



Human Trafficking of Children

July 30th is **World Day against Trafficking in Persons**, as recognized by the United Nations. This day raises awareness of and support for the prevention of human trafficking, which is not just an “international problem” but also something that happens right here in Pennsylvania. There are children and adult victims of human trafficking in our own communities.

The term “human trafficking” includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, and according to the 2019 Child Protective Services Annual Report, there were 34 substantiated allegations of sex and labor trafficking of children in Pennsylvania alone. Human trafficking was

established as a type of child abuse in Pennsylvania with the Department of Human Services’s implementation of Act 115 in 2016.

The labor trafficking of children is defined as “labor obtained by use of threat of serious harm, physical restraint, or abuse of legal process,” and examples include being forced to work for little or no pay; domestic servitude, such as child care, cooking, cleaning, etc.; and being forced to steal items, beg, or sell illegal drugs.

The sex trafficking of children is defined as a commercial sex act in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years

of age. (A commercial sex act is any sex act for which anything of value is given to or received by any person.) Examples of sex trafficking include prostitution, pornography, and sex tourism.

Be aware of the signs. Learn how you can identify these victims. Warning signs include, but are but not limited to, the following characteristics in a youth:

- ▶ Is verified to be under 18 and in any way involved in the commercial sex industry or has a record of prior arrest for prostitution or related charges
- ▶ Has a very sexualized online profile
- ▶ Demonstrates excessive use of internet chat rooms or classified sites
- ▶ Depicts elements of sexual exploitation in drawing, poetry, or other modes of creative expression
- ▶ Has frequent or multiple sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancies
- ▶ Lies about or is not aware of their true age
- ▶ Has no knowledge of personal data, such as but not limited to name and/or date of birth
- ▶ Has no identification or identification being held by an unrelated adult
- ▶ Wears new clothes of any style or gets hair and/or nails done with no financial means
- ▶ Exhibits secrecy about whereabouts
- ▶ Has late nights or unusual hours
- ▶ Has a tattoo that she/he is reluctant to explain
- ▶ Is in a controlling or dominating relationship
- ▶ Does not have control of his/her own finances
- ▶ Exhibits hyper-vigilance or paranoid behaviors
- ▶ Expresses interest in or is in relationships with adults or much older men/women

Educate yourself and others on which youth populations are at risk for human trafficking, including:

- ▶ Youth in the foster care system or who have a history of being involved in the welfare system
- ▶ Youth who are homeless or run away
- ▶ Youth who identify as LGBTQ
- ▶ Youth who identify as Native American or Aboriginal
- ▶ Youth with disabilities
- ▶ Youth with mental health or substance abuse disorders
- ▶ Youth with a history of sexual abuse
- ▶ Youth with family dysfunction

If you suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse, report to ChildLine immediately by calling 800-932-0313 or (if you are a mandated reporter) reporting online at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis>.

To learn more, visit PFSA's website and sign up to take a training through PFSA on how to recognize and report all categories of suspected child abuse (including child trafficking). Go to pa-fsa.org or email us at training@pa-fsa.org to sign up for a training session today.

The PA Department of Human Services provides information from a state level (including annual report data) at www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov.

The PA Office of Victim Services offers multiple resources for victims of human trafficking. Visit their human trafficking webpage and get connected to resources for legal, financial, and visa help at <https://pcv.pccd.pa.gov/HT/Pages/default.aspx>.

Child Welfare Information Gateway provides information from a federal level: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/trafficking>.

10 Things to Do in Your Neighborhood



With counties reopening and the weather getting nicer, more and more people are getting out of the house and socializing. That means everyone has greater opportunity to raise community awareness of child welfare.

Here are 10 things you can do in your neighborhood — all of which are discussed in greater detail in PFSA's Front Porch Project (FPP) program. FPP is a community-based prevention initiative that empowers everyone to help protect children and support families in their neighborhoods by providing knowledge, tools, and encouragement to take an active role in preventing abuse and neglect before it occurs.

1 | Take the first step. Get to know the families around you; be bold and

introduce yourself, especially to newcomers who move into the neighborhood.

2 | Find meaningful connections with families. Learn something about them, their interests, and their pets. You'll likely discover shared interests that could be the foundation for a meaningful relationship. Once you discover these, it will be easier to become friends and support each other.

3 | Plan neighborhood celebrations and get-togethers. Give people time to get to know each other informally. Offer name tags to help everyone learn or remember names.

4 | Keep an eye out for neighborhood children. Let parents know when their kids do something positive or fun — for instance: "I heard your son/daughter playing drums yesterday. They're getting really good." If you have concerns or questions, raise them with care, in a supportive, not accusatory, way.

5 | Ask for help sometimes. Everyone needs a hand from time to time, be it with a home renovation project, seasonal gardening, or even just keeping an eye on the house while you're out of town. Giving a helping hand reminds everyone that they are an important part of the neighborhood. It also increases the chances of them asking you for help when they need it. This can go a long way toward creating a supportive, inclusive neighborhood culture.

6 | Invite families to participate with you. Ask your neighbors — without badgering them — to visit places that are important to you, such as your favorite coffee shop or workout class. Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to go into a new place where you don't know anyone; your invitation could make it easier.

7 | Get to know people your child visits frequently. If your child spends time with a neighbor and their children at their house, thank them for being so hospitable. You

may have fun with a group bar-b-que or taking walks together. These are all ways of cementing positive, mutual relationships.

8 | Offer support when appropriate. If you find out a family is struggling or dealing with challenges, find thoughtful ways to offer support and care. This can be anything from bringing them a casserole meal to helping them with yard work. These expressions of care during tough times are remembered and valued.

