

A Grant Requesting Funds From
The Freedom Cafe

Help Us Stop Human Trafficking

— Written By JoJo



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children and Families-IOAS-OTIP
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

December 1st, 2020

Freedom Cafe
434 N Pleasant St,
Amherst, MA 01002

Dear Ms. Flavia,

My name is JoJo and I am writing on behalf of the Freedom Cafe. Freedom Cafe is a nonprofit dedicated to stop human trafficking and would like to further expand their mission by holding a local pop-up cafe event for the purpose to expose and educate the community on the issue of human trafficking.

Freedom Cafe is a young and local nonprofit coffee shop founded in Amherst. They are a group of diverse volunteers with a common passion to end human trafficking and rescue its victims. Although it is established and overseen by the Amherst Project, it is the volunteers that drive this movement. Because of the common vision between the Freedom Cafe and the First Baptist Church of Amherst, they operate without the financial liability of rent or utilities while providing their guests and volunteers a much more suitable experience.

Helping Freedom Cafe by funding its needs on this local pop-up cafe event will give the local community of Amherst and beyond a better understanding on the issue of human trafficking. This grant will help people in the area to have a safer and more scientific way to potentially help stopping human trafficking. Also will this grant be an eye opener for the local five college students and introduce them to a local community who dedicate to stop this heartbreaking act.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please contact me or Dan Johnson if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

JoJo

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
History of the Program	3
Statement of the Problem	6
Statement of request	10
Description of Proposed Work	11
Objectives and goals:	11
Methods and practices:	12
Schedule:	14
Description of Available Facilities:	14
Qualifications of Personnel:	16
Budget	17
Summary	19
Benefit for the community:	19
Call to action:	19
Appendix	21

History of the Program

Freedom Cafe(FC) is a group of diverse volunteers with a common passion to end human trafficking and rescue it's victims, it is a young and local nonprofit cafe shop founded in Amherst under the covering of a religious 501(c3). Although it is established and overseen by the Amherst Project, it is the volunteers that drive this movement. Since 2008, we have wanted to operate a café in which 100% of the money brought in would go to charitable causes working to end human trafficking. In the past, this has not been possible because of the overhead involved in opening a café. In 2011, we acquired property on campus that brought this dream to life. With all bills paid by the tenants living on the second floor and an eager group of socially minded students willing to volunteer their time, we have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people around the world.



In 2016 we closed to relocate to a larger, more suitable location. In the Fall of 2017, FC moved to 434 Northpleasant Street, just off the lower parking lot of the First Baptist Church of Amherst. This move carries the same benefits of their previous location, but increases our serving space from 80 square feet, to 800 square feet. Because of the common vision between the Freedom Cafe, and the First Baptist Church of Amherst, we are able to operate without the financial liability of rent or utilities while providing guests and volunteers a much more suitable experience.

We want to do our part to both raise funds to rescue victims enslaved around the world, but also to raise awareness among our students at UMass. Many who are religious, non-religious, atheist and agnostic see the need to stand up for justice in this area. Prior to 2019, our focus was building vocational centers in India. The purpose of this focus was to easily communicate what we were doing with the money we raised. Since then, we've noticed that having our focus on the other side of the world isolated us from the injustice that was happening here in Western Massachusetts. Many students are familiar with the issue of human trafficking, but are uneducated and unsure of how to help. Operating a café in which the profits go to a charity working to end human trafficking allows them to do social justice by simply drinking coffee. Raising awareness and cultivating a concern for others can only help the climate of UMass become less self-serving and more others-centric. We hope to not only provide the UMass and Amherst community with delicious coffees and teas, but also a chance to do good in the world one cup at a time.



