

Salvation Army, Combating human trafficking

By Madison Shomaker

Through the long process of recovery, The Salvation Army assists victims of human trafficking every step of the way. When The Salvation Army can't help directly, they always refer victims to someone who can.

While some believe human trafficking is limited to sexual acts, Alicia Webber, human trafficking task force coordinator and project manager for The Salvation Army, knows the difference.

“Victims of human trafficking do not always fit the stereotype of trafficked victims,” she said. “Victims are men and women, young and old, across a spectrum of races who are forced into exploitation.”

Forced labor and prostitution, slavery or sexual exploitation are all human trafficking. Recently, The Salvation Army was approved for a statewide grant to increase resources for the fight against human trafficking.

Increasing communication with law enforcement is one of many steps closer in the fight.

“Law enforcement reports to the scene of the crime and gets the victim out,” she said. “Afterward, The Salvation Army is there to help victims rebuild their lives.”

The Salvation Army plans to hire more staff to help assist victims. Webber remains hopeful despite circumstances. “Focus on small accomplishments,” Webber said. “Focus on the positive.”

Some of those positives include watching survivors successfully leave The Salvation Army or graduate from college, find permanent homes, married, established a stable lifestyle. People who left The Salvation Army after finding hope and a new life gives Webber hope.

Understanding that victims aren't saved after simply being taken away from their abuser, Webber knows it is a life-long journey that The Salvation Army is here for.

For more information or to report suspicious behavior, visit

<https://polarisproject.org/policy-legislation> or call 888-373-7888.



Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless