



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director
www.ocjs.ohio.gov



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ODPS Joins Partners in Hosting Conference on Human Trafficking

(COLUMBUS) – Today, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) will host the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition's annual *Unlocking the Chains* conference, bringing together numerous practitioners, advocates and community members committed to eradicating the crime of human trafficking.

This year's interdisciplinary conference, which is being held at 1980 West Broad St., in Columbus from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., includes workshops on the following topics: discovering how the community can work together to prevent and reduce the demand for human trafficking; providing shelter for minor and adult victims; Ohio's standards for serving victims of trafficking; engaging men and boys; and other key issues in the fight against human trafficking. Attendees will also hear from Barbara Freeman, a survivor of human trafficking, as she shares her story of endurance and triumph.

"ODPS is proud to be a partner in Ohio's fight against human trafficking," said Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) Executive Director Karhlton F. Moore. "We are pleased to have supported efforts in the past and are committed to support and fund additional programs in the future that aim to combat human trafficking."

In 2006, OCJS, a division of ODPS, led the charge against the heinous crime by offering trainings around the state and held a statewide conference later that year. Since then, OCJS has developed resources, partnered with the Ohio State Highway Patrol in training efforts and hired an Anti-Trafficking coordinator earlier this year. The division is also working closely with both Governor Kasich's Office and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services on a public awareness campaign to be launched later this year.

"This conference will be a great opportunity for the public to engage in our community's collaborative efforts in the fight against human trafficking and learn effective strategies for combating this issue throughout Ohio," said Michelle Hannan, Director of Professional and Community Services for The Salvation Army Central Ohio.

The Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition is the 21st of its kind to be established in the United States under the guidance of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to assist victims of human trafficking; rescuing victims through increased public and law enforcement awareness and restoring lives through social service support. Since its inception in July 2007, the Coalition has grown to include over 90 members, comprised of both concerned citizens and those who represent social services, faith-based, medical and law enforcement organizations. The Salvation Army of Central Ohio manages the Coalition. For information on the Coalition, please visit: <http://www.centralohiorescueandrestore.org/>

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ODPS' Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) serves as the lead justice planning and assistance agency for the state. Through research, technology and grants, OCJS serves a wide variety of agencies committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio.