

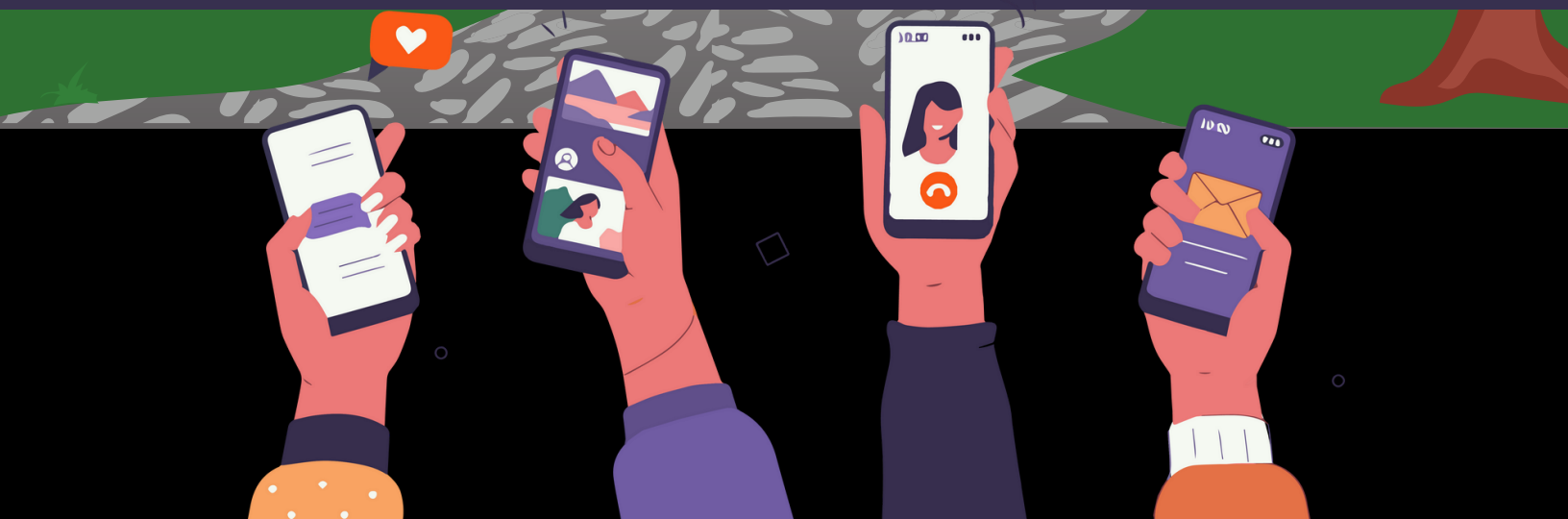
Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force
presents a community and youth awareness event

National Human Trafficking Prevention Month
KNOW MORE, DO BETTER 2.0



JANUARY 31, 2024 10AM-1PM

@ Vanguard University



Event Information

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2024

Location: Vanguard University, 55 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Audience: 7th and 8th grade students in Orange County

Agenda:

10:00 a.m. All students arrived and checked-in

10:15 a.m. Survivor speaker and main presentation

11:30 a.m. Resource fair, activities and lunch

1:00 p.m. All students start heading home



What did the inaugural event in January 2023 look like?

- 23 middle schools
- Over 350 8th grade students
- 25 local resource organizations
- Survivor motivational speaker
- Main education presentation by Higher Ground and Live2Free
- Indoor and outdoor activities with opportunity for student voice and response
- Lunch provided for the students
- Onsite mental health professionals for student participants
- Over 100 raffle prize student winners

[Click Here to View
Our January 2023
Event Video!](#)

Letter to School Administrators

Dear School Leaders:

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The goal of this Human Trafficking awareness event, "Know More, Do Better", is to align with the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA) enacted in January 2016, mandating schools to provide all students grades 7 to 12 with comprehensive sexual health and prevention education. Human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation is included as one of the curriculum expectations in CHYA.

