

OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE

COMMUNITY GROUP MEMBER



MEET DAVID, A COMMUNITY GROUP MEMBER.

All Hands Community Group (AHCG) is a **community volunteer organization** in Springfield. They have around 50 volunteers from all sectors (business, nonprofit, faith communities, law enforcement officers, etc.) who are passionate about using their professional skills and talents to help others. They meet regularly on evenings and weekends, either as an entire group or in sub-groups. Last year, the AHCG identified combating human trafficking as a priority project for their organization. Since then, they have taken steps to strategically **engage** their group and community members.

AHCG's first step was to ensure that they were hearing from the experts about the **needs** in the community and being as inclusive as possible. A volunteer named Erin reached out to service providers, survivor advocates, representatives from the legal system, the local task force, and other human trafficking stakeholders to let them know about the group and to ask ways that the AHCG could be a **resource**.

Next, AHCG created an anti-trafficking **working group** for the purposes of 1) creative problem solving for identified needs, 2) lobbying for needed law and policy changes, and 3) creating and implementing short and long term goals for AHCG's anti-trafficking work. The group is comprised of members from all sectors who can use their unique perspectives, backgrounds, professional networks, and experiences to provide useful and practical solutions for addressing the barriers that multiple service providers, survivors, and law enforcement encounter.

The group learns from providers that they have difficulty finding volunteers for specific needs and tasks. AHCG recognizes they can serve as a conduit for volunteers to provide **services, skills, and donations** to anti-trafficking efforts. To solve for this, David uses his technical skills to create a volunteer software system that matches AHCG volunteers to needs in Springfield. With the software, volunteers with specific skill sets and resources are able to come **alongside existing efforts and fill gaps**. David and group members are also able to share the needs and volunteer opportunities with their professional networks to reach a wider audience.

AHCG did not have to start an initiative, they simply enhanced where they were already strong to make an impact locally.

**YOU
CAN
TOO!**

The key to AHCG's success has been their diversity. By having a very diverse volunteer base united under a common cause, AHCG is able to **problem solve and meet needs** effectively. By enhancing where they were already strong, All Hands Community Group is making a big impact in the fight against human trafficking in Springfield.

RESOURCES FOR YOU

Human trafficking occurs in every city in the United States. No urban or rural area is immune from both sex and labor trafficking. As a member of a community group, civic group, or other volunteer organization, there are many ways that you can enhance what you are already doing. When you leverage your group's individual and collective strengths, your community's needs become easier to address.

Consider the following to enhance your efforts:

- Learn how human trafficking impacts your community from a variety of perspectives. Ask your local task force, coalition, service providers, law enforcement officers, survivor advocates, victim advocates, and other others what they see and what they believe are the biggest challenges facing your community regarding human trafficking. We highly recommend beginning with a community assessment (engagetogether.com/communityassessment).
- Seek training for your volunteers or members on how to identify human trafficking and learn how each member is uniquely positioned to engage. 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.
- Utilize and distribute materials from the DHS Blue Campaign Library, Administration for Children and Families Look Beneath the Surface Resource Library, and National Human Trafficking Hotline.
- Make reporting information available to your members and to your community through your website, social media, booth participation, and more. Include information for how to make reports to federal authorities (1-866-DHS-2-ICE), local law enforcement, and the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-373-7888 or humantraffickinghotline.org).
- Learn more about what puts certain populations at increased risk, including: minors in the child welfare system and runaway youth, homeless individuals, foreign nationals, individuals with a history of trauma or abuse, and individuals with disabilities at engagetogether.com/human-trafficking-101-victims/.
- Review the Administration for Children and Families "Creating and Sustaining a Local Response to Human Trafficking Compendium of Promising Practices".



YOU ARE UNIQUELY
POSITIONED TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.

DISCOVER HOW.

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