



# FCC FRONTLINE

\ 'FRƏNT-,LĪN \ : THE MOST IMPORTANT OR INFLUENTIAL POSITION IN A DEBATE OR MOVEMENT



## WOULD YOU KNOW?

### SEEING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Would you know if human trafficking is present in your community? Or when we say that, do you think "definitely not here"?

What if we told you that you could very well be in contact with human trafficking victims on any given day? It definitely happens in Iowa communities – both big and small. We know because we have served them. They aren't always abducted and never seen again, either. More often,

they are hidden in plain sight. They attend things like church and school. They are, it appears, going about their daily lives.

How? It just takes a vulnerability and another person who exploits it. You might be thinking they would tell someone if this is happening. They often don't, though, because the force, fraud and/or coercion are so gripping that it keeps victims in silence. If you think you know just what "vulnerable" looks

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like, remember that it can happen to anyone. It can happen to someone who has nothing, desperate for a life line. But it can also happen to someone who has everything they could want and more. There's no mold for trafficking victims which calls on us to be more vigilant than ever. And those traffickers? They can be anyone too. Parents, teachers, siblings, coaches, boyfriends, girlfriends, friends, aunts, uncles, and so on. You name it, it's possible.

WOULD YOU KNOW CONTINUED

So how do we fight it? How do we fight this billion dollar industry that some estimates say enslaves around 40 million people worldwide? With a large percentage of that number being children?

It starts with awareness. We have to know what human trafficking really is first. Getting rid of those preconceived notions of the “who” and “how”.

Opening our minds to the possibility that it could be anyone. Knowing that it doesn't matter if you're rich, poor, educated, uneducated, US born, foreign born and so on. Knowing that it just takes a vulnerability, something we all have at different points in our lives.

We can also watch for signs. We can see little red flags. When our gut tells us something is not right, we can report and we can get help. Because there is ZERO risk in being wrong. But if you're right?

You could save a life.

We can all do better in the fight against human trafficking. So let's start now. If you see something suspicious, have concerns about someone else, or want help reporting – call the human trafficking hotline for Iowa, our statewide Call Center, at 1.800.770.1650 or text IOWAHELP to 20121.

Want to go a step further and learn about those red flags and warning signs? Many of them are much more subtle than branding tattoos (a commonly thought of sign). Visit our website at [familycrisiscenters.org](http://familycrisiscenters.org) and click on Human Trafficking. Or go to 'Resources', click on Helpful Materials, and print the brochure Seeing The Signs.

If you would like someone from our agency to present on human trafficking, please call us at 712.722.4404.

*Hope* FROM THE CEO



Our agency and staff continue to fight the good fight each day. Some days are incredibly hard. Imagine kids walking through the door, far too frequently, clearly exhausted from a lifetime of violence in the home. Or working with a family whose loved one was murdered - supporting through court, attending vigils and so much more. Our staff are resilient. With your continued support, we can keep fighting on behalf of others. Others who are consumed with fear, gripped by violence, filled with grief, and clinging to hope. Thank you for believing in us and the work we do.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Domestic Violence & Integrated Advocacy (IAS)

Transportation, housing and child care remain as the biggest barriers for the individuals we are serving. As such, our housing has been full. We have seen clients come and go, on to their own places or back with family. However, the empty room doesn't last long.

Victims of violence are continuing to find safety and healing here, and we are thankful. Our advocates have had the opportunity to receive advanced training on human trafficking; this has been so helpful as we come across individuals who have been exploited in this way. Despite the heartache that comes with seeing the pain people are experiencing, our advocates remain positive and motivated.

## Homicide & Violent Crimes (WISH Unit)

The WISH Unit Crime Victim Specialists are dedicated to helping victims/survivors of homicide and other violent crimes. When we talk about other violent crimes, one of those is human trafficking.

We are helping victims of this horrendous crime escape the life of modern day slavery. We tend to think of sex trafficking, which is happening in Iowa, but labor trafficking is present at an alarming rate too. The road to recovery is long, making it so important to have well-coordinated response from an array of providers and the community.

If you'd like a presentation or more information on human trafficking, call us at 1.800.382.5603.

## Iowa Victim Service Call Center

We often share that our Call Center can help any victim of any abuse or crime in Iowa. What abuses/crimes have people been affected by that we have been able to help? While the list below is not all inclusive, it does give you a snapshot of the calls we get on a regular basis.

- Robbery
- Kidnapping
- Identity Theft
- Hate Crime
- Elder Abuse
- Human Trafficking
- Child Physical Abuse
- Teen Dating Violence
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Abuse as Child
- Violation of Protection Order
- Sexual Assault
- Bullying
- Assault
- Arson
- Incest
- Stalking
- Harassment
- Drunk Driver Crashes
- Survivor of Homicide

If you have experienced any abuse or crime, even if it's not listed, you can call us. We are available 24/7 - and it's always confidential. 1.800.770.1650

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

*-Margaret Mead*

## VOLUNTEER

Do you have a heart for helping others? Do you want to be part of a mission to restore hope and safety to those suffering from violence? Join us as a volunteer. We have a variety of opportunities available - something to suit everyone! Contact us at [fcc@familycrisiscenters.org](mailto:fcc@familycrisiscenters.org) for more information or to get on our volunteer email list.

### OUR VOLUNTEERS CAN:

- Answer crisis calls
- Mentoring
- Child Care
- Language Services
- Administrative Tasks
- Special Events
- Fundraising
- And More

## CALLING ALL *Iowa* AND *Iowa State* FANS!



Fan Fun Golf Tournament  
4 Person Best Ball, \$340 per team  
Thursday, September 6  
Ridge Golf Course, Sioux Center  
12pm Shotgun Start

Join us for our 3rd annual Fan Fun Golf Tournament! Cost is \$340 per team and includes golf, cart, door prizes, hole prizes and a meal by Famous Dave's! Bring a little extra cash to participate in the putting contest - winner takes 10% of the pot! Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact us at 712.722.4404 or [fcc@familycrisiscenters.org](mailto:fcc@familycrisiscenters.org).

### *Favored* FIVE

A list of our top 5 needs this quarter! You can find a full list of needs on our website at [familycrisiscenters.org](http://familycrisiscenters.org).

1. Financial Donations
2. Clorox Wipes
3. Body Wash
4. Shampoo & Conditioner
5. Sheet Sets (Full & Twin)

### *Hope* IN REVIEW

Hope in numbers from last quarter. These numbers combine all 4 divisions - Domestic Violence, IAS, WISH Unit & Call Center.

Housing Nights.....	1,777
Hotline Calls.....	7,485
Children & Adults Served.....	3,896