



## September 2017

### MISSION STATEMENT

As a Catholic faith community we value the dignity and rights of all persons and we endeavor to educate, to influence public policy, and to engage our community for the purpose of eradicating human trafficking in all its forms.

We work in collaboration with other faith communities, law enforcement, and established organizations addressing the issue.

### WEBSITE

[www.dsj.org/cneht](http://www.dsj.org/cneht)



Labor Day is a national holiday celebrated in the U.S. on the first Monday of September. The event was created by the labor movement to celebrate the social and economic achievements of American workers. Yet as we gather to celebrate the “American Worker,” thousands of people, maybe even millions, are working within this country in inhumane conditions with little to no pay.



The most common types of labor trafficking in the U.S. include individuals forced or coerced into work as domestic servants, farmworkers, or factory workers. The conditions they endure are much like those fought against in the labor movement: little to no wages, long hours, and dangerous working conditions. Labor trafficking victims in the U.S., however, gain no benefit from the hard-fought labor rights movement, as they work in conditions under the radar of the U.S. Department of Labor. Traffickers exploit them using “force, fraud, and coercion,” including violence, imprisonment, and threat of deportation.

Key Statistics: Globally, the International Labor Organization estimates that there are 14.2 million people trapped in forced labor in industries including agriculture, construction, domestic work and manufacturing. The U.S. Department of Labor has identified 136 goods from 74 countries made by forced and child labor.

*Over the years, Network News has featured stories of human trafficking survivors. But this Labor Day, we would like to introduce you to someone who labors on behalf of human trafficking victims.*

### Amanda Vohs

Amanda Vohs and her family recently relocated from Wisconsin to the Bay Area where they joined at St. Lucy Parish in Campbell. She moved to pursue a career change, but not the type that most people would suspect coming from the upper Midwest to Silicon Valley.

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## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

**Terry Jelley**

Coordinator, Diocese of San Jose

**Sr. Catarina Chu, DC**

Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul

**Sr. Marilyn Wilson, BVM**

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Nancy Moreno**

Santa Teresa Parish

**Sr. Elizabeth Avalos, BVM**

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Sr. Rosemary Everett, SNJM**

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

**Anthony Ordon**

St. Thomas of Canterbury

**Website**

[www.dsj.org/cneht](http://www.dsj.org/cneht)

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*The Network News is designed to provide information, articles, and updates about activities and events that are taking place within our Diocese and the surrounding communities in the greater Bay Area. Please feel free to submit comments and suggestions along with any events and articles of interest about human trafficking to Terry Jelley, [CNEHT@dsj.org](mailto:CNEHT@dsj.org)*

After earning an undergraduate degree in Communications from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, Amanda received a Master's in Conflict Resolution from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. She says, "I received a scholarship to study in Northern Uganda where I wrote my master's thesis on the phenomenon of child soldiers - children being forced into brutally violent, armed conflict. I felt the Lord calling me to this line of work, but wasn't ready to respond."



Instead, Amanda embarked on a successful career in IT, working for a large healthcare technology company. She began in project management and implementation before transitioning to sales in a healthcare organization in the U.S. and Europe. "I was working long hours, raising very young children and experiencing what our culture would call success in the corporate world," says Amanda. "However, I was feeling a growing dissonance, between what God was calling me to do with my time on earth, and what I was actually doing."

After spending years in prayer and conversations with her husband, Amanda summoned the courage to make a change. A little over one year ago, Amanda and her husband quit their jobs and sold their home in Wisconsin. They left family and friends so that she could pursue a career with International Justice Mission (IJM) where she holds the position of Director of Strategic Partnerships for Northern California. Amanda and her husband, Greg now live in the South Bay with their two children.

IJM is the largest international anti-slavery organization in the world. "As a community of Christians," says Amanda, "we deepen our spiritual formation through dedication to prayer and the work of justice. We rescue thousands of people from modern-day slavery, protect millions of those living in poverty from being abused in the first place, and are proving that justice for the poor is possible."

IJM deals primarily with modern day slavery in the developing world. The problem: In much of the developing world, people are not safe. Justice Systems that should be protecting them, don't. The solution: IJM partners with local justice systems to help protect victims of violence and seek justice on their behalf. Says Amanda, "In doing so, we strengthen the system to prevent violence against the poor (such as sexual violence, forced labor slavery and human trafficking) from happening in the first place."

