



**JENNIE EDMUNDSON
FOUNDATION**

An Affiliate of Methodist Health System

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May 8, 2018

Dr. George Belitsos
5508 W Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50014

Dear Dr. Belitsos,

On behalf of the Southwest Iowa Coalition on Human Trafficking, I am writing to you with interest in affiliating with the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery.

As we know, Human Trafficking is an issue in Southwest Iowa. To help answer the call to care for those who are suffering, we convened a group of law enforcement, social service agencies, medical and mental health providers, civic leaders as well as community volunteers. This group has been meeting for well over a year and we have been working hard to combat human trafficking in Southwest Iowa.

We established a steering committee to lead the work as well as seven working committees to plan and implement numerous goals and objectives. (Community Awareness/Marketing, Community Presentations (Hotel & Motel Training/School and Youth Education), Conference, Fundraising, Law Enforcement, Medical Training and Services to Survivors. The Coalition meets every other month. On the off months, the committees meet. Rotary has representatives serving on many of the working committees, in addition to the Steering Committee.

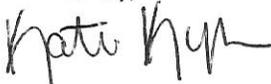
Through our committee work, we have accomplished quite a few things in our community. The following is a snippet of some accomplishments over the course of the last year:

- **Community Awareness/Marketing-** The community awareness and marketing committee has created several educational pieces and distributed them throughout our surrounding communities. Next steps for this committee include creating a website and Facebook page
- **Community Presentations-** Have developed and implemented a presentation being used throughout the community
- **Conference** – Begun preparation for a March 2019 educational conference
- **Fundraising-** Received a Rotary District Grant to support the work of the coalition
- **Law Enforcement-** Started the processes of researching “John’s” Programs to possibly implement into our community
- **Medical Training-** Establishing a universal screening tool to be used among our local hospitals
- **Services to Survivors-** secured 20 therapists who have committed to taking on the intensive case management of at least one survivor each. This committee is also in the process of securing local tattoo artists who are willing to do cover up tattoos on women who have been branded

Although we have accomplished many great things over the course of the last year, we recognize how much still needs to be done in our community. By affiliating with the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery, we hope to learn what others are doing to combat human trafficking in their communities. We hope to get more involved with legislation in Iowa and have a greater voice in influencing policy. We believe joining the network will allow us to grow as a coalition and make a greater impact in Southwest Iowa.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to affiliate with the network. I look forward to the possibility of working with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach me at 712-396-7733 or katie.kyker@nmhs.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Kyker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Kyker
Development Coordinator, Jennie Edmundson Foundation
Steering Committee Member, Southwest Iowa Coalition on Human Trafficking