

## January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

KANKAKEE, IL, January 17, 2025 – January marks National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a critical time to raise awareness of the widespread, hidden, often misunderstood crime of human trafficking. Clove Alliance, which supports survivors and works to prevent sexual harm, is committed to educating the community about one form: sex trafficking.

Sex trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel someone into commercial sex. Sex traffickers and buyers often target victims because of their vulnerabilities, such as poverty, homelessness, or prior abuse. Recognizing the signs and understanding the issue are essential steps in supporting survivors and ending exploitation.

“Sex trafficking is not just a “big city” issue; it happens throughout the US, including here in central Illinois. Clove Alliance serves between one to five survivors of trafficking a year,” said Tracey Noe-Slach, Executive Director and CEO of Clove Alliance. “We all have a role to play in identifying and preventing trafficking and helping survivors heal.”

[The National Human Trafficking Hotline](#), which connects survivors of human trafficking with services and gets tips about potential cases, receives between 700-900 contacts from Illinois alone each year. The majority of tips are for sex trafficking. Clove Alliance encourages everyone to learn more about this pervasive crime and how to recognize its signs. Key indicators include individuals appearing to be controlled by someone else, being unable to speak freely about their circumstances, working or living in poor conditions, or showing signs of physical abuse.

People who understand the complexities of human trafficking can be part of the solution. Clove Alliance invites you to:

- Read about signs of sex trafficking and seeking help, including locally, on their website at [clovealliance.org/blog/](https://clovealliance.org/blog/).
- Learn more from reputable resources like [Polaris Project](#), [The Life Story Initiative](#), and [Freedom Network USA](#).
- Share well-sourced information about the issue on social media to increase awareness.
- Participate in anti-trafficking and anti-sexual violence events.

“Education and action are the cornerstones of preventing trafficking,” added Noe-Slach. “Get involved! Together, we can create a community where trafficking is no longer tolerated, and every survivor has the opportunity to heal.”

If you suspect trafficking or need help, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text “BEFREE” (233733). Locally, Clove Alliance’s comprehensive services for survivors of sexual violence, including sex trafficking, in Kankakee, Iroquois, and Ford counties include:

- **24/7 Crisis Hotline:** People can call **815-932-3322** anytime for immediate assistance and information.
- **Advocacy and Counseling:** Professional advocates and licensed counselors provide trauma-informed support tailored to survivors’ needs.
- **Legal Assistance:** Survivors navigating the justice system can access guidance and support.

To learn more or get involved, visit [clovealliance.org](https://clovealliance.org) and follow them on social media.

For more information or media inquiries, please contact:

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About Clove Alliance:

Clove Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing hope and healing to survivors of sexual violence. Through comprehensive services, community engagement, and advocacy, Clove Alliance is committed to fostering a world free from the impact of sexual violence. Learn more at [clovealliance.org](https://clovealliance.org).