

<http://www.whec.com/article/stories/s3710560.shtml>

# Victim of human trafficking shares experiences after bust in Rochester-area

*Updated: 02/18/2015 11:47 PM*

*Created: 02/18/2015 10:50 PM WHEC.com*

*By: Lynette Adams - @whec\_ladams*

Seven people have been charged in a human trafficking sex ring in Rochester.

Investigators say in one case two suspects used force to make one adult take part. Two others are accused of taking a minor across state lines to New Jersey to perform sex acts. Investigators say they used online posts to promote the victims. After the arrest, News10NBC spoke with a woman who was involved in the sex trade as a teen and has tried to use her experience to educate others.

Jennifer Wolfley, of Paper Bag Ladies of Rochester, says, "He continued to gain momentum in a very short time because nobody said this is a red flag."

Wolfley considers herself a survivor of human trafficking and when she heard about Wednesday's arrest, it was all too familiar. The Rochester resident says she was only 11-years-old when her stepfather began molesting her. In exchange for this, she says her stepfather would give her mother and grandmother gifts and money.

"My mother and my whole family went along with my fathers' outrageous activities against me because they wanted the bills paid," says Wolfley.

Wolfley says it finally ended when, at 15, she was taken from her family because she had missed so much school. At 18, she declared her independence and never looked back. Since then, Wolfley has created a not-for-profit organization called "Paper Bag Ladies." With the organization, she hits the streets working with victims of human trafficking to provide basic needs and helping people connect with services. She says the problem is much worse than people think, but she says people can protect themselves from being victimized.

"When someone's engaged in a relationship -- and this goes for any relationship -- and the other party or parties insist you keep it a secret," says Wolfley. "That's a huge red flag."

She says along with reading, writing and arithmetic, schools should teach children about human trafficking in school. She also advises parents not to think you're being too nosey; know what your children are doing.

"People should always know where their children are," says Wolfley. "Young children, young men and young women need to be prepared."

You can learn more about the Paper Bag Ladies of Rochester by clicking [here](#).