



WOMEN'S GIVING NETWORK OF WAKE COUNTY

a program of

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Spring 2018

Feeling Empowered by the work of WGN

On Thursday, April 12, I attended the education committee's special event on human trafficking in North Carolina. The panel



Laurie Hughes

was comprised of five experts and the discussion was led by Libby Coles, executive director of Justice Matters; a 2017 WGN grant recipient. I was overwhelmed by the information the panelists provided.

As I looked around the room, my initial response of being sickened and disgusted by this underground plague was pleasantly replaced by hope, empowerment and encouragement.

My hope came from seeing a sold-out crowd of members and their guests. Their faces showed determination. Determination to learn and understand how human trafficking can be stopped. It was clear to me that a seed was planted and this group was not going to let

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Human Trafficking

2017 Grant Recipient Battles Public Safety Issue

Women and children are being exploited every day, in our country, in our state, even right here in the Triangle, as victims of human trafficking.

But what is human trafficking exactly?

According to Libby Coles, chair of the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission, "human trafficking is the exploitation of our neighbors – adults and children – for commercial sex acts or labor. It is a public safety issue, a public health issue, and a human rights issue. It underlies most observed crimes, interconnected with drug crimes and gang activity. In fact, human trafficking is

the second most lucrative criminal industry in the world, just behind the drug trade – experts estimate it's a \$150 billion-dollar industry worldwide.

"And unlike drugs," she added, "people – our neighbors – can be sold for sex and for labor again, and again and again."

Coles, who is also executive director and managing attorney for JusticeMatters, was part of an April 12 panel discussion sponsored by the Women's Giving Network of Wake County, to alert members to the signs and dangers of human trafficking in our area. JusticeMatters, the recipient of a \$56,000 grant from the WGN in 2017, provides preventive and restorative direct legal services in humanitarian immigration law, family law, and other civil matters through a team of staff and volunteer attorneys. JusticeMatters also provides

"Experts believe that hundreds of thousands of people are trafficked nationally. And NC has one of the top 10 highest rates of human trafficking in the U.S."

–Libby Coles, NC Human Trafficking Commission

community education, professional training and policy consulting on issues affecting their clients.

Joining Coles on the panel were Jasmine S. McGhee, Special Deputy Attorney General, Director, Public Protection Section, NC Department of Justice; Kathy Nunez, Case Manager, The Salvation Army of Wake County, Project FIGHT; Linda Nunnallee, Executive Director, StepUp Ministry; and Katy Pomeroy, Assistant District Attorney, Wake County.

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TRAFFICKING, from page 1

"North Carolinians of every race, gender, age and socioeconomic status are being exploited for sex and labor in our state, even here in Wake County," Coles said. "Experts believe that hundreds of thousands of people are trafficked nationally. And NC has one of the top 10 highest rates of human trafficking in the U.S."

According to statistics, last year victim-survivors and citizens in North Carolina made 854 calls to the national human trafficking hotline, reporting 221 cases involving nearly 900 victim-survivors.

Though many cases are reported directly to first responders, Coles believes thousands of cases go unreported in North Carolina each year.

StepUp executive director Linda Nunnalle was invited to be part of the panel to emphasize the importance of individual support when combating human trafficking. "StepUp's work

is preventive and restorative," she says. "Preventive in that traffickers prey on vulnerable people. StepUp empowers individuals to overcome obstacles that become barriers and strengthens their ability to become less vulnerable to traffickers and others who would exploit women. Restorative in that survivors often need assistance as they do the hard work of healing and reengaging with a community."

"At StepUp Ministry, we may never know if we are serving someone who has been trafficked. Our commitment is to provide support to strengthen the social fabric and support our participants require to overcome their vulnerabilities and maximizing their strengths."

Panelists presented statistics on human trafficking and ways their organizations are fighting this issue. They also provided tips on how to spot victims of human trafficking and how to respond.

Watch for for these signs:

- Children working at a business when they should be in school
- Women wearing lightweight clothing (i.e. skimpy) when it's cold outside
- Nail salons selling extremely inexpensive manicures and pedicures
- Individuals circling transportation hubs (i.e. Moore Square bus terminal) who seem to be looking to pick up runaways
- Young kids working on farms when they should be in school

If someone suspects they have encountered a victim of human trafficking, call the hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or by e-mail: help@humantraffickinghotline.org. Learn more at www.humantraffickinghotline.org.

Thank you to Lee Hayden, Pam Prather and Kim Barber for organizing the informative event.



Save the Dates!

Learning Event

Thursday, May 17

NC Museum of Natural Sciences

4pm - Introduction & Tour
of the Girls in Science program (2018 Grantee)

5pm - drinks and meeting in the Science Cafe

7pm (optional) Science Cafe

[Register Here](#)

12th Annual Grants Award Luncheon

Thursday, November 8

11:30am - 1:30pm

NC State Park Alumni Center

2450 Alumni Drive

Raleigh, NC 27606

WGN Leadership Committee

Laurie Hughes, President
Kella Hatcher, Immediate Past President
Hayden Constance, President-elect
Jenny Eury, Corresponding Secretary
Amy Pirozzolo, At-Large Member
Jesma Reynolds, At-Large Member
Susan Edwards, At-Large Jr. Member

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Molly Painter, Chair*, Donna Anderson, Kathy Burns, Beverley Clark, Mary-Owens Fitzgerald, Linda Parks, Sandy Pearce, Amy Pirozzolo, Tricia Phoenix, Jesma Reynolds, Deb Rodman

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Lee Hayden & Pam Prather, Co-Chairs*; Kim Barber

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Lisa Grele Barrie*

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Susan Byrum Rountree, Chair *

* Leadership Committee Member

Welcome New Members!