IJM is headquartered in Washington, DC, with 17 field offices across the globe, where the organization continues to build a strong network of active supporters and advocates here in the Bay Area. If you're interested in getting involved, please reach out to Amanda at [avoht@ijm.org](mailto:avoht@ijm.org). You can learn more at [www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org) or by watching their Ted Talk - <http://ijm.org/TED>

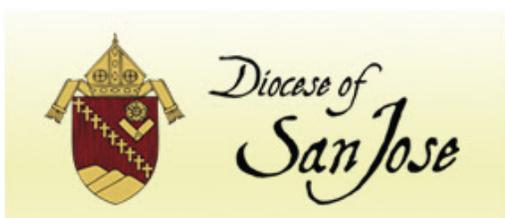
Amanda and CNEHT invite you to come and learn more about the work of Christians in seeking justice for the poor and ending slavery on Freedom Sunday, September 17th at St. Lucy's Parish in Campbell. Join us in the Parish Activity Center immediately following the 9 and 11 am masses.

For details on Freedom Sunday, watch a 2 minute video. Copy and paste the attached link to your web browser to view the video. <https://ijm.app.box.com/s/y5feyknvppej1q93i8i1wi1fo1pnm80/file/142779336389>

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## DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE UPDATE

## Santa Clara Faith Formation Conference



This year the Faith Formation Conference will return to the Santa Clara Convention Center on Friday & Saturday, November 3 & 4. CNEHT will present human trafficking workshops both days at the newly renamed Santa Clara Faith Formation Conference (SCFFC).

#### **CNEHT Education Team**

Friday, November 3, Session 4-04, 2:45 to 3:45 pm

#### **"How to educate students about Ending Human Trafficking"**

A hand-on workshop with opportunities to explore various curricula, multi-media resources with input and resources from educators, high school students and other educational programs from the Bay Area.

(Witness) Sponsored by: the Diocese of San Jose

#### **CNEHT Parish Advocates**

Saturday, November 4, Session 8-05, 3 to 4 pm

#### **Stop the Game!: Informed Communities are Key to Ending Human Trafficking – Parishes**

Think human trafficking is only an international issue? Think again – it is active in our local communities, too! Raising awareness in our parish communities is important in the fight against all forms of human trafficking, aka modern day slavery. Join us to learn strategies you may deploy to inform or help heal communities by raising awareness to disrupt and stop traffickers in their game. (Witness)

Workshops this year will focus on the Word, Worship and Witness as key components to our ongoing faith formation.

Early registration is open through September 30, 2017. The SCFFC core team is encouraging on-line registration in order to keep you posted on conference updates. Brochures are available with copies distributed to parishes in fewer numbers to be more green along with ads for placement inside of parish bulletins. Another change this year is that there will be no billing for on-site registration. If parishes are covering certain parishioners, they must register their parishioners and staff prior to November 3rd. On-site registration will be available for cash, check or credit card only.

Please visit <https://scffc.org/> to register and view the conference schedule and sessions. For information, or questions, contact [SCFFC@dsj.org](mailto:SCFFC@dsj.org).

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## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING STORIES**

*Each month, Network News will feature stories of Human Trafficking. The following example of labor trafficking took place in Santa Clara County.*

### **Sri Lanka-United States**

Kusum, a 55-year-old Sri Lankan woman, was hired as a domestic worker for a family in the United States. Her employer lied to her, telling her she had to work for six months before the U.S. would grant her a work visa. Her employers forced Kusum to sleep on the laundry room floor causing severe back problems. Her employer kept her from seeing a doctor or contacting her family. They instructed her to tell neighbors who asked that she was a relative. They threatened to have her deported if she did not obey them. She escaped with the help of one of her employer's friends who noticed there was something wrong and learned she wanted to leave. After leaving, Kusum was able to access multiple protections as a trafficking victim.

\*Trafficked domestic workers can be found in nearly every neighborhood, unaware of their rights. A neighbor or friend may be the only way a victim learns about available protections.

### **Ukraine-USA**

At the trial of the Botsvyniuk brothers, evidence revealed that they recruited villagers from their native Ukraine, promising US\$700-800 salary per month, free room and board, and free transportation. Upon arrival, the men and women were told they would have to work without pay to cover their recruitment and transportation debt of up to US\$50,000 cleaning Wal-Mart, Target, Kmart, Safeway and other retail stores, along with homes and offices in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New York and New Jersey. Workers testified that they were raped, threatened and beaten. When some workers escaped, their family members in Ukraine were threatened with mutilation, rape, and death if the workers did not return or pay off their debts.

\*Law enforcement uncovered this human trafficking case, not the companies,

subcontractors, employees or patrons where they worked. Trafficking can be invisible right in front of us. Anyone can be prepared by learning human trafficking indicators, and corporations can identify and prevent human trafficking with improved policies and training.