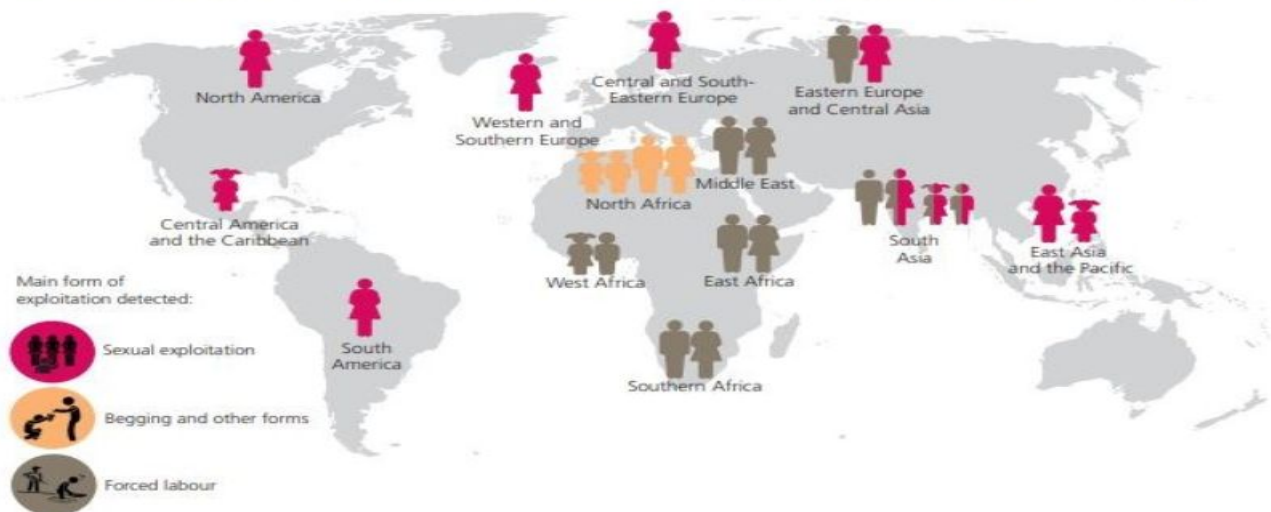
Between the years of 2012 and 2017 we have helped establish a vocational center in India among a group of women who lived in a culture of sexual exploitation. In this center they have learned skills to help them earn money and even set off to start their own businesses. The next stage of our work will be helping to finance these enterprises through the use of micro-loans. As they pay back these loans, the funding will be directed to the next group in need. At UMass, our group has been growing. We have had over 400 student volunteers, and conducted over 120 educational events.

Statement of the Problem

Human trafficking is a big problem in the world today but not being exposed enough. Human trafficking is done by threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim for the purpose of exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs. People with all races, genders and age are victims due to its inhumanity and evil purposes.

The latest Global Report On Trafficking In Persons, released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at UN headquarters in New York, shows that while in 2003 fewer than 20,000 cases had been recorded, the number of cases recorded in 2016 had jumped to over 25,000.

Main forms of exploitation and profiles of detected victims, by subregions, 2016 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

The report also gave evidence that women and girls still remain a major target in the region of North America, South America, Europe and East Asia, and disturbingly, for sexual exploitation. “Traffickers the world over continue to target women and girls,” wrote Executive Director Fedotov, in the report’s preface. ‘The vast majority of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and 35 percent of those trafficked for forced labour are female.’ The report notes “considerable regional differences in the sex and age profiles of detected trafficking victims.” In West Africa, most of the detected victims are children, both boys and girls, while in South Asia, victims are equally reported to be men, women and children. In Central Asia, a larger share of adult men is detected compared to other regions, while in Central America and the Caribbean, more girls are recorded.

22,326
TRAFFICKING
VICTIMS &
SURVIVORS

11,500
SITUATIONS
OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING

4,384
TRAFFICKERS

1,912
SUSPICIOUS
BUSINESSES

2019 Data Report

The Trafficking Hotline saw a nearly 20 percent increase last year in the number of victims and survivors who contacted us directly about their own situations. Hearing directly from the person affected gives the best information and avenue to provide meaningful help, whether that be finding a safe place to stay the night, an attorney, a trauma counselor, transportation or seeking law enforcement intervention.

More recent reports such as the 2019 U.S National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics saw a nearly 20 percent increase in 2019 in the number of victims and survivors who contacted them directly about their own situations.

