

ROTARY CLUB TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SEP/OCT NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By LISA PODOLNY



The Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking is a very proactive and dynamic club that sets the standard of excellence for e-clubs worldwide. As we begin the second month of the Rotary year, we are already making a huge difference in our global community.

Heading into the 3rd year of our **Strategic Action Plan**, the Club's emphasis has pivoted from planning to **focusing on Action**. This month's Action Day centered on one of the *key drivers of slavery - that is, poverty - through economic development*. Socioeconomic factors can play a significant role in creating conditions that make individuals vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, lack of education, gender inequality, and lack of access to healthcare. With promises of good jobs or financial support, traffickers frequently lure victims to work in the sex trade or other forms of forced labor. Lack of job opportunities and low wages can also push people to migrate in search of work, making them vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers.

Moreover, countries lacking economic opportunities may have weaker law enforcement and weaker protection systems for vulnerable populations, making it easier for traffickers to operate with impunity. Overall, while the lack of economic development is not the sole cause of human trafficking, it is an essential contributor to the conditions that make individuals more vulnerable to exploitation.

Addressing economic inequality and promoting sustainable economic development is crucial to preventing human trafficking and protecting vulnerable populations.

While our members are incredibly active and engaged, for us to make the greatest impact against human trafficking we need even more Rotarians to get involved to help enact programs like the Economic Development Program. We meet twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at 7am CST. Our PR, Fundraising, Membership, Programs and Projects, and other committees are always looking for new members and fresh ideas. Please contact us at president@endhtrotaryclub.org to get involved!

I truly believe we are furthering RCEHT's **Strategic Action Plan** by increasing our impact, expanding our reach, enhancing participant engagement, and increasing our ability to adapt. **Our Strategic Action Plan** honors our past and embraces our future. It is our path to achieving our vision of bringing even more people together to create lasting and positive change in ourselves, in our communities, and across the globe. What has not changed are the values that define *Rotary: fellowship, integrity, diversity, service, and leadership*. **YOU** are living these values.

Yours in Rotary,
Lisa Podolny
Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking President, 2023-2024

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FUNDRAISING



CHALLENGE TO RAISE \$5,000 FOR RCEHT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

By Karen Walkowski

2020-2022 RCEHT Charter President

2023-2024 RCEHT Fund-raising chair

As RCEHT becomes more well known, we are approached by many clubs and other organizations to support projects and initiatives that are directly working to end human trafficking. Supporting RCEHT, the RCEHT Foundation mission is to support these critical initiatives through funding. *The purpose of RCEHT Foundation is:*

1. **To provide seed funding for projects eligible for District or Global Grant funding.**
2. **To fund projects sponsored by the club (or partner with other clubs).**

Of course, to provide these important funds, RCEHT Foundation needs donations from people like you who are passionate about ending human trafficking. Our 2023 goal is to raise **\$5,000** and support 2-4 organizations or projects.

As a person who is clearly interested in Rotary's efforts to end this human travesty and receives our newsletter, I am asking you to:

Right now it looks like Our goal is to raise **\$5,000 by September 30** to support at least three projects this Rotary Year.

As an added incentive, we have been offered a matching donation of up to \$2,500 which is a huge opportunity for us!

Your donation will help achieve this goal!

1. **Make a donation to the RCEHT Foundation.**

- Giving is easy. Use the **"DONATE"** link on the RCEHT Club website. Donations will be directed to the Club Foundation.

<https://www.endhrtrotaryclub.org/>

- Donate either through PayPal, direct donation or use the QR Code. We can also receive funds through Zelle.
- The Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking Foundation is a registered 501c3 charitable organization the U.S.A. (EIN=87-0896985).

2. Copy this article and forward this email to people in your personal network who are also concerned about ending human trafficking. And ask them to forward to their network.

- As **Margaret Mead** said:
"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."

SB14 UPDATE



BREAKING NEWS: VICTORY FOR JUSTICE!

By 3STRANDS GLOBAL FOUNDATION

We are thrilled to announce that SB14 has PASSED through the CA Assembly Public Safety Committee and is now headed to Appropriations. This is a victory in our fight against human trafficking of minors.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who fought tirelessly for this bill's passage - **State Senator Shannon Grove**, the public safety committee members, our dedicated team at 3Strands Global Foundation, and YOU, our resilient community of supporters. Your voices, your actions, and your unwavering commitment to our cause have been instrumental in making this monumental change possible.

