

INDEPENDENT SALES CONSULTANT

Who You Are Matters: Combating Trafficking Every Day

Sarah is an independent consultant for a clothing company. She recently learned about an Aftercare program in her city for adult female survivors. Sarah wants to use her business to both bring awareness about the issue of human trafficking to her community AND to bring joy to the survivors who participate in the Aftercare program.

Sarah knows that often, survivors need new clothing when they enter the program or as they prepare to exit the program and enter the workforce. While she cannot afford to give each woman a whole new wardrobe, she would love to gift them each a new outfit. Sarah connects with the program to host an evening of food, fun, and trying on new clothes. That evening, she brings her inventory and allows each woman to try on outfits, see themselves in a new light, and feel the excitement of what is to come.

Her efforts were such a success that Sarah decides to coordinate similar donations for domestic violence shelters and group homes in her area.

Months later, the Aftercare program contacted Sarah because one of their graduates was interested in entrepreneurship and would like to run her own candle making business. Sarah analyzed her schedule and commitments and determined that she had the capacity to walk alongside this survivor as a mentor in business, sales, and building a network in their city.

Sarah also has friends who sell make-up and jewelry as independent consultants. She encourages her friends to share with their clients about the issue and directs them to resources for spotting human trafficking in the homes and businesses they sell in (hopeforjustice.org/spot-the-signs). She also suggests that they donate a percentage of profits at a sale or event to local efforts to combat trafficking.

Passionate about sales, networking, and her products, Sarah is able to use her everyday skills and talents to engage the fight against human trafficking and protecting vulnerable populations. Without starting a new program or having to volunteer her time separately, Sarah is involved in combating trafficking in her every day work.

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Human trafficking occurs in residences and in businesses across the country. Individual sales consultants can use their skills, talents, and products to engage in the fight against human trafficking. Additionally, sales consultants may be uniquely positioned to identify human trafficking in the wide variety of venues that they conduct business in every day.

As a professional, you can make a big difference with simple additions to what you are already doing every day! Consider the following:

- Learn the signs of sex and labor trafficking. Know what to look for to identify human trafficking of women, men, girls, and boys.
- Program the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-373-7888) into your personal and work mobile devices, and include a link to www.humantraffickinghotline.org on your website so that you and your clients can quickly and anonymously report any suspicious activity.
- Donate items to Aftercare residential homes and non-residential programs for survivors of human trafficking.
- Designate a percentage of profits from a sale, event, or conference to be donated to local service providers and organizations serving vulnerable youth.
- Include cards or pamphlets in the materials you share with your clients to spread awareness about human trafficking, and share about what human trafficking looks like locally.
- Allow clients to purchase items to be donated to survivors, and then distribute these items to local service providers.
- Offer courses, classes, or mentorship in business entrepreneurship to survivors reentering the workforce.

When we engage together, miracles happen. Eradicating human trafficking will not be an easy task, but the steps to engaging the fight are simple. For more information about combating human trafficking and protecting vulnerable populations as a business, individual, or organization, visit www.engagetgether.com.