



Volume 12 | Issue 12
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Human trafficking in the news

Sale of Everyday Heroes Kenworth T680 Next Gen benefits Truckers Against Trafficking

In an effort to further educate and fund efforts to combat human trafficking, Don Blake, Inland Kenworth – Phoenix new truck sales manager, is leading an effort to auction a special “Everyday Heroes” Kenworth T680 Next Generation. Proceeds from the sale of the truck will go directly to Truckers Against Trafficking a non-profit organization devoted to stopping human trafficking by educating, mobilizing, and empowering the nation’s truck drivers and rest stop employees. The project has received support from numerous sponsors -- Kenworth Truck Company, Inland Kenworth, and other leading companies and organizations in the trucking industry.

University of Arkansas event raises awareness of human trafficking in transportation industry

Trucking industry executives and staff came together recently to raise awareness of human trafficking that affects about 40 million people worldwide. In an event Tuesday (Nov. 9), staff of Lowell-based carrier J.B. Hunt Transport Services Inc. and nonprofit Truckers Against Trafficking discussed trafficking, its warning signs and how to help victims. The Business Integrity Leadership Initiative of the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas hosted the event.

How truckers hauling Amazon freight help fight human trafficking

More than 5,000 Amazon drivers and transportation employees are trained to identify and respond to instances of human trafficking.

Amazon transportation employee Mark Stephens immediately felt concerned when he pulled into one of his familiar truck stops outside of Atlanta, Georgia. Stephens, a field leader who teaches defensive driving and safety courses to Amazon drivers and transportation associates, saw two young women walking in-between the lines of tractor-trailer trucks parked at the rest stop. The young women seemed lost and out of place. An SUV suddenly pulled up alongside the women. A male passenger stepped out and pushed both women into the vehicle.

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

Register now for the Everyday Heroes Truck auction

Ritchie Bros. will auction off the third Everyday Heroes truck, a Kenworth T680 Next Gen, on [Dec. 10 at their Los Angeles auction](#), with proceeds benefiting Truckers Against Trafficking. The Everyday Heroes Kenworth T680 Next Gen is fully loaded with a 76-inch sleeper, and PACCAR Powertrain featuring a 510-hp PACCAR MX-13 engine, PACCAR TX-12 automated transmission and PACCAR DX-40 rear axles.



Don Blake, a member of TAT's Board of Directors and the new truck sales manager for Inland Kenworth Phoenix, said, "I think this year's auction for the Everyday Heroes truck will be our best yet. There's been a lot of interest in the T680 Next Gen, and we expect a good bidder turnout."

Blake's leadership in the Everyday Heroes truck project has resulted in substantial contributions to TAT. The 2017 truck raised \$83,000, and the 2019 version contributed \$162,000.

To advertise the truck, Blake and Inland Kenworth hired Greg Evigan, the star of B.J. and the Bear, to share about the truck in a [video](#). Check it out, and then [register to bid](#)!



Coalition Build in Illinois draws 90 attendees

Ninety representatives from the trucking, transit, truck stop and casino industries, along with representatives from local, state and federal law enforcement and government agencies, attended a TAT Coalition Build in early November in Bloomington, Illinois. This group of public and private sector representatives learned about the realities of human trafficking in Illinois and ways to work together effectively to combat it. TAT provided targeted action steps for everyone, as well as free training materials for industry

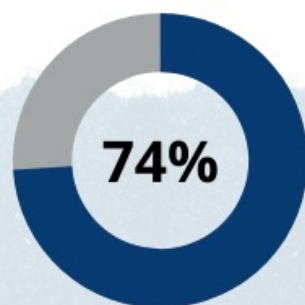
members and law enforcement to use within their companies and agencies. While follow up is ongoing, there are many additional training opportunities currently being discussed as a result of this event.



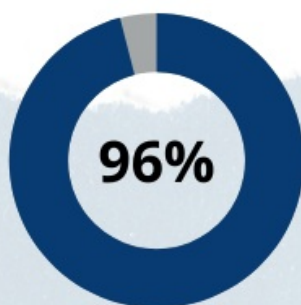
Survivor-Leader and TAT Training Specialist Beth Jacobs presented at the Illinois Coalition Build.

TAT, the Illinois State Police, the Central Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force and the Illinois Trucking Association co-hosted the event. "This program was amazing," commented one officer from the Lincoln Police Department. "I have been in law enforcement for over 25 years, and we have had several 'prostitution-related' incidents that, had we known this information years ago, maybe we could have done something different. I just wanted to say thank you. I am going to work with my department to bring the training back to us and have everyone go through it."

