

VANTAGE POINT

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2021
TRUCKERS AGAINST TRAFFICKING



The FDP joined a fleet of
UPS trucks on the
rooftop in New York City.



Dear TAT friends,

There's a proverb that directs us to rescue those who are being taken away to death and hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. And it cautions that if we try to plead ignorance for our inaction, "the one who weighs the heart perceives it."

Nowadays, there's little excuse for ignorance in not knowing the signs of human trafficking and what to do when you see it. The information is out there and available. TAT alone has a wealth of training tools on our website, from straight information to podcasts to resources to materials, including videos, toolkits and wallet cards. And there are quality books and additional organizations with valuable information as well. It's up to you to make use of it. And then, once you're informed, to let it increase your awareness, change your thinking and equip you for action.

In this issue of Vantage Point, we highlight a travel plaza employee who did just that. She allowed the TAT training she received to help her see beyond just a customer to the customer's need, and her quick thinking resulted in the recovery of that customer from sexual exploitation. We also highlight a program started by a partnership between a couple of Florida state agencies familiar with TAT training that resulted in more than half a million Florida CDL holders being alerted to TAT training and several thousand already activated and trained. Their model is now being replicated by other states.

These are just two examples of how people allowed human trafficking training to move them to action, which is resulting in changed lives and increased awareness about the crime of human trafficking and how we can each play a role in fighting it.

This edition also provides a snapshot of some of our activities in the third quarter of this year. We hope you'll enjoy reading and that it will elevate your vantage point concerning action steps you can take to fight human trafficking.



Kendis Paris, Executive Director



Kendis Paris is pictured above with the 2019 Everyday Heroes Truck. Stay tuned for information on our next Everyday Heroes Truck and how to bid on it later this year!

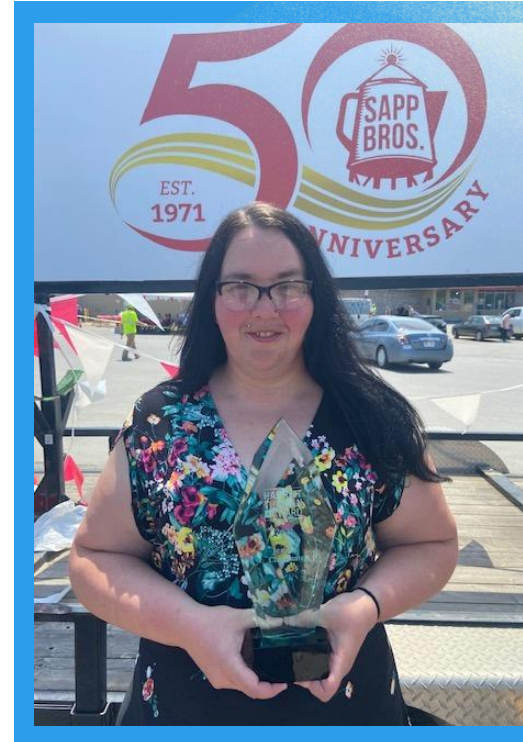
SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT

2021 HARRIET TUBMAN AWARD GOES TO SAPP BROS. EMPLOYEE

Sapp Bros. Travel Center Cashier Jessica Chapman from Junction City, Kansas has been named the 2021 Harriet Tubman Award winner by Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) for helping a woman who had been sexually exploited.

Chapman received the award July 29 at the original Sapp Bros. travel center in Omaha, Nebraska as part of Sapp Bros. 50th Anniversary celebration.

Earlier this year, Chapman noticed a woman who seemed distressed. She also noticed a man near her. She caught the woman's eye and asked her if she was alright. The woman approached Chapman and acknowledged that she wasn't okay. Because the man was in the store, and so as not to arouse suspicion, Chapman took down a rewards application and acted like she was helping the woman fill it out, all the while gathering information about the situation in order to call law enforcement. Her quick and very intelligent response led to the arrest of the man, and allowed the woman, who had been sexually exploited, to get to a safe place.



"Jessica's alert and immediate actions on behalf of the victim of sexual exploitation are indicative of what this award is all about," enthused Kendis Paris, TAT executive director. "Her TAT training, combined with empathy and courage, are exactly what that woman needed that night. We are humbled and grateful to present Jessica with our 2021 Harriet Tubman Award."



Celebrating Chapman's win with her are (L to R) Tyler Marsh and Andrew Richard, CFO and CEO of Sapp Bros., respectively, Chapman, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, Jeff Silvey, VP of Sales, Protective Insurance, and Cory Dieter, VP of Travel Center Operations.



Jeff Silvey Sr., vice president of Sales for Protective Insurance, presented Chapman the award.

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT



"The training from Sapp Bros. about human trafficking helped me recognize something was wrong, and then my instincts took over," commented Chapman. "I was just really glad I could help. I'm very appreciative to win the 2021 Harriet Tubman Award."

"We're extremely grateful to Jessica for her quick thinking and the utilization of the training she received with Sapp Bros.' Help Now campaign, which was created as a result of our partnership with TAT," said Andrea Galvin, Sapp Bros' Marketing. "We're proud to support TAT and their mission to combat human trafficking. We train our employees at Sapp Bros. using TAT's methods to recognize and react appropriately when they identify situations that could be human-trafficking related."

