

Alka Khanolkar - Keokuk, IA

The 2021-22 Rotary District 6000 Governor, Alka Khanolkar, set the awareness and prevention of human trafficking in Iowa and globally as her major goal during her term. Despite this growing crime not being on the radar of the 65 Iowa Rotary Clubs or within Rotary International, she was incredibly successful at engaging both Iowa Clubs and Rotary International to join the fight against modern slavery. Rotary International is made up of over 5000 clubs in 90 countries.

Leland Schipper - Des Moines, IA

Coach Schipper has made an outstanding contribution to raising awareness of human trafficking and the need for advocacy for victims and survivors. He called on Iowans to come to the aid of a survivor who had been his 9th-grade student before becoming homeless and sex trafficked at the age of 15. He single-handedly set up a GoFundMe page for Pieper Lewis, which resulted in an outpouring of support by 15,800 donors who contributed \$562,638 far exceeding the original \$150,000 goal, which was the required amount of a restitution payment Pieper needed to pay to the family of the man who had raped Pieper five times.

Tish Young - Cedar Rapids, IA

Volunteer extraordinaire at Chains Interrupted for seven years. She has been working tirelessly in the fight against human trafficking from the moment she heard the Chains Interrupted plea for help in 2014. Tish has volunteered countless hours. She has trained thousands of people, designed awareness and fundraising events, recruited and supported other volunteers, and assisted with direct service to survivors.

IMT Insurance - Des Moines, IA

As an early member of Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking (IBAT), IMT Insurance has demonstrated an outstanding response to the Secretary of State's challenge for Iowa businesses to "learn something" and "do something" to fight human trafficking. IMT received four nominations for the Outstanding Service Award. IMT's commitment to combat modern slavery resulted in the donation of three vehicles for use by Hope for Justice staff members. These three staff members utilized the vehicles to investigate and rescue victims of human trafficking. They have also donated money to support Dorothy's House.

Melody Stone - Mason City, IA

Melody Stone is relentless in her passion for bringing modern slavery/human trafficking to an end. She had three nominators for the Outstanding Service Award. Melody is the founder of the North Iowa Coalition Against Human Trafficking, which had been an underserved region of Iowa. She spearheaded anti-trafficking education interventions within 11 northern Iowa counties. Melody is also a licensed trauma-trained clinical therapist who works with survivors. She is highly qualified but what is more impressive is her commitment to sharing her knowledge with others. She has launched human trafficking training for first responders, and many other community groups. Melody conducts not only awareness but also coalition building, service to survivors, prevention, and public policy advocacy. Recently, Melody and the North Iowa Coalition have partnered with the faith community to create Iowa's Anti-Trafficking Day of Prayer on January 18, 2023.

Sister Shirley Fineran - Sioux City, Iowa

Sister Shirley began her heroic work to fight human trafficking in 2015 by establishing a board of directors to promote awareness, education, and collaboration with the ultimate goal of establishing a home for adult survivors of sex trafficking. With a clear vision of service to survivors, Sister Shirley received the gift of a large house and the surrounding 35 acres for what was to become Lila Mae's House. The first of twelve participants entered Lila Mae's in January 2021. Without state or federal funding, Sister Shirley and her board have worked hard to raise funding for remodeling, staff, and operating expenses. Lila Mae's was the first and remains the only residential service dedicated solely to trafficking survivors in the Siouxland service area. Sister Shirley is a retired Briar Cliff University Professor of Social Work and a four-year member of the Network Board of Directors.