



VOLUME 2, EDITION 4  
Spring 2019

# 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 2018/2019 goals

- ❖ Chair the Prevention Committee of the Gallatin County Human Trafficking Task Force
- ❖ Raise awareness and educate via trainings and events
- ❖ Host discussion panel and [CLIFF Convention](#) in Spring 2019

### CONTACT US

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### GET INVOLVED

We will update you with our new meeting time and location for the Fall 2019 semester.

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## *The News* BY BRIAN MARSH

\* **Human Trafficking Awareness Month** has been marked by a plethora of independent **seminars across the country**, including ones in [Montana](#), [Ohio](#), [North Carolina](#), and [Missouri](#).

\* In Flathead County, **Constance Neumann** is nearing the end of [a fundraising campaign](#) with the goal of **starting the first certified group home** for former victims of sex trafficking in Montana.

## RESOURCES

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

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

MSU Diversity Awareness Office  
**406-994-5801**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Gallatin County Human Trafficking Task Force

The **General Task Force** will meet May 22 from 9-10:30am at the Salvation Army.

The HEART Initiative co-chairs the **Prevention Committee**, which meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 4-5pm. We are meeting in Bridgercare's Community Room on May 21. **Please email us** if you're interested in more information.

# PAST EVENTS

## Documentary Screening of Bling: A Planet Rock

This film highlights the exploitative diamond mining industry in Sierra Leone and the country's 10-year civil war. Hip hop artists travel through Sierra Leone and learn about child soldiers and other consequences of "blinging."

## CLIFF Convention

From [March 8-10](#), our 2019 [CLIFF Convention](#) connected students and community members with experts to facilitate learning and action. We are excited to work with the CLIFF Network because they too recognize that **effectively combating human trafficking** requires **addressing it from a myriad of angles**.



## Discussion Panel

On **February 5** from **6-8pm** at the **Emerson Center**, we hosted the [Human Trafficking in Context Discussion Panel](#).



**Thank you** to our sponsors for the crucial services they provide 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 or visit [theheartinitiative.wordpress.com](http://theheartinitiative.wordpress.com) to learn more.

**Contributors to this edition:** Brian Marsh, Emma Folkerts, Emma Sundeen, Tessa Sawyer, and Sierra Tucker



# Organization Spotlight

BY EMMA SUNDEEN

Founded in 2007, [Tsering's Fund](#) is an organization committed helping underprivileged children and families in Nepal.

Tsering's Fund provides **access** to **education** and **basic necessities** such as food, while also raising awareness of the trafficking crisis in Nepal. According to their site, **approximately 20,000 girls from Nepal are trafficked yearly**.

Given that trafficking is heightened in vulnerable populations, by giving these **young women access to education** they are considered to be of greater value to the family and as such are at a **lessened risk** for being trafficked.

Tsering's Fund focuses on locating at risk girls and placing them in schools. This organization has roots in Bozeman, and we encourage you to check it out!

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## *Connect:* Human Trafficking + pornography BY SIERRA TUCKER

Pornography is **linked** to sex trafficking as it can involve people who are trafficked for sex. Many people, predominantly **women**, are **forced, frauded, or coerced** into pornography.

Since it is likely that the average **viewer** does not know for sure whether those involved in a video are there **willingly, clicking** on porn **directly fuels** the **demand** for sex trafficking. Being aware is an **essential** step in combating human trafficking. While the internet is boundlessly **useful**, even for fighting human trafficking, it is also **undesirably harmful** in ways often not as obvious. [This site](#) encourages us to be **conscientious** of our internet presence and **stop the demand**.