



Volume 10 Issue 9  
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## Human Trafficking in the News

### **Panama City police help bust multi-state human trafficking ring**

A joint-investigation performed by Panama City Police and the FBI has ended with the arrest of a Pensacola man and the dismantling of a human trafficking ring.

### **Judge sentences sex trafficker to more than 26 years in prison**

A convicted sex trafficker whose victim told hospital personnel in late 2015 that she'd "rather die than keep going back to that man" was sentenced Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Portland to 26 years and eight months in federal prison.

### **'Operation Broken Heart': 38 suspected child sex offenders arrested in Aurora**

Police say more than three dozen suspected online child sex offenders were arrested in Aurora during "Operation Broken Heart." The nationwide operation was led by the US Department of Justice and resulted in nearly 1,700 arrests during April and May.

[Click here to read these articles on our website](#)

## Mid-Atlantic Coalition Build strong on results

Attracting 95 representatives from DC, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, the Mid-Atlantic Coalition Build, held Aug. 1 in Hanover, Maryland, rendered strategic results for Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT). Partnering with three national associations, two state associations, the Maryland Attorney General's Office, the Federal Motor



At the Mid-Atlantic Coalition Build, Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh (left) spoke with Maryland State Police outside the Freedom Drivers Project.

Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA), and the Maryland Department of Transportation to host this training event, TAT concluded the event couldn't have gone better.

"The Mid-Atlantic Coalition Build was a great example of what can happen when a diverse group of individuals, representing various sectors in law enforcement, government and the transportation industry, come together to leverage their influence and resources to combat human trafficking," Esther Goetsch, TAT Coalition Build director, stated. "The

discussion at the end of the meeting was lively, honest and informative, and I think we'll see many doors for TAT and Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) open throughout the country as a result of the meeting."

Already the Pennsylvania and DC attorney's general offices are interested in co-hosting Coalition Builds in 2020; additional speaking opportunities for TAT are emerging through the FMCSA, the Maryland Human Trafficking Investigators Seminar and the National Sheriff's Association Annual Conference; the Public Service Commission of Maryland wants to partner with TAT and BOTL to distribute materials to the bus industry and other transportation sectors they regulate; and the Maryland State Department of Education is considering introducing BOTL to all school bus drivers statewide."



Director Tom Kean (left), Office of Safety Programs, FMCSA, USDOT, and Administrator Raymond Martinez, FMCSA, USDOT, shared a lighter moment as they listened to presentations at the Mid-Atlantic Coalition Build.

Thomas Keane, director of the Office of Safety Program for the FMCSA, said, "I leave today feeling both sad at the realities of how prevalent this crime is, but also hopeful, because I know exactly what my agency can do to combat it."

## TAT's partner in Mexico releases an industry-specific training film

Consejo Ciudadano, TAT's partner in Mexico, created a program, Guardianes Del Asfalto, which is replicated on TAT's model of working with private industry in the fight against human trafficking. They have just released their first [12-minute, industry-specific training film](#) . Guardianes



**Línea Ciudadana  
5533 5533**

del Asfalto is a program of Consejo Ciudadano, a Mexican NGO dedicated to serving the citizens of Mexico through a series of socially responsible programs. Guardianes del Asfalto started in December 2017 and consists of online training for members of the Mexican trucking, bus and taxi industries. The training film defines human trafficking and provides red flags to watch out for and actions to take if human trafficking is suspected. They also have wallet cards with red flag indicators of human trafficking available for members of the transportation industry.



**Freedom Drivers Project draws large audience  
at the Iowa State Fair**

# THIRD ANNUAL FREEDOM DRIVERS PROJECT APPEARANCE AT THE *Iowa State Fair*

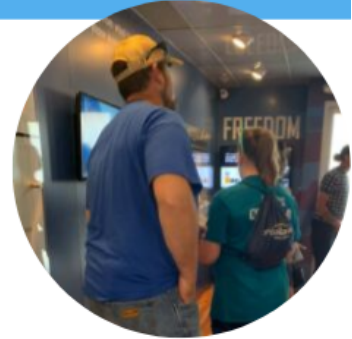
## AUGUST 8, 2019

**1,222** largest single day  
event attendance  
for the FDP this year



"Thank you to all of the people who took the opportunity to walk through the Freedom Drivers Project and educate themselves about human trafficking on Hero's Day at the Iowa State Fair. This horrific criminal activity knows no geographic boundary; it occurs throughout the country and in Iowa. People seeing suspected activity and making a call are truly heroes for the victims of this crime."

**Chief David Lorenzen, Director of the Motor Vehicle Enforcement Office, Iowa DOT**



"I talked with a father as he walked by about touring the exhibit. He initially said he wasn't interested and kept walking, but when I turned, I saw his daughter telling him they should go in and leading him inside. For families, the Freedom Drivers Project is in a powerful position to teach, lead and inspire those close to you in ways few others can. These are the powerful interactions that shift culture."