Besides all the big organizations talking about human trafficking on a global scale lets narrow it down to a national scale, here in the United States of America. A girl named Turcio, in a small, rural Central American mountain town. When she was 17, she met a man who began “speaking of love.” It was the first time she heard anyone tell her she was loved. “I was vulnerable. I wanted a home and children. I wanted someone to take care of me and protect me,” Turcio said. “I believed him. He won my love and trust.” But he was a human trafficker and she had been easy prey — with no education and no family. Almost immediately, he took her more than 30 hours away to another place in Central America with the promise of marriage. When they arrived in a small border town, she discovered many other women, and even more men. The man — her fiancé, but also her captor — began mistreating her, forbidding her to speak with the other women. He paraded her around the local bars and introduced her to alcohol. One night, he put something in Turcio’s drink. She awoke the next day to his screams and accusations of her sleeping with his brothers. With no recollection of the previous night, she learned she had been given over to several other men. He had set her up, and screamed at her, “If you want to be a prostitute like the others, that’s fine.” Turcio was left ashamed, but she was still too afraid to return home. That night, he bought her nice

clothes, make-up and a handbag, but not out of love or compassion. She learned he had four other women, and her fate was sealed as a “sex slave.”

Later on, Turcio became pregnant, but when her daughter was born, the child was taken away from her in an act of blackmail. Within three months, Turcio was pregnant again. She would have three children in three years whom she barely saw because they were always taken away. She was told her escape would cost them their lives.

Statement of request

There is at least one thing we can conclude from all these reports and from all the victims who have been saved from the evil ones, the public is not educated enough on this cruel act. There are far more people like Turcio out there who knows little about the fact and the methods of human trafficking and eventually became preys of human traffickers. And the people, the public, is not alerted enough. We may not be able to stop human trafficking completely, this is a globally crisis after all but we can do our part to secure our community and others will follow. We truly believe that what we are doing will change people's lives experiences.

The Freedom Cafe Program requests funding to enact a series of pop-up cafe events for the Amherst local community and the five colleges' students beginning in the Spring of 2021 by holding a public event to educate the public and expose the issue on human trafficking. This would be greatly beneficial to the public on knowing what is human trafficking and possible ways to prevent it from happening and make the neighborhood and community safer. This would also draw people's attention back on this devastating and heartbreaking issue in this nation and around the globe. This proposed project also perfectly fits in the goal and mission of us, Freedom cafe, which is to stop human trafficking by both to raise funds to rescue human trafficking victims enslaved around the world, but also to raise awareness among the students and residents.

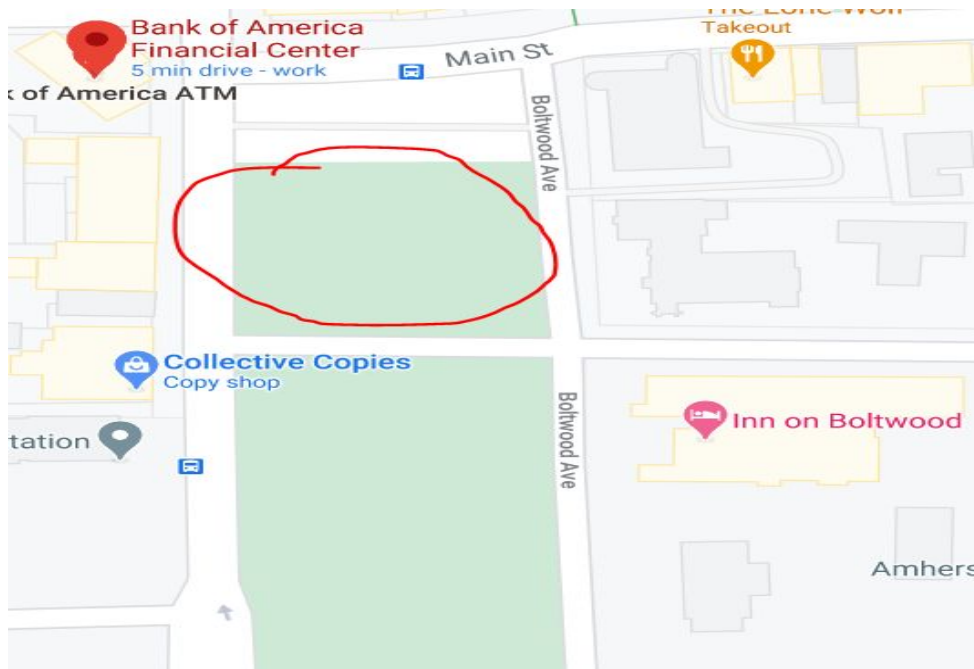
Description of Proposed Work

Objectives and goals:

- ☐ Encourage victims of human trafficking to share their experiences.
- ☐ Encourage and rally for being able to stand up against human trafficking.
- ☐ Educate the residents and students the potential harm of human trafficking to draw their attention on this subject.
- ☐ Educate the public in a scientific way of the truth about human trafficking.
- ☐ Share methods and techniques on how to prevent human trafficking from happening on themselves and the people they care.
- ☐ Educate the public on how to protect themselves and others when encounter human trafficking.
- ☐ Share ways of how to help nonprofits focusing on human trafficking in every possible way.
- ☐ Educate the people on what to do next when saved a victim from human trafficking.
- ☐ Expose Freedom Cafe and our mission to the local community.