The purpose of the event is to provide a positive space for social engagement and prevention education to students at least once in middle school. This free educational event will include keynote speakers, interactive activities and one-on-one conversations to teach students about human trafficking, its prevalence and nature, the risks of online exploitation, grooming and techniques of traffickers, as well as healthy relationships, how to keep youths safe from exploitation and abuse, and seek help if needed. Students will then take the message back to their school campuses as leaders and peer educators.

It is important to educate students, schools, teachers, school counselors, and administrators about this social issue at the middle school level because in 2021 and 2022, 420 victims of human trafficking were identified and supported in Orange County, according to the latest report by the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force (OCHTTF). Female minor victims of sex trafficking make up the 2nd largest group of all of the human trafficking victims found in Orange County at 32% and male minor sex trafficking victims at 4%. Within the minor sex trafficking victim demographic, 10% were children 13 years old or under, 35% were 14 to 15 years old, and 55% were 16 to 17 years old. Between 2015 and 2022, 503 minors were identified by Orange County Social Services Agency as victims of commercial sexual exploitation; 70% of the victims were residents of Orange County.

The "Know More, Do Better" event will not replace an entire unit on comprehensive sexual health. Concepts like reproduction biology, STIs, contraceptives, sexual orientation, etc. will NOT be covered. Care will be given to discuss sensitive topics in developmentally appropriate ways, however, some of the topics discussed may go beyond grade level standards for 8th grade. Yet due to the concerning fact that 40% of the identified victims of sex trafficking and exploitation in Orange County are under the age of 18, the OCHTTF in collaboration with government and community-based partners, including the Orange County Department of Education, believe this event is necessary to prevent and protect our students from becoming victims of this crime. When asked why they, the students, matter at last year's event, one student responded, "I matter for future generations making the world a better place."

Free lunch will be provided (for students and school chaperones), additional adult chaperones will be on hand to monitor students, and mental health professionals will be provided to ensure students are cared for and have a positive experience. Schools are asked to provide bus transportation to and from the event, as well as any costs associated with substitute teachers.

If your school would like to participate in the event by sending 7th and/or 8th grade students, please contact Linh Tran, Task Force Administrator with Waymakers at ltran@waymakersoc.org.

Student Learning Objectives

The purpose is to help schools **achieve the learning objectives required by the California Healthy Youth Act** as they relate to human trafficking and healthy relationships. To this end, through keynote speakers and interactive activities, students (and teachers) will be equipped with the following knowledge and skills for:

1. Healthy, positive, and safe relationships and behaviors

Outcomes:

1.A Participants will identify signs of abuse and an unhealthy relationship.

2. Define and describe the prevalence, nature and impact of human trafficking

Outcomes:

2.A Participants will be able to define (in simple terms) human trafficking, sex trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

2.B Participants will be able to identify where human trafficking happens (including in Orange County) and to whom.

2.C Participants will be able to list some of the negative impacts or consequences of commercial sexual exploitation.

2.D participants will learn about the connection between trafficking, pornography, sugar dating, and other forms of commercial sex.

3. Awareness of vulnerabilities to exploitation and human trafficking, the tools and tricks of traffickers, and skills for prevention

Outcomes:

3.A Participants will identify vulnerabilities that can put someone at risk of exploitation, including sharing of nudes, history of sexual abuse, absence of nurturing home, etc.

3.B Participants will understand the influence of social media in shaping our sense of self, body image, and ideas about relationships, and how these insecurities of fitting in and being socially accepted are exploited by traffickers.

3.C Participants will identify recruitment, grooming techniques and methods of manipulation by traffickers, including online and social media platforms used to connect with and prey on unsuspecting youths like TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, online dating apps, etc.

3.D Participants will learn how to avoid and interrupt grooming tactics or schemes used by exploiters to stay safe.

3.E Participants will identify sources of resiliency and ways to get help if they or a friend are being exploited or trafficked.

4. Awareness of youth-focused responses to encourage positive community action

Outcomes:

4.A Participants will name 3-4 actions they can take as students to make a difference in human trafficking (conscientious consumer, using arts to create awareness, research/write/share, volunteer/lead/start a club, report suspicious activity or concern for peers/others, etc.)

