



A SAFE PLACE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 WINTER 2025



FROM THE DESK OF OUR CEO

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, we are reminded of the staggering reality that over 27.6 million people worldwide are victims of human trafficking. In the United States alone, thousands fall prey

to this heinous crime each year. Shockingly, 71% of trafficking victims are women and girls, and 25% are children. The entire state of Illinois has around 750 Human Trafficking (HT) cases. A Safe Place has served over 53 of those victims in just the last eight months. This is of reported cases only. The numbers are much higher but are difficult to track due to victims being terrified of reporting their trafficker, especially since a majority of the cases involve their intimate partner being the one who is exploiting them or someone they may know.

During January, A Safe Place was dedicated to raising awareness and honoring the resilience of survivors. Together, we can make a difference and work towards a world free from exploitation.

~ Pat Davenport

KARINA'S BILL, BARRING DOMESTIC ABUSERS FROM OWNING FIREARMS, PASSED IN ILLINOIS

Karina's Bill Will:

- Require firearm removal when a domestic violence survivor is granted certain orders of protection
- Prevent abusers from transferring their firearm to friends or family

Karina's Bill, recently passed by the Illinois State Legislature, is a significant win for domestic violence survivors. The law requires firearms to be removed from abusive partners when an order of protection is filed, aiming to prevent tragedies like the 2023 murders of Karina Gonzalez and her

daughter, Daniela, despite Karina having an order in place. Under the law, firearms must be surrendered within 14 days, and judges can issue search warrants for weapons. Named in honor of Karina and Daniela, this bill aims to protect survivors and prevent further harm.

"If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong." ~ Abraham Lincoln

CANDLE LIGHTING: STANDING AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING



A special thank you to Eric Rinehart, Lake County State's Attorney, Dr. Margarita Garcia, Chief Crisis Response Officer, Jessica Lomelin, LSW, Director of the Human Trafficking Collaborative, and Damaris Lorta, Chief Development Officer for their leadership in combating human trafficking.

On January 8, over 20 community members gathered to show support for survivors. The evening included insightful discussions on the importance of community involvement

in addressing human trafficking, leaving participants with a deeper understanding of survivors' challenges and recovery needs.

Thank you to all who attended and continue to stand with survivors. Together, we can work toward a future free from human trafficking.

upcoming EVENTS 2025



EmpowerRun/Walk

May 3, 2025

Golf Outing

August 2025 -TBD

Wine, Women & Shoes

May 16, 2025

Unmask the Violence Gala

October 18, 2025



For more information contact

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HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT A SAFE PLACE

- Join a committee to support our Capital Campaign
- Follow Us On Social Media, and share your posts with your contacts
- Join the Fun – Attend Our Events!
- Join the Purple Ribbon Society and provide ongoing support to A Safe Place every month

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Stay Connected!

