

# JANUARY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

*Spread the word!*

## From CFBHN CEO

### Greetings!

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a time to bring awareness to a crisis that continues to impact lives across our communities.

Human trafficking is a silent storm—pulling individuals into dangerous waters, cutting them off from safety, and leaving them adrift in fear and uncertainty.

It is a crime that thrives in secrecy, preying on the vulnerable, and it exists in every corner of society. But just as skilled sailors rely on lighthouses to guide them through the darkness, we must serve as beacons of hope for those who need a path out.

Recently, in Polk County, a **major human trafficking operation** led to the arrest of over 150 individuals. This case reminds us that human trafficking is not a distant issue—it is happening here in Florida, in our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces.

Traffickers use manipulation, coercion, and violence to trap victims, often targeting those who are already struggling with poverty, homelessness, or addiction. But while trafficking may thrive in the shadows, we have the power to bring it into the light.

At CFBHN, we stand firm in our mission to support survivors and their families.

Through our network of dedicated providers, we fund vital services that help individuals rebuild their lives after trauma.

**Gracepoint, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care, and Tri-County Human Services** are just a few of the organizations offering critical support, including mental health counseling, substance use treatment, housing assistance, and crisis intervention.

These services are lifelines for survivors, helping them navigate their way to stability and recovery.

Ending human trafficking requires a collective effort. We must educate ourselves and others on the warning signs—such as individuals who seem fearful, controlled, or unable to speak freely.



a personal note from  
**Alan Davidson**  
President & CEO

*"No one is free until we are all free"*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



We must listen to survivors and advocate for stronger protections against traffickers.

Most importantly, we must never look away when we see something suspicious. If you believe someone is being trafficked, report it immediately.

If you or someone you know needs help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at (888) 373-7888. Support is available 24/7, and every call has the power to change a life.

No one should have to sail these rough waters alone. Together, we can guide survivors to safety, protect those at risk, and chart a course toward a future where every individual is free to live with dignity and hope.

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If you or someone you know needs additional support, please remember that CFBHN is here to help. Our **Service Locator** on the CFBHN website is a valuable resource that connects individuals with behavioral health services in their area. No one should have to face challenges alone, and there is always help available.

To find a CFBHN provider please use this link for our **Service Locator**.

If you need further assistance, please phone **813-740-4811**. After business hours, on weekends and holidays, you may select the option to speak to someone immediately and you will be transferred to the **2-1-1** line of the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay.

If you are experiencing a medical emergency, please hang up and dial **911**.

