Faith Coalition Against Sex Trafficking

FCAST

Waukesha County

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Theresa Flores, survivor of sex trafficking and nationally acclaimed author of "The Slave Across the Street," will be in Pewaukee on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 to expose one undeniable truth—sexual slavery can happen to anyone.

Sex trafficking cases continue to grow in Wisconsin at an alarming rate. Cases have been reported in all 72 counties, both in large cities and rural towns. There is no escaping it, Wisconsin. It's time to have *A Conversation About Sex Trafficking in Our Communities.* Join us from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, March 19 at St. Anthony on the Lake Catholic Church, W280 N2101 Prospect Ave., Pewaukee. The program is presented by Waukesha County Faith Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (FCAST), the Waukesha County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force and the Washington County Anti-Trafficking Advocates (WCATA). The recommended age for this event is 13 or older.

Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Brad Schimel and Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow will start the conversation by sharing local and state perspectives. "Human Trafficking is modern day slavery, and no community is immune from its effects," says former Wisconsin Attorney General Schimel. "We all owe it to ourselves and our communities to learn more about the nature of this criminal activity and what we can do to be part of the solution. DOJ (the Department of Justice) trained 5,000 partners to be eyes and ears in 2018 alone."

Keynote speaker Theresa Flores will describe her harrowing life as a 15-year-old who endured almost two years of being a student by day and a victim by night while living at home with her unsuspecting parents in an affluent suburb. Flores believes sex trafficking is a silent epidemic among American youth. "We don't think sex trafficking can happen in a town like Pewaukee or Brookfield or Waukesha, but it does," Flores says. "We have called it teen prostitution, but it's really human trafficking. There is no juvenile prostitution without a pimp. We need to stop glorifying pimps."

Following the keynote speaker will be a discussion with a panel of experts. The panel includes: Police Chief Anna Ruzinski, of Menomonee Falls; Deacon Steve Przedpelski, with Franciscan Peacemakers Street Ministry; Rachel Monaco-Wilcox, founder of LOTUS Legal Clinic; Emmy Myers, survivor, advocate, speaker of Lacey's Hope Project; and Erin Bostelmann, licensed professional counselor and certified art therapist.

Flores says the memory of her darkest day gave birth to S.O.A.P (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution), a campaign to place soaps labeled with the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) in hotels and motels so victims can get help. Local advocates against trafficking will go through S.O.A.P training in March and distribute the soaps to area hotels and motels prior to Summerfest.

The key sponsors for this event are Waukesha County Tourism Initiative, Kohl's and Catholics for Peace and Justice.

Please register online for this free event, "A Conversation About Sex Trafficking in Our Communities," at www.ConvTrafficking.org

For more information, or to set up an interview with Theresa Flores or one of our panel experts, contact Debra Schneider at 414-550-2167 or email her at djschneider86@gmail.com