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SAMARITAN HOUSE COMMEMORATES HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH WITH ONLINE EVENTS AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Make plans to wear blue on Monday, January 11 – National Human Trafficking Awareness Day and tune in to “Violence Across the Lifespan” a virtual seminar co-produced with the Norfolk Public Library.

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA – January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month and all month long, Samaritan House will be focusing on raising awareness of the types of human trafficking, support survivors, dispel myths circulating online and educate via social media campaign and virtual events.

“Since the onset of the pandemic, human trafficking has not slowed, in fact, we are seeing an uptick in cases and Attorney General Herring recognized this by securing additional funding for the Hampton Roads Human Trafficking Task Force (HRHTTF) law enforcement efforts in Hampton Roads,” said Robin Gauthier, Executive Director of Samaritan House.

"Human trafficking is about the exploitation of folks who are all too often apart of marginalized and vulnerable people groups already. COVID 19 has unveiled the intersectionality of vulnerable people groups: Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, people who identify as women, and poor rates are increasing. Trafficking is not new it is just being uncovered," said Courtney Pierce, Anti-Trafficking Outreach and Direct Service Coordinator at Samaritan House.

Samaritan House will produce two virtual events designed to raise awareness among the community. The first will be [“Violence Across the Lifespan,”](#) a virtual seminar co-hosted with the Norfolk Public Library on Monday, January 11 at 6 p.m. January 11 is also National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, part of the Department of Homeland Security’s #WearBlue Campaign. Wear blue on January 11 to raise awareness of human trafficking and take photos of friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue clothing and share them on social media using the [#WearBlueDay](#) [#samhousestrong](#) hashtags.

On January 28 at 12 p.m., we will release “The Intersectionality of Race and Human Trafficking.” a virtual panel discussion, the second in our *SAMtalks* series featuring Courtney Pierce, Samaritan House’s Anti-Trafficking Outreach and Direct Service Coordinator.

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ABOUT SAMARITAN HOUSE: Since 1984, Samaritan House has sought to foster personal safety, growth and self-sufficiency in adults and their children through freedom from sexual and domestic violence, human trafficking and homelessness in Hampton Roads by providing emergency and permanent housing, support services and community outreach to victims. For additional information, visit: www.samaritanhouseva.org