

Issue 2 / February 2009

Welcome to the **Stop Child Trafficking Now (SCTNow)** E-Newsletter!

There comes a time in life when you stop simply hoping something will change, that someone else will figure out a solution, that pain will just go away. You get to a point where you decide I WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE. You don't know HOW you'll find the time or resources, WHO will join your efforts, WHEN you'll see results, but you simply decide to do something. After all, something is far better than nothing!

This is exactly how the SCTNow campaign began. Ron and I were increasingly tormented by what we were learning about child sex trafficking in the United States. Being appalled and despondent were no longer enough; we decided we had to do something. Having both been involved in numerous non-profit organizations for years, either by serving them or starting them, we realized that together we had years of lessons learned and, to some degree, platforms built -- platforms that may lead to influence against this awful crime.

We started making calls to get smarter about the issue and made an early decision to build a grassroots campaign, confident that thousands of others just like us would want to get involved and put an end to the sickness. We found ourselves unable to sleep at night, no longer because of just grieving over the issue, but now because of the exciting people and ideas that started coalescing. **Jake Collins** from Tiny Stars was an early advisor and we are forever grateful for his encouragement. **Dr. Laura Lederer** became a fast friend and counselor with her more than 25 years of knowledge and experience on this issue in the State Department and beyond. Her invitation for us to join her in the White House for a briefing was a further confirmation. **Greg Wark** and a host of elite retired military heroes empowered our passion and vision to go after the demand-side of the issue and prosecute the predators. **Rich Mauch** of EventWorks invested hours of generous input and advice, helping craft the vision for an historic event on the streets of Manhattan and beyond. In October, **Sundy Goodnight** joined SCTNow as the National Campaign Manager.

Now here we are, a year later and only 8 months away from our inaugural

event in New York City and other cities, communities and campuses nationwide. We stand amazed at how many men, women, college students, and high schoolers from all over the nation are signing up and rallying friends to join the army in fighting this modern-day slavery.

Just imagine what we can do together in obliterating child sex slavery for good. We are honored and humbled to have you in this war. Together, we are making history. It may take a lifetime, but we will never give up on the fight!

For the Children,

Lynette Lewis
Founder, Stop Child Trafficking Now

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK CAMPAIGN!

One of the most important ways to help SCTNow is to raise awareness for the Walk itself. To help in doing so, we have started a [Facebook campaign](#) to make it easier to get your friends involved. SCTNow has created the group "Walk to Stop Child Trafficking," which includes information about the dates for the upcoming Walk, more information about our organization and links to our website. Using Facebook, if we can get each member to get ten of their friends to join, who then get ten of their friends, who then get ten of their friends... see where this is going? Membership is open so join and invite your friends - remember, it's a big problem but together, there's nothing we can't do.

Rallying Communities Across the Nation

Our community-wide campaign is off and running. Joining our campaign are the following cities:

New York, NY
Washington, D.C.
Raleigh, NC
Greenville, NC
Chicago, IL
Tulsa, OK
Baton Rouge, LA

Las Vegas, NV
San Diego, CA
San Francisco, CA
Phoenix, AZ
Seattle, WA
Nashville, TN
Jacksonville, FL
Austin, TX

Our goal is 50 communities, all across America, all walking and fundraising together the weekend of September 26-27, 2009. If you would like to get involved in one of these community walks or are interested in leading a walk in your community please email info@SCTNow.org

Did You Know?

An estimated two million children worldwide face the horrors of exploitation in the transnational sex trade. Child sex tourism involves people who travel to engage in commercial sex acts with children. The lives of such prostituted children are appalling. Studies indicate that each of these children may be victimized by 100 to 1,500 perpetrators per year. Prostituted children live in constant fear and often suffer from many physical ailments, including tuberculosis, infections, and physical injuries resulting from violence inflicted upon them."

- The U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons 2008 report

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/>

STAY INFORMED

For weekly updates on the SCTNow campaign, join us each Monday, **6:00pm - 6:30pm EST.**

Conference Dial-in Number:
(218) 339-4600

www.SCTNow.org