

SWFL COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM 2026



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COALITION AGAINST

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



fuse

"AWARENESS TO ACTION"

SWFLHumanTrafficking.org

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Beginning 6:30 AM	Vendor tables set-up Registration Networking Continental Breakfast
8:00 AM	Opening remarks Pre-test on Human Trafficking
8:10 - 9:00 AM	Alina Donahue, <i>Operation Light Shine</i>
9:00 - 9:10 AM	Q & A
9:15 - 10:00 AM	Dr. Shelly Wagers and Boomer Rose <i>USF/The BRIGHT Project</i>
10:00 - 10:10 AM	Q & A
10:15 - 11:15 AM	Erika Pineros and Cristobal Perez <i>Labor Trafficking</i>
11:15 - 11:25 AM	Q & A
11:30 AM - 1:15 PM	Lunch (on your own)
1:15 - 2:00 PM	<i>Survivor Panel hosted and moderated by</i> Monica Nagy <i>Speakers:</i> Holly Harris Alice Mercer Dr. Marianne Pazienza Kristen Russell
2:00 - 2:30 PM	Closing remarks/Raffle drawings/ Evaluation surveys



SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

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SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS



Alina Donahue

Alina Donahue is a nationally recognized speaker, survivor leader, and expert on human trafficking response. Known for her powerful storytelling and practical insight, Alina uses her lived experience to educate and equip law enforcement, nonprofits, and communities across the country.

She is the founder of the Human Trafficking Education & Response Academy (HTERA), which provides high-impact, survivor-informed training rooted in frontline expertise. Alina also serves as a Director with Operation Light Shine, further advancing efforts to combat human trafficking through education, advocacy, and collaborative response.

Alina co-created the Shelly Stayer Shelter's 18-month residential program and has trained thousands on topics like forced criminality, trauma-informed response, and "Understanding the Game." A Leadership Collier alumni and recipient of Gulfshore Business's 40 Under 40 award, Alina inspires audiences to rethink justice and reimagine survivor support.

Whether on stage or in the classroom, her message is clear: real change starts with understanding.





Dr. Shelly Wagers

Dr. Shelly Wagers is an Associate Professor of Criminology at the University of South Florida and an applied researcher with more than 25 years of experience addressing interpersonal violence and human trafficking. Her work examines how system responses across healthcare, legal, and community settings shape outcomes for victims and survivors. She is frequently consulted by state and federal agencies, criminal justice systems, healthcare systems, and community organizations to translate research into evidence-based policy and practice. Through her research and cross-sector partnerships, Dr. Wagers collaborates with multidisciplinary teams to strengthen identification, referral, and continuity of care for individuals impacted by human trafficking. She currently serves as the Director of the BRIGHT Project—a statewide digital platform developed from large-scale field research that connects survivors of human trafficking to coordinated, safe services while generating actionable data to improve coordination of care and inform system-level change.





Boomer Rose

Boomer Rose is an award-winning technologist, UX/UI expert, and the Co-Founder of Pinkston Rose Rustand LLC (PRR), where he recently launched the Clarity Case Management System. Driven by his own lived experience with recovery and incarceration, Boomer designs human-centered technology to address complex social challenges—spanning addiction recovery, re-entry, homelessness, and human trafficking. His groundbreaking work includes winning the MIT Beyond Hack and collaborating for over three years with leading researchers at the University of South Florida (USF). A former advisor and global speaker for the United Nations International Youth Conference, Boomer is also a recipient of the Presidential Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award from President Biden.





Erika Pineros

Erika Pineros, LMHC, Qualified Supervisor, is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor with over a decade of experience developing and leading behavioral health and anti-human trafficking programs that support survivors of trauma and exploitation. She currently serves at Camillus House as the Director of an anti-human trafficking program that provides an adult safe house and rapid rehousing services.

Erika has extensive experience managing federally funded Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) programs, overseeing comprehensive case management, transitional housing, outreach initiatives, multidisciplinary partnerships, and compliance with federal reporting and performance standards. She utilizes trauma-informed, survivor-centered approaches and is trained in evidence-based modalities including EMDR and Traumatic Incident Reduction (TIR).

In addition to her clinical and leadership work, Erika is an experienced presenter and trainer on topics related to human trafficking and mental health. She is a cofounder of the Statewide Coalition Combatting Labor Trafficking and has contributed to victim advocacy efforts during national recovery operations involving trafficking survivors and missing children.





Cristobal Perez

Cristobal Perez is an Educational Psychologist with a Bachelor's degree from Denver, Colorado, and a Master's degree from Santiago, Chile. With over 18 years of experience, he has supervised social workers in non-profit settings and trained health providers, social service agencies, law enforcement, and community organizations. He is currently the Director of Law Student Support Services at St. Thomas University, where he works with the Division of Student Affairs to help students achieve their educational and personal goals. Additionally, as a consultant, Cristobal focuses on vulnerable populations, including minors and adults with disabilities, unaccompanied refugee minors, and victims of sex and labor trafficking. He is active in national and statewide anti-trafficking coalitions, and co-chairs Florida's Statewide Coalition Combatting Labor Trafficking, where he analyzes labor trafficking data. A published author and academic guest lecturer, Cristobal has received local and national recognition for his work on human trafficking.





