



December 2015

Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago

To a Dedicated Network

As we approach the end of 2015, we are reminded just how grateful we are for this amazing coalition - our organizational and individual members and partners and our listserv of 350 and growing. This year alone you have helped victims and those at risk here in Chicago as well as survivors needing supplies to help them make a fresh start!

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Donna Fishman and Beth Gordon
JCAST Chicago Steering Committee Co-Chairs

JCAST Chicago Blog

JCAST Chicago: A brief history and 2015 Recap **Great End of Year News**

JCAST Chicago is proud and thrilled to announce that we have received a 2016 continuation grant from the Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. This grant will allow JCAST Chicago to continue its work educating and raising awareness of the need to end demand and assist survivors. We want to thank the Foundation and the hard work of our Steering Committee, coalition members, active volunteers and donors, and we especially want to call out the exemplary work of our two staff members: Julie Newman, Program Director and Melissa Prober, Communications Guru.

Our History

In keeping with NCJW Chicago North Shore section leadership on violence against women, NCJW formed JCAST Chicago in early 2014 in response to growing concern in the Jewish and secular communities about the incidence and consequences of sex

AJWS

JCAST Chicago featured organization

Each month, JCAST Chicago highlights an organization dedicated to the fight against human trafficking. Our December organization is the [American Jewish World Service](#).

American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is the first and only Jewish organization dedicated solely to ending poverty and promoting human rights in the developing world. Through philanthropy and advocacy, AJWS has addressed some of the gravest global problems of our time-genocide, AIDS, violence against women and girls, hatred of LGBT people, and the horrific consequences of natural and human-made disasters.

AJWS Chicago is a hub for Chicagoans who want to build a better world, who come together for philanthropy, activism and community events to help end poverty and promote human rights in developing countries; bridging the gap between the world as it is and the world as it should be.

trafficking. Inspired by Jewish values, we partner with interfaith and human rights groups, organizations, government officials, and law enforcement agencies; we are THE VOICE of the local Jewish community against sex trafficking. With continual outreach to Jewish and secular organizations, JCAST Chicago is a broad-based coalition (with a listserve of 350) that shares advocacy alerts, a monthly E-newsletter, and blog.

Our mission: JCAST Chicago works to eradicate sex trafficking in the Chicagoland area through public awareness and education, community engagement, and advocacy at local, state and national levels. JCAST Chicago receives funds from NCJW CNS, the Jewish Women's Foundation of Chicago (JWF), the Driehaus Foundation, membership dues, program fees, and donations. JCAST Chicago has reached over 1,350 people through presentations, promotional materials, and E-News. JCAST Chicago has orchestrated, facilitated, and/or co-sponsored 30 initiatives: educational programs, actions alerts, book and text studies and conference exhibits.

[Read More:](#)

JCAST Chicago Upcoming Events

NCJW/Hadassah Joint Day of Action

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Details are still pending but save the date on your calendar and watch your inbox or visit the [NCJW](#) or [JCAST Chicago](#) websites for more information as it becomes available.

Cease Network Community Awareness Event

Saturday January 23, 2016; 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake Street, Oak Park

In honor of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, spend a Shabbat learning with JCAST Chicago at this amazing event sponsored by the CEASE Network Cook County. The CEASE Network (Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation) is a collaboration of pioneering cities committed to reducing sex-buying by 20 percent in two years.

Featured Speakers Include:

Honorable Judge Diedre Monroe, City Courts, Gary, IN

Marian Hatcher, Human Trafficking Coordinator, Cook County Sheriff's Office

Demetrius Porter, CEASE Survivor Leader

Donna Gutman, CEASE Network Coordinator, JCAST Chicago Steering Committee

For more information about AJWS, visit their [website](#).

Steering Committee

JCAST Chicago is governed by a Steering Committee of dedicated individuals. If you would be interested in serving on the steering committee or one of JCAST Chicago's Action Teams, email info@jcastchicago.org.

JCAST Chicago Steering Committee

Cathy Carmody, NCJW

Donna Fishman, NCJW

Beth Gordon, NCJW, Congregation Hakafa

Donna Gutman, NCJW, ICJW, CEASE Network

Taal Hasak-Lowy, AJWS

Sara Kalish, JWF

Betsy Lazerow, JCFS, JCARES

Carole Levine, NCJW

Mara Ruff, JUF

Susan Rifas, JUF, JWF

Heather Ross, NCJW, Congregation Hakafa

Stacy Saef, NCJW

Deborah Zionts, NCJW, SHALVA

Julie Newman, NCJW & JCAST Staff

Melissa Prober, NCJW & JCAST Staff



Resources

[How to Talk to Your Son About Rape: A Guide for Dads and Hockey Fans](#)

Caleb Probst, Educator, CAASE, imagines a conversation between a

Reservations are not required. For more information email info@jcastchicago.org

Immigration 201

Monday, January 25, 2016; 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, Chicago

