



## JCAST Chicago June Blog

### I Am Jane Doe

I Am Jane Doe is a film that tells the true story of a legal battle between several mothers of sex trafficking victims and Backpage.com. Two of the plaintiffs, who are identified using pseudonyms, and their families tell their story of the harrowing experiences they went through when they were trafficked, at ages fifteen and thirteen. Since reuniting with their families, they have taken on legal battles against Backpage, the website on which they were sold for sex. What started as two individual cases multiplied to include several court cases across the county as well as a United States Senate investigation. Backpage repeatedly argued that they were not liable for the ads sold on their website due to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. This act was created to protect new media from lawsuits due to the content on their websites. Backpage used this act and the protection of the first amendment to win or dismiss several cases filed against them. However, the battle is far from over, as the families of the Jane Does are willing to do whatever it takes to get justice for their daughters.

[Click here](#) for the full blog post.

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### Welcome Gayle Nelson JCAST Chicago Engagement and Development Director

Hi, I am Gayle Nelson and I am excited to join the NCJW JCAST Chicago staff. I originally learned of NCJW Chicago North Shore section through my neighbor Stacy Saef. She was a great guide and I appreciated her invitation to many events.

Throughout my career, I have focused on advocacy and partnering with organizations serving women and girls. As an attorney, I have utilized my legal background to write legislation and partner with government officials. I also have diverse fundraising skills from planning intimate house parties to raising critical funds to expand educational and advocacy efforts.

As a consultant, I appreciate the opportunity to connect with various organizations. For example, I also serve as the Executive Director of a Northwest side Chicago community organization serving neighbors on the brink of losing their homes and those experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, I have the privilege of reaching out to other nonprofit professionals and donors. Last September, I was the Keynote speaker for the Grant Professionals Association of Western Pennsylvania's Annual Conference. I spoke on how nonprofits can advocate and protect themselves particularly when their state fails to pass a budget. I am also a regular writer for the Nonprofit Quarterly's Newswire. A couple of years ago, I wrote an [article](#) on sex trafficking after attending a JCAST Chicago program.

I am grateful for the warm welcome I am receiving and look forward to meeting all of you soon. Thank you for all of your work fighting against sex trafficking in the Chicagoland Jewish community and across the City as well as supporting survivors of trafficking.

**DONATE »**

### Support JCAST Chicago

[Click here](#) to donate to JCAST to help subsidize the cost of Dignity Bags or our other projects. Thank you for your support.

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### 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 our Action Teams, email [info@jcastchicago.org](mailto:info@jcastchicago.org).

### Steering Committee Co-Chairs:

Donna Fishman, NCJW  
Susan Rifas, JUF, JWF

### Steering Committee:

Ronna Ash, Hadassah  
Susan Block, Hadassah  
Cathy Carmody, NCJW  
Donna Gutman, NCJW, ICJW, CEASE Network  
Sara Kalish, Chicago Parks Foundation  
Betsy Lazerow, JCFS, JCARES  
Carole Levine, NCJW  
Rae Luskin, NCJW  
Sherry Petlin, NCJW  
Bonnie Ribet, NCJW  
Heather Ross, NCJW, Hakafa  
Mara Ruff, JUF  
Stacy Saef, NCJW  
Cheryl Susman, NCJW CNS  
Joan Zahle, NCJW CNS  
Deborah Zions, NCJW, SHALVA

Gayle Nelson, Engagement and Development Director

Eliana Fleischer, Intern  
Haley Braun, Newsletter Copy Editor

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## Updates and Information

## Green Thumbs Wanted!

JCAST Chicago is partnering with Selah Freedom to build and maintain vegetable and flower gardens at the Selah Freedom house serving sex trafficking survivors on the North Shore.

You Can Help by Donating Supplies and volunteering to work with survivors to maintain the garden. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Donna at [donna@jcastchicago.org](mailto:donna@jcastchicago.org)

To volunteer RSVP at:

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ee5p87lj2j7mefl/a009j2rsf8ba/questions>

## Do you believe the work of JCAST Chicago is important?

Join us as a volunteer speaker to spread the word on the importance of ending demand, strengthening the enforcement of anti-trafficking laws and helping survivors.

Contact Gayle at [gayle@jcastchicago.org](mailto:gayle@jcastchicago.org).

