



# **Collaborative Against Human Trafficking**

• SUMMIT COUNTY •

Human Trafficking  
Resource Guide

November 20, 2015

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## **Human Trafficking in Ohio and Summit County**

Human Trafficking is modern-day slavery in which criminals profit from the exploitation of others through force, fear, fraud, duress or intimidation. According to *Ohio Trafficking in Persons Study Commission Research and Analysis Sub-Committee Report on the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Ohio to Attorney General Richard Cordray* (Williamson et al., 2010), over the course of a year, an estimated 1,078 American-born Ohio children become victims of sex trafficking and an additional 2,879 are at-risk. In addition, it is estimated that 3,437 foreign born persons in Ohio are at risk for labor and/or sex trafficking, including 783 which are estimated trafficking victims.

*The Ohio Attorney General's Office Missing Children Clearinghouse 2014 Annual Report*, provides information regarding monthly statistics on missing Ohio children whose cases have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). In 2014, a total of 22,650 missing persons were documented, including 18,097 missing children. Of these children, 9,587 were female, and 8,510 male.

Between July 2013 and April 2015, The Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (ONCAC) have identified 131 sex trafficking victims and four labor trafficking victims. Of the 135 victims identified, 131 were females and four were males. The majority of victims identified were between the ages of 13 and 18, approximately 73%.

According to *Human Trafficking in America's Schools* (U.S. Department of Education, 2015), several risk factors cause children to be more susceptible to human trafficking. These risk factors, include: lack of personal safety, isolation, emotional distress, homelessness, poverty, family dysfunction, substance abuse, mental illness, learning disabilities, developmental delay, childhood sexual abuse, promotion of sexual exploitation by family members or peers, and lack of social support. It is estimated that 33% to 90% of child sexual exploitation victims have experienced abuse. Additionally, there is a strong correlation between sexually exploited youth and childhood sexual abuse, chronic maltreatment and neglect and unstable home environments.

The July 2015 *Akron/Canton Backpage.com Report, An Analysis of the Commercial Sex Industry as it Relates to Sex Trafficking in Northeast Ohio*, details the quantitative collaborative research project that was conducted from December 2014 to March 2015. The research was conducted to determine the extent of regional online commercial sex and possible human sex trafficking. The research resulted in a total of 2,868 posted commercial sex advertisements exclusive to Akron/Canton during a three month period of time.

Based on the aforementioned data, it can be deduced that Ohio communities, including Summit County can expect to encounter youth and adults who have been trafficked in the sex and/or labor trade. Because of the diversity of potential trafficking victims and situations, communities need to be prepared to address the complex, holistic and long term needs of identified victims. Therefore, the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking was created to address the needs of human trafficking victims through an extensive collaborative partnership across Summit County.

## **Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking**

The mission of the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SCCAHT) is to increase our community's knowledge of human trafficking through educational efforts to ensure individuals are prepared to recognize and properly assist victims of human trafficking.

[www.endslaverysummitcounty.org](http://www.endslaverysummitcounty.org)

### **Members of the SCCAHT**

The Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking is made up of representatives from:

- Akron Children's Hospital
- Akron Municipal Court
- Akron Police Department
- Alliance for Healthy Youth
- Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties
- Child Guidance and Family Solutions
- Community Health Center
- Community Members
- Department of Youth Services/Akron Region
- Dominican Sisters of Peace
- Guardians Advocating Child Safety and Protection (GASP)
- Northeast Ohio Behavioral Health
- Rahab Ministries
- Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties
- Shelter Care: Safe Landing Youth Shelter, Street Outreach Services
- Stow Youth Services
- Summit County Children Services
- Summit County Council
- Summit County Juvenile Court
- University Students
- Victim Assistance Program, Fiscal Sponsor
- Wesley Temple AME Zion Church

On a case by case basis, the team may be expanded to include other relevant professionals.

## **Roles of Participating Agencies**

Each agency and collaborating partner participating in the SCCAHT as outlined by their mission statements, vision statements and/or service descriptions, provides a variety of very specific, necessary services for human trafficking victims.

### **ACCESS Shelter**

ACCESS Shelter is dedicated to addressing the plight of homeless women and children in our community. The agency encourages the development of self-esteem and the attainment of self-sufficiency through its commitment of providing a holistic, safe and supportive environment, and through its programs of housing, advocacy and empowerment.

### **Akron Children's Hospital**

Akron Children's Hospital touches the lives of thousands of families each year by providing quality, family-centered care to infants, children and teens.