**- Helen Van Dam, Freedom Drivers Project Director**

*"I did not realize this was an issue* **AND NOW I KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR."**

**- Fair Attendee**



# THANK YOU,

*Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement*



## TAT continues to draw large crowds at the 2019 Great American Trucking Show

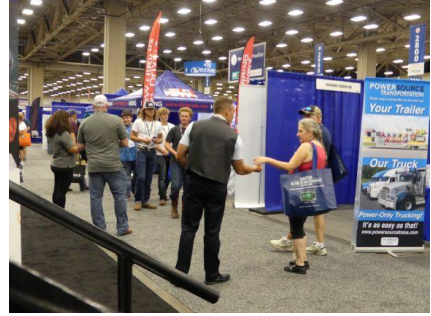
Thanks to the generous donation of space for the Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) by Randall Reilly, Truckers Against Trafficking drew a sizeable crowd at the Great American Trucking Show (GATS) in Dallas Aug. 22-24.





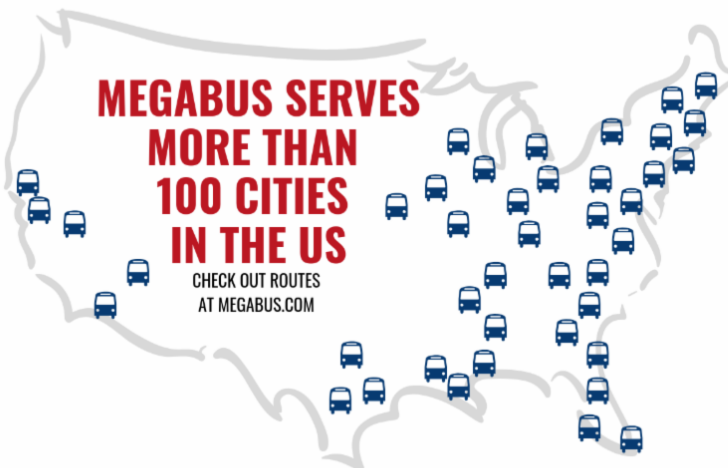
"We had an amazing time with our volunteers from Omnitrac, BNSF Logistics and Walmart, who helped hand out over 10,000 wallet cards to attendees and companies and encouraged 1,210 people to walk through the Freedom Drivers Project," said Susan

Dold, TAT systems administrator. "We can't do what we do without the support of everyone in the trucking industry, and now there are more people out there aware of the realities of domestic sex trafficking, the signs to look for and the knowledge to call the National Human Trafficking Hotline if they see it."



Volunteers from Omnitrac, BNSF Logistics and Walmart helped TAT staff pass out materials to GATS attendees.

## Megabus tickets available to help support trafficking victims



### ATTENTION SERVICE PROVIDERS & LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Coach USA/Megabus has donated bus tickets to help support trafficking victims.

If a trafficking victim, working with law enforcement or a service provider, needs to travel to another city along a Megabus route to reunify with family, access specialized services, or participate in the prosecution of their trafficker, they may be able to travel on Megabus for free.

To access this resource contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1- 888-3737-888.



Vouchers provided through partnership with **Busing on the Lookout**  
[www.busingonthelookout.org](http://www.busingonthelookout.org)

## Upcoming Events

**Sept. 1** - Nebraska State Fair, Lincoln, NE, FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director, attending

**Sept. 5** - Maine Chiefs of Police, Sugarloaf, ME, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and Annika Huff, TAT field trainer and survivor-advocate, presenting



**Sept. 5** - Ohio Department of Public Safety Train the Trainer, Louie Greek, TAT training specialist, presenting

**Sept. 10-11** - Montana Highway Patrol Training, Billings, MT, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and Annika Huff, TAT field trainer and survivor-advocate, and Louie Greek, TAT training specialist, presenting

**Sept. 11** - Whiting Petroleum All-State Safety Conference, Williston, ND, FDP, Ashley Smith, TAT director of energy operations, and Susan Dold, TAT systems administrator, attending

**Sept. 19-20** - UPS Chicago, Chicago, IL, FDP attending

**Sept. 19-20** - FourKites Visibility Conference, Chicago, IL, Laura Cyrus, TAT corporate engagement director, presenting

**Sept. 19** - Alabama Attorney General Law Enforcement Summit, Montgomery, AL, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

**Sept. 20** - Alabama Community College and Tech School instructor training, Montgomery, AL, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting

**Sept. 23-26** - Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, Biloxi, MS, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, presenting and Louie Greek, TAT training specialist, and Heather Papay, TAT Canada director, attending

**Sept. 24** - West Virginia Trucking Association Annual Convention, Roanoke, WV, Molly Griffiths, TAT administrative specialist, presenting

**Sept. 25** - Ohio TA Headquarters meeting, Cleveland, OH, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

**Sept. 26** - Collaborative to End Human Trafficking Annual Luncheon, Cleveland, OH, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, keynote speaker

**Sept. 24-25** - N2Publishing and N2Gives, Wilmington, NC, FDP and Helen Van Dam, FDP director, presenting

**Sept. 26** - New Jersey Coalition Build, Union, NJ, FDP and Esther Goetsch, TAT Coalition Build director, Annie Sovcik, BOTL director, and Beth Jacobs, TAT field trainer and survivor-advocate, presenting

TAT's work is made possible through the generous support of our corporate sponsors, foundation partners and individual donors. Our education, training, legislative engagement, and advocacy efforts would not exist without those who invest in the change that we work towards each day. If you are interested in learning more about how you can provide financial support, please visit our [corporate engagement webpage](#) or contact Laura Cyrus at 612-888-4828 or [lcyrus@truckersagainsttrafficking.org](mailto:lcyrus@truckersagainsttrafficking.org) to explore our giving opportunities.

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