**POWER POINT SLIDES: Thank you**

**Slide #1:**

**Sex trafficking is on the path to becoming the most lucrative criminal activity**

**worldwide, surpassing that of drug trafficking. The reason … because a sex**

**trafficker can sell his product, usually a minor child, over and over and over.**

**Many people believe this to be an issue “somewhere else” in the world, and it is. But, what many do not realize, it is an issue right here in, right in our own neighborhoods.**

**Says the U.S. State Department, and I quote…”Dollar-for-dollar, human trafficking in America is far worse than it is overseas. It is an underground epidemic that is growing exponentially and is happening in our own backyards.”**

**Slide #2: The US State Dept posts the following statistics for America:**

* **96% of trafficked victims in the U.S. are females**
* **82% of trafficked victims in the U.S. are trafficked for sex**
* **The three states with the most trafficking activity are TX, NY & CA, NEVADA**
* **California Against Slavery reported San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego are three of the 10 worst child sex trafficking regions in the entire country. Victims are transported between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, also a high intensity regions for child sex trafficking .**

## Slide #3:

## It is estimated that 150,000 victims are currently held as commercial sex slaves in the U.S.

## 50% of trafficked victims are minor children, with an average age of just 12 years old, and being purchased for sex an average of 5 times per day … if they try to resist or escape, they are threatened, beaten or drugged into submission … I ONCE HEARD A SURVIVOR SPEAK, WHOM, AS SHE REACHED HER TEENS, WAS TRAFFICKED 7 TIMES PER DAY AND USUALLY SLEPT ONLY 4 OR 5 HOURS EACH DAY.

## The average life expectancy of that child is just 7 years, the causes of death usually resulting from either a beating, drug overdose or suicide.

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* **A child, sold for commercial sexual exploitation, is SOLD again an average of five times per day for the financial gain of the trafficker for up to $150K per year, per child.**

## You may ask yourself, how does this happen???

## 70% of children lured into commercial sexual exploitation by their perpetrators are from the most vulnerable population …. those children who are already victims of neglect, domestic violence or sexual abuse by a family member … these children are often runaways who are met at the bus center downtown by the pimps, as they step off the bus in a strange overwhelming city and are promised that they will be taken care of … the pimp will tell them they have a place for them to stay … that they will be fed and will be safe.

## Part of this 70% are children recruited out of foster care by a foster sibling, who has already been taken into the life of commercial sexual exploitation … and even worse, some children are sold into sex trafficking by their own parents or family members.

## Recently, I met with the founder of a non-profit working with survivors. She told me the story of a 10-year girl she is working with right now. The mother was an addict; …the courts awarded custody of their 5-year-old daughter to the father. It was later discovered that, from the tender age of 5 until 8 years old, her own father trafficked her for sex.

## You may think to yourself, thankfully that could never happen to my child or my grandchild. But, what about the other 30% of children who are trafficked? So far, I have spoken of only 70% of those children who are trafficked. The other 30% come from intact families…like your family and my family.... and through the internet, the dark net, and social media become victims.

## Earlier this year, I met and heard a survivor tell her story. She came from a well-educated family with great parental support. This young woman was a strong student throughout high school and college and an MBA CANDIDATE at Cal State Northridge, when she met a young man online. Very cautiously, she pursued getting to know him, and only online. She did not agree to meet him for dinner until after two months of communicating online and through social media. They finally met for dinner and a relationship began. But, it was not the relationship she expected. She did not realize the first connection with him was the beginning of the grooming period. Within a few more months, he was trafficking her for sex, using the same tactics of coercion and intimidation, through emotional and physical abuse.

## Slide #4: My Journey On This Issue And Rotary

## I was motivated to attend law school when the then Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti established the Domestic Violence and Sex Abuse Crimes Divisions to prosecute these perpetrators

## When I graduated from law school, I externed for a Federal Court Magistrate, which was also the time I joined Rotary, now just over 25 years ago.

## The two worlds really came together for me in 2015, when I attended the Rotary international Peace Conference and followed the tract of speakers on the issue of Child Sex Trafficking.

## From there, I returned to Los Angeles and partnered Rotary District 5280 with Loyola Marymount University, chairing a Forum to Raise Awareness, in collaboration with nonprofits, all levels of law enforcement and elected officials to shine a light on this problem hiding in plain sight in Los Angles.

## During my year as Rotary international District Governor for the Los Angeles Region, and having the support of Michael Turner who has invited me to participate here today, as he served in the role of SAG for Communications for me in 2017-18, I had the platform to bring even greater attention to this issue.

## In 2018, I launched RotariansFightingHumanTrafficking.org

**PLEASE EXPLORE the website. The website is intended to be an exchange of information between all of us fighting this battle. There are numerous resources being shared.** **It has grown, and continues to grow, beyond the Los Angeles Region.**

**Slide #5: The website is a collaboration between Rotarians, government agencies and NGOs, rescuing and assisting victims, who have been trafficked for sex or labor or both. I am excited to announce that 21 non-profit organizations serving this cause have joined us on the website as a partner.**

**Also joining, so far as partners, are 22 Rotary Clubs. Also joining, to date, are the Rotary DISTRICTS of Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Diego, with other districts currently in conversation, as well the worldwide organization Rotary Action Group Against Slavery.**

* **In October 2020, I was responsible for the chartering of a new CAUSED BASED ROTARY CLUB in the Los Angeles Region, focused strictly on the issue of fighting human trafficking brining together NPs, Gov, & Individs.**

**Slide#6: Chartered New Cause Based Club 32 members, + 6 in application**

**Slide 7: SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?**