



Muskingum Area Mental Health & Recovery Services Board

January 2025

Coming in January

1/9: MHRS Board meeting

1/20: MLK Jr Day-office closed

visit our events calendar at www.mhrs.org

Spotlight on Human Trafficking Awareness



Muskingum Area Mental Health & Recovery Services Board

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, a time to shed light on the harsh realities of human trafficking and strengthen our commitment to ending this heinous crime. Human trafficking, often referred to as modern-day slavery, involves the exploitation of individuals through force, fraud, or coercion for labor or commercial sex. It affects people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds, with vulnerable populations being at the greatest risk.

Ohio ranks among the states with a high incidence of human trafficking due to its location, major highways, and large events that can attract trafficking activity. The impacts of trafficking extend far beyond the victims themselves, causing ripple effects across families and communities.

The Muskingum Area Mental Health & Recovery Services Board is dedicated to raising awareness and fostering collaboration to prevent trafficking and support survivors.

We encourage community members to learn the warning signs of trafficking, such as:

- Unexplained absences from school or work.
- Fearful, anxious, or submissive behavior.
- Signs of physical abuse or neglect.
- Inconsistencies in personal information or stories.

To combat human trafficking, prevention is key. Education and awareness can empower individuals to recognize and report suspicious activity. Resources like the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) and Ohio's Human Trafficking Task Force offer valuable tools and support.

This January, let's commit to creating a community that prioritizes safety and dignity for all. Whether by attending educational events, supporting local organizations, or simply having conversations about trafficking, every effort contributes to ending this crime.

Together, we can be part of the solution and bring hope to those who need it most.

