While working with survivors of human trafficking, we see firsthand the devastating effects of this crime. Learn the warning signs and how you can help from this article written and published by domesticshelters.org on March 27, 2017.

By definition, human trafficking is the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring or keeping and receiving an individual against his or her will. Traffickers, sometimes also known as pimps, use coercion, manipulation, threats of violence, and exert financial control over their victims in order to keep them trapped in a lifestyle of being bought and sold. This is why trafficking has been called modern-day slavery.

Globally, there are an estimated 20.9 million victims of forced labor, and out of those, 4.5 million individuals are trapped in forced sexual exploitation, according to the International Labour Organization.

Victims often know their perpetrators—they can be a spouse, boyfriend or family member—meaning human trafficking overlaps with domestic violence on a regular basis. Traffickers also use tactics that abusers use to control survivors—coercion, threats of violence or outright violence, threats of harm to a survivor’s children or family, gaslighting, alienation from support persons and financial control.

“As we know in domestic violence, where victims are abused, [a survivor] may be manipulated, forced, deceived or coerced by her abuser to indulge in sex for money. She is forced to have sex for money with a threat of harm to her, her children or her loved ones if she fails to do it. She believes the proceeds would be used for the benefit of the family. And so she indulges in sex for money to help her family or boyfriend, who professes to love her dearly,” Edith Okupa with Restoration Project International, told DomesticShelters.org last December.

How You Can Spot Trafficking

The following is a list of 23 signs from the National Human Trafficking Hotline that may indicate someone is being trafficked.

23 Signs of Human Trafficking: It is happening in your community

Emergency Shelter
Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Counseling and Support Groups
Transitional Living
Employment and Life Skills
Legal Advocacy
Community Education
Children’s Programming
24-Hour Hotline

The Women’s Center’s mission is to provide safety, shelter and support to adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and trafficking.

Pictured above: the Peace Garden at The Women’s Center.
Helping at the Holidays

The holiday season is almost here. While this time of year is typically filled with warmth and joy for many of us, our clients often face a season of uncertainty. We especially appreciate the extra community support to provide holiday meals and gifts for those we serve. You can help spread joy in many ways:

- **Supply a food box for Thanksgiving**: we’ll provide the turkey while you take care of the trimmings. (Sign up by Nov. 10th)
- **Adopt a family to provide Gifts Under the Tree**. Receive a special shopping wish list for an individual or family of up to six people and provide wrapped presents. (Sign up by Nov. 17th)
- **Give a food box for the December holidays**; a suggested shopping list will be provided. (Sign up by Dec. 12th)
- **Volunteer** to decorate our facility, sort donated gifts, or staff one of our events. Dates and times for volunteer opportunities are flexible.
- **Provide in-kind support** by donating items from our Wish List. Our special Holiday Wish List is available at www.twcwaukesha.org.

Register or learn more by calling our Volunteer Coordinator at 262-522-3845 or visiting www.twcwaukesha.org/event/helping-at-the-holidays/.

### Human Trafficking, continued

**Work and Living Conditions:**
- **Is restricted from coming and going as he or she wishes**
- **Is under 18 and is providing sex acts for money or trade**
- **Is in the commercial sex industry and has someone who manages him or her, such as a pimp**
- **Is unpaid, paid very little or paid only through tips**
- **Works excessively long or unusual hours**
- **Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work**
- **Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off**
- **Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work**
- **High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)**

**Abnormal Behaviors:**
- **Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid**
- **Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement**
- **Avoids eye contact**
- **Has no access to health care**
- **Appears malnourished**
- **Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement or torture**
- **Has few or no personal possessions**
- **Is not in control of his/her own money and has no financial records or bank accounts**
- **Is not in control of his/her own ID or passport**
- **Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)**
- **Claims he or she is just visiting but is unable to clarify where he or she is staying**
- **Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or does not know what city he/she is in**
- **Lost of sense of time**
- **Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story**

Recognizing the signs could save someone’s life. If you suspect human trafficking, call our Hotline at 262-542-3828 or the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888.

{t-shirts}

There is still time to get your special anniversary edition t-shirt, available for a donation of $20 or more.

Order your shirt today at: www.twcwaukesha.org/40th-anniversary-t-shirt.

### Thank you to our foundation partners for their meaningful support of our work, including:

- AptarGroup Charitable Foundation
- Forest County Potawatomi Foundation
- Lannon Stone Foundation
- Verizon
- We Energies Foundation

### Legacy

It is not widely known that a donation directly from your IRA counts as your required minimum distribution, but doesn’t increase your adjusted gross income nor is subject to income tax. This is an easy way to support our work at any time during the year!

To learn more about this and other ways to include us in your estate plan, call Ann Marie at 262-522-3812.

{Helping at the Holidays}
We are grateful for the support of the Aurora Health Care Better Together Fund, which allowed us to expand our Community Education & Violence Prevention program to reach new and underrepresented youth audiences. Through this program, we provide presentations on domestic abuse, consent, teen dating violence, and more to schools throughout our community.

To learn more about bringing a training or presentation to your school, youth group, or community organization, call 262-547-4600.

Special Thanks: Aurora Health Care

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Break the Silence. Break the Cycle. #EndDomesticViolenceNow.

Here’s how to get involved throughout the month:

- Call us at 262-522-3805 for materials like purple ribbons, bracelets, window clings, brochures, and more to show you stand with survivors! This is a great and easy way to get your friends, school, or company involved.
- Enjoy some great wine and Italian cuisine at Tenuta's Restaurant in Bay View and a percentage of sales will be donated to The Women’s Center.
- Head to Fox Bros. Piggly Wiggly in Hartland or Oconomowoc and show your support at the checkout counter by adding a donation to your bill.
- Light the Way to #EndDomesticViolenceNow and display a purple light bulb in the front window of your home or business. You can purchase purple light bulbs at Tomchek ACE Hardware, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to The Women’s Center. Keep an eye out for purple lights at various local landmarks throughout the month!
- Paint It Purple to #EndDomesticViolenceNow at Soul Fire Art Studio. Create DIY pottery or jewelry and mention The Women’s Center at the register to have 20% of your purchase price donated to us.

Checkout our Upcoming section to the left for a list of special Domestic Violence Awareness Month events. Learn more about all of these activities on our website www.twcwaukesha.org/event/domestic-violence-awareness-month/.

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24 Hour Hotline 262.542.3828

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SAVE THE DATE!

A Noteworthy Evening

Supporting The Women's Center

Saturday November 11, 2017

Tickets are $50 Each
Register online at twcwaukesha.org

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Thanks to WaterStone Bank for special support of our 40th Anniversary year.

Centerpoint is published by The Women's Center, Inc., a private, non-profit charitable organization. The mission of The Women's Center is to provide safety, shelter and support to women and their families and to facilitate their development. Comments regarding Centerpoint should be directed to Dana at 262.522.3805. As a United Way agency, The Women's Center encourages you to support the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County.