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## Upcoming Events\*

### Selah Freedom Events

#### Selah Freedom Volunteer Connect Meeting

When: Wednesday, July 12 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Where: Willow Creek North Shore (4th and 5th Grade Room)  
2200 Shermer Rd. Glenview

#### About This Event:

This meeting gives you an opportunity to learn more about all of the volunteer opportunities at Selah Freedom and meet the staff.

#### Selah Freedom Care Team Training

When: Wednesday, July 12 from 7:30 - 9:00 PM  
Where: Willow Creek North Shore (4th and 5th Grade Room)  
2200 Shermer Rd. Glenview

#### About This Event:

Volunteer opportunities with survivors include teaching life skills, tutoring, cooking meals, leading AA or NA groups, arts/crafts activities, fitness group, game/movie nights, decorating for special birthdays and holidays and more.

#### Selah Freedom Volunteer Connect Meeting

When: Saturday, July 15 from 9:30 - 10:30 AM  
Where: Fourth Presbyterian Church  
126 E. Chestnut Street (at Michigan Avenue) Chicago

#### About This Event:

This meeting gives you an opportunity to learn more about all of the volunteer opportunities at Selah Freedom and meet the staff.

#### Selah Freedom Core Values Training

When: Thursday, July 20 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM  
Where: *This training will be hosted via Zoom Video Chat and a link will be provided.*

#### About This Event:

Core Value Training is important for all volunteers to attend in order to create a strong united support for the survivors we serve at Selah Freedom. This training will be presented by Laurie Swink, VP of Culture and Co-Founder of Selah Freedom. It is a one time mandatory training for all volunteers.

To RSVP email: [Volunteer@SelahFreedom.com](mailto:Volunteer@SelahFreedom.com)

## Other Events of Interest:

### Teen Dating Violence: Strategies for Prevention, Intervention, and Support

When: Tuesday, June 27 from 9:00am - 12:00pm  
Where: JCFS/Abe and Ida Cooper Center  
6639 North Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, IL



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## Featured Organization

### JCARES (Jewish Community Abuse Resources, Education and Solutions)

Jewish Community Abuse Resources, Education and Solutions JCARES (Jewish Community Abuse Resources, Education and Solutions), a program of Jewish Child & Family Services, offers education and resources to increase awareness, expand understanding and ensure a culturally sensitive, coordinated response to abuse in Jewish homes and families. A catalyst for social justice and institutional change, JCARES is committed to inspiring collaborative action focused on abuse across the lifespan -- from keeping children safe to the well-being of elders.

JCARES' primary initiatives are:

**The JCARES Coalition** includes representation from Jewish and secular social service, mental health, domestic violence and sexual assault agencies; synagogues; funders; governmental and municipality entities; advocates, community leaders and stakeholders. The JCARES coalition is a catalyst for new and strengthened partnerships and collaborative action.

**The Professional Training Institute (PTI)** offers education sessions for professionals, advocates and lay leaders across disciplines - mental health and social services, health care, law enforcement and legal advocates, administrators and educators. Since 2006, the PTI has featured a wide range of sessions focused on giving participants the knowledge, tools and strategies to become more effective and sensitive responders to domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault. In collaboration with other JCFS Community Services programs, the PTI has also provided education that addressed the issues of substance abuse (with the Jewish Center for

About this event:

This dynamic session will provide an overview of Teen Dating Violence (TDV). The presenter will explore the unique strengths and challenges that young people experience as they enter friendships and dating relationships. We will examine the dynamics and warning signs of TDV, its impact on young people, the barriers that many youth face when reporting, as well as strategies for engaging youth to build healthy relationships. The session will include an opportunity to practice interventions using safety planning and support skills. We will also discuss mandated reporting requirements and organizational policies that impact our role as professionals. This session combines presentation and small group work. Visit <http://bit.ly/2sYKhYR> for more information.

### 7th Annual Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force Conference

When: Thursday - Friday, August 3-4

Where: IIT Chicago- Kent College of Law

565 West Adams Street

About the event:

The Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force hosts a human trafficking conference to inform, educate and strengthen anti-trafficking efforts across the city of Chicago, in Cook County and throughout the surrounding areas. The conference generally features two full days of presentations on the most up-to-date and innovative work from local and national experts on human trafficking. For more information visit,

<http://www.cookcountytaskforce.org/annual-conference.html>

\* Please note that not all of these events are sponsored or hosted by JCAST Chicago but are listed here as a convenience to those who might be interested.

