Rotary and Project Mona's House Set to Offer Training in Lockport to Combat Human Trafficking

Rotary clubs across Western New York and Southern Ontario are inviting the public to join the fight against human trafficking in conjunction with Project Mona's House of Buffalo centering in a second geographical area of Western New York: Lockport.

The event, titled **"Rotary Wants Your Help to Stop Human Trafficking**" will take place on Saturday, September 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County Training Center, 4487 Lake Avenue (NYS 78), Lockport. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. and a complimentary lunch will be provided at 11:30.

This will be the second of at least 4 geographically-spread training opportunities planned throughout the Western New York portion of Rotary District 7090, Rotary's cross-border district serving Western New York and Southern Ontario. Additional sessions are planned in Erie County and the Southern Tier.

The initiative is supported through contributions from 15 Rotary clubs, District Designated Funds and a Rotary Foundation Global Grant. Organizers hope the program will help identify the signs of both labor and sex trafficking and understand that trafficking can occur in urban, suburban, and rural communities of every size.

Kelly Galloway (President and Founding Director of Project Mona's House) will have Bella LaFreniere (Director of Education & Advocacy) and Emily Marciniak (Executive Assistant) deliver the training. The presenters' training will be engaging and interactive rather than lecture-based. Topics include:

- Understanding human trafficking
- Pathways and vulnerabilities that lead to trafficking
- Warning signs and indicators
- Identifying potential victims
- Appropriate trauma-informed responses
- Reporting procedures
- Community resources and survivor services
- Current legislation and public policy
- Practical actions community members can take

Faculty and staff from Hilbert College will assist in using assessment tools to measure the effectiveness of the program.

Rotary leaders encourage broad participation from educators, school board members, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, first responders, faith leaders, parents, social service agencies and community organizations such as other service clubs. Rotarians are especially encouraged to invite non-Rotarians so that more people throughout the region can learn how to recognize and respond to trafficking.

> "We cannot achieve success alone," said Paul Lehman, chair of the Human Trafficking Global Grant Steering Committee. "We need community members and organizations to join us in learning how to recognize trafficking and respond before people are harmed."

Registration is requested by September 6th to ensure an accurate count for lunch.
Register at: www.projectmonashouse.com/events

Steering Committee Members

- Paul Lehman, Chair
- Dr. Tommy Gerbasi
- Lezlie Murch
- Paul Saskowski
- Timothy Priano
- (the late) Dr. John Boronkay

Rotary Club of Lockport Task Group

- Amanda Henning
- Bob O'Connor
- Ellen Roth
- Ellen Schratz
- Vicki Smith

Media Contact

Paul Lehman
Chair, Human Trafficking Global Grant Steering Committee
paullehman@aol.com
716-984-5128