



# PCPADV NEWS

A monthly newsletter brought to you by The Pike County Partnership Against Domestic Violence

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## Top stories in this newsletter



National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month



January 11th, Wear Blue Day



Empowering the Purse 2018



## January is National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

In 2010, then President Barack Obama proclaimed January to be National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Human trafficking is a complex issue that is often misunderstood. Human Trafficking is the exploitation of a person through force, fraud, or coercion and its victims can be of any age, race, gender, or nationality. It happens in every corner of our world, including our own backyard. Dealing humans is like dealing drugs. The difference is that a drug can only be sold once, but a human can be sold thousands of times.

According to the Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Committee, 2017 Annual Report, "Ohio Revised Code Section 109.66 requires local law enforcement to collect data on human trafficking investigations and forward the information to the Ohio Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). According to the data collected in 2017, law enforcement reported 202 human trafficking investigations leading to 70 arrests and 18 successful criminal convictions. Law enforcement agencies also reported the number of potential victims, suspected traffickers, and suspected buyers/johns. Female victims of sex trafficking were the most commonly identified human trafficking victims reported by law enforcement during the past year. In 2017, there were 208 potential victims of human trafficking identified.

The Pike County Coalition to End Human Trafficking held its fourth quarter meeting on November 29, 2018. Rhiannon Gill, the Point Person for the Coalition, reports that the Coalition has assisted an average of 13 survivors of Human Trafficking annually from 2016 to 2018 in Pike County. Additionally, the Coalition has provided Human Trafficking education and awareness to 38 law enforcement officers and 15 juvenile probationers, who were considered at risk youth of Human Trafficking. If you would like more information about Human Trafficking, please visit our webpage at <http://www.pikepartnership.org/human-trafficking.html> or visit us on Facebook @PCCEHT. You can also contact the Pike County Coalition to End Human Trafficking, Point Person, Rhiannon Gill at 740-947-1611, ext 221.

## Wear Blue Day



National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is recognized each year on January 11th. Blue Campaign's largest initiative is #WearBlueDay on January 11th. To raise awareness of human trafficking, we ask people to take photos of themselves, friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue clothing and share them on social media – Facebook @PCCEHT along with the #WearBlueDay hashtag. Anyone can participate, all you need is a piece of blue clothing!

## "Empowering the Purple Purse", 2018



The second annual vendor event, "Empowering the Purse " took place October 13, 2018, at Grace United Methodist Church Activities Center coordinated by Felicia Diaz-Taylor, Program Coordinator/ Shelter Director and Helen Royster, Shelter Case Manager. The Partnership utilized the Allstate's Purple Purse platform to empower survivors of domestic violence, as well as empowering local independently owned business women. Each vendor donated to set up, while others donated a portion of their profits from the evening.

The Partnership was able to raise \$3,154.62 through vendors, Chinese auction, and selling raffle tickets for a purple leather purse designed by tennis star, Serena Williams. The Partnership also won the Start Up Challenge sponsored by Allstate. All proceeds benefit the survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault whom reside within the Partnership's shelter. The Partnership would like to thank all of the vendors, those who donated, and those who volunteered their time to making this event such a success. We look forward to 2019's event!



The PCPADV would like to express their gratitude to the following individuals for making the holidays special for our survivors: **Nancy Hawk of Real Estate Gallery, Chillicothe Correctional Institution, Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, VNS Federal Services, & "Santa Claus"** anonymous donation of gifts.