This victory is a powerful testament to what we can achieve when we unite in the fight against human trafficking. However, the journey doesn't end here.

Let's continue to stand together, support each other, and fight for justice and protection for our children.

From all of us at 3Strands Global Foundation, thank you for standing with us. Today, we celebrate, but tomorrow, we continue our work, knowing we're one step closer to a world FREE from human trafficking.



MORE WAYS TO HELP:

This summer, we're presented with a unique opportunity: an anonymous donor and 5 Star Bank have generously offered to match every donation we receive, dollar-for-dollar, up to **\$20,000**. This means that your contribution will have **DOUBLE the impact**, enabling us to extend our reach further and intensify our efforts.

GIVE TODAY!



Our goal for the summer is to fund the **PROTECT program**. As we approach the milestone of reaching **ONE MILLION** students through **PROTECT**, your support is more crucial than ever. Every dollar you donate will help us achieve this goal, and with our matching donation, your impact will be doubled.





Rotarians Empower Students to Help End Child Trafficking “Not One More Victim”

NORTH JACKSONVILLE, FL., USA (10 AUGUST 2023)

SUBMITTED BY RICK NAYLOR

It was announced today that the Rotary Club of North Jacksonville received a grant of \$1000.00 from the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (“RAGAS”). North Jacksonville President-Elect, Denny Winkelman, along with Madison Edwards, a former Interact Club and National Honor Society Student Leader who graduated from First Coast High School and who is now an intern working during the summer of 2023 as an anti-human trafficking advocate, submitted the grant request during June 2023. Per Winkelman: “our North Jacksonville Florida Rotarians are highly focused on creating a world where every child is safe-and-free from exploitation”.

Rotarian Members in a multitude of clubs worldwide are firmly committed to this very high-impact initiative. It is specifically designed as a high-profile awareness and outreach project to educate and train groups of students at both high schools and colleges to detect, defend and disrupt predators in their own environment and to stop the scourge of child trafficking.

The grant will be used in Florida to further the training already underway at the First Coast High School and to expand this project to high schools throughout Northeast Florida. Using the Partners Against Child Trafficking online, multi-media SACT training-program automation (Students Against Child Trafficking), North Jacksonville Rotarians, under the leadership of its President Tom Meissgeier, a retired US Army Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel, believe this project will have a very significant and lasting community impact in the protection of our vulnerable youth. Pat Mulvihill, one of the North Jacksonville Club Leaders “thanks RAGAS for this grant to empower young leaders combat child trafficking and help eradicate modern human slavery”.

About Our Family of Rotary: The North Jacksonville Family of Rotary is part of a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.4 million members of more than 46,000 Rotary clubs in almost every country in the world. Their work improves lives at both the local and international

levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. Rotary & the Partners Against Child Trafficking Team empowers students

through peer-to-peer programs to prevent victimization. RAGAS is a global action-driven network of Rotarians dedicated to freedom by working together to abolish modern slavery.

CONTACT: Rotarian Denny Winkelman, 503.707.1766 / denny@pactedu.org



CLUB UPDATES

A movie about human trafficking came out on July 4th called the "**Sound of Freedom**," which inspired a Homeland Security Investigations agent, **Tim Ballard**.

After rescuing a boy from ruthless child traffickers, a federal agent learns the boy's sister is still captive and decides to embark on a dangerous mission to save her. With time running out, he quits his job and journeys deep into the Colombian jungle, putting his life on the line to free her from a fate worse than death.



We invite you to leverage this movie to enlighten your club members and neighbors in your corner of the United States to raise community awareness and start the conversation.

A simple way to do that is to see when the movie showing near you and then invite your club, friends, family, neighbors etc.

To get a free ticket, **[click on this link](#)**

UPDATES FROM SEP 7 BOARD MEETING

- Two new “branch” clubs: East Africa Rotary and West Africa Rotary
- Endorsement: as recommended by Programs and Projects Committee, Her Future Coalition approved as 5th RCEHT endorsee
- Funding Goal met: more than 5000 USD pledged – yay!

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

Please complete [this form](#) to submit relevant information or news you would like to share with the club in the next issue. The more we collaborate and connect with each other, the stronger our club is in creating effective change to achieve our Rotary mission.

