



TRANSCRIPT

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Title: Human Trafficking

- Human trafficking is when someone is recruited, obtained, and then that person is used for either a commercial sex act or labor or service. And someone else is making a profit. I think the most important thing for people to understand is human trafficking is like drug trafficking and weapons trafficking. This is about greed, it's about people making money.
- Human trafficking is a scourge on the soul of the American public. And it is clearly an international blight. And I think it's imperative upon us that our communities and our schools are aware of the signs so that we can combat it. Certainly we want to prevent it, and we want to equip our young people with the attributes, the skills, you know, the knowledge of course, so they can be acutely aware of what's going on in their surroundings, and prevent them from getting sucked into this trade.
- [Narrator] Human trafficking is a \$150 billion dollar industry and it happens in every country, every state in our country, and every county in California.
- It's very much underreported, and a lot of times victims are traumatized, and sometimes they don't even see themselves as victims. According to the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force, we've had over 900 victims that have been assisted, and over 250 prosecuted cases.
- This is really important to have awareness in our communities through our schools, because our own children are vulnerable. 32% over the last few years of trafficking victims identified and recovered in Orange County were under the age of 18.
- I think education is a powerful tool. So we can educate the system, those who work in the system, we can help parents, families, and help our students, so education becomes at the fore of correcting this, and I think you need not only education, but you need strong partnerships.
- We've been doing our work for 13 years, and I have seen over that time that the awareness level in the public has definitely gotten better. Well, I'm the great-great-great grandson of the great abolitionist Frederick Douglass, and I also am the great-great grandson of the great educator Booker T. Washington. We just thought that if we could take the legacy of the great abolitionist in Frederick Douglass and the legacy of the great educator in Booker T. Washington, if we combined those abolition through education, this would be the way that we would go about trying to fight against this issue of human trafficking.
- There's so much we can do when we think about prevention and early intervention. And especially when we talk about schools, and we talk about children, and our role as educators and as adults caring for them.
- We are working really hard to build out a framework for a multi-tiered system of support, which helps the classroom to really know how to help our young people, to keep them engaged in the instructional process, and to understand trauma, to understand when kids come into a classroom, for example, and they're not engaged, why is that so? You know, you really do have to understand where students are at themselves, individually. And the more you know that, the more you can help them. And I think that helps us to lead with awareness.
- One of my favorite things about Orange County is we have a very robust prevention department.

- Frederick Douglass said it's easier to build strong children than to repair broken men. And what we found that when we go into the classroom, at one end of the spectrum, children as students are most vulnerable to being exploited, but at the other end of the spectrum, they're the most, they can be the most empowered to do something about this issue. And when you arm them with information that's not only going to protect them, but empower them to go out into their communities, then that peer-to-peer communication is really helpful because they become the teachers in all of this.

- We recently been working on, like, a human trafficking project, there's like, five groups working on several different projects.

- We got the idea of making a big mural, which is also like a drawing of, you know, pretty much spreading awareness to help stop human trafficking, and why it's, like, it's important.

- I feel like when it comes to someone your own age, it means something more than when you can see it on a poster, on the news, or somewhere else, and it's more important from someone you know, that you can trust them.

- Peer-to-peer, youth-led prevention, empowering these kids to be the ones to empower their community. So we engage them, these the most vulnerable, in protecting their own community.

- We're talking about skill-based education, that includes youth and student voice, so when we think about youth development opportunities, and youth leadership opportunities, and clubs on campus that can take on this issue to actually address it and to have that peer-to-peer education that's so powerful and so important.

- Well, we wanna solve it all, but in the schools we really have to have a model of prevention, where we help to strengthen our young people, so they're just not swayed into these different occurrences beyond their control, that are negative and are hell-bent, frankly, on destroying human life.

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