ample opportunity for the trafficking of humans for both labor and sexual exploitation.

Do you know how to recognize human trafficking?

The clandestine nature of the human trafficking business makes it nearly impossible to recognize, much less count the number of victims who pass through our borders each year. Only by raising awareness—by learning to look beneath the surface—can we begin to address this issue in our community.

Do you know how to get involved with raising awareness about human trafficking?

There are ways for us to become involved, from education to activism! We invite you to join us as we dedicate our 2011 Annual Meeting to the issue of human trafficking and learn how to look beneath the surface.



**MICHIGAN
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
TASK FORCE**

University, has agreed to join us this year in looking beneath the surface of the human trafficking industry within our borders.

Next Meeting

*Thursday, December 8th @ 4PM
YWCA Kalamazoo

VOICES meets regularly at the YWCA of Kalamazoo on the SECOND Thursday of the month at 4PM. Please RSVP to info@voicesasa.org to join us!

(*Annual meeting will take the place of our November meeting)

This presentation will look at the reality of human trafficking in Michigan, including:

- Facts and statistics about human trafficking
- Cases of human trafficking in Michigan
- Legislation
- Potential Indicators of human trafficking
- Challenges in addressing victims' needs
- Ways to get involved

Join us on Thursday, November 10th at 3:30PM at the YWCA of Kalamazoo as we learn about the reality of human trafficking in our state. This event is free of charge and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to info@voicesasa.org no later than Thursday, November 3rd.

New Initiative: Engaging Men

Engaging men as social justice allies in the fight against sexual assault is critical to the success of the movement. While it is well recognized that most men do not commit violent crimes, studies suggest that as many as 98% of sexual assaults are committed by men (Annan, 2009). In order to truly create a community where we have no more victims of sexual assault, it is imperative that men actively engage in the creation of a new social culture that does not condone sexual assault.

In recognition of this fact, VOICES is looking to expand the male involvement in our regular activities, but also to establish a forum for men to engage in anti-violence work in Kalamazoo. Beginning this year, VOICES is therefore proud to launch the beginning of a new initiative to engage men as social justice allies in the fight against sexual assault!

Men who are interested in participating in this initiative are encouraged to email us at info@voicesasa.org for more information on this developing initiative.



<http://www.voicesasa.org>