



# Human Trafficking

The Human Trafficking Initiative works to address the issue of child sex trafficking in Greater Atlanta. Sexual exploitation is the most damaging form of child abuse.

## THE ISSUE

Sex trafficking in Atlanta is a \$290 million-a-year business and drives more revenue than the illegal drug and gun trade combined. Sex trafficking exploits the most vulnerable in our community: children. The average age of sexually exploited children ranges between 12-14 years (Shared Hope International, 2009). Child abuse, trauma, homelessness, family and social disconnection, and poverty increase vulnerability to exploitation, especially among young people. For trafficking survivors, being bought and sold leaves permanent social and emotional scars. Survivors can heal and build a positive future with the right support and care. The well-being of children in a community reflects and drives the health of the community as a whole, and United Way of Greater Atlanta is committed to protecting children and supporting survivors on their path to rebuilding their lives.

## UNITED WAY'S ROLE

United Way is working to address child sex trafficking by teaming up with numerous nonprofits, volunteers, donors and government to increase public awareness. United Way also invests in strengthening the effectiveness of nonprofits working against human trafficking and in expanding anti-trafficking and survivor restoration opportunities.

United Way is increasing its focus on prevention and intervention in child sex trafficking – to intervene before the harm is done. One of the most powerful proven ways to protect girls from being trafficked is building their resilience – their ability to maintain their inner strength despite the adverse conditions and experiences of their lives. United Way is investing in proven practices and exploring new solutions to protect our most vulnerable populations.

## THE RESULTS

United Way is working to address child sex trafficking by teaming up with numerous nonprofits, volunteers, donors and government to increase public awareness.



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