

ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

RAGAS NEWSLETTER

<https://ragas.online/>

This Rotary Action Group is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.

SOUND OF FREEDOM MOVIE



A movie about human trafficking came out on July 4th called the "Sound of Freedom". It chronicles the story which inspired a Homeland Security Investigations agent, Tim Ballard, to take action to rescue children. It is a glimpse into a dark underworld that is beautifully told and opens the eyes and hearts of the audience to human trafficking.


The RAGAS Mission is to Connect, Equip, Empower our members to Engage their communities to eradicate human trafficking/modern slavery around the globe. To that end, 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 is showing near you and then invite your club, friends, family, neighbors etc. You can get free tickets at https://www.angel.com/tickets/sound-of-freedom?promo=sof-claim-free&gclid=CjOKCQjw8NilBhDOARIsAHZpbLARbcTE9Agl1KgkQOP5P8IKqvMhVkWzRmvCHsyZ9iYJHJxzBc9ZMI4aAjUeEALw_wcB&zip=85226&date=2023-07-19

PACE LEARNING CENTER



Over 12 years ago I "Bob Deering" heard the story of PACE Learning Center in Piyala, India from my good friend Deepa Willingham. I have seen the video of Jaba and show it in my presentations. I am a supporter and have watched one of the students I have supported go to nursing school. I now am a member of their board of directors and faithfully support them any way I can. Please read their story. Only "we" can make a difference.

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/places/a-school-in-piyali-south-24-parganas-is-educating-and-empowering-the-girl-child/cid/1950750>



pace universal
Educate & Empower

A Counter Trafficking Initiative

PACE Universal (PACE) envisions a world free from child trafficking where girls are able to pursue quality education, are empowered to discover and reach their full potentials, and are poised to better their own lives and that of their communities. PACE works in and with marginalized communities to achieve this through education, women empowerment programmes, and village rehabilitation.

PACE Learning Centre (PLC), a joint project between PACE and the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan, was created in the village of Piyali Junction, India to change in the lives of people who were living on less than \$1 - \$2 per day. Anchoring PACE's counter trafficking movement are the 205 girls studying in school; 12 girls are pursuing Higher Education; 12 women enrolled in Adult Literacy Programme and 109 women are having Vocational Training courses under global grant #2120359; and where 43 women are benefiting from PLC's job placement programmes after successful completion of their training regimen. Reverse Osmosis (RO) mineral water and new computer lab are new additions to the centre. 45 clean water wells, 450 sanitation units, and 12,000 fruit bearing trees can now be found in the community.

Together PACE, its partners, friends, and supporters are fighting child trafficking and changing the face of extreme poverty - one girl...one woman...one village at a time!

PACE Universal
1 North Calle Cesar Chavez, Suite, 102 Santa Barbara, CA 93103
www.paceuniversal.org | contact@paceuniversal.com

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

It was such an honor to represent RAGAS at “The Role of Public-Private Partnership to Combat Human Trafficking” event hosted by the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington DC. What an impactful event!

The presentations covered all aspects of the Human Trafficking issue primarily focusing on solutions. Presentations given by two very inspiring First Ladies, Marty Kemp, Georgia and Donna Hutto Edwards, Louisiana. They are leading the nation with their work to combat Human Trafficking - <https://gov.georgia.gov/first-lady/grace-commission> Panelist included: UPS; Director Center on HT Homeland Security, Cardell Morant; Secretary of Iowa State, Paul Pate; Survivor Services and Law Enforcement.

View the event on C-Span here-<https://www.c-span.org/video/?529369-3/georgia-louisiana-ladies-discuss-human-trafficking>.

I would like to thank the US Chamber of Commerce for hosting this incredible event and for including RAGAS to be a part of it. Thank you to all who participated and attended. It certainly provided tremendous opportunities for each of us to network, collaborate and join forces to combat Human Trafficking.

