



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR
SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

A Message From Prosecutor Walsh Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Many of you may have seen the popular 2012 movie "Taken" starring Liam Neeson. In the movie, Neeson is a retired CIA agent who has a teenage daughter. His 17-year-old daughter and her friend visit Paris and are kidnapped by human traffickers. Neeson finds his daughter in Paris, gets the bad guys and they both go back home safely; however, in real life this is not always the case. Although the movie "Taken" was a work of fiction, human trafficking is very real. In fact, so real that President Obama proclaimed January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Human Trafficking is a form of modern slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. Human trafficking still exists today throughout the United States and around the world. Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to control other people for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex or forcing them to provide labor services against their will. Minors under the age of 18 that engage in commercial sex are considered to be human trafficking victims regardless of the use of force.

According to the Ohio Department of Education, more than 2,000 school-age children are potentially at risk of being forced into human trafficking through



exploited labor, domestic servitude, or prostitution. The most common age in Ohio for youths to become child sex trafficking victims is between the ages of 12-14, although it is not unusual for the child to be younger. Children that are especially vulnerable are children not living with their parents. Traffickers find students through the internet, on the street, and at malls. Traffickers may use girls to recruit other girls at schools and after school programs, or involve school age boys in gaining and betraying the trust of potential victims.

Girls are not the only gender susceptible to human trafficking; boys are too. In fact, in the United States, boys make up 50 per-

cent of sex trafficked victims and, transgendered youth are considered a high risk hidden population.

I am proud that my office serves as a member of the Collaborative Against Human Trafficking in Summit County. As a member of the Collaborative, the mission is to increase the community's knowledge of human trafficking through educational efforts to ensure individuals are prepared to recognize and properly assist victims of human trafficking. In this month's newsletter, I share how you can identify a victim of human trafficking and ways you can help.

If you suspect that someone is a victim of human trafficking, contact the police. Victims of human trafficking can get help from the Battered Women's Shelter at (888) 395-4357, the Rape Crisis Center at (330) 434-7273, or the Victim Assistance Program at (330) 376-0040.

Stay safe,

Sherri B. Walsh



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2014 Roundup

Thanks to the dedication and hard work by all my assistant prosecutors, victim advocates, investigators, secretaries and administrative staff, I am proud to announce that we prosecuted 4,012 defendants in 2014 and ended the year with a 97 percent conviction rate!

Here is a breakdown of some of our cases in 2014:

- Homicide cases prosecuted: 31
- Homicide defendants convicted: 36
- Domestic Violence defendants: 235
- Domestic Violence defendants found guilty at trial or pleaded guilty: 226
- Child rape cases (under 13 years of age) disposed: 9 with 6 life sentences

GUILTY VERDICTS



Congratulations to the following assistant prosecutors for obtaining guilty verdicts at trial in January:

Jon Baumoel	Kevin Mayer
Jay Cole	Justin Richard
Pete Daly	Mike Rickett
Elliot Kolkovich	Jaime Syx

Great Job Prosecutors!!!!

Tough Prosecutions

Here are just a few of the most dangerous defendants my office prosecuted in 2014:

Tyrone Benford, 42

- Murder
- Felonious Assault
- Breaking and Entering
- Sentenced to 15 years to life in prison

Robert Jordan, 26

- Murder
- Aggravated Burglary
- Sentenced to 18 years to life in prison

Gregory Kudla, 38

- Rape
- Sexual Battery
- Gross Sexual Imposition
- Tier III Sex Offender
- Sentenced to 42 1/2 years in prison

Darryl Rue, 27

- Voluntary Manslaughter
- Aggravated Burglary
- Sentenced to 20 years in prison

Dimitry White, 39

- Aggravated Murder
- Murder
- Having Weapons While Under Disability
- Sentenced to 30 years to life in prison



Help Us Go Green!

Contact Melanie Hart at hart@prosecutor.summitoh.net to receive this newsletter by e-mail



January Top Cop

Detective Dominic Perella, Cuyahoga Falls Police Department

Nominated by: Daniel Sallerson



Lloyd McMillen thought he had run a successful scam on a 74-year-old woman who paid him to repair her leaky roof, but he had not anticipated the victim contacting the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department nor the diligent work of Detective Dominic Perella.

After the completion of his work. Detective Perella provided McMillen's photos to the worker who ultimately repaired the roof. The worker stated that the pictures he was provided were photos of the same condition the roof was in when he did the repairs. This was a centerpiece of the State's case.

Thank you Detective Perella for your hard work on this case and for obtaining proof that McMillen never started or completed the work on the elderly victim's home.

McMillen was found guilty at trial, received 12 months community control and must make full restitution to the victim within 30 days.

After McMillen falsely stated that he had completed the work, Detective Perella repeatedly asked McMillen to provide him with photos of the roof before repairs were completed and photos after the repairs were completed at the victim's house. After many requests by the detective, McMillen finally produced pictures of the roof before repairs were completed. He claimed he did not take pho-

Way To Go Detective Perella!!!

Recognizing Signs of Human Trafficking

Common Work and Living Conditions:

The Individual(s) in Question

- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp/manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact

Poor Physical Health

- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

Lack of Control

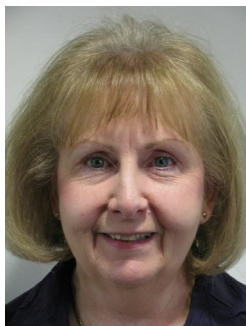
- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

Other

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in
 - Loss of sense of time
 - Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story



Employee of the Year: Barbara Gable



Each year my office selects one employee to be recognized as our Employee of the Year. This year's recipient of the Employee of the Year Award is appellate secretary, Barb Gable. Barb worked for the office for 24 years before retiring in November, 2014. She has always received Far Exceeds Expectations on her yearly reviews and was one of the most loyal and dependable employees any employer could wish for.

Her reviews included comments like, "Barb continues to do an amazing job. She requires minimal supervision to get her work done." "I do not worry about mistakes in documents when Barb is done. I sign them and they get filed." "She rarely misses work and rarely has an error in a document or a due date."

Thank you, Barb, for all your hard work! It is my pleasure to name you the 2014 Employee of the Year and I hope you're enjoying your retirement.

Agency Spotlight:

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve has a unique place in the history of the Boys & Girls Clubs movement. Their local organization began in 1984 as the "Boys & Girls Club of Summit County" and was one of three selected urban sites participating in a national demonstration project to test the feasibility of bringing Club programs into low-income housing areas designed by Boys Clubs of America and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The program was a success and there are more than 400 Clubs in housing projects across the country.

The four Club facilities and their Barberton iStrive site are located in and near properties of Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

Boys & Girls Clubs focus on programs to help youth achieve Academic Success, practice Good Character and Citizenship, and live Healthy Lifestyles. All programs are developed, tested and audited by Boys & Girls Clubs of America and customized by their staff to meet the needs of the young people they serve. Additionally, Club programs utilize a youth development strategy that infuses a sense of belonging,

competence, usefulness, and influence into each young person.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve is an autonomous affiliate of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the largest youth development organization in the United States. Boys & Girls Clubs of America celebrated its centennial in 2006, and there are more than 4,000 Clubs located in all 50 states, Native American lands, and on U.S. military installations around the world. They help over four million youth reach their full potential every year.

To learn more about The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve, visit <http://wrkids.org/contact-info>.