

Lake of the Ozarks Stop Human Trafficking Coalition
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING NON-PROFIT SPEARHEADS 2019 FUNDING DRIVE WITH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE OZARKS GRANTS

The Lake of the Ozarks Stop Human Trafficking Coalition plans to utilize funds from two programs of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks to open its funding drive for the coming year. The **Community Affiliate Grant** to be sponsored by Community Foundation of the Lake should total \$2,500 to be utilized for direct aid for victims: food/life's necessities, utilities, housing, transportation, healthcare, prescriptions, etc. Other grants will be sought to supplement this amount.

The \$20,000 **Louis L. and Julia Dorothy Coover Regional Grant** is strategized to raise awareness in the communities of Camden, Miller, and Morgan Counties, educating adults and youth regarding the risks human trafficking poses. It will also build much-needed capacity into our program by providing for equipment that will allow us to carry out our mission in an efficient and visionary manner.

The Community Foundation of the Lake, affiliate of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, has funded our website this year. In recommending us for the Coover, they say, "They are fairly new to the lake area; however, they have already made a huge impact with their new website, their educational and outreach programs and their ability to speak to many of our civic organizations. With this grant, Stop Human Trafficking will be able to continue to raise awareness of human trafficking and educate the public. Not only are they reaching out to victims, but they are working with law enforcement, schools and the medical community with extended training."

The Lake of the Ozarks Stop Human Trafficking Coalition is a volunteer organization working collaboratively to increase awareness, identify causes, and support victims of trafficking. It invites the Lake area community to its monthly speaker program featuring survivors that will share their experiences of trafficking and escape, as well as expert speakers in the fields of psychology, legal issues, law enforcement, medical, and more. Programs also focus on the causes of sexual exploitation and labor trafficking in the Lake area. For more information, contact Mary Spencer, (573) 873-8714.

We hope to see you at our FREE February Prayer Breakfast this Saturday, February, 23 at 9:30 AM . . . see our website at <https://www.stoptraffickinglakeozarks.org/news-events/february-prayer-breakfast.html> for details.

Our monthly meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month, 6:30-8 PM, unless otherwise posted. This year, we are taking a show on the road: alternate meetings will be held throughout the Lake area community:

February 28 Christ the King Church, 1700 Bagnell Dam Boulevard, Lake Ozark, 65049—Sara Brown, “What is Human Trafficking?”

March 28 St. George Episcopal Church, 423 N. Business Route 5, Camdenton, 65020—Dr. Sally Kemp/Jeff Green, “Safe House”

April 25 Osage Beach City Hall, 1000 City Parkway, Osage Beach, 65065—Dr. Sally Kemp “How the Brain is Affected by Trauma”

May 23 St. George Episcopal Church, 423 N. Business Route 5, Camdenton—Emma Overstreet of Missouri KidsFirst, “Children of Sexual Abuse”

June 27 Bank of Versailles, Drive Up, 119 N Fisher, Versailles, 65084—Emily Russell of Executive Director, Human Trafficking Task Force, Missouri Attorney General's Office

July 25 St. George Episcopal Church, 423 N. Business Route 5, Camdenton, 65020—a survivor from Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition (Columbia) will be featured

August 22 Central Bank at Laurie, 101 Dogwood Lane, Laurie, 65038—Russ Tuttle, Stop Trafficking Project “Social Media and Children”

September 26 St. George Episcopal Church, 423 N. Business Route 5, Camdenton, 65020—Norman Murphy, Missouri State Highway Patrol

October 24 Eldon Community Center, 309 East 2nd St., Eldon,—Myrna Blaine, Director of Services & Supports at Camden County Developmental Disability Resources, will speak of the vulnerability of the disabled to human trafficking.

November 21 St. George Episcopal Church, 423 N. Business Route 5, Camdenton, 65020. Join us for a recap of 2019. No meeting in December. Merry Christmas!