4.B Participants will engage in a tangible action to create awareness of human trafficking and positive healthy support system through various activities throughout the event (clothesline project, cards of encouragement, etc.)

5. Awareness of resources and support available in the community to seek help

Outcomes:

5.A Participants will visit a resource fair and meet organizations from throughout Orange County and school communities that are working to support community members who may be at risk of exploitation and assist victims who have experienced exploitation and abuse.

Participating Organizations

Event Organizers - Task Force Lead Agencies



Anaheim Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Irvine Police Department, Santa Ana Police Department, OC District Attorney's Office, OC Probation Department, OC Social Services Agency, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Attorney's Office, Waymakers

Event Organizers - Community Partners



Anaheim Union High School District, Crittenton Services for Children and Families, Eastside Christian Church, Global Center for Women and Justice at Vanguard University, Higher Ground Youth and Family Services, i-5 Freedom Network, Live2Free, Mary's Path, Orangewood Foundation, Soroptimists Together Against Trafficking II

Participating Resource Organizations

In addition to the event organizers, the list of organizations participating to provide youth resources and pro social engagement activities for the students will be provided soon.



Frequently Asked Questions

How can my school and students participate in this event?

This event is for 7th and 8th grade students in Orange County only. If you are interested, please contact Linh Tran, Task Force Administrator at ltran@waymakersoc.org stating your school name, district, point of contact and estimated number of students.

What does my school have to provide and be responsible for?

The event is at no cost to the schools, parents and students. Lunch will be provided for all students, teachers and volunteer chaperones. Schools will be responsible for providing bus transportation to and from the event at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa and any costs related to substitute teachers.

Is this event supported by the Orange County Department of Education?

Yes. The Orange County Department of Education is a collaborative partner with the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force and Global Center for Women and Justice at Vanguard University for the Ensure Justice Conference on human trafficking education for the community and teachers.

Will there be mental health support provided at the event?

Yes. Trigger warnings will be announced before the event starts and designated therapists, advocates, and a quiet room will be provided for students who may need to step away. A therapy support dog will also be on site to provide comfort.

Will the event and presentation be teaching students about sex?

No. This event will not be teaching students about sex education, sexual orientation, gender, safe sex, contraceptives, etc. However, topics related to sexual health and relationships, such as sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, pornography, and human trafficking for the purposes of prostitution are covered to provide students the knowledge and skills to better protect themselves and their friends from the harms of sexual violence and to seek help.

What does CHYA require on human trafficking and does this event count as 'sex ed class'?

In 2016 California adopted new standards for comprehensive sexual health education. Included is the mandate to provide all students in middle school and high school with information about sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and human trafficking, including:

(A) Information on the prevalence, nature, and strategies to reduce the risk of human trafficking, techniques to set healthy boundaries, and how to safely seek assistance.

(B) Information on how social media and mobile device applications are used for human trafficking.

(C) as well as local resources for assistance with sexual assault and intimate partner violence.

The event will not replace a comprehensive unit on sexual health. Concepts like reproduction biology, STIs, contraceptives, sexual orientation, etc. will not be covered. It will however, introduce students to concepts of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, the dangers of social media, and skills needed to avoid exploitation.

How can my organization be part of the resource fair?

If you are a local organization in Orange County that provides resources for youths that are age appropriate for middle school and interested in participating in the resource fair and student engagement activities, please contact Brandi Velez, Task Force Administrator Assistant at bvelez@waymakersoc.org.

What else can schools and teachers do about prevention after this event?