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## MEETINGS

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### No Traffic Ahead Subcommittee Meeting

**When:** Thursday, November 2, 10:30 am

**Where:** Family Resource Center, [591 North King Rd., San Jose](#)



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### South Bay Coalition Meeting

**When:** Wednesday, September 20, 9 - 11 am

**Where:** Family Resource Center, [591 North King Rd., San Jose](#)

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## ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/TRAINING

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### Freedom Sunday Presentation at St. Lucy's Parish

**When:** Sunday, September 17

**Where:** St. Lucy Parish Activity Center, [2350 Winchester Blvd, Campbell](#)

**What:** Ending Slavery Begins with Your Church. Freedom Sunday is an invitation for your congregation to learn about slavery and partner with International Justice Mission to end it. Amanda Vohs from IJM along with members of CNEHT will give a presentation following the 9 and 11 am masses



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### Freely in Hope Art + Healing Experiential Workshop

**When:** Saturday, September 2, 9:30 am to 6 pm

**Where:** SPARC-it-Place!, [3427 San Pablo Ave, Oakland](#)

**What:** The Art + Healing workshop is designed for those in search of healing for themselves and for those they serve through the practice and reflection of art. Join Nickole Lim, International Director, and Maryclare Beche, Program Designer & storyteller as they share how the intersection of arts and healing has led to transformation in the lives of survivors of sexual violence in Kenya.

<https://www.freelyinhope.org/art-healing-workshop/>



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### Freedom House Fall 2017 Advocate Volunteer Training

**When:** Saturday, September 9

**Where:** San Mateo County

**What:** Volunteer training session for those who would like to serve as an Advocate. Contact [www.freedomhousesf.org](http://www.freedomhousesf.org) for more details on time and location.

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### Freedom House Shelter Volunteer Training

**When:** Training begins, Tuesday, September 12, 5:50 – 9:00pm

**Where:** San Mateo County

**What:** Volunteer training sessions for those who would like to work directly with survivors as a Shelter Volunteer. Candidates must submit a completed application and undergo a LiveScan background check. Trainees must complete the required 40-hour training course.

All of the following dates are required: Sep 9 (8:30am-5pm), Sep 12 (5:50pm-9pm), Sep 16 (8:45am-5pm), Sep 19 (5:50pm-9pm), Sep 23 (8:45am-5pm), Sep 26 (5:50pm-9pm), Sep 30 (8:45am-5pm).

Contact [www.freedomhousesf.org](http://www.freedomhousesf.org) for more details and to apply.



### The Slaves Who Work for Us

**When:** Monday, September 11, 7:30 to 8:30 pm

**Where:** Kepler's Books, [1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park](#)

**What:** How many slaves are working for you? From your smartphone to the almonds in your cupboard, so many of our products and foods have been touched by the hands of a person who has no control over their individual freedom. Randy Newcomb, President and CEO of Humanity United presents a conversation around one of the most pressing global challenges of our time. Justin Dillon (author of A Selfish Plan to Save the World and founder of the non-profits Slavery Footprint and Made in a Free World joins writer/professor Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick (author of the book What Slaveholders Think) for this discussion. Find out what you can do to change the lives of the people you never knew were working for you.

### Freedom Fighter Yard Sale

**When:** Saturday, September 16, 8 am to 2 pm

**Where:** Fremont Community Church, [39700 Mission Blvd, Fremont](#)

**What:** The Freedom Fighter Life Group will host a giant yard sale with all proceeds going to open a new shelter in Alameda County for human trafficking survivors.

Call Fremont Community Church for details: [510-657-0123](tel:510-657-0123).



### SafeHouse Human Trafficking Training

**When:** Monday, September 18, 9 am to 5 pm

**Where:** [555 Ellis St., San Francisco](#)

**What:** An intensive 40-hour certification training that is in accordance with California Evidence Code 1038.2. All participants are eligible to earn the human trafficking caseworker-victim privilege upon completion. To earn the privilege, participants must attend all 40 hours of training. No make-up dates are available.

Fall Co-hort Training Dates: Sep 18 (9am-5pm), Sep 25 (9am-5pm), Oct 2 (9am-5pm), Oct 9 (9am-5pm), Oct 16 (9am-5pm), Oct 23 (9am-5pm). Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safehouse-human-trafficking-training-tickets-36315207764>

## ANTI-TRAFFICKING APPS



### Apps of Interest;

#### BAN Human Trafficking App

This mobile App was produced with the aim to educate the users about the issue of human trafficking and prevention of this type of crime. By playing this interactive game, the users will be able to get acquainted with different types and stages of trafficking in human beings, from recruitment, exploitation and escape from the trafficking ring, down to recovery, social reintegration, and struggle to exercise the rights belonging to human trafficking victims. Once they are acquainted with the potential dangers, users will then be able to recognize similar situations in everyday life, and protect themselves and the people they know. Available for iPhone and Android.