Immigration 101 this fall was so successful, that NCJW has scheduled "part two" (check your inbox for details on part three coming this spring!) Kimberly Drew, Senior Project Manager, Economic Security Policy at Heartland Alliance, will provide an overview of the status of immigrant women and girls in Chicagoland, and Lissette Castillo, Chicago New Sanctuary Coalition (CNSC) Organizer, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America will provide us with real life examples using her experience as an Immigration Community Organizer. The program moderator is Jane L. Ramsey, Adjunct Professor for Graduate students at the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration. The individual charge for the program is \$10 per person and participants will bring their own lunch. Refreshments and dessert provided. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

Sex Trafficking: It's in your Community, Too

Sunday, January 31, 2016; 4:00 - 6:00 pm
North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe

Sex Trafficking: We don't like to acknowledge it, but it's all around us and we're taking a stand against it in our community. Hadassah Chicago-North Shore is hosting an advocacy and action program on the devastating and local issue of human sex-trafficking.

NCJW and JCAST Chicago are among the program co-sponsors. The program consists of a moderated panel discussion with keynote speaker Cook County Prosecutor, Anita Alvarez.

Tentative co-panelists include Cook County Sheriff, Tom Dart, State Senator 29th District, Julie Morrison, and a trafficking survivor. The program begins at 4:00 followed by light refreshments and sponsor information session. There is no fee to attend but reservations will be required due to limited seating. Please RSVP chicago-northshore@hadassah.org or 847-205-1900 by January 22, 2016.

A Discussion on Sex Trafficking in Israel

Sunday, March 20, 2016; 4:00 - 5:30 pm
Curt's Cafe, 2922 Central Street, Evanston

NCJW Israel Office Director Shari Eshet will be returning to the Midwest to speak with JCAST Chicago on Sex Trafficking in Israel. While Israel has taken a hard stand against sex trafficking, it is a country with legalized prostitution. For more than 60 years, NCJW has helped lay the groundwork for important social change

father and son, making the assumption that the son would be an avid hockey fan with Patrick Kane as a favorite players. [Click here](#) for the blog post.

[URI North America](#) (United Religions Initiative) has some wonderful resources on sex trafficking available. [Click here](#) to visit their website.

[youthSpark](#) works to end child sex trafficking through prevention, early intervention, and youth-empowered education. youthSpark has produced PSAs with tips on how to talk to youth about trafficking. [Click here](#) to view.

8 Facts About the U.S. Sex Economy, a study published by the URBAN Institute discusses the underground economies of sex, drugs, and guns in eight cities: Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, San Diego, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. [Click here](#) for the study, and [click here](#) for an article about the study in the Atlantic magazine.

[IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast to End Human Trafficking](#)

Each week, the IN PLAIN SIGHT Podcast features a an inspiring speaker who may educate you in your work to end human trafficking around the globe. [Click here](#) for a link to the website.



Take Action

efforts in Israel. NCJW recently awarded a grant to Turning the Tables. Active in Tel Aviv since 2011, Turning the Tables addresses the vocational and economic advancement of women leaving the cycle of prostitution and sex trafficking. NCJW's grant will establish a pilot program to extend services to new locations throughout Israel. Learn about this and more at this wonderful program. Registration will open in late winter.

Dignity Bag Packing for Chicago Sex Trafficking Victims

JCAST Chicago continues to collect toiletries and other items to help [The Dreamcatcher Foundation](#) during its outreach to youth who are trafficked and prostituted in Chicago. Each month, at least 300 bags are distributed, and they are in need of year-round supplies for street survival bags. We have established the following permanent collection sites so that you may always have the opportunity to help out with any of the following items:

Encore & More 1107 Central Ave Wilmette, IL M-S: 10am-5pm	Hadassah Resale 405 Lake Cook Rd. Deerfield, IL M-F: 10am-5pm Sunday: noon-4pm	Hadassah Office 60 Revere Drive, Suite 800 Northbrook, IL M-F: 8:30am-4:30pm
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Street Dignity Bag Packing List:

These items are needed in small, travel sizes. One of each item will be packed in a gallon ziploc "street survival" bag. These items may be packed in ziploc or other small bag, or donated in bulk.

- * Toothbrush and toothpaste (*ask your dentist!)
- * Hand sanitizer
- * Granola or power bar
- * Tissues
- * Hand lotion
- * Gallon Ziploc Bags
- * \$5 McDonald's Gift Cards

Prevention Bag Packing List:

Please include one of each regular sized product for girls living in at-risk communities. These items may be packed in a tote bag and donated in bulk.