Methods and practices:

In order to achieve our goals, Freedom Cafe intends to hold multiple local pop-up cafe events in Amherst downtown starting Spring 2021. We plan it to be an welcoming out-door public event at the large open space right beside the Bank of America Financial center located at 1 S Pleasant St, Amherst.



For our main event, we will be having about 20 small to medium sized tea tables for our customers to sit and enjoy our wonderful coffee made by our volunteers. We will also be providing portable chairs for those who come late and could not secure a seat by the table. Besides enjoying coffee and the wonderful weather we will be inviting several guest speakers to our event to give speeches, share ideas and exchange information regarding this issue. Guest speakers will be contacted via our student

volunteer group and will each have about 1~1.5 hours of time. Before they end, there will be a section for the customers to ask questions to be reserved. They will be using sounding equipment from First Baptist Church including speakers, microphones, wires, etc. Our team and the worship team of FBC will take care of equipment so there will be no need to purchase new equipment. Guest speakers including Dan Johnson from Freedom Cafe, Dr. Donna Sabella, Pastor Lily, etc. Further information about guest speakers will be discussed in the qualifications of personnel section. We will also include a care team that provides different needs for our customers, tissue paper, drinking water for those who would like to have water will be provided, snacks and chips will also be provided via our care team. We also plan to have a 5 people volunteer based emergency team who take care of emergency situations during the event their goals will include but not limited to contacting 911 if needed, helping and contacting people with special needs. Last but not least, we will form an IT team focusing on IT related issues, making sure that all the equipment will work properly and as smoothly as possible.

Schedule:

	Time	Guest Speaker	Location
Sunday April 4th	2:00~4:00pm, ET	Dr. Donna Sabella	1 S Pleasant St, Amherst
Sunday April 11st	2:00~4:00pm, ET	Pastor Lily	1 S Pleasant St, Amherst
Sunday April 18th	2:00~4:00pm, ET	Dan Johnson	1 S Pleasant St, Amherst

Description of Available Facilities:

Our ideal location or facility for the events is the lawn beside BOA Financial center, 1 S Pleasant St, Amherst. Which is an outdoor location downtown and usually holds a lot of different local events like flea market and so on.



This lawn area is perfect for us because even though our team is completely volunteer based students from Umass and Amherst college, our goal is to serve the whole Amherst community. This downtown location will allow us to draw more attention towards our events and will be limited on campus.



There will be an alternative location for us if the weather conditions are bad. We will hold our event at Freedom Cafe. But this will greatly limit us on how many people can actually participate.

Qualifications of Personnel:



Dr. Donna Sabella

An international expert in human trafficking's clinical implications for women, and a clinician with broad experience in crisis intervention, substance abuse, etc. Has been named Seedworks Endowed Professorship in Nursing and Social Justice at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



Pastor Lily

A passionate pastor serving the FBC. She has been serving in the field of ministry for more than 30 years.

