



## **Hotels4Truckers® Joins the Fight Against Human Trafficking**

**February 19, 2013**

**MADISON HEIGHTS, MI** Hotels4Truckers® and Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) have joined forces to assist the trucking industry in the fight against human trafficking.

"We want to use TAT materials and our connections in the hotel industry to help train and equip hotel personnel to be on the lookout for the signs that human trafficking is taking place, as well as what to do if they think they see it," said Dan Fuller, president of Hotels4Truckers®. "We also want them to share information about fighting human trafficking with their customers, so we continue to build awareness of this crime, both within the trucking industry and with the general public. In an effort to drive awareness, we'll be handing out TAT materials in our membership packets, and we will be sharing anti-trafficking programs and training materials with any hotel property within our system."

Founded by a driver team, Hotels4truckers.com is an online directory for truckers to help them locate hotel names and addresses with appropriate and adequate truck parking. Hotels4Truckers® works with major hotel chains including Choice Hotels International, Red Roof Inn, Motel 6, Vantage Hospitality, Wyndham Hotel Group and others to offer its members great discounts of 10-20% off at thousands of their properties across North America.

"Traffickers like to sell their victims to transient populations, so there's a reduced risk of victims being rescued or recognized," said Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, "which is why hotels, motels, rest stops, travel plazas and truck stops are prime locations for them to frequent. We also know they seldom work alone. They pay people to find customers for them. They employ watchers, both to look out for law enforcement and to watch the activity of their victims, so they don't get away. The more people who are aware of human trafficking and how traffickers operate ... the more people we can train ... the better chance we have of cutting into their ability to conduct business, and the better chance we have of getting law enforcement involved so victims are rescued and perpetrators are arrested."

TAT currently supplies a trucking-industry-specific training DVD to members of the trucking industry as well as wallet cards. The wallet cards carry a list of helpful tips to provide law enforcement when calling in suspicious activity as well as trafficking red flags to look for, such as:

- A victim's lack of knowledge of their community or whereabouts
- A lack of control by victims of their own identification documents
- Restricted or controlled communication on the part of victims – not being allowed to speak for themselves
- A victim's demeanor – fear, anxiety, depression, submissiveness, tenseness or nervousness

If human trafficking is suspected, people are urged to call the National Human Trafficking Hotline, run by Polaris Project, at 1-888-3737-888.

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