- * Shampoo
- * Liquid body soap
- * Dove soap
- * Deodorant
- * Lotion or moisturizer
- * Perfumed body spray
- * Gift or tote bags

Bulk items, hotel toiletries and gift cards to McDonalds (\$5), Target, Dollar Store, CVS or Walgreens (any amount) are always welcome

Updates:

The Power of Testimony

We have been fortunate through JCAST Chicago, to have trafficking survivors share their stories with us. Through their testimony, we renew our commitment to ending the demand for

Here are some things you can do today to take action against Sex Trafficking:

*** Like our Facebook Page**

[Click here](#) to like us on Facebook

*** Follow us on Twitter**

[Click here](#) to follow us on Twitter

*** Sign up for Action Alerts**

Visit our website to keep up-to-date with the issues most relevant to you. Sign up for JCAST Chicago, NCJW or Sex Trafficking Action Alerts today!

www.ncjwcns.org/jcast.

*** Send a Letter**

Send a letter calling on local leaders and law enforcement to enforce laws and end demand. Visit our website to print out constructions and a sample letter. jcastchicago.org/st-resources

*** Hang a Flyer**

Victims may visit bus stations, grocery stores, currency exchanges, and gas stations. Hang a poster featuring the hotline for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. and help them escape to safety! Visit our website for more information and to print flyers.

jcastchicago.org/st-resources

*** Write a Letter to the Editor**

Write a letter to the editor when

sex trafficking and helping the survivors move on. [Click here](#) for a moving *D'var Torah* written by Rachel Farbiarz for American Jewish World Service on *Parashat Vayigash* and the transformative power of personal testimony.

The Power of Educators

The following content was drawn from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center bi-monthly newsletter. For more information, please call the NHTRC at 1-888-373-7888 or visit the NHTRC at traffickingresourcecenter.org.

Due to their close interaction with children in the school system, educators and school officials are uniquely well-positioned to identify situations where children are experiencing potential abuse, including human trafficking. Although they play a critical role, educators and school officials cannot address child trafficking alone. It is crucial for schools to partner with anti-trafficking task forces, commissions, or other entities in their community that may be responsible for coordinating community-wide trafficking responses, facilitating communication across agencies and jurisdictions, and serving victims of trafficking.

In 2014, the NHTRC received over 200 requests from Educators or School Personnel who contacted the NHTRC, and approximately 29% of those cases referenced potential trafficking. One such example is a case involving Laura* and one of her students:

Laura, a school counselor, called the NHTRC because she was concerned that one of her middle school students, Alyssa, was engaging in commercial sex. Alyssa was a frequent runaway and was recently found at a home with several adults where commercial sex was believed to be taking place. Laura told the NHTRC that Alyssa's foster family had noticed that she had recently received some expensive gifts, and some of Alyssa's peers had reported that she was having sex in exchange for money. Laura planned to speak to Alyssa in order to get a better understanding of what was going on, but wanted the NHTRC's guidance. The NHTRC talked through some of the indicators of trafficking and how to do a trafficking assessment. Additionally, the NHTRC provided Laura with referrals to local resources and sent her a comprehensive assessment tool for educators.

In order to further assist educators and school officials like Laura, the NHTRC has developed an online training tool entitled 'Human Trafficking Awareness for Educators'. This training aims to raise awareness for educators and school officials on how human trafficking affects schools and students in the United States and offers best practices and suggestions for building a response to trafficking.

By educating teachers, school officials, and staff on the issue of trafficking, implementing a protocol for when indicators are

you learn publicly about arrests of perpetrators of sex trafficking? Commending the media, the police departments involved, and local authorities keeps sex trafficking in the news and encourages more enforcement. Visit our website for a sample letter to the editor.

jcastchicago.org/st-resources



Support JCAST Chicago

[Click here](#) to donate to JCAST to help subsidize the cost of Dignity Bags or our other projects. Please indicate on the form where you'd like the donation to be directed - i.e., JCAST Chicago. Thank you for your support.

identified, partnering with appropriate organizations, and fostering a safe and supportive campus, schools can respond to trafficking in a comprehensive and collaborative way.

*Names, locations, and other identifying information have been changed and/or omitted to preserve confidentiality.

JCAST Chicago ON THE MOVE

JCAST Chicago has been busy giving presentations across the Chicago Metropolitan area, for Jewish and secular groups. Please help JCAST secure speaking "gigs" at Jewish organizations.

Contact Donna at info@jcastchicago.org with names and contacts at synagogues, chavurot, and other Jewish organizations.

Interns Wanted

NCJW is looking for interns for JCAST Chicago. A great opportunity for undergraduate or graduate students. Contact Donna for more information, info@jcastchicago.org.

Sex Trafficking in the News

More and more our news feeds are filled with stories about sex trafficking - some positive and some negative. Here are a few article links that may be of interest.

- [Lambert Airport gets high profile campaign to fight human trafficking](#)
 - [A young girl narrates her story of being sold for sex and wondering why hotel workers did nothing](#)
 - [Human Trafficking Forum At UM Provides A Public Health Approach To The Issue](#)
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Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago

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JCAST Chicago is supported by the Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.

