*With colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I hosted a symposium on human trafficking at the state capitol in Madison. It was valuable for legislators and other attendees to hear voices from all corners of the state. Sister Marlene Weisenbeck was a great speaker ... [and TFEMS is an] important resource for me as I work on legislation.*

Wisconsin State Representative Jill Billings

*I previously worked for the [Illinois] attorney general in the high tech crimes bureau, which specifically handles crimes against children. We have so many La Crosse agencies and organizations collaborating … really helpful as we hope to continue to penetrate the community in every way with training, organization and research.*

Sarah Migas Collins

Instructor, Winona State University (Minnesota) Child Advocacy Studies

*I share awareness with thousands of listeners of my radio show (WVRQ in Viroqua, Wisconsin) and also as president of a foundation which supports three orphanages and has saved and nurtured children—including infants—from the sex trade in Thailand. We must dedicate our energies and our lives to alleviate the scourge of poverty that engenders this industry.*

Karen Dahl

Activist, Vernon County Wisconsin

*I collaborate with members of other coalitions to support women in crisis through violence and sexual assault [in Minnesota, which has Safe Harbor legislation]. At BCFR we provide community education … non-judgmental, confidential crisis intervention … and a transitional housing program. It is part of our mission to work with anyone who has been trafficked.*

Fai DeMark

Bluff Country Family Resources executive director

Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force member

*Using media to spread awareness is incredibly important in today’s aesthetic culture, so developing a symbol that entices and familiarizes people with [human trafficking] is intrinsic to collaboration.*

Cameron Segura

Viterbo University student, TFEMS branding and PSA designer

*TFEM’s Community Mobilization Committee presented [information] to La Crosse School District student services counselors and social workers … on how to detect potential victims. Middle and high school health instructors as well as school resource officers [also have] videos and facts [to make students] aware of suspicious interactions.*

Kathryn Hietbrink

School District of La Crosse social worker

*I provide a listening ear to incarcerated victims so they can tell their stories without fear of repercussions; facilitate a meeting with a law enforcement officer and do what I can to assure privacy from other inmates (for protection of family members). As TFEMS addresses other issues (like safe housing after incarceration), I anticipate moving beyond general public awareness to growing a population that is ready to fight the crime and see justice done.*

Deacon Tom Skemp

La Crosse County jail chaplain, FSPA affiliate

*Internet usage increases the risk of victimization. La Crosse School District Student Services personnel agree there is cause for concern, and share opportunities for increasing staff awareness … reciprocal in nature with them sharing their experiences and needs with TFEMS. Although identification of victims is certainly important, a broader need in our area is likely prevention.*

Susan Schmidt, retired teacher

Andrea VanSickle, retired school nurse

*We have reached over 1,600 groups and over 64,000 people, but there is more to do! There are major efforts … to weave a safety net for survivors addressing a variety of needs: housing, drop-in center, hotline, trauma counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, legal assistance, a court docket for human trafficking, etc. We are now planning for how we will address … the Republican National Conference in Cleveland in 2016.*

Anne Victory, HM, RN, MSN

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Steering Committee member

*As part of the USCSAHT initiative, FSPA has generously shared billboards commissioned to raise awareness … people on Minnesota highways will also be exposed to this message and we can expand our outreach to a greater audience.*

Anne Walch, OSF

Rochester, Minnesota