



# Board of Commissioners

## *PRESS RELEASE*

[lakecountyohio.gov](http://lakecountyohio.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 23, 2023

**County Contact:** Jason W. Boyd  
440.350.2745  
[jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov)

### **Eastlake Women's Club Held Human Trafficking Awareness Forum**

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, January 23, 2023– Eastlake Women's Club hosted a Human Trafficking Awareness Forum on January 14, 2023 at Regovich Catering. The purpose of the forum was to inform attendees of the signs of Human Trafficking and what to do if they were to encounter a possible instance.

The Lake County Collaborative to End Human Trafficking spoke at the event teaching the signs and responses individuals can take should they encounter human trafficking.

At their January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Lake County Board of Commissioners also declared the month of January, 2023 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Lake County, Ohio.



"This is a very real problem throughout not only Lake County and Ohio but all around the country," said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck. "It is important that we, as a community, do everything in our power to prevent it."

After attending the event, Commissioner John Plecnik added, "We are proud to support the Lake County Collaborative to End Human Trafficking in recognizing January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The time has come to put an end to this evil crime in our community, and to quote Justice Brandeis, sunshine is the best disinfectant."

Ohio ranks fifth in the nation for human trafficking cases. New legislation in Ohio has doubled the number of task forces, however, the best way to combat human trafficking is making the public aware of the issue and the warning signs.

"Informing and educating our community is a key factor in preventing human trafficking from happening," said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich. "Thank you to Eastlake Women's Club and The Lake County Collaborative to End Human Trafficking for bringing attention to this issue."

"We are grateful to the GFWC Eastlake Women's Club and Regovich Catering for hosting the 'Human Trafficking Awareness Forum' in partnership with the proposed Lake County Collaborative to End Human

Trafficking. It was an honor to receive the plaque commemorating the Board of Lake County Commissioners 'Recognizing January 2023 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Lake County, Ohio.' It is important to continue these discussions along with local experts regarding how to recognize victimization and coordinate efforts to combat human trafficking in Lake County and Northeast Ohio," said Carolyn Kinkoph with the Lake County Collaborative to End Human Trafficking. "This issue is important to me personally because my daughter, Courtney, lost her life as a result of victimization. I am moved by the Lake County Commissioners dedication at the local level, thankful for their involvement with the proposed Lake County Collaborative to End Human Trafficking, and grateful for their support of much needed services for victims and survivors."

"It's been an honor to work with the Lake County Collaborative to End Human Trafficking at the Human Trafficking Awareness Forum on January 14, 2023. It is more important than ever to inform and educate the public of Human Trafficking Awareness. The General Federation of Women's Clubs across the country are supporting grassroots efforts to make the public aware of issues like this that affect all people, especially women and children. We are grateful to our event sponsor, Jesse Styles of Northstar Towers, for his generous support of our event and our club. Human trafficking can happen to anyone, anywhere, any time; and an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," said Joyce Bates, GFWC Eastlake Women's Club President.

To learn more about Human Trafficking Prevention or the GFWC Eastlake Women's Club, please contact Joyce Bates, President, at [jmbates@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmbates@sbcglobal.net).

###