She continued, "We hear of stories like the one Jessica experienced, and you think it doesn't happen in your locations, but it does. It's right in front of us. We're committed to continuing to educate and empower more employees at Sapp Bros. and the drivers that visit our locations. We were excited to have TAT and Protective Insurance join us in celebrating our 50th Anniversary and the awarding of the Harriet Tubman Award. "

The Harriet Tubman Award presented by Protective Insurance, which carries with it a \$2500 check, is named in honor of famed abolitionist Harriet Tubman, whose courageous personal actions resulted in the transportation of 300 slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad and whose overall role in the freedom movement was instrumental in the freeing of thousands more. Born into slavery in 1820, Miss Tubman was the first African American woman buried with full military honors and the first to have the inaugural Liberty ship named after her – the SS Harriet Tubman – by the US Maritime Commission. The award was created to honor a member(s) of the truck, bus or energy industry each year, whose direct actions help save or improve the lives of those exploited or prevent human trafficking from taking place.



Pictured above are previous winners of the Harriet Tubman Award. Their stories and more can be found on our website [here](#).

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT FLORIDA'S HIGHWAY HEROES CAMPAIGN BEING REPLICATED IN OTHER STATES

Late last year, the Florida Attorney General's office partnered with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) to create the multi-faceted Highway Heroes outreach campaign to CDL license holders in the state. The campaign includes specialized training, awareness materials mailed directly to more than half a million CDL holders and a website with resources to educate drivers on how to identify victims and report suspected human trafficking. The campaign uses TAT materials and training, and, this year, portions of it are being replicated in South Carolina and Mississippi.

Jay Levenstein, Commercial Vehicle and Driver Services bureau chief for the FLHSMV, shared how the program began, "Prior to my involvement, FLHSMV, which includes the Florida Highway Patrol, already had a relationship with TAT and had been disseminating TAT materials," he explained. "Our Highway Heroes campaign (although the name came later) began to take shape when we were awarded a Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation (CDLPI) Grant in 2020 to assist with the cost of reaching out to hundreds of thousands of commercial vehicle drivers and others in Florida. My role was to secure and administer the grant funding."

Bureau Chief Jay Levenstein (seated), of the Commercial Vehicle and Driver Services for the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, discusses work issues with Dawn Gunter, program manager for Florida's International Registration Plan/International Fuel Tax Agreement (IRP/IFTA)



Levenstein, an attorney who's been with the FLHSMV almost five years after 23 years with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, finds satisfaction in a career of public service, and says human trafficking prevention is "another way to perform this service."

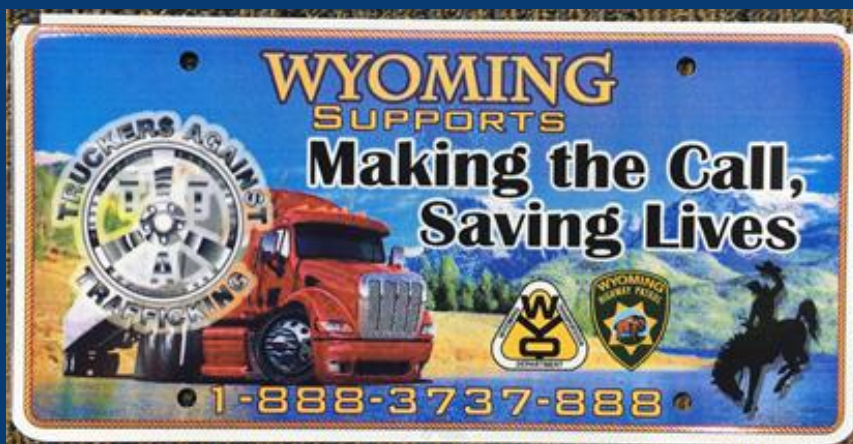
He believes the campaign has been successful in getting TAT's message out. "We know for a fact that we communicated directly via mail with 502,276 drivers and 22,610 carriers, which generated 31,457 hits to our website, 7,942 clicks on the training video link and 4,189 drivers trained," he said. "I had hoped that the number of drivers trained was greater but feel good about the number of drivers and others that we pushed information out to."

And he's delighted other states are replicating the program. "Due to the serious consequences of this horrendous crime, helping to bring awareness to the problem is very rewarding. The passion of the people and partners involved in this effort is inspiring," Levenstein commented.

He believes the expertise and resources TAT provides "are invaluable. Without TAT we would not have the information or materials to share with the public. We are merely a vehicle to get this information into the hands of our drivers."

OPPORTUNITIES

At a recent meeting of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Human Trafficking Prevention Program, state agencies shared additional best practices of how they are spreading the word about TAT. Check it out to stimulate ideas for what you can do to build awareness.



SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT BOTL TRAVELING AT WARP SPEED TO TRAIN MAXIMUM AUDIENCE POSSIBLE

With in-person school in session again, this quarter Busing on the Lookout (BOTL) focused on training bus drivers to recognize human trafficking in preparation for the 2021/2022 school year and on providing awareness of the vulnerability factors which contribute to victimization by traffickers.

BOTL Program Specialist Lexi Higgins trained more than 1,800 members of the bus industry through:

- Providing the keynote address at the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation Annual Conference
- Facilitating two breakout sessions at the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation Annual Conference
- Presenting on a plenary panel with other national leaders in pupil transportation at the National School Transportation Association Annual Conference
- Providing direct training to school bus drivers in the Hillsborough County School District (seventh largest school bus fleet in the nation) in Tampa, Florida and at the Pennsylvania Bus Association's Annual Motorcoach Safety and Preparedness Workshop
- Presenting virtually at the Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation's Annual Conference and to the Pennsylvania Center for Safe Schools



Bus drivers from the Hillsborough County School District in Tampa learned about human trafficking from Lexi Higgins, BOTL program specialist.

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT

Additionally, the BOTL team hosted a four-part webinar series detailing some of the vulnerability factors traffickers may prey upon. The series, which featured guest presenters and addressed the topics of LGBTQ+ identity, homelessness, immigration and the child welfare system, was attended by BOTL partners in school transportation, transit, motorcoach, casinos and law enforcement from 36 states. A majority of participants – 90.7 percent – who responded to a follow-up survey said the session they attended increased their knowledge of human trafficking.



Representative of comments received on the webinar series survey is this one: "[The] sessions I've seen have been extremely informative. Myself and another colleague are working towards having all our transit operators trained on this subject and have a card to a local shelter we are working with to give to those that they suspect may need help. Also, working towards free transportation for victims/survivors to a designated safe place."

Other BOTL activities included:

- Co-hosting an Atlantic City Bus & Casino Coalition Build in partnership with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and the Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association. Fifty-nine industry and law enforcement representatives attended, and 100 percent of survey respondents said they're better equipped to recognize and report human trafficking after attending the briefing.
- Coordinating an anti-human trafficking panel for the virtual National Transportation in Indian Country Conference in September, which included speakers from the Comanche Nation Transit in Oklahoma, First Nations Healthsource in New Mexico and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Community Domestic Violence Advocacy Program in Washington.
- Presenting at the Regional Conference of the Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina Motorcoach Association and at the Pennsylvania Bus Association's Annual Safety Meeting.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAININGS

Law enforcement trainings were conducted for the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), Illinois US Attorney's Office, South Texas High Intensity of Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) and the Western States Information Network. As a result of the CSP and Illinois trainings, TAT has booked four other trainings. In Illinois, three weeks after training, a trafficking victim was identified, and all agencies worked with her, providing a victim-centered approach.



In Illinois, TAT Deputy Director Kylla Lanier and TAT Training Specialist and Survivor-Advocate Annika Huff presented to law enforcement, medical staff, prosecutors, taskforce members and service providers. Huff received a hug after her presentation.

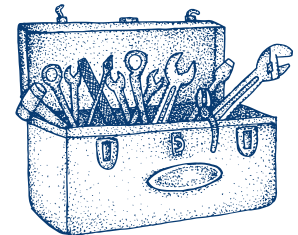
CANADA

In Canada, Ontario Northland Railway attended a presentation to the Fleet Safety Council given by TAT Training Specialist and Survivor-Advocate Liz Williamson. As a result, they were introduced to the BOTL team and then shared the BOTL information to Metrolinx. Metrolinx is the Ontario Public Transit system connecting all city transit systems together. They are working to train all 2,000 of their employees and, additionally, they pulled cases connected to the transit system and are showing the BOTL video as a part of it.



EMPOWER FREEDOM

In Energy Operations, attendees at a Coalition Build requested some extended in-field training. Using combined industry insight from Precision Pipeline, Enbridge and Paramount Planning, and TAT's knowledge of human trafficking, Toolbox Talks were created and are already being presented to pipeline workers and contractors. **Currently, more than 8,700 industry members are trained, and additional companies have pledged to train or are in the process of implementing training.**



FREEDOM DRIVERS PROJECT

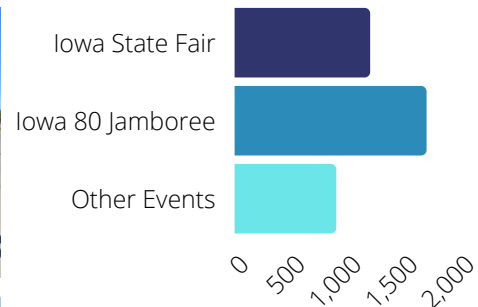
During the third quarter, the Freedom Drivers Project:



Attended **10 events** in six states -- seven corporate, one community and one trade show



Covered **3,600 miles**



Was toured by **3,800 people**, with over 1,200 touring at the Iowa State Fair and 1,700 at the Iowa 80 Jamboree



TAT SPONSORS

While TAT is extremely thankful to all of our supporters, we want to give special recognition to our North Star, Freedom Driver, Diamond, Platinum and Gold sponsors.

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