9 | If you are worried about a family you know:

- ▶ Think of a reason to stop by their house and start a conversation.
- ▶ Call and let them know you are concerned, and suggest that you go out for coffee or invite them over to talk. Offer whatever means of assistance you feel comfortable giving.
- ▶ Talk to a mutual friend and find out if they'd be willing to go out with the family as a group to offer support.
- ▶ Interact socially, not just around the problem.
- ▶ Empathize with the parents by offering suggestions based on your own experience.

▶ Call in professionals when necessary. If you suspect abuse, call ChildLine (800-932-0313).

10 | If you see a cause for concern in public:

- ▶ Use empathy and tell the caregiver the same thing has happened to you, offering suggestions if you can.
- ▶ Divert the caregiver or child's attention so things can calm down.
- ▶ Find a person in authority, like a store manager, to intervene.
- ▶ If it seems necessary, get their license number and call the police.



Mandated Reporter Trainer Spotlight: Greg Phillips

Greg Phillips has been providing training on behalf of PFSA since 2016. Greg has been employed with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services since 2010. He began this career at DHS as a family services caseworker and has been providing coaching, training, and technical support to DHS staff in several roles since 2012.

Greg has had the opportunity to work with frontline and supervisory staff to provide

individualized coaching and field training. He currently resides in the suburbs of Pittsburgh with his wife, son, and many pets.



We appreciate the wealth of knowledge Greg brings to each training he provides to mandated reporters. Thank you, Greg!



An Interview with... **Karen Rousche** *of PSECU*

with Ann Moffitt
PFSA's Development Director

Ann Moffitt, ACFRE and PFSA's Development Director, had the opportunity to interview Karen Rousche earlier this summer. Rousche is PSECU's Public Relations Coordinator.

The company is another dedicated partner and sponsor of our PA Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids Awards, where we celebrate those who have done great things to keep PA's children safe.

Ann: As a member of our community, why is PA Family Support Alliance important to you?

Karen: Through my role at PSECU, and more specifically in Community Outreach, I've worked with several support agencies in the region. It is through this work that I've come to recognize that the first step in the prevention of child abuse is breaking the cycle of abuse.

Of the many essential programs and services that PFSA provides, offering support services and teaching families how to build positive environments for their children can be a significant first step in breaking that cycle.

Ann: Why does PSECU support the Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids Campaign?

Karen: Our community efforts are guided by our four Community Outreach Pillars: Education, Well-Being, Environment, and Children. The goal for this 4th pillar is to create a stable foundation for physical, mental, and emotional growth. By honoring these Blue Ribbon

Champions for Safe Kids, we're helping to raise the awareness of a serious issue and showing everyone across the state that there are many ways they can contribute to protecting the welfare and well-being of our children.

Ann: We all have a role to play as part of our communities in keeping kids safe. What do you see as PSECU's role in this responsibility?

Karen: At PSECU, we believe that the health, safety, and well-being of children is a top priority. As part of our "people helping people" credit union philosophy, we're committed to helping build communities in which children can safely grow and thrive.

From an external perspective, we support organizations that provide research and tools to strengthen children's health, education, and mental balance. Internally, we help families build financially stable lives with products and services such as scholarships, free financial education modules, online money management blog posts, and low-fee digital banking options.



Partner with our CBCAP Network!

Many child abuse prevention agencies are feeling the impact of COVID-19, especially on their budgets. With your generous donation, PFSA will ensure that there is no break in

continuity of services to these agencies and that Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Network resources remain available to as many agencies as possible—even those that cannot currently afford the \$325 membership expense.

Your gift will provide CBCAP Network agency members with invaluable access to PFSA trainings, technical assistance, and public relations expertise. To donate in support of the CBCAP Network, please contact Director of Development Ann Moffitt, ACFRE, at 800-448-4906 or amoffitt@pa-fsa.org.

Need Mandated Reporter Training?

We Have a Few Options for You!

Training Title: "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse"

Description: These three-hour trainings are for individuals who are mandated by law to report suspected child abuse, as defined in the Child Protective Services Law. Curriculum is approved by Departments of Human Services, Education, and State and meets all requirements for mandated reporters to receive training in recognizing and reporting child abuse (including ACT 126). Certificates are provided to the participants and (upon request) we will upload confirmation of your training to the Department of State or Education for CE fulfillments under Act 31 and/or Act 48.

LIVE VIRTUAL TRAINING Cost: Free

This interactive training facilitated by an expert in the child welfare field allows you to ask questions and discuss scenarios with real-time answers.

How to Register: To join an already-scheduled session that is open to the public or to request a training specifically for your agency (minimum 15 people), email us at training@pa-fsa.org.

ONLINE TRAINING Cost: \$30

The best way to receive training on recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect is through interactive, live training; however, PFSA offers a self-paced, online alternative for mandated reporters in both Spanish and English.

How to Register: To get started today, go to <https://www.pa-fsa.org/Mandated-Reporters/Mandated-Reporters-Training/On-Demand-Online-Training> and click on On-Demand Online Training Registration.

BECOME A TRAINER IN-HOUSE AT YOUR ORGANIZATION

Cost: \$1,000 per trainer entering into a three-year contract with PFSA (*payment can be broken down by year — \$400/year one, \$300/year two, & \$300/year three*)

The Train-the-Trainer Program for Mandated Reporter Training is an opportunity for your organization to develop its own quality, cost-efficient, in-house training program for employees on child abuse recognition and reporting. With the three-year contract, PFSA provides two days of initial instruction for approved applicants, reporting of CEs directly to PA Dept. of State and Education, and ongoing technical assistance.

How to Register: Please email us at training@pa-fsa.org for more information and to register for upcoming training sessions.