Monica Nagy, Host and Moderator

Monica Nagy is a nationally recognized speaker, consultant, survivor-leader, and Founder & CEO of **F.U.S.E. (Free. Unashamed. Safe. Empowered.)**, a survivor-led, trauma-informed organization serving survivors of human trafficking and exploitation.

A survivor of familial sex trafficking, Monica combines lived experience with frontline leadership to advance survivor-led solutions that improve long-term outcomes and strengthen community responses to trafficking. Through F.U.S.E., she leads initiatives focused on prevention, crisis response, mentorship, housing support, and systems collaboration.

Monica is a member of Safe House Project's Trafficking Survivor Equity Coalition (TSEC), a graduate of the SCALE Survivor Leadership Program, an alumna of the Rebecca Bender Initiative's Elevate Academy, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Southwest Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

She regularly trains and speaks for multidisciplinary audiences nationwide on survivor leadership, trauma-informed care, systems change, victim identification, and building sustainable pathways to freedom and healing.



SURVIVOR PANEL SPEAKER



Holly Harris

Holly is an author, speaker, and business owner whose story of profound transformation and healing lights a path of hope for families and individuals alike.

Her journey, marked by God's miraculous power to restore and redefine, proves that no matter how dark the past, a new life filled with purpose is always within reach. Driven by unwavering faith, she is passionately committed to inspiring the next generation to rise up as fierce warriors of faith, walking boldly in God's calling and making a lasting impact in the world.



Alice Mercer

Alice's journey with Selah began in 2022 when she was a resident of the program and experienced firsthand the courage and resilience it takes to rebuild a life. She came on staff in 2024 as an Advocate at

our assessment home, she then transitioned to Case Manager at our Long Term Residential Program. In January 2026, Alice stepped into the Empowered & Independent Living Coordinator, where she uses her own experience to guide and support survivors as they transition to Independent Living and long term success. Alice believes that every survivor deserves the opportunity to thrive and is dedicated to creating pathways that foster hope, growth, and self-sufficiency. She is honored to be a part of the mission that transforms lives and strengthens futures.



Dr. Marianne Pazienza, PhD

Dr. Marianne Pazienza is a visionary leader and world-changer with more than 20 years of experience serving individuals and communities who have been historically marginalized. Her professional expertise is uniquely informed by her lived experience as a survivor of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, and addiction—bringing both compassion and authority to her work.

A powerful advocate for resilience and restoration, Dr. Pazienza specializes in trauma, human development, and the transformative impact of supportive relationships. She is the founder of My Name My Voice, a survivor-led organization committed to restoring agency, dignity, and opportunity through mentorship, education, and community connection.

Known for her compelling voice and courageous leadership, Dr. Pazienza blends scientific insight with personal narrative to equip audiences to understand the profound impact mentorship has on growth and long-term flourishing. Her passion is inspiring others to rise, lead, and create lasting change.





Kristen Russell

Kristen Russell serves as the Chief Operating Officer of Ground Up Ministries, a state-licensed Child Caring Agency (CCA) Safe House dedicated to protecting and restoring young survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). A survivor herself who was sent to Southwest Florida for safety in 2016, Kristen brings a deeply personal understanding of trauma, resilience, and the critical need for secure, faith-based restoration.

Professionally, Kristen is an expert in public sector finance and administration, with an extensive background in budget management, operational analysis, and regulatory compliance. Prior to her leadership at Ground Up Ministries, she honed her skills managing complex financial reviews and operations for Collier County Public Schools and the Collier County Government. Driven by an ownership mentality and her faith, Kristen also actively serves her community as a board member and volunteer for organizations including the LONDC Steering Committee, the Lambert- Eaton LEMS Family Association, Avow, and Grow Church.



VENDOR TABLES & TOTE BAG ITEM SPONSORS

AUNT TIFF'S PLACE

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF SWFL

CHRISTIANS UNITED AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

COURTSIDE LEGAL SERVICES

DESOTO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

F.U.S.E.

GROUND UP MINISTRIES

INTO THE JORDAN

KEEPERS OF THE INNOCENT

MAN UP AND GO

MY NAME MY VOICE

ONE MORE CHILD

PARK ROYAL HOSPITAL

PROJECT HELP, NAPLES

REFLECTIVE SPACES MINISTRY

SELAH FREEDOM

THE PRR GROUP

YAHWEH LOVING CARE



LUNCH OPTIONS WITHIN A SHORT WALK OR DRIVE

LOVE OUR DOOR PRIZES AND RAFFLES???
SAY" THANKS" BY EATING AT ONE OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS:

Blue Point Oyster Bar

(In Bell Tower at 13499 S. Cleveland Ave. #141 • 239-433-0634)

Capital Grille

(In Bell Tower at 5070 Bell Tower Shops Ave. • 239-722-3116)

