



Mission Kids Receives \$300,000 Grant to Fight Sex Trafficking

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Pa. (January 17, 2019) – [Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center](#) is pleased to announce it has been named the sole recipient of the STOP Human Trafficking Grant by the [Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency](#). The \$300,000 grant was awarded to only one agency in the Commonwealth and will be funded for two years starting in January 2019.

Over the next two years, Mission Kids will work with 20 partner agencies to create a formal, cross systems Sex Trafficking Response Team who can provide specialized insight into sex trafficking. This multi-disciplinary team will work collaboratively to identify issues in providing safety and services to victims of sex trafficking, while concurrently seeking to improve the trauma response to victims. A training outline will be developed to address the needs of all Sex Trafficking Response Team members and their unique roles and responsibilities. These structured training programs will ensure that professionals across disciplines will be well-equipped to identify, and respond to, cases of sex trafficking in the community.

As traffickers move their victims across county and state lines, the team is also responsible for creating a Sex Trafficking Response Protocol to standardize a cross-systems response to trafficking which can be replicated in all counties across Pennsylvania. Many trafficking victims have a history of child sexual abuse, have been in foster care, and become victims before the age of 18. This victim-centered protocol will provide a clear, systematic response for all team members to successfully respond to cases of sex trafficking of minors and adults.

A unique member to the team is a survivor of human trafficking. Other members include representatives from: Homeland Security Investigations, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Montgomery County Detectives Bureau, the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office, Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth, Montgomery County Child Advocacy Project, the Salvation Army, Laurel House, Victim Services Center, the Norristown Police Department, the Pottstown Police Department, the Upper Merion Police Department, Creative Health Services, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Medical Center, Accion Comunal Latinoamericana de Montgomery County (ACLAMO), the Montgomery County Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition, and the Mazzone Center.

The grant begins in January, which is also recognized nationally as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, an annual observance to raise awareness and provide information about the signs of human trafficking to prevent and end all forms of this crime. Mission Kids encourages members of the community to visit our website www.missionkidscac.org for specific signs that a person is being trafficked.

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About Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center

[Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center](#) was established in 2008 to develop and oversee a coordinated, multidisciplinary and comprehensive response to reports of suspected child sexual and physical abuse. It



Mission Kids
Child Advocacy Center

coordinates a team response to child abuse allegations with the Montgomery County District Attorney's office, the Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth, the 50 police departments in Montgomery County and the Pennsylvania State Police. By bringing the agents of major institutions that play a role in the response process together in one child-friendly, developmentally appropriate, respectful and safe environment, the Center strives to limit victim trauma. Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County is a nationally accredited, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is supported by funding from generous public and private organizations and individuals.

MISSION KIDS

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