The mission of Akron Children's Hospital is dedicated to providing:

- medical care to infants, children, adolescents and burn victims of all ages, regardless of ability to pay
- multi-level professional education for residents and students of medicine, nursing, and the various allied health professions
- basic and clinical research into the causes, treatment and cure of childhood illness and injury and burn injury
- community service intended to improve health status through lay education
- child and family advocacy efforts to improve the status of children and adolescents in our region of service
- continuing medical education to facilitate and encourage the process of lifelong learning for physicians and other health care providers involved in the care of children

Although Akron Children's Hospital is currently not a listed partner of this Resource Guide Agreement, the Akron Children's Advocacy Center and the Children At Risk Evaluation (CARE) Center of Children's compliments this agreement as they provide the community with a specialized team of doctors, nurses and social workers that provide services to best evaluate and initiate medical treatment of children suspected of physical and/or sexual abuse and neglect.

### **Akron Police Department**

The mission of the Akron Police Department is to serve the community of Akron in a collaborative effort to enhance the quality of life through crime prevention, enforcement of laws, promotion of safety and reduction of fear.

### **Battered Women's Shelter of Summit & Medina Counties**

The mission of the Battered Women's Shelter is to lead the community in the prevention of domestic abuse by providing emergency shelter, advocacy and education throughout Summit and Medina County, all in an effort to break the cycle of abuse and help promote peace in every family.

### **Child Guidance & Family Solutions (CG&FS)**

Child Guidance & Family Solutions' Intensive Home Based Treatment (IHBT) and Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment (ICT) programs provide a comprehensive set of services designed to stabilize mental health and co-occurring substance use symptoms as well as to improve the youth's functioning at home, school and in the community. Services include individual & family counseling, case management, 24/7 crisis management as well as psychiatry, respite, health care integration, and more. Services are provided in the convenience of the youth's environment, which enables the therapist to work with those most challenging behaviors as they occur. Services are intensive and each family is provided a minimum of 3-5 hours of service per week. Length of treatment is determined by the youth's needs, but is generally 3-6 months long. All services are provided by one therapist to reduce confusion to the family and ensure consistency in treatment. Treatment is family-focused, strength-based and culturally sensitive.

### **Community Health Center (CHC)**

Community Health Center is committed to enhancing the quality of life and is a leader in providing effective services for compulsive and addictive disorders, health care, life skills development, prevention, housing, wellness and rehabilitation.

### **Foundations for Living**

The mission of Foundations for Living is to provide an environment of safety where youth feel empowered to heal the wounds of the past and build a foundation of hope for the future.

In addition, Foundations for Living provides an environment that treats the complex trauma associated with human trafficking. Treatment Modalities used include: Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy. Many of these youth have drug and alcohol addictions. Foundations for Living offers a dual diagnosis unit to treat both the emotional/mental health and chemical dependency issues for these youth. Additionally, their treatment staff provides support and advocacy to youth during any legal proceedings associated with Human Trafficking.

### **Greenleaf Family Center**

Greenleaf Family Center is a non-profit organization that strengthens families in our community through counseling, education, and support.

### **Northeast Ohio Behavioral Health, Ltd. (NEOBH)**

NEOBH is a multidisciplinary group of mental health professionals that offers treatment services to children, adolescents, adults, families and couples. Their mission statement is, by living in accordance with our personal values and principles and the ethical standards of our professions, we continuously strive to provide high quality counseling services in a safe, therapeutic environment to a clinically diverse population while honoring the dignity and worth of each person that we serve. Our intent is to instill hope, promote positive change, and help our clients to reach their full potential regardless of their sex, race, religion, and sexual orientation, country of origin or economic circumstance.

### **Rahab Ministries**

Rahab is a non-profit Christian ministry of volunteers devoted to rescuing and restoring women who are trafficked into prostitution in Akron, Ohio whose goal is to break the chains of sexual slavery.

### **Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties**

The Rape Crisis Center is a nonprofit organization serving sexual assault victims and co-survivors. The mission of the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties is committed to ending sexual assault through education and awareness, and to empower, support and advocate for all those affected by this crime.

### **Shelter Care**

Shelter Care is a private, nonprofit agency whose mission is to meet the needs of the community by empowering youth and families through community mental health services that include residential and non-residential treatment for youth between the ages of 6 and 21 years who manifest emotional, behavioral or social adjustment problems. Youth may be referred for treatment as a self-referral or by the family; child welfare, juvenile justice or mental health systems. Services provided include housing, clothing, food, mental health assessments, individual, family and group counseling, community psychiatric supportive treatment, education and employment opportunities, recreation, transportation, medical and psychological care, and full time supervision.