Normalize the conversation about human trafficking and exploitation with a prevention curriculum inside the classrooms provided by Higher Ground and Live2Free, so that it feels less scary for students to speak up and they know there is an immediate safety net all year-round, and not just one time a year. Educate school staff, especially school counselors and mental health professionals, health and P.E. teachers, and McKinney Vento Liaisons about the signs of grooming, sexual abuse and exploitation, and how to help a child who is at risk. Learn more at <https://www.ochumantrafficking.com> and <https://polarisproject.org>

Sample Letter to Parents

Dear Parent,

January is human trafficking awareness and prevention month and (School name) has the exciting opportunity to participate in a student event where 7th and 8th graders will learn from experts, survivors, and local organizations fighting human trafficking and exploitation here in Orange County.

According to the latest report by the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force (OCHTTF), over 420 victims of human trafficking were identified and supported in Orange County in 2021-2022. 40% of the victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation were children under the age of 18. Of the minor sex trafficking victims, 10% were children 13 years old or younger, 35% were 14 to 15 years old, and 55% were 16 to 17 years old. Between 2015 and 2022, 503 minors were identified by Orange County Social Services Agency as victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and 70% were residents of Orange County.

We realize this may be a sensitive topic for some, but empowering our students to know about human trafficking is the best way to keep them safe and California education standards require all students to learn about human trafficking and healthy relationships at least once in middle school. This interactive event will allow students to learn, respond and even have some fun.

There will be:

- Keynote presentations from survivors of human trafficking
- Education from trained peer-educators (Higher Ground and Live2Free of Vanguard University)
- Activities to increase knowledge and practice skills
- Materials for creative and artistic responses that can be taken home to campus
- Raffle prize giveaways
- An interactive resource fair of youth-serving organizations addressing human trafficking in OC
- Therapy dog and mental health professionals on site for any students wishing to talk further

Care will be given to discuss sensitive topics in developmentally appropriate ways, however, some of the topics discussed may go beyond grade level standards for 7th and 8th grade, and topics of sexual abuse, prostitution, and pornography will be covered as they relate to keeping students safe from human trafficking.

As with all field trips and any time students learn about comprehensive sexual health education, you as the guardian, have the right to opt your child out and not participate in this event. Your child will also be responsible to make up lost work from their additional classes on the day they participate. However, we hope your student will join us for this unique opportunity to join with over 500 students from throughout Orange County to Know More about human trafficking.

Raffle Prize Giveaways

Students have the chance to win fantastic raffle prizes! Our January 2023 resource fair activity was a blast. We gave away amazing prizes like gift cards, amusement park tickets, electronics, and more. What will students take home this year? Join us for an incredible day filled with engagement, education and the opportunity to win fun prizes.

Check out the list of prizes given away at last year's event!

- Signed sports jersey
- In-N-Out gift cards
- Knotts Berry Farm tickets (4 pack)
- Disneyland tickets (4 pack)
- Smart tablet
- Skateboard/Scooter
- Smart watch
- Apple earbuds
- Nintendo switch
- Bicycle and helmet
- Angels baseball tickets (4 pack)
- Lush basket
- Trader Joes fair trade treat basket
- Target gift card
- Google play gift card
- Adidas gift card
- Lululemon gift card
- Roblox gift card
- Patagonia gift card
- Body Shop basket/gift card
- Apple gift card
- Movie tickets gift card
- Gap gift card
- PlayStation or Xbox
- Purpose jewelry basket



Prizes are available based on donations in 2024. This year's prizes will be just as exciting!



SPONSORSHIP DONATIONS



ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARDS LUNCH OR RAFFLE PRIZES FOR THE STUDENTS.

KNOW MORE, DO BETTER 2.0

Community & Youth Awareness Event

ONLINE DONATION

Thank you for your interest and consideration in sponsoring a donation! We are looking for donations **starting at \$25**. For questions, contact Brandi Velez at bvelez@waymakersoc.org

Waymakers Website Instructions

<https://waymakersoc.org/donate>

One Time Donation:

Enter Desired Dollar Amount

Drop Down Select:

Human Trafficking Victim Services

Please Notify The Following Person(s) Of My Gift:

Brandi Velez: Know More, Do Better 2.0 Prevention Event

Mobile Friendly!

Open your phone camera and aim it at the QR code below. You will be directed to the Waymakers donation page.



SCAN TO DONATE