Mary Currin
Julie Davenport
Lisa Feierstein
Bonnie Fischer
Anya Gordon
Beth Grace

Sue Jinks Robertson
Stephanie Klinck
Clair Marshall
Anna Menzies
Susan Riordan
Deborah Rodman



NO ONE SHOULD BE FORCED, DECEIVED, OR PRESSURED INTO WORK OR SEX ACTS.

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HUMANTRAFFICKINGHOTLINE.ORG

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

This poster is distributed by the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission and the North Carolina Department of Justice.
HTC-NC.gov

Help Stop Human Trafficking

The WGN panel discussion on Human Trafficking drew a large crowd on April 12, featuring speakers from JusticeMatters, StepUp, The Salvation Army, the NC Department of Justice and the Wake Co. District Attorney's office. A new poster is designed to share hotline information with victims or witnesses to human trafficking crimes. Our next education event will be at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences on May 17. Details, page 2

EMPOWERED, from page 1

the topic go away when this event concluded.

As a member of WGN, I realized I am empowered, and that through our actions we are empowering others. WGN awarded Justice Matters a grant of \$56,800 for expanding access to legal services to protect women and children in Wake County. Together, members of WGN are making a difference and making an impact on critical issues in Wake County.

I felt encouraged by seeing WGN's first junior member, Susan Edwards. Susan is the start of a new WGN chapter. Now another generation can engage in our community's critical issues and learn about the power of positive impact through philanthropy.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, you should be proud to belong to such an amazing group of accomplished and philanthropic women. It not only makes you feel good, but it gives you bragging rights too!

Since 2007, WGN has granted over \$1.1 million to 35 non-profits in our community. This impressive contribution is all because of your membership. It is simple: the larger the WGN membership, the greater the impact WGN can have. So, please share the good work of WGN with your friends and colleagues, and encourage them to join us at our events.

Warmest regards,

Laurie Hughes, WGN President



WGN Announces Junior Membership

WGN is proud to announce the launch of the new junior membership level to engage women under 40 in their philanthropic mission. To honor WGN's 12th year of service we are setting a goal to add 12 junior members to the WGN membership and need your help in reaching it! We are seeking both junior members and sponsors.

A junior member is defined as any woman under 40 years of age and sponsored by an existing member or non-member. Junior members will contribute the first \$600 of the membership cost and their sponsor will match the contribution. The junior membership will renew annually at the discretion of the sponsor and the junior member will be the voting member.

Sponsors can pair themselves with someone they already know or sponsors can choose to be matched with one of the many young women seeking to join WGN. In addition, sponsors can elect to have their role remain confidential or they can decide to be an active mentor to the junior member. If you have any interest in being part of this exciting junior membership inaugural year, please contact [Quinn Novels](#).



GET INVOLVED!

If you'd like to become more involved in our program, considering joining one of our committees. Here's a description of each:

GRANTS COMMITTEE. Responsible for researching, identifying and nominating projects/programs for funding and ensuring that the grant-making process is interactive and inclusive.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE. Responsible for providing members with skill-building and informational programs that enhance their effectiveness in giving.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE. Responsible for assisting the Leadership Committee with events, including planning for the annual grants luncheon and securing the speaker.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. Responsible for regular internal and external communications including a newsletter, website updates, press releases, invitation design, and special publications. Works closely with the staff of the North Carolina Community Foundation.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. Responsible for the recruitment and retention of members and serves to promote the mission, accomplishments and values through social gatherings and networking opportunities.

Contact [Quinn Novels](#) if you would like to join a committee.

New Member Profile

Susan Edwards

Susan is our first Junior Member, and we are excited to have her as part of the WGN. She is an investment advisor for Merrill Lynch. Learn more about her:



Susan Edwards

Susan's career began in non-profits, and when she moved to Raleigh, Cathy Stuart, a family friend and a founding member of the Women's Giving Network, told her about the organization. "It seemed like a great way to continue to support causes close to me and important to the community. One day, I was at a women's lunch and Laurie Hughes happened to be there. She spoke about WGN, and I made sure to introduce myself to her."

Philanthropy, says Susan, helps keep her tied to the issues affecting our city and state. Through charitable giving she can learn about issues affecting our community, fund solutions, and support issues important to her.

Growing up in Winston-Salem, Susan's parents encouraged her to be involved in the community. "In 2010, I graduated from the University of South Carolina with a double major in Spanish and Religious Studies. Interested in developing a career in Foreign Service, I worked at several international non-profits after graduating, one of which took me to Nairobi, Kenya. I helped match children orphaned by AIDS with domestic and international adoptive parents." Her time there was cut short when Kenya went to war with Somalia, and Nairobi became increasingly dangerous.

Back in the US, Susan worked for the State Employees' Credit Union in Winston-Salem and Raleigh, developing a latent interest in personal financial management. She completed her MBA in Corporate Finance and Investment Banking at in May and moved back to Raleigh as a Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch. She serves the community as a board member for the United Arts Council of Wake County and Huntington's Disease (HD) Reach. In her free time, she makes pottery at Sertoma Arts Center, bikes the Greenway, plays with her dog, Winnie, and visits local breweries with her boyfriend, Corey.

Welcome Susan!