#### **Safe Landing Youth Shelter**

The primary purpose of this program is to give immediate assistance to both the young person and the family in a time of crisis. The services include short-term residential care, drop-in counseling, a 24-hour telephone hotline, and assistance in finding alternative living situations when necessary.

#### **Street Outreach Services Program (S.O.S.)**

S.O.S. addresses the needs of runaway, homeless and street youth and their families in the community by providing outreach services that promote safety, well-being, self-sufficiency and permanent connections with caring adults. The program not only helps youth leave the streets, but also assists them in moving and adjusting to a safe and appropriate living arrangement. In addition, the program engages youth through harm reduction and trauma informed approaches to build healthy, trusting relationships between youth and the qualified staff who provide direction and support. A range of education, intervention, and prevention services are offered to at-risk youth up to the age of 22 including those subjected to sexual abuse or exploitation.

### **Summit County Children Services (SCCS)**

SCCS mission is committed to the safety, permanency and well-being of all children served, in partnership with families and the community.

### **Summit County Juvenile Court**

The Summit County Juvenile Court strives to serve the best interests of our children, through outreach, early intervention, community education and innovative programming, while fairly administering justice to all whose lives are impacted by the juvenile justice system.

### **Victim Assistance Program**

The mission of the Victim Assistance Program is to empower our community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence, and tragedy. Victim Assistance provides Summit County men, women and children with crisis intervention, court advocacy, and trauma therapy for an unlimited amount of time at no charge.

### **The Village Network**

The mission of The Village Network is to work in partnerships that will empower youth and their families to build brighter futures.

## **Confidentiality**

Members, within the bounds allowed by law and the rules and regulations of their respective agencies agree to maintain the confidentiality of records and information gathered on all cases. The purpose of this agreement is to identify providers that meet the best practice standards as outlined by the Ohio Attorney General's Office Human Trafficking Commission. Human trafficking cases will only be identified and discussed in general terms. Each case will not be discussed on an individual basis without the prior written consent of the victim.

## **Cultural Competency**

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services National Institutes of Health, cultural competency is described as a combination of a body of knowledge, a body of belief and a body of behavior. It involves a number of elements, including personal identification, language, thoughts, communications, actions, customs, beliefs, values, and institutions that are often specific to ethnic, racial, religious, geographic, or social groups.

When developed and implemented as a framework, cultural competency enables systems, agencies, and groups of professionals to function effectively to understand the needs of groups accessing services. SCCAHT promotes policies, practices and procedures that are culturally competent. The Members' respective organizations and agencies all have policies related to the provision of culturally competent service delivery and encourage (and in some instances mandate) employee participation in cultural diversity training and workshops.

Provisions are made for non-English speaking children and families through various community resources. In addition, interpretative services for the deaf and hard of hearing will be provided as well.



## **Response to Trafficking Persons**

This Resource Guide was created by the Direct Services Committee of the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking to be used as a resource for service providers, the SCCAHT members, community based organizations, Good Samaritans and/or medical providers to use as a guide to meet the needs of human trafficking victims.

The service providers herein are individual agencies who have agreed to adhere to the requirements of the best service standard practices as outlined by the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Human Trafficking Task Force.

This guide is offered to ensure a coordinated response in human trafficking cases, and as such, it is recognized that the guide cannot address every situation that may arise. In situations not specifically covered, individuals may call the National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888 or locally, the Victim Assistance Program Hotline at 330-376-0040 for additional assistance.

## **Ohio Attorney General's Standards for Services to Trafficked Persons:**

The Ohio Attorney General's Standards for Service was created to assist organizations and communities who are interested in meeting the needs of human trafficking victims. The Standards for Services to Trafficked Persons and below glossary of terms can be accessed at: <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/ht/links/Service-Standards.pdf>

Summit County is pleased to have identified agencies who collectively provide all of the below service standards:

24 Hour Response Line: Trained responders who are available 24/7 to link human trafficking persons with local support services.

Alcohol and Drug Treatment: Individual therapy and pharmacological intervention of alcohol and/or drug abuse for trafficked persons.

Case Management/Victim Advocacy: Personal support and/or assistance in accessing human trafficking related services.

Drop-In Center: The drop in center offers services and support to persons who have been sexually exploited or trafficked without previous arrangements.

Emergency Response: Responding 24/7 in person to direct requests from law enforcement or hospital personnel for assistance related to human trafficking persons.

Ethical Standards: Values, principles, and standards to guide professional conduct. All providers must meet ethical standards. These standards are the foundation of all service to trafficked persons.

Media Standards: Guidelines to inform communications for journals, articles, the Internet, films, and other use on the issue of human trafficking.

Residential Program: Programs caring for trafficking victims in a residential setting for periods of 3 months or longer. Services may include alcohol and drug treatment, trauma therapy and other ongoing activities necessary for the survivor to heal and establish a productive, fulfilling life.

Sheltering and Short Term Housing for Adults: Temporary/Emergency housing provides short-term stabilization in a non-shelter setting, such as hotels, conference centers and other residential settings. Twenty-four hour onsite staff support may be provided, depending on the survivor's circumstances and needs. Emergency shelter means a facility operated publicly or privately to provide housing for trafficked persons or individuals who are otherwise homeless and have no immediate living options available to them. Emergency shelter is staffed 24/7 and will employ at least one licensed staff person.

Street Outreach: Street outreach programs enable organizations to help persons sexually exploited to get off the streets. The program promotes efforts to build relationships between street outreach workers and persons who are being sexually exploited on the streets. Outreach workers also provide support services that aim to offer help to those burdened by street life seeking a way out.

Survivor Peer Support: Personal support, mentoring, advocacy and education provided by a survivor of human trafficking to a trafficked person who is considering leaving the trafficking situation or has recently left the situation.

Trauma-Specific Therapy: Beneficial activities that apply the therapeutic process for trafficked persons to achieve the successful performance of mental functions, in terms of thought, mood, and behavior that results in productive activities, fulfilling relationships with others, and the ability to adapt to change and to cope with adversity.

## Resource Guide Agreement

This agreement, dated November 20, 2015, is accepted by the undersigned service providers.

We, the undersigned agencies, by and through our designated representatives, do hereby agree to support the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking approach as outlined with the guidance of the Ohio Attorney General's Office Human Trafficking Commission in intervention, investigation, assessment, referral for prosecution, and treatment of human trafficking victims identified in Summit County. If at any time in the future, a represented agency does not meet or is unable to meet the minimum requirements of the best practice services to victims as outlined in the Ohio Human Trafficking Commission's Standards for Services Provided to Trafficked Persons, then I, the agency representative, agree to immediately contact, in writing the Chair/Co-Chair of the SCCAHT Direct Services Committee to withdraw my agency's involvement in this Resource Guide.

Each undersigned agency agrees that no party shall withdraw from participation under this agreement without first giving the other parties, specifically the SCCAHT Direct Services Committee Chair/Co-Chair written notice. This agreement will be reviewed annually by the Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking and amended as deemed necessary/appropriate. If any changes are made to the agreed Resource Guide, each agency will be notified of said change in writing.

In order to better serve the human trafficking victims of our community, and to comply with the requirements of law, we, the undersigned, do hereby enter into this agreement. In agreeing to the foregoing Resource Guide, we recognize that the service to assist victims is of primary importance.

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Leanne Graham, Executive Director  
Victim Assistance Program  
Co-Chair, SCCAHT Direct Services

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Jaime Blair, Judicial Attorney  
Summit County Juvenile Court  
Co-Chair, SCCAHT Direct Services

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Dr. Wesley D. Fair, Executive Director  
Shelter Care, Inc., Safe Landing, Street  
Outreach Services Program

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Julie Barnes  
Summit County Children Services

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James Nice, Chief of Police  
Akron Police Department

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April Myers, Director of Adolescent Residential Services  
Quest Recovery Prevention Services  
BRIGHT House Residential Program

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Lynn Budnick, Executive Director  
ACCESS, Inc.

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Monica Mlinac, Director of Program Development  
OhioGuidestone

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Michael Sommers  
The Village Network

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Robert Stokes, CEO  
Community Health Center

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Becky Moreland, Executive Director  
Rahab Ministries

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Terri Heckman, CEO  
Battered Women's Shelter & Rape Crisis Center

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Elaine Harlin, President & CEO  
Child Guidance & Family Solutions

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Michael E. Matoney, CEO  
New Directions

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Dawn Glenny, CEO  
Greenleaf Family Center

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Judge Linda Tucci-Teodosio  
Summit County Juvenile Court

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Dr. Robin Tener, Executive Director  
Northeast Ohio Behavioral Health, LTD