



**WCCC**  
**Washington County Community Circles**

*"Repairing harm to victims, holding clients accountable and building a better community."*

[www.peacemakingcircles.org](http://www.peacemakingcircles.org)  
[Contact@peacemakingcircles.org](mailto:Contact@peacemakingcircles.org)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Community Focused

Our third quarter of 2017 started an exciting new chapter for WCCC. We took an important step in our partnership with the Washington County Attorney's Office by collaborating to develop a protocol for Accountability Circles for individuals engaged in seeking commercial sex in Washington County.

In an effort to combat sex trafficking and the demand for commercial sex in our communities, WCCC modeled a Circle curriculum based on a successful "john school" in San Francisco (First Offender Prostitution Program), but focusing on reintegration and building community through the Circle process.

This is a new, daunting, and important undertaking, and one that we hope will interest our community members. I encourage you, if this sounds like something you'd like to learn more about, to reach out to us to learn more about how you might want to get involved.

Email, call, like, or follow us to get more information.

In addition, WCCC had another successful Circle 101 training last month. A special thank you to our trainers and a warm welcome to our new volunteers.

Katie Schurrer  
*Chair, Board of Directors*



### November 16, 2017

- Give to the Max Day (GTMD)

### January 19, 2018

- WCCC Partner Training at Tubman East

### August 9 - 11, 2018

- Save the Date: International Conference on Restorative Practices in St. Paul, MN



## GIVE TO THE MAX DAY!

*November 16, 2017*

WCCC always appreciates your donations on GTMD. We are pleased that **Ogletree Deakins** will offer a \$500 matching grant again this year! Your donations keep us running. Thank you for your generosity.

[WCCC's GiveMN Page](#)

# Understanding ALL Parts of Our Community



## Sex Trafficking

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

Over the past several years, the Washington County Attorney's Office (and Woodbury Police Department) have prioritized and focused efforts on combatting sex trafficking within the county. This has also involved an effort to reduce the demand for prostitution within the county by prosecuting individuals seeking out prostitutes.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, over 40 Washington County community members and criminal justice professionals came together to discuss Sex Trafficking in Washington County. The expert panel included: Imran Ali (Washington County Prosecutor), Paul Kroshus (Woodbury Detective), Aimee Schroeder (Research Specialist), and Kathy Woxland (Victim Specialist).

They provided important, upsetting, and compelling information about what we all should know about sex trafficking and commercial sex exploitation happening in our cities. Our speakers spoke with passion on the difficult work that they do to combat the exploitation of humans – often women – for sex.

One aspect of particular focus for the Washington County Attorney's Office now and in the future is on the "demand" side of commercial sex — the "johns" — who are seeking sex for money. Imran Ali, with Jerry Wallerich and Kathy Woxland, approached WCCC to see if there was a way that the community – through Circle - could hold these defendants more accountable for changing their behavior than the traditional system could.

WCCC worked with partners to gather information on other efforts across the country, and has developed a protocol for taking these cases into Circle in an effort to rehabilitate and reintegrate these defendants back into our community through a combination of values-based Circles and informational sessions with experts on the impacts of commercial sex exploitation. See the one-pager summarizing the protocol [here](#).

# Discussions in Your Community

*By: Kylie LaFontaine, WCCC Circle Volunteer*

My general interest in human trafficking – especially sex trafficking – led me to watch numerous documentaries on the subject. We live in an informational world, so I took advantage of viewing the horrific firsthand accounts and memorizing the quoted statistics. Even still, the concept seemed so distant. I thought to myself, sex trafficking happens in other countries, bigger cities, it happens to humans that I would never cross paths with. Those were very false and naïve perceptions, as I sorely found out.

Sex trafficking happens in our community. Right here, in Washington County. After attending the presentation conducted by WCCC and Washington County Attorney's Office, I felt that I had more information to guide me to start discussions with my family, friends and co-workers around the subject of sex trafficking. These are needed conversations to make ourselves aware of one of the harsh realities that exist.

For more information about human trafficking in Washington County visit:

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/2422/Trafficking>

The Washington County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with the Washington County Attorney's Office, has set up a tip line to report any human/sex trafficking information. You may remain anonymous. **Trafficking Tip Line: 651-430-7825**



# WCCC in the Community



Board member and WCCC partner, Lynn and Gary Schurrer at Mitchell | Hamline.

Board member and WCCC partner, Katie and Gary Schurrer, presented to North Hennepin Technical College students with Carol Markham-Cousins from Mediation Services of Anoka County about the different forms of Restorative Justice

Board Members Jen Lenander, Katie Schurrer, and Bob Storlie met with attorneys and staff at Eckberg Lammers to talk Circles and what types of cases make good referrals. Eckberg Lammers serves Washington County as prosecutors in several municipalities in the city, including the City of Woodbury.

Board members Jen Lenander and Lynn Schurrer, gave an overview of RJ and Circles to the Information Security Services team at Blue Cross Blue Shield MN.

## phi·lan·thro·py

*"I believe the world is one big family, and we need to help each other." –Jet Li*

Send a check...



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