

## OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE

# CHURCH OUTREACH



### MEET HELEN, A CHURCH OUTREACH COORDINATOR.

Springfield Community Church (SCC) is a faith community in a suburban area. They have a medium-sized congregation, comprised of many families, college students, and retirees. Over the past several years, SCC has been growing its local missions and **outreach initiatives** in the community. SCC teams serve populations and projects in their own suburb, in the neighboring metro area, and in the neighboring rural areas. Recently, an antitrafficking organization gave an awareness presentation to the church about human trafficking in Springfield. SCC's leadership saw the importance of equipping each of their church's ministries (children's church, youth ministry, single parent support groups, recovery programs, etc.) with more information so that they could **identify and report** suspicious situations and provide extra support to those who may be at increased risk. SCC's outreach team is one of the groups receiving additional training.

Helen oversees the outreach programs at SCC including homeless outreach, coat drives, food bank collections, and others. The outreach team also serves alongside community organizations like the soup kitchen, elder care programs, and wounded veterans services. Because SCC congregation members are in so many areas of the community and form relationships with so many community members, Helen knows it is critical that they are trained on how to identify both labor and sex trafficking for all demographics. SCC now partners with the anti-trafficking organization to provide **identification training** that also includes the community's protocols for reporting suspicious activity as part of a mandatory orientation to join the SCC outreach team. SCC appointed a church member with professional anti-trafficking expertise to serve as the **primary contact** for members who have additional questions about the issue.

Helen contacted the local human trafficking task force and local law enforcement to learn more about what types of human trafficking were occurring in Springfield and where it was most prevalent. The sheriff's office reported that there was a high prevalence of sex trafficking in the county's rural areas related to opioid addiction. With this information, the outreach team **connected** with local substance recovery programs and addiction prevention programs to learn how they could be helpful to existing efforts. By providing volunteers, in-kind donations, and helping to spread awareness about the programs, the outreach team helps address addiction while also **preventing** the human trafficking that is associated with addiction in their area.

Because all members of the outreach team carry **outreach cards** when they are serving, Helen decided to include the local anti-trafficking hotline number as well as the National Human Trafficking Hotline Number (888-373- 7888 or text HELP to BEFREE) on each of the cards that they hand out and post in the community.

SCC's strategic efforts are making an impact in the fight against human trafficking.

By enhancing what they were already doing and their existing strengths, Springfield Community Church's team is doing so much more than outreach in Springfield.

**YOU  
CAN  
TOO!**

## RESOURCES FOR YOU

Churches and faith communities are often already serving the populations who are most vulnerable to human trafficking. By enhancing ministries that serve youth, low-income individuals, people fighting addiction, homeless populations, individuals facing hunger, foster and adoptive families, and others, your church's outreach missions can identify human trafficking and prevent the exploitation of vulnerable people. When you enhance what your church is already doing to serve others, you can make a large impact.

Consider the following to enhance your efforts:

- Take the Learn How to End Human Trafficking series from Justice U™ to discover what human trafficking is, important issues surrounding human trafficking, how to recognize it and report it safely, what an effective community-wide strategy looks like, how to shape your own role to end human trafficking—and more. Sign-up today at [learnwithjusticeu.com/learnhowseries](https://learnwithjusticeu.com/learnhowseries).
- Learn how human trafficking impacts your community from a variety of perspectives. Ask your local task force, coalition, service providers, law enforcement, survivor advocates, victim advocates, and other others what they see and what they believe are the biggest challenges facing your community.
- Seek training for your volunteers on how to identify human trafficking while out in the community. Work with local law enforcement to establish a protocol for what happens when a suspicious situation is identified.
- Utilize faith-based resources (posters, brochures, outreach cards, etc.) from the [ACF Office of Trafficking in Persons Look Beneath the Surface campaign](#).
- Invite your church to take the Engage Together® Church Teaching Series that equips churches with the knowledge, resources, ideas, and strategies needed to move forward in their efforts to end human trafficking and to protect the vulnerable in their local community. Register at [engagetogether.com/church](https://engagetogether.com/church)
- Have your outreach team program your area's local human trafficking hotline number, the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-373-7888 or text HELP to BEFREE) into their mobile devices.
- Learn more about what puts certain populations at increased risk. ([engagetogether.com/human-trafficking-101-victims/](https://engagetogether.com/human-trafficking-101-victims/))
- Make this issue known to your existing community partners. Collaborate on ideas for how you can address human trafficking together in your community. When we engage together, miracles happen.



# YOU ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

DISCOVER HOW.

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