Sincerely,
Dave McCleary



COLLABORATION IN THAILAND



Thailand's Rotary Action Group Against Slavery Team (TRAGAST) has a huge dream; provide every child in Thailand and eventually the Mekong Region, with effective human trafficking prevention training. Today, this is being done by working in collaboration with The Peace Culture Foundation whose founder is Rotary Peace Fellow Dr. Sombat Tapanya.

Through the work of our two organizations in combating human trafficking we are working to provide:

- a. Restoration / Aftercare services are provided to survivors in need.
- b. Intervention / Rescue services are efforts to remove those trafficked from their captors.
- c. Prevention services include education and awareness and it is in this area where we work to achieve our amazing goal of providing prevention training to children.

We are honored of knowing and working with a group of sister organizations here in Chiang Mai which epitomize collaboration. The include:

The Whispering Willow which provides needed services to people rescued from the sex industry.

JoJo's Sanctuary provides education through scholarships, child protection workshops, and other family programs.

New Beginning Foundation (formerly known as the Wipe Every Tear Foundation) which provides temporary housing and employment training and opportunities.

Urban Light provides services to at risk boys and men including education and housing.

Why do these organizations collaborate as each person they encounter is different?

- If you were working in prevention, you will most likely encounter someone in need of protection. Similarly, if you are working in protection, you will encounter someone who needs to learn prevention.
- organizations focus on exploitation, not just anti-trafficking. Looking at it from that perspective, we all do intervention, but we are not all "anti-trafficking" organizations.

COLLABORATION IN THAILAND

The need to collaborate comes from the gap in our services in each organization.

- We refer cases to each other because we know what each organization focuses on and does well, so we work on cases together.

Like in Thailand, if we would all work together, we could solve more of the problems we face and make a difference to those in need.

By: Jerry Nelson



SEVENTEEN ROTARY CLUBS JOIN FORCES TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING & MODERN DAY SLAVERY

US Rotary District 6000, located in Iowa, was one of ten successful grantees to receive a \$1000 RAGAS Community Awareness and Prevention Education (CAPE) grant. The 12-month grant project is rapidly drawing to a close and it is time to report the successful outcome.

The District 6000 Grant was carried out by 17 Rotary Clubs. There were 7 different community prevention/education (P/E) projects launched by 7 of the 17 Rotary Clubs and one project was carried out by a combined effort of 10 clubs. The 10 clubs that joined forces were all located in central Iowa in and near the state capital of Des Moines. This 10-club collaboration not only educated their own Rotary members but also raised \$45,000 to support non-profit survivor service providers.

To carry out this multi-club grant, District 6000 formed a Prevent Human Trafficking Action Team. The goal of the Action Team was to educate all 57 District 6000 Rotary clubs to become aware of the growing HT/MS problem and to initiate a variety of P/E anti-trafficking prevention projects in local communities. The team met monthly via Zoom. The first step was to develop and show a PowerPoint training to each of the 17 clubs. The slide presentation ended with a description of why Rotary is uniquely positioned to fight HT/MS through its ability to pull communities together for a common humanitarian cause.

The \$1000 RAGAS pivotal (Piotel) grant was matched by the \$2,500 in District 6000 funds. The District has recently made an additional \$5,000 available to the Action Team to continue CAPE projects into a second year of operation. Therefore, District 6000 did not need to apply for another CAPE grant for 2023-24.

The District 6000 CAPE grant is a good example of how a small amount of RAGAS funding can motivate Rotary Districts to organize and stimulate clubs to join the fight against human trafficking. This was the original intent of the RAGAS grant program and proves that even a small grant amount of only \$1,000 can incentivize districts and clubs to commit “boots on the ground” Rotarians to work to educate/prevent.

(Once) As Rotarians enter the world of HT/MS and explore what they can do together to end this global crime, we have seen how they (Rotarians) will take up this urgent cause and become (a) present day abolitionists. Some of the club CAPE community projects have focused on arming and protecting school-age youth from all forms of trafficking exploitation. All 17 Rotary clubs partnered with local nonprofits, faith communities, and schools to initiate P/E programs that will hopefully be sustainable in future years. All projects have distributed rescue stickers with the 888-3737-888 national hotline so people can report suspected trafficking and for victims to ask for help. These stickers have been on display on the last page of the RAGAS newsletter for the past few months. Between the Rotary clubs and a partner organization, the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking, over 15,000 stickers have been posted statewide.

