



VOLUME 1, EDITION 6  
May 2018

# The HEART Initiative

**Fighting Human Trafficking in Montana and Beyond**  
A Student Organization at MSU  
Bozeman, MT



OUR MISSION is to **foster conscientious awareness** of human trafficking occurring in Montana & globally, **aid** those working towards eliminating trafficking, & **promote** a community of **compassion & respect.**

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## What is *Human Trafficking*?

Human trafficking is **slavery**. According to the [Department of Homeland Security](#) (DHS), men, women, and children are exploited for labor, sex, organs, and more through **force, fraud, or coercion**. Human trafficking has been identified in every country, **all 50 states**, and in **Bozeman**. Watch [this](#) video by the DHS' Blue Campaign to learn more.



## Our 2017/ 2018 Goals

- ❖ Establish Gallatin County Anti-Human Trafficking Community Task Force
- ❖ Raise awareness through trainings and events
- ❖ Hold letter-writing campaigns

## CONTACT US

[theheartinitiative406@gmail.com](mailto:theheartinitiative406@gmail.com)  
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## GET INVOLVED

We are not hosting meetings over the summer. Stay tuned for the fall!

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Connect: Human

Trafficking + **We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants**

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## The News

\* In **South Sudan**, thousands of children have been forced to join the military and other armed groups since the **civil war started in 2013**. In February, more than [300 child soldiers](#) were freed and [200 more](#) were released in mid-April. There are around **19,000 children** who are forced to be part of armed groups in South Sudan.

\* Actress Allison Mack has been charged with **facilitating sex trafficking**. [This](#) article explains how the women she **recruited** for a women's mentorship group were **exploited** and **blackmailed** by the group's leader, Keith Raniere, and the fact that **Mack may be a survivor of trafficking**, too.

## RESOURCES

The Bozeman Help Center  
**406-586-3333**

National Human Trafficking Resource Center  
**1-888-373-7888**

Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) **406-587-4486**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Join Us: Gallatin County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force

The next full task force meeting is on **May 31** at the **Bozeman Public Library** from **9:30-11:30 am**.



We are **collaborating** with organizations and individuals and want your voice at the table. Your skills and passion can help end trafficking and support survivors in our community and beyond. **Email us** for more information and **to get involved**.

## Commencement

The Spring 2018 commencement ceremony is taking place **Saturday, May 5** at the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse. In the morning and afternoon ceremonies, the time and effort each student has **dedicated to their studies** will be realized. We are excited to see how these students use their knowledge and passion to shape our world. **Congratulations graduates!**

## Organization Spotlight

[The Freedom Fund](#): This organization highlights the power of **partnerships**. By identifying **supporting effective efforts** to combat modern slavery, The Freedom Fund **multiplies the positive impact** of organizations, individuals, and governments.



With **over 100** partner organizations, many being **community-based non-profits**, they support projects in locations where trafficking is **most prevalent**.

**Want to be inspired?** Check out their [partners](#) and the [projects](#) they support.

## Connect:

### Human Trafficking + We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants

As we work to combat human trafficking in Montana and beyond, it is imperative to recognize **we stand on the shoulders of giants**. Human trafficking is slavery and has existed for many years. It continues to **impact the lives** of countless individuals of **all ages** and **gender identities** in diverse and exploitative ways.

We want to **thank our graduating members** for their contributions to the anti-trafficking movement and acknowledge those who have come before us, both as abolitionists and survivors. The following is a poem by an anonymous student.



#### Patchwork Pilgrimage

I rise with the sun  
Softly moving through the morning  
Holding each second as I hold my  
breath, waiting

To tell my own story

I am an echo, a shadow, a wraith  
Of the women who have shaped me

Her journey has never been easy  
The pain has not left her eyes

Though poor, she gives all she has  
The hard road has made her wise  
Her voyage will end soon

Her quest to conquer illness is endless  
To fight the foes in her own skin

Testing her strength in the shadow  
No sunlight ever seems to get in  
Though by her smile you'd never know it

Her crusade is not yet over  
A crossroads faces her now



# PAST EVENTS

## CLIFF Convention in Washington, D.C.

On April 28, two members of The HEART Initiative attended the **Collegiate Leaders in the Fight for Freedom** (CLIFF) Convention in D.C. We support the CLIFF's goal to create “**innovative** and **intersectional** approaches to the anti-slavery movement” through diverse collegiate and professional **networks**. Collaboration is key to end slavery.

## *The Abolitionists* Documentary Screening

Thank you to all who joined us on April 11 to learn more about trafficking and the somewhat controversial efforts of Operation Underground Railroad.

## Sustainabilibash

On Friday, April 21 on the mall, The HEART Initiative joined other organizations for **Sustainabilibash**. From raffles and sunshine to **drawing connections** between **human rights** and social, economic, and environmental **sustainability**, we had a blast and hope you did, too.

## Take Back the Night and MMIW

April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month. During **Take Back the Night**, community members rallied to challenge interpersonal violence, support survivors, and underscore the importance of the **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women** (MMIW) movement.



**Thank you** to our sponsors for the crucial services they provide in our community and their continued insight and support to strengthen the fight against human trafficking.

Interested in becoming a sponsor or hosting a training? Email us at [theheartinitiative406@gmail.com](mailto:theheartinitiative406@gmail.com) to start the conversation.

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Which path to take, it haunts her  
If only she'd been taught how  
To choose

She does not sleep, a restless lioness  
Preparing for battle by donning her day  
dress  
Her words hold the children captive  
With the expert journey of chalk on  
black  
She shapes the future

Generations have preceded her  
And me  
I am one among many, a fish in the sea  
The woman who shouted against  
injustice  
The woman who didn't kneel to  
adversity  
The woman who went to school to learn  
The woman staked on a pyre to burn

As I struggle through my own odyssey,  
Escaping the stories of these people is  
impossible  
For many martyrs burned to clear a path  
for me  
These songs sing meaning into my own  
concerto  
Quilted as I am of strangers

Sacrifice stretches back eons  
Bruises, broken bones, believing in spite o  
Finding worth in hands deemed  
unworthy  
Walking a path of hardship  
This strength echoes in my own bones  
Long have I wanted to write my own  
page  
Live a life completely my own  
But I am a tribute to the fallen, the  
warriors  
Who make my heart their home