



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
NORTHERN WESTCHESTER**

*Women building better communities*

Media Contact:  
Trina Fontaine  
914.765.0395

---

**The Junior League of Northern Westchester Collaborates to Co-host Local Law Enforcement and Service Providers Attending Human Trafficking Training in Westchester**

A coalition of social service providers, community agencies and local law enforcement held a free training, “**Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery: Tools for an Effective Response**” on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Kisco. Co-sponsors include The Freedom Network USA, The Junior League of Northern Westchester, International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA), My Sister’s Place, New York State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance (OTDA), The Pound Ridge Police Department, The Police Benevolence Association of Pound Ridge (PBA) and the Town of Pound Ridge.

Approximately 100 attendees, representing 50 various social service providers, community agencies, government and law enforcement departments from throughout Westchester, were trained on the dimensions of human trafficking; how to identify and service trafficked victims; understanding the legal framework; and NYS law. Ron Soodalter, Chappaqua resident and author of The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today helped the group to understand the historical context of human trafficking and how it is interwoven into our economy and society today.

Human trafficking consists of heinous acts that revolve around forced labor and marriages and despicable extraction and sale of human body parts as well as sexual exploitation. UN figures estimate 2.5 million people are trafficked annually from over 127 countries. Even worse, 1.2 million of them are children often sold into prostitution. Human trafficking is a big business generating between \$5 and \$7 billion annually. Abolishing human trafficking is one of the greatest challenges facing the global community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and ignoring it will foster crimes against humanity.

“It is critical that policy makers and service providers across the spectrum have a clearer understanding of the magnitude of this issue. This training was invaluable in advancing that knowledge”, says Peter Harchham, county legislator representing much of Northern Westchester, who provided the days welcoming remarks.

The Pound Ridge Police Department’s Benevolence Association kindly donated lunch for the group.

“All of us are repulsed by the idea of trafficking in human beings, a form of modern day slavery. Yet few in the United States are aware of the size and scope of this global problem. Even fewer realize that human trafficking is rampant in our cities and towns across the United States, including Northern Westchester,” says Alison Boak, a resident of Pound Ridge and co-founder of the Freedom Network USA and the IOFA.

According to Chief Ryan of the Pound Ridge Police Department, “As a result of this training, first responders in Northern Westchester are better positioned to identify potential victims of human trafficking and direct them where to get help.”

“We thank the Freedom Network USA for providing the funds necessary for us to organize a day that not only trains the professionals that work with the victims of human trafficking but also facilitates collaboration and networking between these groups. Only by working together will we be able to successfully fight this form of slavery,” said Kiersten Marich, President of the Junior League of Northern Westchester.

The Junior League of Northern Westchester is a non-profit volunteer organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action of leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

**\* PHOTOS ATTACHED\***

***For those interested in learning more about, or joining, The Junior League of Northern Westchester please call 914.234.4714, or email: [info@jlnw.org](mailto:info@jlnw.org).***

---

***Junior League of Northern Westchester***

P.O. Box 229, Bedford, NY 10506 • Tel: 914.234.4714 • Fax: 914.234.4715 • Email: [info@jlnw.org](mailto:info@jlnw.org)  
[www.jlnw.org](http://www.jlnw.org)



Top row: Sgt. Mike Armistead, Pound Ridge Police Dept, Caroline Meyer, Pound Ridge Police Department, Bincy Jacobs, My Sister's Place, Ron Soodalter, Author of A Slave Next Door, Christa Stewart, New York State OTDA, Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance, Katherine Kaufka, Loyola University Center for Human Rights, Shana Wills, IOFA

Bottom row: Chief Dave Ryan, PRPD, Allison Boak, IOFA, Amy Siniscalchi, MSP, Florrie Burke, Consultant



Junior League of Northern Westchester member's: Kate Hutchings(Mt. Kisco), Trina Fontaine(Armonk), Ron Soodalter, Author of A Slave Next Door, Kiersten Marich(North Salem), and Susan D'Angelo(Armonk).