Of those attendees who completed surveys,



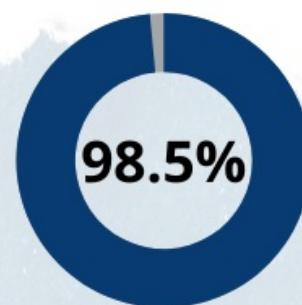
said the briefing presented information that was new to them



said they are better prepared to identify human trafficking after attending this briefing



said they found the dialogue helpful



said they would recommend a briefing like this to others in their field

Support TAT/BOTL through Dressember



Dressember 2021 has officially started! Dressember is a 31-day style challenge benefiting anti-trafficking programs around the world, including Truckers Against Trafficking and its program, Busing on the Lookout (BOTL). Wear a dress (or a tie!) every day this month to help raise funds that Dressember will distribute to select organizations in 2022.

Last year, BOTL's partner in New Jersey, Panorama Tours, Inc., joined Dressember's 2020

campaign! "We were so proud to support Busing on the Lookout and show our commitment to combating human trafficking through participating in the Dressember campaign," said Michelle Zak Petelick, president of Panorama Tours, Inc. "In addition to training all of Panorama Tours' drivers on how to recognize and report signs of trafficking, the Dressember campaign was a fun way to raise awareness and reminded us daily that we each have an important role to play."

Additionally, Panorama Tours, Inc. fights human trafficking by BOTL training all their drivers. They also participated in TAT's Bus and Casino Coalition Build in August.



Panorama Tours employees participated in Dressember 2020, (L to R) Sales Specialist Maggie Gonazalez, Operations Supervisor Desiree Rizzi, Founder Joseph Zak, President Michelle Petelicki, Management Hayley Diaz-Hernandez, Charter Driver Aridia Recio.

TAT welcomes three new staff members



(L to R) Brandy Belton, Hillary Benanzer, Amanda Haggerty

In the past couple of months, TAT has welcomed three new members to its staff: Brandy Belton, Freedom Drivers Project (FDP) director, Hillary Benanzer, data analyst, and Amanda Haggerty, data administration specialist.

As FDP director, Belton's background -- including 20 years at Walmart working in five stores in two states, first as a sales associate and finishing as a co-manager -- will come in handy with the communications and logistics skills acquired.

"I am so grateful to be included on the TAT team," she stated. "Learning how important it is to effectively communicate TAT's message to as many people as possible is what I strive to accomplish. Human trafficking is a horrific crime that needs more attention in order to alleviate human beings from becoming victims of modern-day slavery."

Benazer works across departments to help improve TAT's access to, collection of and use of data. She graduated from Ohio University in 2020 with a BA degree in psychology and then completed an MS degree from the University of Cincinnati in criminal justice. She has prior data collection and research experience within the fields of human trafficking, psychology, and human judgement and decision-making.

"I joined the TAT team because of this organization's dedication to activating the bystander and finding new approaches to combat human trafficking," Benazer said. "TAT is an organization that constantly searches for additional ways to help victims of human trafficking, and it is exciting to collect data that furthers this cause."

As a data administration specialist, Haggerty brings her years of experience working with nonprofits to help TAT get the most from its information systems. In this role, Haggerty manages TAT's websites and Salesforce database, as well as works with every member of the TAT team to streamline their program data and tasks.

Passionate about science and technology, Haggerty explained, "I was excited when I saw a position open at TAT, because not only did it fit my skills, but I could work for an incredibly effective organization that is helping people see those who society has neglected and forgotten."

Planning an end-of-year gift?

Help us meet our \$120,000 matching grant by Berger North!

FILL 'ER UP!

Donate any time between now and the end of the year to help us reach our \$120,000 matching gift goal. You'll double your dollar and support TAT's mobile army.



Sponsored by:

Berger North is offering TAT a \$120,000 matching grant if we can raise that amount by year's end. Won't you help us? Double your end-of-year donation by giving now.

In a 2015 National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center report, four sites were surveyed in the US and

Canada, and an average of 40 percent of the women involved in sex trafficking identified as Native American or First Nations. The more we know about what human trafficking really looks like, the better we'll be able to recognize a victim and make the call. Race does play a role.

Source: National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center

NATIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY HUMAN TRAFFICKING.



<https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB24-4L-6.pdf>

December 2021 Calendar of Events

Dec. 1 – New Jersey Sex Crime Officers Association, Galloway, NJ, Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, and Liz Williamson, survivor-advocate and TAT training specialist, presenting

Dec. 2 – Colorado Motor Carriers Association Safety Management Council, Denver, CO, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

Dec. 2 – Pipe Line Contractors Association Annual National Pipe Line Conference, Houston, TX, Ashley Smith, energy operations director, presenting

Dec. 9 – West Michigan Transportation Club Award Dinner, Grand Rapids, MI, Laura Cyrus, Corporate Engagement director, attending

Dec. 14 – Combating Human Trafficking Across the Transportation Sector USDOT webinar, 8-10:30 p.m. (EST) Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting on panel

Dec. 15 – Colorado Department of Revenue All Managers Meeting virtual presentation, Louis Greek, TAT training specialist, presenting

Dec. 15 – Junior League New Orleans, LA, Susan Dold, TAT systems administrator, moderating virtual panel



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