

On the PATH

The official newsletter of IPATH



IN THIS ISSUE

**AGENCY
SPOTLIGHT: GRIT INTO
GRACE, 2**

**IN THE LITERATURE:
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AND THE MEDIA, 3**

**IN THE NEWS: INDY
MAN CONVICTED OF
SEX TRAFFICKING, 3**

**GET
INVOLVED: CALENDAR,
VOLUNTEER, AND JOB
OPPORTUNITIES, 4**

Spotlight: George Milsap

George Milsap graduated from Western Illinois University. He is currently the Executive Director at Agape Alliance and the Support Service Supervisor/Care Coordinator for the Salvation Army Ruth Lily Women and Children's Shelter.



Milsap's career in social services began in 2005, at which point he was empowered to come forward as a survivor of childhood sexual abuse after years of silence. His years of silence were due to the stigmas surrounding sexual abuse in the African-American community, but these also taught him that his experience could change how his community viewed his masculinity. Coming forward allowed Milsap to access new career opportunities, while also revealing to him his calling to speak courage to others who have experienced hardship.

Milsap works to combat human trafficking because of the positive impact this work can have on the well-being of survivors and their families. Importantly, he believes that meeting clients where they are in life is the first step to getting them to trust others and access survivor-centered services. Ultimately, Milsap's fearlessness in sharing his story allows him to help strengthen, support, and motivate others, regardless of their struggles. (Continued on page 2)

As the Executive Director of Agape Alliance, a drop-in center for sex workers providing a safe venue to promote the health and dignity of woman in the sex industry, Milsap can put his calling to help others into action. Agape Alliance partners with multiple organizations, working closely with Grit Into Grace. Milsap sees this partnership as highly effective as together, Agape Alliance and Grit Into Grace can ensure continued client care, ultimately leading to long term self-sufficiency.

Agency Spotlight: Grit into Grace

Grit Into Grace provides community, advocacy, and connection to women who are currently being exploited or have experienced commercial sexual exploitation in the past, are working or have worked in the sex industry, and women who are being trafficked or have a history of being trafficked for sex. Grit Into Grace provides a space for women to come as they are, with no agenda other than to show love, hope, and resources if they are desired.

Importantly, Grit Into Grace is survivor-led, trauma informed, and survivor-centered. The role Grit Into Grace plays in combating trafficking is to change the public's perspective of what it looks like to be an adult survivor of sex trafficking, along with bringing humanity to a vulnerable and marginalized population. Yesterday's minor victim of sex trafficking just might be today's sex worker, and deserves a space to hope, heal, dream, and find support. This is accomplished by providing community, advocacy, and connection to the women they serve.

To provide community, Grit Into Grace operates the Dream House. Here women are offered a daily refuge where they can find rest and connect with other survivors and staff.

Grit Into Grace's goal is not to change someone's heart or mind, but to offer unconditional love and the hope that there can be more in an individual's future if and when they are ready for something new.

For advocacy, Grit Into Grace is committed to making weekly visits to the Marion County Jail to meet with women who have a history of sex work, sexual assault, and sex trafficking. Grit Into Grace works with Behavioral Management to help prepare exit plans and also works to build relationships so that women can have someone they can trust and connect with upon release. Relationships are maintained with women even if they are sent to prison, and Grit Into Grace works with each individual to navigate next steps by communicating with community corrections, Department of Child Services, and other legal situations in which they may need assistance.

Connection occurs through relationships with Grit Into Grace's staff, all of which are trained on trauma informed services and care. Staff connect women to drug and alcohol recovery options, trauma counseling, education options, housing, and other resources and services that women may need.

Grit Into Grace takes referrals via email at stefanie@gritintograce.org and info@gritintograce.org, or via phone at (317)331-8334. Grit Into Grace's services are provided to women in Marion County and surrounding counties within a one hour driving radius.

Grit Into Grace accepts both monetary and in-kind donations such as toilet paper, paper towels, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and more. Individuals can also sponsor lunch meals by providing food or covering costs. Group volunteer opportunities such as cleaning the house, working in the yard (seasonal), and unpacking and organizing donations are also available.

Email Laura Coonrod at info@gritintograce.org or visit www.gritintograce.org, for more information on how support Grit Into Grace's work.

IN THE LITERATURE

Human Trafficking and the Media

Human Trafficking and the Media in the United States, Rachel Austin and Amy Farrell, April 2017

Since the passing of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act in 2000, human trafficking has become a popular topic among news sites, journalism circles, and Hollywood media, in both films and television programs.

However, the portrayal of human trafficking victims in the media is often “romanticized, oversimplified and ... inaccurate”, which creates a false narrative and inaccurate social perception of what human trafficking actually looks like.

Austin and Farrell argue that human trafficking situations are much more intricate and complex than those portrayed in the media. Many times, identifying human trafficking victims and perpetrators is not as clear in



the real world as it is in movies and TV, making it incredibly important to provide more accurate representations of human trafficking in media.

Find the full article [here](#).

IN THE NEWS

Indianapolis Man Convicted of Sex Trafficking

We are extremely proud of the IPATH Taskforce law enforcement and prosecutors who worked tirelessly on this case, and ultimately achieving a successful prosecution. In addition, we highlight the courage and tenacity of the victim witness testimony which made this prosecution possible.

Read the full article [here](#).

Calendar of Events

March 2019

16th and 23rd: Training for Allies
Mentors for Purchased, email Audrey
Masterson at Audrey@purchased.org

April 2019

29th-30th: ICESA Annual Statewide
Conference

[Register](#)

JOB OPENINGS

Title: Multiple Positions

Organization: Beacon of Hope
Crisis Center

[For more information, click here.](#)

VOLUNTEER

Organization: All Worthy of Love

Activity: Street Outreach

Contact Info: Liz Pitcher

Elizabeth.pitcher@gmail.com

570-902-5189

www.allworthyoflove.org

Organization: Beacon of Hope

Activity: Varies

[Register](#)

Organization: Julian Center

Activity: Varies

[Register](#)

Organization: Purchased

Activity: Mentoring

[Register](#)

Organization: Unconditional

Activity: Varies

[Register](#)

About IPATH:

The IPATH Taskforce is comprised of law enforcement, advocacy groups, service providers, worker organizers, and community leaders to facilitate a coordinated, multi-disciplinary state response to more effectively address human trafficking throughout Indiana. We believe this can only be successfully accomplished through a survivor-centered, trauma-informed, culturally sensitive approach.

Connect with us!

indianacesa.org/human-trafficking/

Have events, or job and volunteer opportunities for the newsletter?

Send them to:

capecommittee.ipath@gmail.com