Glory Days Sports Bar

(In Market Square at 5056 Daniels Pkwy. • 239-690-3287)

Longhorn Steakhouse

(In Market Square at 13701 S. Tamiani Trail • 239-437-3395)

Saigon Paris Bistro

(12995 S. Cleveland Ave. #118 • 239-936-2233)

Shoeless Joe'

(Here in the Doubletree Hotel • 239-437-0650)

Other Nearby Eat In Options:

Bangkok Thai (11609 S. Cleveland • 239-939-6002)

Burntwood Tavern (13499 S. Cleveland • 239-437-6046)

Cantina Laredo (5200 Big Pine Way • 239-415-4424)

Carrabbas (12990 S. Cleveland • 239-433-0877)

Dave & Busters (13499 S. Cleveland • 239-264-3000)

Duffy's Sports Grill (13721 S. Tamiani Trail • 239-590-8631)

Grimaldi Pizza (13499 S. Cleveland • 239-432-9767)

McGregor's Public House (13499 S. Cleveland • 239-990-3336)

Nearby Fast Food Options:

On S. Cleveland/ US 41: Culvers, Raising Cane's, Zaxby's, Five Guys, KFC

On S. Tamiami Trail: Chick-fil-A, Moe's Southwest Grille, Starbucks, Tacos & Arepas...and more.





CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Mission:

To create a safe and nurturing space for children affected by abuse and neglect, where they share their stories, heal, and thrive with comprehensive support



Protecting



Healing



Advocating



Preventing



Educating



Comforting



Donate Here

3830 Evans Avenue
Fort Myers, FL
cac-swfl.org



EMPOWERING SURVIVORS. PREVENTING EXPLOITATION. IGNITING CHANGE.

F.U.S.E. is a survivor-led, trauma-informed organization dedicated to creating lasting freedom through prevention, advocacy, and survivor-centered support across Southwest Florida and Hillsborough County.



Serving at-risk and identified **youth**, along with **adult females** impacted by trafficking, exploitation, and vulnerability.

OUR SERVICES



Case Management & Advocacy



Survivor Mentorship



Trauma Therapy Coordination



Prevention Education



Support Groups



Continued Education & Life Skills Support



Community Training & Awareness

2025 IMPACT



41

Individuals Served



740

Hours of Case Management



170

Hours of Trauma Therapy



435

Hours of Educational Support

WHY F.U.S.E.



SURVIVOR-LED



TRAUMA-INFORMED



COMMUNITY-BASED



MENTORSHIP-FOCUSED



LONG-TERM SUPPORT



fuse

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239-404-9475





— KEEPERS OF THE INNOCENT —

WE DON'T JUST SHOW UP. WE STAY.

WE DON'T JUST SHOW UP. WE STAY.

Through the darkest storms, Keepers of the Innocent stands shoulder to shoulder with children, youth, and families impacted by trauma, hardship, and unimaginable life experiences.

Through strength, loyalty, support, and consistency, KOI reminds every gladiator they are **seen**, **valued**, **protected**, and **never forgotten**.



WE CARE.

Every child deserves to be seen, heard, and valued.



WE PROTECT.

We stand in the gap and create a safe place for healing and hope.



WE SUPPORT.

Through resources, fight, and real relationships, we walk together.



WE STAY.

Our commitment doesn't end. We are family—for the long haul.

TOGETHER **WE SPEAK** THEIR SILENCE.



(941) 231-1307



info@koi-fl.org



KOI-FL.ORG



ANTI-TRAFFICKING MOBILE TEAM REFERRAL

We support survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation through:

**advocacy,
mentorship,
counseling.**

Human Trafficking Indicators

- Highly sexualized behavior
- Older partners and/ or friends
- Repeated disclosure and/or signs of abuse
- Fear of authorities and/or law enforcement
- Distancing from support
- Multiple STDs, pregnancies, or abortions
- Minor frequently runs away
- Multiple phones
- No personal possessions

Referral Services:

- trauma-informed counseling
- psychoeducation
- court accompaniment
- life skills
- mentorship
- case management
- free food boxes & hygiene items
- access to 24/7 hotline
- advocacy
- referrals to other providers

If you suspect or know of a trafficking victim age 10-28, please scan to download a referral form that will allow One More Child to offer our services to them:

COUNTIES:

- Charlotte
- Collier
- Glades
- Hendry
- Lee



omc-at-circuit20@onemorechild.org



239.478.8649



onemorechild.org



“...and that led to newfound empathy
about her own experiences.”

-POVS Member

Watch. Talk. Heal.



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NOTES



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LEARN MORE ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING!



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OUR MISSION

TO COMBAT HUMAN
TRAFFICKING THROUGH
EDUCATION AND
PARTNERSHIPS



THANK YOU!

Report
Suspected Trafficking

National HT Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

FL HT Hotline: 1-855-352-7253 (FLASAFE)

Lee County Sheriff: 239-477-1000

DCF Hotline: 1-800-962-2873