



## Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group, Inc.

*"Learning Together, Growing Together"*

### E-Bulletin ~ January 2016



January 2016 marks the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first National Stalking Awareness Month. In the past thirteen years, we have witnessed increased awareness of stalking and enhanced responses to stalking across the country. Laws have been strengthened, tens of thousands of professionals trained on responding to stalking, and services for victims of stalking have been expanded. Yet, the fact that 6.6 million adults are stalked in the United States in one year demonstrates that we still have so much more to do.



### **The History of Stalking Awareness Month**

In January 2004, the National Center for Victims of Crime launched National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM) to increase the public's understanding of the crime of stalking. NSAM emerged from the work of the Stalking resource center, a National Center program funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, to raise awareness about stalking and help develop and implement multidisciplinary responses to the crime.

NSAM began in response to a 2003 call to the Stalking Resource Center from Debbie Riddle, the sister of murdered stalking victim Peggy Klinke. Riddle wanted to transform her family's painful tragedy into a force for good—and to help improve law enforcement's response to stalking and save lives. Riddle's call all led to a concurrent Congressional resolution on stalking; a national program on Lifetime Television, hosted by Erin Brockovich, featuring Peggy Klinke's story; and a Lifetime video, "Stalking: Real Fear, Real Crime," to train law enforcement about the crime. In July 2003, the National Center for Victims of Crime, in partnership with Representative Heather Wilson (R-NM) and Lifetime Television, told Peggy's story at a Congressional briefing on Capitol Hill, which focused on strengthening law enforcement's response to the crime.

That same day, Representative Wilson introduced a Congressional resolution to support National Stalking Awareness Month. The following January, the National Center for Victims of Crime launched the first observance of National Stalking Awareness Month and supported communities across the nation in planning the event.

In 2011, the White House issued the first Presidential Proclamation on National Stalking Awareness Month. President Obama's proclamation stressed the millions affected by the crime, its often-devastating consequences, the difficulty of identifying and investigating the crime, and the federal government's strong commitment to combating stalking. The 2012 proclamation elaborated on the dangers of stalking, and the importance of NSAM in building awareness about the crime.

In 2012, during National Stalking Awareness Month, the White House convened its first-ever National Roundtable on Stalking, bringing together survivors, law enforcement officers, victim advocates, and researchers, to advance knowledge of the crime and help the federal government combat the crime.

The National Stalking Awareness Month website ([www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org](http://www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org)), launched in January 2009, provides a wealth of information about the crime and about the nationwide observance. Information about NSAM is also available on Facebook and Twitter. Both sites have generated great interest and sharing about how communities throughout the country observe NSAM.

## Stalking Safety Tips for Stalking Victims

### Safety Anytime:

- If possible, have a phone nearby at all times, preferably one to which the stalker has never had access. Memorize emergency numbers, and make sure that 911 and helpful family or friends are on speed dial.
- Treat all threats, direct and indirect, as legitimate and inform law enforcement immediately.
- Vary routines, including changing routes to work, school, the grocery store, and other places regularly frequented. Limit time spent alone and try to shop at different stores and visit different bank branches.
- When out of the house or work environment, try not to travel alone and try to stay in public areas.
- Get a new, unlisted phone number. Leave the old number active and connected to an answering machine or voicemail. Have a friend, advocate, or law enforcement screen the calls, and save any messages from the stalker. These messages, particularly those that are explicitly abusive or threatening, can be critical evidence for law enforcement to build a stalking case against the offender.
- Do not interact with the person stalking or harassing you. Responding to stalker's actions may reinforce their behavior.
- Consider obtaining a protective order against the stalker. Some states offer stalking protective orders and other victims may be eligible for protective orders under their state's domestic violence statutes.
- Trust your instincts. If you're somewhere that doesn't feel safe, either find ways to make it safer, or leave.



January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Human rights groups estimate that anywhere between 12.3 million and 27 million people are enslaved in forced or bonded labor, child labor, sexual servitude, and involuntary servitude at any given time.

*Sex trafficking* or slavery is the forcing of human beings into any form of commercial sexual exploitation. Commercial sexual exploitation includes pornography, prostitution and the sex trafficking of women and girls, and is characterized by the exploitation of a human being in exchange for goods or money. Seventy-nine percent of human trafficking victims are women and girls and most end up in sex slavery.

*Labor Trafficking* occurs when people are induced by force, or coercion to perform labor or services. Labor traffickers frequently target vulnerable people with histories of abuse and then use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt, bondage, or other forms of control or manipulation to control their victims.

Vulnerability to human trafficking is far-reaching, spanning multiple areas such as age, socio-economic status, nationality, education-level, or gender. Human trafficking victims are found in cities, suburbs, and rural areas in all 50 states and in Washington, DC. The most vulnerable populations include undocumented immigrants; runaway and homeless youth; victims of trauma and abuse; refugees and individuals fleeing conflict; and oppressed, marginalized, and impoverished groups and individuals.

## **Human Trafficking Resource Numbers to Call:**

### **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force Line**

- 1-888-428-7581
- Toll Free; Only operates on weekdays, 9am-5pm EST

### **Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)**

- 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
- Toll Free; 24-hour capacity

### **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) National Hotline**

- 1-800-THE-LOST (843-5678)
- [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com)
- Toll Free; 24-hour capacity

## ***OVC News & Program Updates***

First released in April 2011, *OVC News & Program Updates* is a valuable tool for sharing information about OVC initiatives, events, and other items of special interest. It incorporates articles and information from grantees, service professionals, and others who share the mission of promoting justice and healing for victims. Share the newsletter with your colleagues and join OVC in an ongoing, lively, informative discussion about victim services.

The new edition of OVC [News & Program Updates](#) is now available online. Read about OVC's efforts to help children exposed to violence, learn how violence interrupter programs are working to address the cycle of trauma and violence among young men of color, and follow one survivor's pathway to healing from childhood trauma and violence.

### **Progress Reports are due January 30, 2016!!**

The reporting period for this report is from July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. To avoid possible issues with uploading your reports due to high usage of the Grants Management System (GMS), we encourage you to submit your reports earlier than the last date they can be submitted.

Should you have any problems with GMS you can call GMS at **GMS Help Desk at 1-888-549-9901, Option 3**. If you have a failure to upload your report, call GMS and as they assist you, you can also ask GMS for a "ticket number" that will reflect you had contacted GMS to verify you had GMS problems in submitting your report. As always if you need extra assistance with your reports please contact us at Unified Solutions!

Hello OVC CTAS Tribal Grantees,

Unified Solutions (Unified) staff and consulting Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) can advise and provide training and technical assistance on a wide variety of subjects related to victimization, program management, and other relevant topics. Unified can provide the training at your site and you can invite your key partners and stakeholders to the training. Please let us know what kind of training or technical assistance you determined needing from your recent community assessment or from discussions with your stakeholders. If you would like a listing of training topics Unified can provide please contact one of our staff listed on this e-bulletin.

Unified staff can also provide on-site technical assistance on a variety of subjects ranging from facilitating community needs assessment forums or meetings, policy reviews, or engaging your team in strategic planning sessions. Unified can also coordinate and facilitate conference calls including calls with your OVC Program Specialists. Please never hesitate to contact us. We are here for you. As always, it is such a pleasure and honor to serve you and see all the great work you are doing in your tribal communities.

### **Here is our Contact Information:**

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