

<http://senecadaily.com/?p=1072239>

Rotarians Learn That Human Trafficking Hits Home

[Jul 18 2017](#)



Written by [Seneca Daily](#)

Read more at SenecaDaily.com <http://senecadaily.com/?p=1072239#ixzz4sIscJoaw>
SDN



As a warm-up for tonight's session at First Presbyterian Church at 6pm, Seneca Falls Rotarians got an education about human trafficking at their noon meeting. The presentation was made by representatives of the Rochester Coalition Against Human Trafficking (<http://rrcaht.org>)

What Rotarians learned from Dr. Celia McIntosh and Melanie Blow was that human trafficking is a problem right here in Seneca County. Dr. McIntosh is the head of the Coalition and finds her job combines her passion for both medicine and law. Individuals and groups are members, including Center for Youth, Worker Justice, Council of Jewish Women, and League of Women Voters. Their common goal is to eradicate this exploitation

Human trafficking takes several forms, including child sex trafficking, forced labor trafficking and adult sex workers. Typically, victims are tricked by the traffickers with promises of good jobs. They target the most vulnerable people, who may be unemployed, drug users, homeless, abused, hungry, runaways or people with problems at home. All too often the perpetrators are trusted adults, foster parents, gang members or "boyfriends."



Dr. Celia McIntosh and Melanie Blow spoke to the Seneca Falls Rotary Club. They will speak again at the First Presbyterian Church at 6pm.

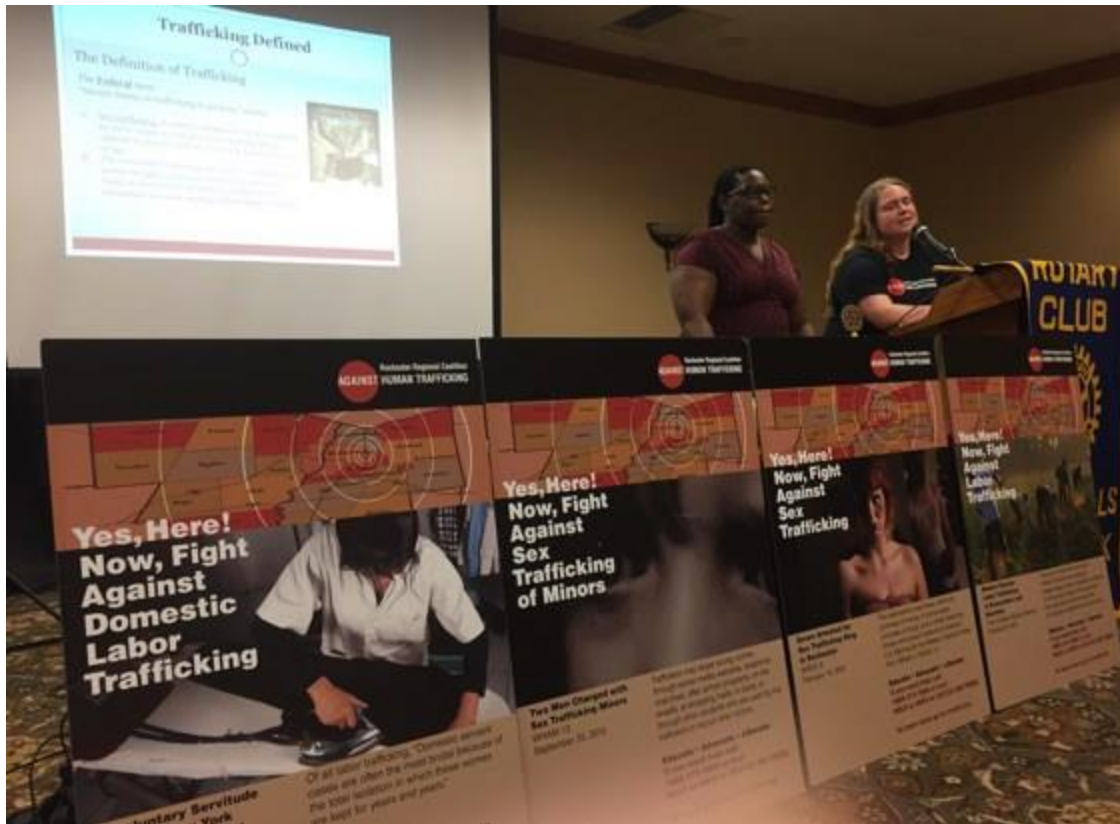
Workers may be told that they owe a fee for finding the job, and the victims need to pay back this debt before they get paid. But somehow the pay never comes, or the debt keeps accumulating. Traffickers often make a strong psychological bond with their victims, using threats, coercion, small rewards and promises of a “loving relationship.”

These bonds can become so strong that if the Pimps are arrested, the victims will refuse to testify against them. Victims can be found on social networks, schools and shopping malls.

Some trafficking victims are brought into US from overseas, where extreme poverty, cultural differences and languages barriers can be readily exploited. A promise can be made such as, “Hey I can get a job for you and you’ll be able to send money back home.”

Red flags to Help Recognize trafficking victims:

Isolation, desperation – unable to leave work, confinement, isolation, no access of own ID, constant fear, signs of physical abuse, don’t know where they are as they are moved around a lot. Overcrowded living conditions, signs of drug use, workers reluctant to speak to visitors, signs of fear, disorientation, physical abuse; single person answering all questions, women or very young workers who appear to be unaccompanied by friends & family.



The speakers described Sex Trafficking is domestic violence on steroids, with an enormous amount of manipulation and abuse involved.

To learn about this problem and what is happening in our own community, readers are invited to the First Presbyterian Church tonight (Tuesday, July 18) at 6pm.

Read more: at SenecaDaily.com <http://senecadaily.com/?p=1072239#ixzz4sIs4V0La>
SDN