SPOTLIGHT ON KAREN WALKOWSKI

- **How long have you been a member of Rotary?**

I have been a member since 2012 when my father invited me to a club meeting.

- **Why did you join our club?**

I was privileged to lead an effort to end human trafficking in Minnesota in 2017. Building on the success of this effort, our District leadership suggested I start a club that focuses on ending human trafficking around the world

- **How do you define success?**

Success is doing something that makes an impact- Individually, locally or larger scale

- **Who inspires you and why?**

People who inspire me, make me want to be a better person or accomplish more things so those people include my children, many Rotary peers, and friends who do great work making a difference in their various communities.

- **What advice would you give to someone who wants to enter your professional field?**

I would tell them to: 1) always challenge yourself, 2) always be true to yourself, 3) be open to be a true "life long learner" 4) work hard to build a network of people you trust and can rely on.

- **What's one thing you learned in the last month?**

I learned the joy of just sitting and watching a baby as they sleep. For someone as restless and action oriented as I am, this has been a true gift.

- **What's the last book you read?**

I read 2 novels set in Africa. I also recently read "American Dirt" about people trying to migrate into the USA.

- **What is your favorite hobby?**

I love to cook and entertain others for a good meal.

- **What's the first concert you ever attended?**

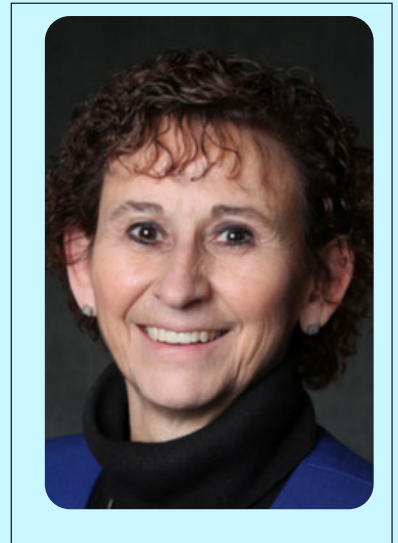
The Minnesota Orchestra. My parents were classical music fans and they brought us to family concerts when I was a child. They taught me to also love classical music!

- **What's the next place on your travel list?**

My husband and I are travelling to Tanzania with another couple in September. Then my sister in law and I are travelling to Dublin, Ireland in October.

- **What's one item you can't live without?**

My phone. It is my brain, and lifeline!



- **How long have you been a member of Rotary?**

5 Years

- **Why did you join our club?**

Its mission is in alignment with my passions.

- **What's your favorite part of being a member of our club?**

Getting to work with the Triumvirate

- **What committee(s) do you currently volunteer with?**

Economic Development, Membership

- **How do you define success?**

Achieving one's full personal potential



- **What's one thing you learned in the last month?**

One does not eat egg stew with Apele in Ghana.

- **What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know?**

I am a kidney donor.

- **What is your favorite hobby?**

Travel and cooking

- **What's the next place on your travel list?**

Shanghai, China

- **If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

SE Asian Soup Noodles

Standing Meetings

BOARD MEETING:

1st Thursday of the month @ 7 AM
CT (US / Canada)

GENERAL MEETING

Thurs. (Sep 14) @ 7 AM CT (US/
Canada).

TOPIC

Branch Clubs - Michael, Mary and
Benedicta

We are creating branches to our
club in East and West Africa. Come
find out what a branch is, who our
branch members are and help us
get organized in their creation. We
hope you will join us!

GENERAL MEETINGS

Thurs. (Sep 28) @ 7 AM CT (US /
Canada). **SOCIAL DAY.**

Thurs. (Oct 12 @ 7 AM CT (US /
Canada). **TIP speaker**

Thurs. (Oct 26 @ 7 AM CT (US /
Canada). **ACTION DAY**

SEP/OCT CALENDAR

Ashlie Bryant speaking at Seattle
#4 Rotary.

Ashlie Bryant from 3Strands Global
(one of our current 4 endorsees)
will be speaking on **Wednesday,
October 4**, at a Seattle Rotary Club,

Wednesday, **October 4 at 12:30PST**
Seattle #4 Rotary

Guest Speaker: Ashlie Bryant, CEO
of 3Strands Global

Zoomlink:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/854879
05655](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85487905655)

**VISIT RCEHT SOCIAL
MEDIA PAGES.**

