



Ohio Children's Trust Fund

Ohio's Prevent Child Abuse America Chapter



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2018

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Ohio Awards Nearly \$90,000 for Human Trafficking Prevention

COLUMBUS, Ohio – In conjunction with Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF), in collaboration with the Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, will award nearly \$90,000 in grant money to fund seven organizations to develop and implement human trafficking prevention programs across Ohio. These projects will identify and assist at-risk youth populations and provide them with information and resources to prevent human trafficking.

"The essential work these organizations are undertaking represents a significant step in our ongoing struggle to reduce and ultimately prevent this insidious crime," explained OCTF Executive Director Kristen Rost. "I applaud them for their initiative and commitment to preventing human trafficking throughout Ohio."

Because of these programs, community members, professionals, families and at-risk youth across Ohio will receive much-needed human trafficking prevention services, outreach and advocacy.

The following seven organizations will receive funding to provide services:

- Gracehaven, *Franklin County* (\$12,765)
- Human Trafficking Collaborative of Lorain County, *Lorain County* (\$15,000)
- Licking County Health Department, *Licking County* (\$15,000)
- Mid-East Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, *Muskingum, Perry and Washington Counties* (\$3,426)
- Montgomery County Sheriff's Office – RANGE Task Force, *Montgomery County* (\$15,000)
- The University of Toledo, *Lucas County* (\$15,000)
- Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center, *Hamilton County* (\$13,359)

"Human Trafficking Awareness Month represents an opportunity to recognize and support the important human trafficking prevention programs and services being provided by organizations such as these across Ohio," said Sophia Papadimos, Ohio's Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator. "Gov. Kasich encourages Ohioans to collaboratively work together to combat human trafficking by getting involved in the prevention events and activities taking place in their communities."

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund is the state's sole public funding source dedicated to preventing abuse and neglect. Housed within the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund works with its partners in every county to serve all Ohio communities.

Gov. John R. Kasich created the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force to marshal the state's resources to coordinate efforts to identify victims, support law enforcement efforts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking crimes, and to provide the services and treatment necessary for victims to regain control of their lives. To learn more about Ohio's anti-trafficking efforts, please visit humantrafficking.ohio.gov.

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