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### TAKE ACTION

Toiletry and Gift Card Donations Needed Year-round to support young women trafficked in Chicago that are helped by the Dreamcatcher Foundation.

#### Donation Drop off locations:

Encore & More: 1107 Central Ave, Wilmette

Hadassah Thrift Shop, 405 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield

Hadassah Office, 60 Revere Dr #800, Northbrook

Temple Sholom, 3480 N Lake Shore Dr, Chicago

If you or your organization would consider organizing a collection drive or a packing program, please contact Donna Fishman at [donna@jcastchicago.org](mailto:donna@jcastchicago.org).

#### 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 tote bag, or donated in bulk. ( You might even Ask your local businesses if they have items to donate and share this list.)

toothbrush and toothpaste (\*ask your dentist!)

hand sanitizer

hand lotion

granola or power bar

pack of tissues

Gallon Ziploc Bags

\$5 McDonald's Gift Cards

#### Prevention Bag Packing List:

The Dreamcatcher Foundation regularly visits girls living in at-risk communities, including teen-aged single mothers. These items may be packed in a tote bag and donated in bulk.

shampoo

liquid body soap

dove soap

deodorant

lotion or moisturizer

Addiction), adoption (with Project Esther: The Jewish Adoption Network) and grief (with the Jewish Healing Network). Sessions are offered in geographic locations that span the suburbs and the city of Chicago. Presenters are experts in their field and carefully selected because of their knowledge and ability to convey the most enriching and useful information. Participants can earn credits to fill their licensing or credentialing requirements.

### The Partnership for Safer Communities

initiative is an innovative program that aims to promote health and safety in Jewish day schools, synagogues, camps and other settings through education, policy review and community-building efforts. Safer Communities programs engage lay and professional staff - rabbis and clergy; synagogue, school and camp administrators; educators; parents and students - in learning and dialogue about the impact of abuse across the lifespan, improving access to support for those experiencing abusive situations, and coordinated community strategies that perpetuate healthy, peaceful homes, families and relationships. Safer Communities supports institutions in their efforts to develop individualized protocols and policies that ensure sustainable safe environments into the future.

Betsy Lazerow is the coordinator of JCARES and Community Services Education & Learning Initiatives at JCFS. She serves on the JCAST Chicago Steering Committee.

For toll-free access to help call 855-ASK-JCFS (855.275.5237) or email [ask@jcfs.org](mailto:ask@jcfs.org).

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TAKE  
ACTION  
TODAY!

### Take Action!

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

\* [Like our Facebook Page](#)

\* [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

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\*

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### 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](mailto:info@jcastchicago.org) with names and contacts at synagogues, chavurot, and other Jewish organizations.

### Upcoming JCAST Chicago Presentations

Association of Women Attorneys of Lake County  
Avodah

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### 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.

- [Sex Trafficking's True Victims: Why Are Our Black Girls/Women So Vulnerable?](#)
  - [NYPD using nonprofits to save sex workers in suspected brothels](#)
  - [Group unveils \\$1M campaign to fight Super Bowl sex trafficking](#)
  - [Massage Parlor Crackdown Called 'Operation Hot Towel' Busts 10 Locations](#)
  - [Don't Buy It Project PSA- Official](#)
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or Sex Trafficking Action Alerts today!

#### \* 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.

#### \* 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.

#### \* Write a Letter to the Editor

Write a letter to the editor when 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.



## Resources

### Books:

*Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery* by Siddharth Kara

*Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World where Girls are not for Sale* by Rachel Lloyd

*The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men Who Buy it* by Victor Malarek

*The Natashas: Inside the Global Sex Trade* by Victor Malarek

*Women Hold up Half the Sky: Turing Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Sheryl Wudunn and Nicholas Kristof

### Podcasts:

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.

**Websites:**

[Polaris Project](#)  
[National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#)  
[URI North America](#)  
[Heartland Alliance](#)  
[STOP-IT Initiative Against Human Trafficking](#)  
[American Jewish World Service](#)  
[Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation](#)  
[Selah Freedom](#)  
[National Domestic Workers Alliance](#)

Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking (JCAST) Chicago  
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JCAST Chicago is supported by the Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago.

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