SEVENTEEN ROTARY CLUBS JOIN FORCES TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING & MODERN DAY SLAVERY

One other statewide project taken up by the 17 clubs has been in partnership with Iowa Secretary of State, Paul Pate. The SOS launched the new P/E initiative called Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking (IBAT) 12 months ago. The SOS has presented the IBAT program to nearly all of the 17 Action Team Rotary Clubs.

Secretary Pate met with the Action Team on July 9th 2023 to report that there are already 700 IBAT members reaching over 300,000 employees. He asked the clubs to push hard to help IBAT to reach 1000 corporate members by the end of this summer. Secretary Pate joined the Action Team Zoom meeting from Washington DC where he was attending the annual National Association meeting. He presented a workshop to secretaries from around the country and several plans to replicate the IBAT program in their own states.

Now to end this CAPE grant report with a description of the Iowa project carried out by the 10 Central Iowa Rotary Club collaborations. The project ended with a training event held at a Des Moines hotel in May 2nd, 2023. 140 Rotarians and their guests paid \$20 each to attend a fundraising program focused on preventing human trafficking across greater Des Moines. Each of the clubs matched the funds raised at the Rotary-sponsored event, which added up to a total of \$45,000 raised. All net proceeds were donated to local nonprofits fighting human trafficking. Participants learned from some of Iowa's heroes fighting this important issue. Their excellent panel of speakers included a survivor, an IBAT business, a Chief Federal Court Judge, and a Victim Witness Specialist. The Des Moines Rotary Multi-Clubs May 2nd event capped off their major local educational project. These 10 clubs plan to repeat the project next year with a focus on trafficking prevention nonprofits. By Dr. George Belitsos



RAGAS SOCIAL MEDIA

RAGAS communication

You can receive the information by following us on social media!

- [RAGAS Facebook](#)
- [RAGAS LinkedIn](#)
- [RAGAS Twitter](#)
- [RAGAS Instagram](#)
- [RAGAS YouTube](#)



LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT?
帮助您的方法 ¿ESTÁS BUSCANDO UNA SALIDA? ¿NECESITAS AYUDA?
STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING
NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE
888-3737-888
or Text "Help" to 233733 (BeFree)
IOWA VICTIM SERVICE CALL CENTER
800-770-1650
IT HAPPENS HERE IN IOWA or Text "iowahelp" to 20121
Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking & Slavery www.iowaht.org Rotary

This was a sticker created by the Rotary District 6000 Prevent Human Trafficking Action Team. For more information or questions, contact RAGAS Board member Dr. George Belitsos at gbelitsos55@gmail.com

TAKE ACTION

We are not defined by who we are, but by our actions. To contribute to ending modern slavery, you can:

- Become a RAGAS member from [here](#).
- Donate to RAGAS, or organisations working on ending modern slavery.
- [Contact your local Coordinator](#) to volunteer for RAGAS.
- Invite a RAGAS speaker to your local club meeting to talk about modern slavery.
- Initiate a Global Grant project to fight against modern slavery.

Engage with Rotary clubs that dedicates to ending modern slavery, including:

- District 5950 [Rotary eClub to End Human Trafficking](#),
- District 5710 [Rotary eClub of Community Action Against Human Trafficking](#),
- District 5280 [Rotarians Fighting Human Trafficking](#),
- District 5810 [Rotary Satellite Club of Greenville to End Human Trafficking](#)
- District 1260 [Ware Rotary Satellite Club Rotary for Slave Free Communities](#)
- District 5030 [The Pacific Northwest Ending Sex Trafficking](#)
- District 5840 [To Combat Human Trafficking](#).