Church staff of FBC



Bryan Bessette

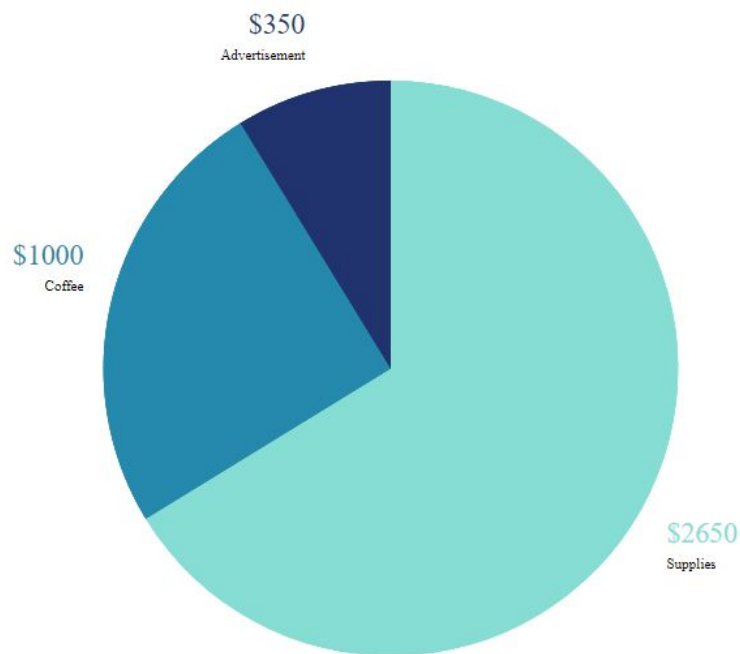
After he realize that human trafficking is a much more board and under-resourced issue than he had imagined, Bryan helped initiate and co-found the Freedom Cafe in 2012.

Co-founder, President of FC

Budget

The total budget will consist of three main parts: Supplies, Advertisement and Coffee.

Total Budget



Budget breakdown:

For the advertising part, we plan to send out flyers downtown Amherst, Umass, Amherst college and during Sunday services at FBC. We would be looking at about 1000 flyers to send out for a 10 days period starting on March 26th. The design of the flyers however, we plan on doing it via our own volunteer based college student team.

Coffee, which is very important for these events. We plan on making about 100 cups of coffee for each event which makes it 300 cups in total and a budget at about \$3 each cup. Our regular FC staff will be responsible for this task as they have been making one of the best coffees in town for 8 years.

As for supplies, most of this category is for supporting our care team. They will be needing about 20 tea tables and 60 chairs, a \$20 budget for a table and a \$15 budget for one chair. The team will also need about \$100 budget for papers for each event and makes it a total of \$300. We plan to spend \$100 of budget for water supply for each event, a total of \$300. We included a budget of \$250 as “others” in the supply category for emergency uses.

As for staff members and guest speakers, we will continue our volunteer based work tradition so all of our staff members will not require a payment. This will also benefit the students greatly as they have a chance to practice their skills and serve the community, not to mention this will be a great opportunity to widen their resume for future uses.

Regardless of how well planned a project is at the start, mistakes are bound to happen. That is why it is important to set aside a portion of funds to effectively deal with any problems that occur. Some predicted issues include mistakes during the printing process, decorations needed to celebrate the event, etc. An ideal amount to cover any potential issues would be \$1500. A total of \$5,000 would be sufficient.

Summary

Benefit for the community:

This would be a great chance for many who are religious, non-religious, atheist and agnostic to see the need to stand up for justice in this area. With an event hold here in the area of Amherst educating the public about human trafficking could further expose this issue and let more people to be aware of the potential danger of it. It also has the benefit of preparing people what to do when this terrible incident takes place in their neighborhood. On the other hand, exposing Freedom Cafe itself is also a great way to inform people there is a place downtown that is nonprofit and working to save the victims with the cost of a cup of coffee. To be honest, I was not aware of this organization until my sophomore year at Umass, they would benefit more from having public pop-up events like this.

Call to action:

Supporting this project will not only help the students of Amherst college and Umass involved but it also helps the community of Amherst. By beginning to change and take actions at Freedom Cafe, it will also serve as a benchmark to the change that is to come to the other organizations. Helping Freedom Cafe to hold these events is only one step into better highlighting the issue of human trafficking and with the funding we can begin to encourage more and more people and different organizations to step up

against this cruel act targeting our citizens and love ones. We surely believe these kind of public events will improve the situation on human trafficking in our neighborhood.

Appendix

- “What is Human Trafficking?”
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Freedom Cafe

<https://www.freedomcafe.org/>
- “Human trafficking cases hit a 13-year record high, new UN report shows”

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/01/1031552>

29 January 2019, Law and Crime Prevention
- “2019 U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics”

<https://polarisproject.org/2019-us-national-human-trafficking-hotline-statistics/>
- “Human trafficking survivor shares her story”

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/story/human-trafficking-survivor-shares-her-story/>

July 26, 2019, Catholic Charities of Central Florida
- “Victim Assistance Grants”

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/victim-assistance/victim-assistance-grants>

December 17, 2019